

FRIENDS OF HODDLES CREEK NEWSLETTER

Bringing the trees to Yellowgum Road

A major project for the Friends of Hoddles Creek is the revegetation of a large section of roadside on Yellowgum Road, to connect local wildlife corridors and improve wildlife habitat. The project involves collection of seed from local indigenous species, propagation, growing on and planting out.

While the new plants were growing, site preparation, weed suppression and mulching have also been undertaken. We have been greatly assisted in these activities by Rob Dabal, Environmental Resource Officer with the Shire. Rob provided

invaluable advice on the project and organised supply of the large quantities of mulch and tree guards required. The photographs show Stage 1 planting out activities. Stage 2 will extend along further sections of the roadside.

This is the type of project that can make a real difference to animal and bird populations in our area. If you have ideas for other projects within Hoddles Creek, why not come along to our next meeting and share them with us? The more members we have, the greater the difference we can make in maintaining and developing our wildlife habitat.



Thanks again to Jill the postie for delivering the FOHC Newsletter.

Thanks to Melbourne Water for the grant for this newsletter.



Keeping cool

With Melbourne smashing a 60 year record in January for the highest temperature, devastating fires in the north-east of our state and elsewhere and with February and March still promising more heat, you don't need us to remind you of the importance of fire awareness and readiness.

Instead, we thought we'd take you to a few of our favourite surfing spots – not the watery ones you'd have to leave Hoddles Creek to check out, but net sites you can visit without leaving home (and you can stay cool in the process).

For general information, why not start with the Shire of Yarra Ranges (www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au) for news on local events, planning schemes and details about our shire. Melbourne Water's site (www.melbournewater.com.au) is also worth a look. Check out the Water Wise garden ideas under 'Conserve Water', or view the results of the Autumn 2002 frog census (see how you can join in the 2003 census, too). Talking of frogs, you can hear them on the Victorian Frog Group website through www.frogs.org.au. If birds are more your scene, try www.birdsaustralia.com.au, for some more sights and sounds.

For kids, try the ABC website at <http://abc.net.au/schoolstv/animals>.

One of our personal favourites is www.ecorecycle.vic.gov.au. Here you'll find the Waste Wise Shopping Guide, a useful listing of products and companies that use recycled materials in products ranging from horse float mats to toilet tissue to printer & fax cartridges.

Finally, if you'd like to bring more of our wonderful birds and animals right to your backyard, log on to www.floraforfauna.com.au, for loads of ideas about attracting wildlife to your garden.

The birds and the trees

We know birds need trees, but did you know that trees also need birds? Around the world, trees suffer from insect outbreaks and eucalypts are no exception. Most species of birds feed on insects to a greater or lesser degree and in so doing may contribute to holding down insect populations.

Honeyeaters and lorikeets are the major pollinators of many species of eucalypts, as well as banksias, bottlebrushes and a host of native shrubs. Birds also help to disperse the seeds of many plants. The loss of trees through clearing and dieback inevitably leads to the loss of native birds.

Birds not only take insects from trees, they also eat pasture pests. Magpies are great in this respect, taking thousands of scarab larvae per hectare each year.

If care is taken to encourage a wide variety of birds on farmland, this will contribute to healthy trees and healthy pasture too. Some dead trees and dead branches should be left as these provide nest holes. If these are lacking, nest boxes of various sizes can be used.



(Details taken in part from Greening Australia)

SPRING COMPETITION Where am I?

Thanks to all those who entered our Spring Competition. The lucky winners were Sue Teltscher and Jim Taylor, who have no doubt already enjoyed the delights of their Domain Chandon Brut and Green Point chardonnay. Look out for our next competition in the Autumn Newsletter. By the way, the correct location was the CFA Fire Station.

FOHC News

The Friends of Hoddles Creek group was formed in 1999. We maintain a watching brief over development projects and seek to ensure that regulations related to tree clearing, maintenance of wild life corridors, water usage from local waterways and use of chemical sprays are adhered to. We also aim to increase awareness of general environmental issues and those of special interest to Hoddles Creek.

We have several 'hands on' projects involving weed clearing, regeneration and indigenous plant propagation. Apart from work, we also have luncheons and organise other fun activities, such as nature walks and nest box construction.

General meetings are held on Mondays in the Hoddles Creek Public Hall, Launching Place-Gembrook Road, commencing at 7.30 pm. Dates for 2003 meetings are as follows:

- **February 17**
- **June 16**
- **October 20**
- **April 21**
- **August 18**
- **December 15**

Come and join us

There is no age restriction, all that is required is an interest in helping to maintain the special environmental aspects of Hoddles Creek – your home. If you would like to join, or if you would like more information about the group, simply complete the details below and send to FOHC, PO Box 298 Yarra Junction, Vic 3797.

Name:.....

 Address:

 Phone:
 Email:

I'd like to join Friends of Hoddles Creek.

I'd like more information. Please ring me.