



The riverbanks are collapsing into the Maribyrnong at many of our sites. This will need urgent attention from Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria before it becomes worse over winter. More pictures on the webpage.



Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley Inc.

Quarterly Newsletter

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Hello and Hope you are all staying well

As a community not for Profit Friends' group, we are in uncharted waters as we face the challenges of the COVID-19 outbreak and our volunteering for 2020.

We are updating our Facebook pages and our Webpage for any new changes and this is a good way for you to keep in touch with us. Also, Maelor has been riding his bike for exercise and his photos of our sites can be found on both pages. How lucky we have been to have had more rain in first 4 months of this year than the whole of last year. The plants are doing well, but we will have lots of hand weeding to do in the spring months.

We have been unable to volunteer on Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley and Parks Vic land because of the COVID-19 situation, which means we are unable to undertake and complete any of our grants or maintenance works for this year. Our corporate and school events have been postponed till next year starting in February 2021 and finishing in June 2021.

We wish to thank Brimbank and Maribyrnong council for supporting our grants and extending them till June 2021.

Melbourne Water have also extended our programs till June 2021. We are still waiting to hear back on the Federal government grants.

We will be been waiting for the spring to arrive to get out and continue our programs.

[Maribyrnong River Main Sewer Upgrade Community Update March 2020 from Melbourne Water](#)

Melbourne Water are pleased to let you know that works to upgrade 7.2 kilometres of the Maribyrnong River Main (MRM) Sewer in Avondale Heights, Essendon West and Aberfeldie are now complete.

Melbourne Water and our project delivery partners, CPB and Black & Veatch Joint Venture, thank residents and local businesses for their patience and understanding throughout the upgrade works, which began in mid-2018.

Melbourne Water are now focussing on reinstating areas affected by their work activities before they remove the main site compound from Canning Street Reserve in Avondale Heights.

Over the coming weeks, MW will be re-grassing and re-planting in the local region to rehabilitate disturbed areas. This will be undertaken in accordance with revegetation and reinstatement plans approved by Moonee Valley City Council and Parks Victoria. Local input to the revegetation plans was also provided by

the Friends of Steele Creek and Friends of Maribyrnong Valley. MW thank these agencies and groups for their input. Other areas affected by our works will be restored to their original level of amenity or similar condition. Reinstatement will be inspected by Council to ensure community safety and wellbeing.

Our grant programs for this year are: -

Brimbank City Council: COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

We have received funding for our **2020 project with Keilor Primary School, the Connies and the Wurundjeri Indigenous Cultural Education officers at Caroline Chisholm Reserve, Keilor.**

All the events and on-site activities for this grant will happen with the school at the start of 2021. We will start maintenance and on-site preparation as soon as council allow us.

Maribyrnong City Council: COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

We have received funding for ongoing costs for our community events on our 4 work sites. Our school and corporate events will start in February 2021, but our weekly on ground maintenance as soon as council will allow us back on these sites.

Gumms Corner, Brimbank Park Site:

The Marcus Wintels project has been placed on hold till next year due to volunteering restrictions under COVID-19.

Melbourne Water: River Health Incentives Programs for 2020.

1. Lily Street Wetlands/Woodlands Site Restoration - Stage 12:

This stage of the project will complete the weed control program and planting of trees and grasses in the Lily Street Wetlands area.

We will also plant and do weed control on the woodlands site.

This project is supported again this year by NAB corporates volunteers and they will join us starting in February 2021 to plant for the next winter program.

2. Burndap Park, Edgewater, Maribyrnong Stage 3:

We have received funds for weed control and planting at this site to enhance and continue our works with our corporate volunteers and Maribyrnong City Council. Our corporates will join us from February 2021 to complete this work before June 2021.

3. Community support Grant:

We have received funding for our ongoing costs for our community events on all of Melbourne Water sites.

The Australian Government Communities Environment Program:

- Taylors Valley Keilor for weed control and planting. This grant was supported by **Daniel Mulino and staff**
- Thomsons Reserve Maribyrnong for weed control and planting. This grant was supported by **Bill Shorten and staff**
- Maidstone Escarpment for Boxthorn removal and ground cover planting. This grant was supported by **Bill Shorten and staff**

All the programs are on hold and will start with maintenance and site preparation as we are allowed back volunteering and planting will happen in late autumn and early winter 2021.