



Incorporation No. A0010136R

ABN No.: 57 567 161 098

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

www.fmvonline.com

info@fmvonline.com

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2025

Edition 64

ON-SITE VOLUNTEERING: COME JOIN US.

Sites vary due to weather conditions and maintenance required but are generally flat and easily accessible.

If you do not have your own tools, e.g. small gardening spade - please advise Maelor in advance so we can bring some tools for you to use. maelor@melbpc.org.au

E-mail: maelor@melbpc.org.au sends an email in advance of our **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** working bees so you will know where we are volunteering and you can come and join us. Morning tea is provided.

Working Bees:

Our Working Bees are normally held in Burndap / Jacks Magazine on Tuesdays. The 1st Wednesday of every month we work with Brimbank council in Keilor and the 3rd Wednesday of every month with Parks Victoria at Brimbank Park. The other Wednesdays we generally work in Burndap / Jacks Magazine.

This Quarter Events: (some images courtesy of Darren and Rosemary)

- This quarter we had a very full calendar of corporate days, community planting days as well as council run events supported by FMV.
- **NAB planting day – 10th June at Burndap park**



- Quite a chilly but pleasant morning
- Planting grasses along the river edge. We later mulched this whole area.

- **Community planting at Burndap - 15th June** – Unfortunately, we only had one community volunteer and 4 FMV volunteers. Nonetheless, we managed to plant a few trays of tube stock. We learnt from this event that we need to better publicise our events.
- **NAIDOC community planting event – 9th July – Mappin Reserve Seddon.** FMV (via Rosemary) in collaboration with Volunteer West and Australian Multicultural Community Services organised a community planting event at the Mappin reserve in Seddon. FMV paid for the soil and 300 plants plus some more mature bottlebrushes in order to provide vegetation and colour to what was a fairly bare site. The event was attended by more than 60 people together with the mayor Pradeep Tiwari plus several council members. Following a welcome to country and smoking ceremony , refreshments were provided to the attendees



FMV returned to the site two weeks later to mulch and water the plants, we will undertake to support the site in the months to come until the plants are well established with the help of Martin.



- **Akzonbel + Brimbank council planting day – 16th July at Caroline Chisholm.** The plan was to plant out additional understorey vegetation along the existing spiral layout.



- **National Tree Day – 27th July - Burndap reserve.** There was a great turnout from the community to support this event, despite it being a cold and showery day. As usual, there was speech by the mayor followed by a welcome to country and smoking ceremony. In addition, the council organized a coffee cart, face painting, petting zoo and sausage sizzle. FMV provided a lot of support and over 4000 plants were planted near the river by Pipemakers' Park.



FMV have spent most of our Tuesday working bees on mulching this large area.

- **Infill planting and guarding with NAB – 29th July – National Tree Day site.** Since we had many more holes drilled than were used on NTD, we did some infill planting and guarding of those plant which had not been guarded as we had run out of guards on the day. We also did a lot of watering as the weather has been unseasonably dry.



- **Mulching and planting with Hop Nation - 5th Aug – Burndap reserve.** Following from last year's excellent support from Hop Nation, the team returned this year to help in spreading some of the large quantity of mulch deposited along the Maribyrnong trail.



- **Community planting day – 17th Aug – Jensen reserve.** Following our less than successful previous community planting, we advertised this event with signage at the site a week in advance. Fortunately the event was well attended due to support of the Youth Charity Society from Melbourne University who provided the majority of the volunteers. We managed to plant around 250 plants.



- **Community planting day – 20th Aug – Brimbank Park.** Following a successful grant application (thanks to Darren) with Melbourne water. We have been in collaboration with Parks Victoria to restore a zone in Brimbank Park with understorey planting using native plants. We have been preparing the site over a number of working bees by hand weeding around existing shrubs (which survived the flooding), and the removal of dead wood and shrubs. PV greatly helped with contractors bush cutting the site prior to planting.

Despite PV advertising the event on their own site and FMV advertising the event on Volunteer West, we only had one member of the public attend. A shout out goes to Darren for rising early and contacting a local radio to spruik the event which yielded our one volunteer! Despite this, PV had four staff who supported us with the planting and we managed to plant and guard approx 400 of the 500 plants. We will complete the rest of the planting in September followed by mulching.

Due to the density of couch grass at the site, it is envisaged we will need to spray herbicide around the plantings in spring/summer.



● Other News:

- AGM held 9th July. At this meeting, the positions on the committee were agreed. The main changes were that Christine Armour has taken over from Maelor as Secretary and Rosemary McKenzie decided to stand down as Treasurer. The current committee is :-

Election of Office Bearers

- President – Tony Baldwin
- Secretary – Christine Armour
- Treasurer - vacant
- Workgroup Co-ordinator - Maelor Himbury
- Grant Co-ordinator – Darren McClelland
- Community Representatives -David Pepper, David Dippie, Bronwyn Pearce.
- Web Master – Warwick Somerville

We are currently reviewing volunteer candidates to fill the role of Treasurer.

The guest speaker was Dr. Megan O'Shea from Friends of Iramoo spoke about efforts to protect and restore the western plains grasslands habitat of the legless lizard.

For more information check out the Friends of Iramoo Grasslands website:

<https://friendsofiramoograsslands.wordpress.com/>

- Events for the next quarter

- No corporate days are currently scheduled although we expect this to be updated in the near future.
- Brimbank Park – 17th Sept – Plan to complete the planting and mulch of the area covered by the Melbourne water grant.
- Iramoo Grasslands are holding a wild flower planting day on Sunday 7th Sept. Please check their website in order to register to attend.