

Birrarrung



September to December 2019

Issue 3/2019

Newsletter of the Friends of the Yarra Valley Parks

Incorporating Manningham Conservation Society

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Annual subscriptions are due on October 31st. If you wish to join up, go to the website - click [Application form](#).

See the web-site for any updates to activities.

If you no longer wish to receive a printed newsletter please email us and we will send you a digital copy.

ACTIVITIES – all welcome

Sunday Activities - **4th Sunday of the Month, 10 am to 12 Noon**, March to November.

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. 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 22 September – 10 am to 12 Noon – Murundaka Park, Lower Plenty

(Mel 32 K2)

Follow Cleveland Ave all the way around past the Rosanna Golf Club (Mel 32 K2). Park near the Friends sign in Cleveland Ave. Walk through the nearby gate and follow additional signs down to the site. Some maintenance around previous plantings and some infill planting. Bring a mattock or other tool if you have one for weeding around the plants.

Sunday 27 October – 10 am to 12 Noon – Martins Lane, Viewbank (Mel 20 J10)

Maintenance of previous planting near the Plenty River. Bring a mattock or other tool if you have one for weeding around the plants. Long grass, so wear long pants. Drive past the east end of Martins Lane, Viewbank, into an informal car park adjacent to the planting site.

Sunday 24 November – 10 am to 12 Noon – Tikalara Park, Templestowe

A morning walk around Tikalara Park to finish the year. Park at Pettys Orchard, off Homestead Road (Mel 22 A11). You could bring a picnic lunch or have lunch at the cafe at Pettys Orchard.

End of year BBQ, Wednesday December 11th – from 6:30 pm – Westerfolds Park

BYO everything. BBQ and shelter provided. The BBQ will go ahead even if it is raining. Enter Westerfolds Park from Fitzsimons Lane (Mel 33 G2), and then follow the signs to the Eucalypt Picnic Area, Swamp gum carpark (Mel 33 F1).

The first 2020 planting day will be the fourth Sunday in March. Details in the March 2020 Newsletter.

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The Plant Nursery is being maintained at this time of low demand, but no extra help is needed at present
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Committee meetings are usually **4th Thursday** at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room at Westerfolds Park (Mel 33 F1).

From the Annual General Meeting August 22 2019

President's report (Clive Edington)

REVEGETATION AND REHABILITATION

We have continued to increase the environment values along the Yarra River up and downstream near Templestowe. We planted at Pettys Orchard, Murundaka second wetland, Tikalara Park, Viewbank, Templestowe Rd and the Main Yarra Trail. Many stakes and guards were collected from previous planting sites and reused in new sites.

Our formal quarterly monitoring program at Murundaka continues, as do our Bird Surveys.

We were disappointed that our planned projects with Rosanna Golf course and Melbourne Water were put on hold pending Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria resolving protocols for Melbourne Water grants being spent on Parks Victoria land with this Friends group having an active role during the projects.

Most of our Sunday planting and maintenance activities were self-supervised when Parks Victoria rangers have not been available on the day. However the rangers have helped with preparation during the days beforehand.

We have been following the upcoming Yarra Strategic Plan and stressing the importance of involving Friends groups along the Yarra.

The North East Link Project (NELP) has been gathering pace and we have been contributing to community forums to request high quality revegetation programs along the freeways and also in offset areas to be established by the project. The revegetation and maintenance will have to be carried out for 30 years after completion of construction.

WEDNESDAY GROUP

The Wednesday nursery group has only met occasionally due to reduced stocks in the nursery. However there have been a few informal working bees to propagate new plants. We are continuing to look after the indigenous garden at the Manor in Westerfolds Park.

MEMBERSHIP

Our signed and paid-up membership has reduced by 2 since last year and is now at 33. There are 3 Life Members. The 5-year payment option remains popular. Numbers at activities fluctuate. Parks Victoria's ParkConnect website continues to introduce volunteers attending our Sunday plantings.

THANKS

Thanks to Parks Victoria staff, particularly Cam Beardsell and John Williams. A big thank you to all members of the committee for all your contributions during 2018/19.

Election of office-bearers

President & Website: Clive Edington
 Secretary: Lucy Honeycombe
 Treasurer: Joy Hick
 Newsletter: Graham Patterson

Committee: Barrie Taylor

Financial statement

Receipts	
Memberships	\$450.00
Interest	\$435.70
TOTAL	\$885.70
Expenses	
Newsletters, postage	\$60.00
Incorporation fee	\$57.80
Donations	\$845.00
Tools	\$39.96
Web costs (2 years)	\$510.65
Insurance	\$1743.00
TOTAL	\$3256.41
Cash in bank 30 June 2019:	\$23,235.41

Financial membership: 33

Maintenance and planting near Banyule Billabong

At our August activity we were fortunate to have Lyn Easton, who has been monitoring the powerful owl along this stretch of the Yarra for many years. She talked to the group about her findings. One of her concerns is that many of the bird's favorite roosting trees, silver wattles *Acacia dealbata*, are ageing and starting to fall over. There seems to be little natural regeneration of silver wattles here, so they were among the species we planted.

Silver wattles were planted in their thousands in the Yarra Valley parks during the late 1900s. They are an important habitat tree and have a role in fixing nitrogen in the soil. But they have a relatively short life-span, and when planted near trails, they have proven to be a liability for Parks management as they age and become a risk to trail users. As a result, observant users of the Main Yarra Trail, for example, now sometimes notice an unattractive avenue of silver wattle stumps near the track.

We were very pleased to welcome the participation of members of the Warringal Conservation Society in this activity. The site is near the official boundary between the areas where the two groups usually work.



Above:
Lyn Easton talking to
the group

(Photo: Andrew Lucas)

Left:
Clive and Olive at work

(Photo: Anthea Fleming)



Spring Outdoors is a program of environmental events and activities put together by Banyule, Nillumbik and Manningham Councils. For details: banyule.vic.gov.au/SpringOutdoors

Events by the Yarra include:

Friday 4 October, 4pm – 6pm

**Banyule Nature Adventures –
Discover the Banyule Flats Reserve**

Presented by Banyule City Council

Thursday 10 October, 11am - noon

**Botanical Benefits: Health and Wellbeing
in the Garden**

Presented by Heide Museum of Modern Art

Friday 11 October, 7pm – 9:30pm

The Middle Yarra Frog Census

*Presented by: Banyule, Manningham, Nillumbik Councils and
Melbourne Water (Banyule Flats)*

Sunday 27 October, 7:30am – 11:30am

Breakfast with the Birds

Presented by Banyule City Council (Heidelberg)

Thursday 14 November, 11am - noon

Heide's Indigenous Landscapes

Presented by Heide Museum of Modern Art

Friday 1 November, 8.30pm (Dusk)

Star Gazing Night

*Presented by Astronomical Society of Victoria and
Manningham Council (Westerfolds)*