



**Our new site at Gumms Corner  
Brimbank Park Keilor**  
All final details of our plantings this  
year will be in the spring edition.

# FMV News

**Winter 2019  
Edition 42**

**Friends of the  
Maribyrnong  
Valley  
Incorporated**  
Quarterly Newsletter

Incorporation No. A0010136R

ABN No.: 57 567 161 098

## Our Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on the 7th of August at the Activities Centre, 54 Raleigh Road, Maribyrnong. All positions were declared vacant after reports were presented.

If you require a copy of the report and you have not received it, please let us know. [info@fmvonline.com](mailto:info@fmvonline.com)

The officer bearers for the next 12 months are:

**President:** Judy Ingram

**Secretary:** Maelor Himbury

**Grants Coordinator:** Judy Ingram

**Web Site Coordinator:** Warwick Somerville

**Community Promotion Officer:** Peter Somerville OAM

**Community Representatives:** Lorraine Ratcliffe, Anne Robson, Robert Olerhead and Bernadette Gould

**Vice President:** Rosemary Mc Kenzie

**Treasurer:** Boris Scrignari

**Environmental Officer:** Simon Purves

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### Sat 31<sup>st</sup> August at Bunnings Warehouse / FMV Community Day

**10AM till 2PM** FMV will pot up indigenous plants to hand out to shoppers on the day

430 Melton Hwy, Taylors Lakes

### **“Your Invitation to our End of Year Celebration Party”**

Come along for our final event for the year and have fun with lots of prizes to be won.

Photos will show on the screen of all the hard work undertaken over the year.

**Date:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 **Place:** Front Room, Activities Centre, 54 Raleigh Road Maribyrnong

**Time:** 6pm arrivals for 6.30 dinner. 2-course meal.

As well as our raffle, we are having a silent auction with the prize valued at \$1,000 and door prizes.

\$20 for current members and \$25 for quests and friends. BYO all drinks and cups on night please.

**Payment:** by **Wednesday 15th November** either through the monthly meetings, or direct into our account.

The FMV banking details are as follows: Please make sure that you include your name as the reference

Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633-000 Acct number: 1192-21752 Friend of the Maribyrnong Valley Inc.



A river to fish in and canoe on, a steep street to ride skateboards and bilycarts down, dirt tracks and easements to explore on our BMX bikes, and a huge backyard to kick a ball around – all of this was my playground as a boy growing up in Avondale Heights in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

Avondale Heights had everything you could need as a kid. The only thing it didn't have was an identity. Every time I told people where I lived, I knew their next question would be "where's that?". I would explain that it's about a five-minute drive from Flemington Racecourse where the Melbourne Cup is held each and every year. "Oh really ... yeah, I've never heard of it," was nearly always their response.

But one day I got the thrill of my life when I saw on a car window a sticker that read: "Triple MMM Rocks Avondale Heights". I couldn't believe my eyes. Avondale Heights was finally on the map – well, as a radio promotion on a sticker at least – but it was a start.

Only about 10 good kicks of a footy away from my house was the Maribyrnong, a river that has given my family so much pleasure, as well as its fair share of pain, over the years. When we went to the river it was pure joy – there was fishing and canoeing and also swimming and sailing.

But one of the biggest highlights was visiting the hermit who lived beside the river with too many cats to count. I always thought he was like the character Catweazle from the '70s TV show. My mates and I would ride along the river until we neared his floating raft house, which was tied to the bank.



## Avondale Heights 3034

Shane Jacobson

Bilycarts, BMX bikes and a river inclined to over-runneeth its banks ... Shane Jacobson paddles through time to the suburb you've never heard of.

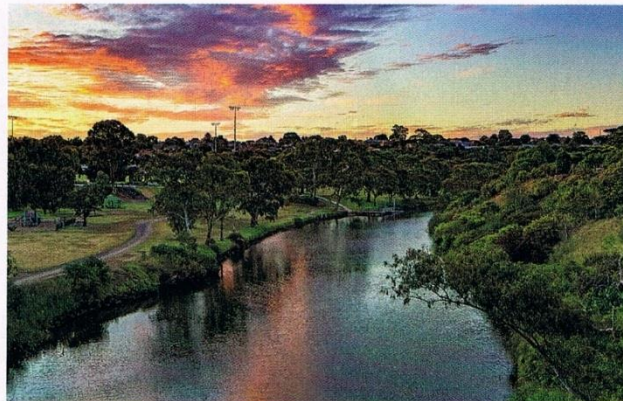


PHOTO: Andrew Haysom

**'About 10 kicks of a footy away was the Maribyrnong, a river that has given my family so much pleasure, as well as its fair share of pain.'**

As we got close, we'd crawl through the long weeds and shrubs to try and get a glimpse of the mysterious hermit. It was as terrifying as it was thrilling. One of us would always trip on a string attached to empty cans on a rickety old fence. It was the hermit's security system. As soon as he appeared from his makeshift home we would run in horror, only to try again a month or two later.

They are great memories, but when the river came to us, it brought no joy at all. My grandmother's house and our Sea Scout hall were flooded at least three times, and obviously it affected our neighbours as well. The only good memory I have of these events was paddling a boat out of the shed where it was stored and across the footy ground and through the goals.

I spent many a day sitting on the riverbank and staring at the water flowing past, wondering if it was on its way to somewhere else in the world or if it had come to Avondale Heights from somewhere amazing on the planet. At times, I felt like Tom Sawyer exploring the tracks along the river's edge. I felt like I was a million miles away from any grown-ups, but the truth

was I was only a few kilometres from my family home.

Avondale Heights may have been a mystery to people when I was a kid, but now I hope you'll remember its name and, if ever it comes up in conversation, you can say, "I actually know where that is, and apparently it's got a wonderful river running through it".

Shane Jacobson is a Victorian actor, entertainer, author and comedian, widely known for his work in film, theatre and television.

## Parks Victoria works undertaken throughout the Maribyrnong Valley Parklands

If you have any questions or comment, please speak to Brimbank Park Rangers  
Brimbank Park, Keilor Park Drive, Keilor VIC 3036 PO Box 116 Keilor VIC 3036

| Location   | Resource                              | Works  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Brimbank Park, multiple sites and escarpments (predominantly within Brimbank Park).  | PV Internal                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pest Animal Control re rabbit in main picnic areas of Brimbank Park.</li> <li>• School Holiday Activities 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Terms.</li> <li>• General maintenance of park infrastructure including Dodd's Homestead Precinct.</li> </ul>                                    |
| Brimbank Park garden beds  | PV Internal / Peri Urban Weed Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity and spot spraying weed control and spreading of mulch.</li> <li>• Targeted weed control works on escarpment for woody weeds and serrated tussock.</li> <li>• Trail edge spraying operations.</li> </ul>   |
| Taylors Creek  | PV Internal / Wurundjeri Narrap Team. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring exclusion fencing minor spraying activity.</li> <li>• Weed and vegetation enhancement works Taylors Creek Reserve.</li> </ul>  |
| Green Gully  | Melbourne Water                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woody weed removal and planting.</li> </ul>   |
| Maribyrnong River Brimbank Park,   | PV Internal                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General maintenance activities for PV continue.</li> </ul>  |
| Grasslands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mt Derrimut</li> <li>• Derrimut</li> <li>• Ravenhall North</li> <li>• Ravenhall South</li> </ul> | Contractors                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autumn burns for Derrimut Grassland Reserve.</li> <li>• Follow up post burn weed control works at Mt Derrimut Grassland Reserve Year 3, targeting thistles, invasive grass species such as Chilean Needle Grass, and Serrated Tussock.</li> <li>• General weed control activity.</li> </ul> |
| Banchory Grove Grassland   | PV Internal                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spraying along boundary interface and removal of litter.</li> <li>• Grass cutting boundary fence.</li> </ul>  |
| Lower Maribyrnong  | PV / MW                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to provide assistance to both Friends Groups in their respective planting programs.</li> </ul>   |



|   |           |  |
|---|-----------|--|
|   |           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to liaise with Melbourne Water re sewer upgrade within the Lower Maribyrnong, as well as assisting</li> <li>• MW's 'in-stream' embankment stabilisation works adjacent to the Steele Creek Reserve Riparian trail. Now monitoring success.</li> </ul>  |
| Brimbank  | Vic Roads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction works nearing completion. Agreement between Parks Victoria and Vic Roads on upgrading the trail network within and adjacent to the road easement. These works are imminent.</li> <li>• The storm water treatment pond for the EJ Whitten Bridge located on the eastern side of this structure has been upgraded and functioning well.</li> </ul> |
| Maribyrnong Healthy Waterways Strategy                        | MW        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As this is now complete Parks Victoria will continue to be part of the ongoing conversation on the implementation of this strategy.</li> </ul>  |
| Melbourne Airport Rail Link (MARL) Business Case Development. | PV / MARL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PV has been working with the MARL on providing access to Crown Land managed by PV, allowing the MARL to undertake preliminary investigations for the preferred rail alignment.</li> <li>• This falls west of the current Sunshine Rail track situated between it and the EJ Whitten Bridge.</li> </ul>  |

## BROLGA Program: -

### Bernadette Gould represented FMV.

Earlier this year I was given the opportunity to participate in a new course called Building Resilient On-ground Local Groups for Action, AKA the BROLGA Program. The program was designed for members of community environmental groups to develop skills to help their group deliver improved environmental outcomes. I completed the 14-week course along with eleven other participants, who were from different Friends Groups or had their own environmental projects. The course was a really great introduction to a variety of topics, including writing a conservation management plan, funding, writing grant applications, mapping, volunteer engagement, social media strategy and video editing. It was run by two ecologists, Amanda Dodd and Mel Birtchnell, who were both very knowledgeable and passionate. I found it very inspiring and highly recommend it.