

# Birrarrung



November 2011

Newsletter of the Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks

Incorporating Manningham Conservation Society

Website: [www.yvfriends.org.au](http://www.yvfriends.org.au)

See this Newsletter in colour on the website.

Issue 4/2011, November

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE

**Please renew your subscription now.**

Renewal form inside, and on the website.

## ACTIVITIES – all welcome

Sunday Activities - 4th Sunday of the Month, 10.00 am to 12 Noon (except Dec, Jan, Feb)

**WHAT TO BRING:** *You will need old clothes and sturdy shoes, gardening gloves, a parka, or hat and sunscreen, and a water bottle. A cuppa is usually provided. You may also like to bring insect repellent. Tools are provided by Park staff. You don't have to stay for the entire session - even an hour of your time would make a valuable contribution to the Yarra Valley Park environment.*

**Sunday 27 November – 10.00 am to 12 Noon – Candlebark Park (Mel 33 G2)**

Return to the same site as October's planting to do more planting and to prepare areas for planting next year. From Fitzsimons Lane (Mel 33 G2) turn into Summerhill Rd and go to the far end. Follow the signs to park inside and to walk to the planting site.

**BBQ Wednesday 7 December – from 6:30 pm – End of year Barbeque – Westerfolds Park**

Enter Westerfolds Park from Fitzsimons Lane (Mel 33 G2), and then follow the signs to the Eucalypt Picnic Area, Red Stringybark carpark (Mel 33 F1).

BYO everything. BBQ hotplate and shelter provided. The BBQ will go ahead even if it is raining.

**Future 4<sup>th</sup>** Sunday activity dates in 2012 are March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, ...

**Wednesdays at the Friends Shed** anytime between 9am and 12 noon.

Meet at Westerfolds Park Depot (Melway 33 F1).

Everyone welcome. No experience necessary. Even just an hour or two of your time makes a difference.

Join us for morning tea at 10:30 am.

**Committee** meetings are on the fourth Wednesday at 7.30 pm in the Friends' Shed (Mel 33 F1).

No meeting in November. See you at the December 7 BBQ instead. Next meeting 22 February 2012.

See [http://www.yvfriends.org.au/](http://www.yvfriends.org.au) for up-to-date activity details and for subscription information.

## Murundaka wetland

The main wetland pond was dug in June and since then it has been a hive of activity. Many new plants have been added to the wetland and surrounding areas by Friends groups, Park rangers and Green Corps. Heavy rains on 29 September / 1 October completely filled the wetland and the many shallow pools nearby.

A ceremony was held for a Wurundjeri elder to officially name the wetland Yarak Tamboore (Magic waterhole) and the wider area Murundaka (to stay, live at). The ceremony was attended by Donna Petrovitch, Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Environment, Banyule Council, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and others.

Extra work was done recently to redirect run-off water from the slopes above and from the neighbouring golf course. The water is fed into new filtering ponds which will help improve the water quality while increasing habitat and adding extra water to the main wetland.

Small filter pond being revegetated



Photo: Clive Edington

Already many birds have adopted the area as their new home. Wood duck, Black duck, White-faced heron, Magpie-lark, Black-fronted dotterel and Welcome swallows are easily seen.

The number of small reptiles has also increased, helped by the addition of ground shelters placed by Park rangers.

A local mob of 15 kangaroos have been attracted to our new plants. They have even learnt to flick off the tree guards! We have had to take extra steps to protect the plants, such as stapling the guards to the stakes.

Black-fronted dotterel

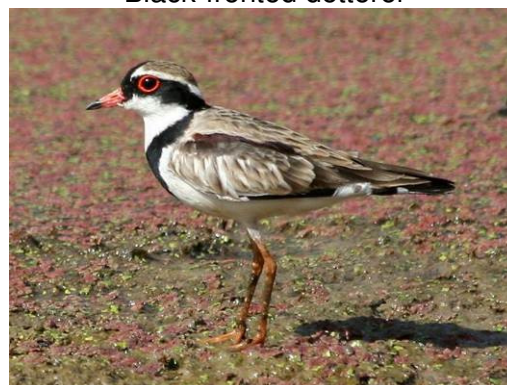


Photo: Wikimedia Commons

## Wider Murundaka project area

The wetland area is actually just the bottom left hand corner of a much larger project area.

The Friends and Parks Victoria are continuing with essential maintenance such as weed control and extensive rabbit control. The Friends are also starting a regular monitoring program to help identify environmental trouble spots early so that they can be fixed more quickly.

The long term aim is to do selective revegetation with scattered red gums and open grassy areas in sympathy with the "grassy woodland" nature of the pre-European vegetation.

## Aerial photo of the wetland area in July 2011

The view is from just north of the Yarra river, looking further north uphill to Cleveland Ave



Photo: Parks Victoria

- Centre** Main wetland with its wildlife island and surrounded by existing wetland vegetation.
- Centre-left** Area where filter ponds have been built since this photo was taken.
- Bottom-left** Drainage ditch which will carry wetland overflow water to the Yarra river. This drain always contains some water and is a great home for frogs. The sides of the drain have now been revegetated with wetland plants.
- Bottom-half** Apron area which is being revegetated.
- Top-paddock** Part of the wider Murundaka project area. It is currently leased out as cow pasture, but contains important old red gums. Plans are to add further scattered red gum plantings.

## From the Annual General Meeting, held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011

### Election of Office-bearers:

President: Graham Patterson  
 Vice-President  
 (Special Projects): Andrew Lucas  
 Vice-President: Sue Roberts  
 Secretary: Lucy Honeycombe  
 Treasurer: Gary Hartley  
 Newsletter & Website: Clive Edington  
 Committee: Margaret Scarlett,  
 Bruce Plain,  
 Anne Fitzpatrick

Membership: Listed 144, Paid-up 29.

### Treasurers Report (Summary)

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Postage	\$249.75
Incorporation fees	\$41.80
Grant expenses (Note 1)	\$25,104.58
Memberships	\$130.00
Website costs	\$171.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,697.13</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Memberships	\$410.00
Donations	\$8.00
Grants (Note 1)	\$17,490.00
Carry-over deposit	\$2,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,408.00</b>

Note 1: Grant expenses (\$25,104) temporarily exceeded grant income (\$17,490) due to wet weather and extra earthworks. The balance was restored 1 week later with the arrival of \$21,000 in a follow-up grant.

## Wednesday group at the Friends Shed

A regular band of volunteers meet on Wednesday mornings to do conservation related work.

Our main focus is the plant nursery where we grow local indigenous plants for planting within the Yarra Valley Parks. This supports our monthly Sunday activities and extra revegetation at Murundaka and other areas. We now have sufficient plants for next year and so the plant propagating activities have been reduced to just the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

However the group continues to meet every Wednesday to do other work. Recently we have been having a weeding and mulching blitz on the native garden around the Westerfolds Manor and Mia Mia Gallery. We have also helped with site preparation for Sunday activities.

## Murundaka wetland is now full of water



Photo: Clive Edington

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**Newsletter editor and Web:** Clive Edington

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## Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks



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