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**Quarterly Newsletter**

**Spring 2022**

**Edition 53**

## **ON-SITE VOLUNTEERING: On hold until February 2023**

Thanks to everyone that have joined us volunteering this year and we look forward to seeing you again in February. Check our webpage and Facebook page in the New Year for starting dates and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### **This Quarter Events:**

Planting continued at various sites much later than usual but was possible due to the continued cool and wet weather. Then following the flood in October, our effort turned to litter collection along the river and trying to recover some of our earlier planting sites following inundation.

- **Cooler, Greener West** – Planting with Parks Victoria and 'Roots and Shoots' at [Grimes Flat](#) extending the area of ground cover already planted out by Melbourne water. Fortunately, this planting survived the flood fairly well.



- **Burndap Reserve** – The planting organised with Landcare in October became a victim of the flood. This has now been rescheduled for the Friday 2nd Dec and will be a combination of re-mulching planting sites which were flooded and litter collection.



## Maribyrnong Flood:

- **Burndap Reserve** – Thick silt layer has been left across the islands with a lot of soft plastic litter being trapped by the vegetation. Most of the blue plastic guards were carried off by the flood and strewn along the banks down river. Fortunately, most of the recently planted sites used thick card guards which remained in place, protecting the planting.
- **Caroline Chisholm** – Much of the planting here was washed away as the water flow rate was much higher here. There are a number of large trees uprooted and deposited in the grassed areas. Again, a lot of plastic litter trapped by the trees.
- **Braybrook Escarpment / Cranwell Park** – Most of the plantings have survived the flood. Some smaller trees and shrubs have been pushed over by the flood water. Litter collection ongoing..
- **Tea Gardens to Steele Creek** – badly impacted by plastic litter by the river edge, especially defence site bank. Part of the Maribyrnong trail remains closed due to concerns for undercutting of the bank.



Jack's Magazine Carpark



Outlook from Edgewater



Cranwell Park



Tea Gardens

## Other Events:

- **Brolga Program** – FMV represented by Bronwyn Pearce  
The Building Resilient On-ground Local Groups for Action (BROLGA) course is a 12 week program run by Amanda Dodd and Dr Melanie Birtchnell through the Cairnlea Conservation Reserves Committee of Management and the Friends of Iramoo.  
This program has been designed to be a comprehensive one-stop-shop course on how to create a

conservation management plan. It's a crash course into creating a plan for site a Friends group can work to restore or enhance its natural beauty. Starting with a 30yr vision on how you see the site develop then breaking it down 5yr steps on how fund and realise this plan. Identifying who are the custodians of the land, the land managers and who can help you along the way? Also guidance on how to promote the plan to get more people involved such as short videos and promotion via social media to inspire people.

So much information, access to resources and presentations from subject matter experts/professionals has been provided through this course. So much sharing with participants from other Friends groups (seven represented in this year's cohort) that it provides Bronwyn much to reflect upon on how it can be applied to FMV projects in the future.

- **Maribyrnong River Keeper** - Nicole Kowalczyk, currently acting as the Maribyrnong Officer

In 2021, the Yarra Riverkeeper Association was awarded three years of funding from the Ross Trust to establish a Maribyrnong River Officer role to assess the feasibility of a permanent 'Maribyrnong Riverkeeper' or like-minded organisation. Incorporating community directions from surveys and two community forums held at Essendon Rowing Club, the name of the organisation has been decided: The Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association. Using a collaborative process, the co-designed aim of the organisation is to act as a community voice for the Maribyrnong River and its tributaries, working with community groups, traditional owners, government (local, State, and Federal), statutory authorities, and businesses to advocate for the health of the waterways in the Maribyrnong catchment. Incorporating community directions, the strategic trajectory of the organisation will be to improve the health of the river through:

- Designing, influencing, and advocating for improvements in policies and strategies related to the river and surrounding parklands
- Creating a united voice for the river through facilitation, networking, and engagement
- Raising awareness about the value of the Maribyrnong River - independently and in partnership
- Research and evaluation - championing best practice approaches, tackling issues such as litter pollution.



- **Greening the West** - This meeting held in Melton on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct was the first in person meeting for some time. Aims of the group were reiterated:
  - Focus on the effects of climate change
  - Emphasis on wellbeing, healthy outcomes and equity for people through protecting the environment and encouraging biodiversity.

Participants gave an update on what each group was doing.

Presentation from Cemeteries Trust about development of a new cemetery at Melton that will incorporate revegetation and environmental rehabilitation of former farmland.



- **Celebration of the life of Peter Haffenden**

FMV member Peter Haffenden passed away at home with his family on Friday 14 October 2022. Peter spent 38 years working in the museum industry as a photographer, project manager and innovator and has made an elegant tribute through photographs, journalism, history and museology in Australia. From 1997 to 2007, Peter was the Director of the Living Museum of the West, managing hundreds of projects and supervising the production of innumerable events and exhibitions. More recently Peter has been instrumental in ensuring the continuation of the Living Museum, the recognition of Pipemakers Park as a heritage site of national significance, and the ongoing preservation of its historic buildings. A relentless advocate for the environment, Peter's legacy includes multiple copies of educational touring exhibitions: *Pobblebonk* (2005), about the Maribyrnong River, and *Volcano Dreaming* (2011), about the critically endangered biosphere of the Victorian Volcanic Plains.

## Upcoming Events:

- **Xmas Party** – To be held Wednesday 7th December from 6:30pm at the Living Museum Pipemakers Park. The gate will be open down to the museum so you can park outside. BYO plates, cups, cutlery etc. as well as food and drink to share. We will also have a raffle with prizes!

## Acknowledgements to groups helping FMV this last year

We have had corporates help us again this year, but also had to cancel corporate groups as the ever changing Melbourne weather meant we had to cancel at the last moment. We look forward to working with our old and new corporates again next year. Special thanks to the following:

### Organisations

- **Western Plains Flora, Wildwood:** for providing our plants on time for our Brimbank council sites.
- **Newport Lakes Native Nursey:** for providing our plants on time for our Maribyrnong council sites.
- **1300 Dunnys:** provided us with our onsite port-a- loos for our community/ corporate events this year and working with us as we cancelled and changed days more than normal this year.
- **Southern Ecosystems Management:** for on ground works on our Brimbank Council sites.
- **Habitat Land Management:** on-ground works and weeding at our Burndap reserve site.
- **Coles Supermarket, Avondale Heights:** for supporting our yearly fundraiser.
- **Ecodynamics, Keilor:** Provided storage space for all our "JUNK"
- **The Connies:** Roberto from this great group has supported us again and attended events not only for us but at other events throughout the year we have been part of.
- **Melbourne Water:** for providing our grants again this year for our on-ground works
- **Great Western Water:** for their commitment to the Greening of the West program and for inviting us to be part of this program.
- **Landcare Australia Environmental Grants Programs:** for supporting us with funding and arranging our corporate planting and maintenance days this year.

### Corporate Sponsors

- **Coles Supermarket, Avondale Heights:** for their contribution to our fundraising.
- **Bunnings Warehouse, Maribyrnong:** for their contribution to our fundraising.
- **Dan Murphy's Ascot Vale:** for their contribution to our fundraising.
- FMV members and friends for their contribution to our fundraising.

### Volunteering

- **NAB Volunteers:** Their continued contribution and support providing volunteers this year after a few years of not being allowed to have assisted FMV in achieving our goals for a greener Maribyrnong Valley Parklands
- **KPMG Volunteers:** Worked with us this year on planting day and then returned in Spring to do a day mulching, watering and hand weeding at Burndap Reserve Maribyrnong
- **DHL, NAB and CommUnity+ :** Worked with us this year on our planting day at Green Gully Reserve.
- **Taylors Valley Keilor:** FMV was involved on National Tree Day
- **KPMG, NAB and International Women's Peace Group :** volunteering for tree planting at Burndap Reserve Maribyrnong
- **NAB and CommUnity+ :** for volunteering with us with planting at Cranwell Park Escarpment

## Councils

- **Brimbank Council:** Martha Ragg Conservation/ Environment Community Liaison Officer and all her staff for supporting our grant application and their commitment working with us on both of our sites and for supporting our Melbourne Water grant.
- **Maribyrnong Council :** Martin Forster , Park Ranger has supported our volunteering with the council every Tuesday. They have also supported our Melbourne Water grants.