



Incorporation No. A0010136R

[Facebook/ Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley Inc.](#)

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Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2023

Edition 57

ON-SITE VOLUNTEERING: Normally we continue to the end of November then stop for summer and restart in February 2024. However, as we still have a lot of areas awaiting mulching, some volunteers may wish to work on mulching with Martin into summer.

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.

Judy Ingram (Tribute courtesy of Maelor)

On Sat 11th November we learned that our previous president Judy Ingram had sadly passed away. She had suffered for some time with chronic health issues which became worse in recent months leaving her in considerable pain.

Judy's contribution to our group has been considerable. Since she took over our grant application process she has raised thousands of dollars for planting programs and administrative costs. She developed our relationship with corporate volunteers and made sure they kept coming back by providing sumptuous "boot banquets".

She also made sure that we had strong relationships with other Friends groups and spent a couple of years working with the Environment Friends Network where she was awarded the Best Friend Award.

In other volunteer work, despite her own issues each week she would be involved in ringing up isolated people in Brimbank to make sure they had some human contact.

Everyone who met her was left knowing about her passion for the environment and her deep concern for other people. The world will be a poorer for her passing and we will miss her immensely.

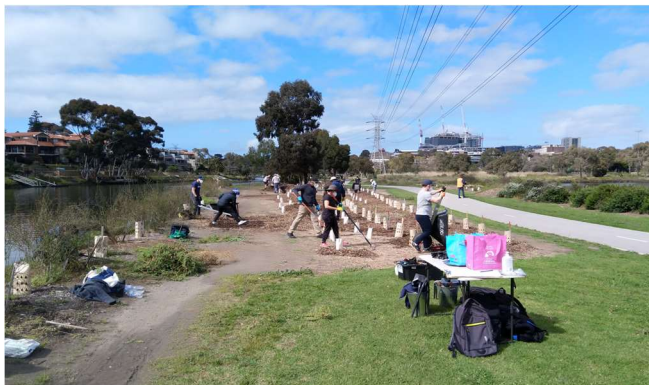
This Quarter Events:

Much of this quarter has been devoted to maintenance of the large areas of planting carried out in the previous quarter. Our team of volunteers have been working on weeding, mulching and watering and guard removal where appropriate. We have had a lot of support from a volunteer group of international students and refugees who have attended many working bees with a young group of volunteers. We have

also held a number of corporate days with NAB which have been well attended. Finally, we have had had a couple of working bees with Maribyrnong College and Marian College.

Site Updates

- **Burndap Reserve** – Large areas have been planted out this year. We are now in the process of mulching these planting zone hopefully before the hot summer arrives. Nab have been particularly helpful in this task. As can be seen, many areas are still to be mulched



- **Cranwell Park** – In winter the entire slope down to the river has been planted out by contractors. Our group has done the guarding and we have now mulched about 60% of the area. Further along the path towards the Maidstone golf course, contractors are in the process of removing boxthorn from the steeper slopes.



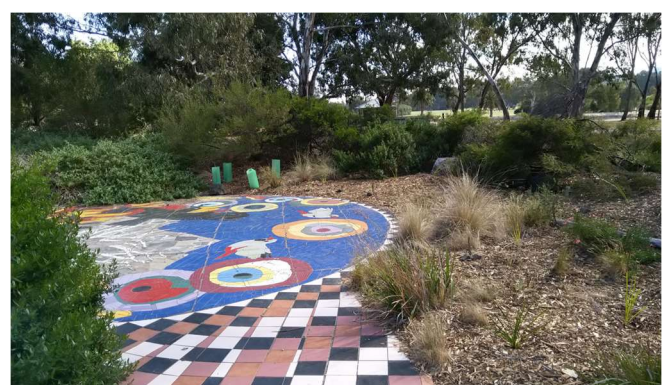
- **Burton Crescent** – This site has been heavily planted over many days and is now being mulched. The success rate of the planting has been high with many plants now requiring guard removal. Maribyrnong College has helped with the planting and mulching on two occasions. We hope to have new mulch deliveries next week in order to complete mulching before Christmas.



- **Caroline Chisholm** – Our only activity here was a planting event with Brimbank council in May. At that time the site was still badly effected post flooding and the grass had been churned up by joy riders. Since then the gates have been replaced and most of the tree debris removed which greatly improved its appearance.



- **History gardens (Pipemakers park)** – This site has been a major focus of FMV this last quarter driven in no small part by Lorraine and Dalys. The garden was in a fairly sorry state, overgrown by weeds and grasses. However, after weeding and laying down weed block (cardboard/newspaper) followed by mulching has resulted in a great improvement in its appearance.





Other Events:

- **AGM** – This was held on 6th Sept at the Maribyrnong Community centre. Our guest speaker was Lloyd O'Hanlon who currently works at the Melbourne Botanical gardens. He gave a well-received presentation on a remanent population of *Callitris glaucophylla* (White Cyprus) at two locations in the Maribyrnong defence site.

At the AGM, the position of President vacated by Judy, was filled by Tony Baldwin after only minimum arm twisting! The following positions were also confirmed:

Election of Office Bearers

- **President** – Tony Baldwin
- **Secretary** – Maelor Himbury
- **Treasurer** – Rosemary McKenzie
- **Community Representatives** – David Pepper, Christine Armour, Darren McClelland, Jan Allison, Sol Skeletor, Bronwyn Pearce
- **Grant Co-ordinator** – To be confirmed
- **Web Master** – Warwick Somerville

Upcoming Events:

- **Xmas Party** – To be held Wednesday 6th December from 6:00pm at the Aberfeldie Baptist Church on Price Street, Essendon. Due to church policy, this will be a no alcohol event. No payment is required but a donation would be appreciated to cover costs. We will include a celebration of the life of Judy into the event through a collage of photos.

General News:

- **Maribyrnong Trail Closure** – The trail remains 'closed' between Brimbank Park and Norths Road due to flood damage (since October last year) causing safety risks. Parks Victoria are in the process of documenting the damage to the trail in order to seek funds for its restoration from insurance. No time frame for final reopening is available at this time.
- **Maribyrnong River Main (RMR) to Northwest Sewer connection project** – The planned Maribyrnong Trail closure near Canning Reserve expected early this year never eventuated. This was due to delays in the tunnelling process. The update from October showed the main shaft was complete and the first 200m of the eventual 800m tunnel had been bored.

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.
- [Ecodynamics, Keilor](#): Provided storage space for all our "JUNK"
- [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

The following volunteers 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](#): Worked with us this year on our planting day and later weeding at Green Gully Reserve.
- [NAB](#): Worked with us at many sites including Green Gully Reserve, Burndap Reserve and Burton Crescent Maribyrnong both planting/weeding and mulching

Councils

- [Brimbank Council](#):
- [Maribyrnong Council](#):