

The Understorey

Restoring a diverse bush parkland and supporting the spiritual and physical wellbeing of current and future generations



Calling all Photography Enthusiasts

Parklands Albury-Wodonga and this year's sponsor City of Wodonga are proud to launch the inaugural Green Spaces Photography Exhibition.

Keen photography enthusiasts are being encouraged to submit their best photos to showcase and celebrate the natural beauty of our local region.

The exhibition is being held in the former Information Centre building on Gateway Island between October 23 and November 9 2014. Although it is not a competition, there will be a people's choice prize for the photo voted most popular by the public.

Shutter bugs are encouraged to register their photos early to avoid missing out, as places in the exhibition are limited. Entries for the exhibition cost \$30 per photograph with a limit of two photographs per person. **Registrations close on September 23.**

There are a number of conditions of entry, including that photos must be taken within 30km of Albury, all photographs need to be framed for presentation and all must be available for sale to the general public.

The opening night for the exhibition is on Thursday October 23 at 6pm. For more details see our website at: www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au

Indigenous representatives and archaeologists surveying the proposed walking trail route to help protect cultural heritage

Bridging the Gap with Partnerships

As part of a four-way partnership between Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation, Wilsons Transformer Company, Bonegilla Rail Trail Advisory Group and Parklands Albury Wodonga, we look forward to employing three new Indigenous Rangers to commence fabricating and installing the first of the two 300 metre long boardwalks on the High Country Rail Trail as soon as the spring floods recede.

The boardwalk will help flood-proof the section of Rail Trail that gets periodically inundated when the Kiewa River floods near Killara. This community infrastructure has been funded from a Commonwealth Government Regional Infrastructure Development grant.

In other news, with the support of funding from the Ross Trust, cultural heritage management plans are in the process of being developed to enable Parklands to progress with works on new walking trails along the Murray River and Wodonga Creek on Gateway Island.

The new walking trail will add an additional 7 kms of unsealed trail to the highly popular sealed trail network on Gateway Island, and will give people the opportunity to get close to nature while exercising, by enjoying views of our lovely local waterways and bushland.

We thank representatives from the Dhudhurroa Waywurra Nations Aboriginal Corporation, Duduroa Local Custodians Inc. and Yaitmathang Indigenous Lands Inc. for sharing their time and traditional knowledge during the recent cultural heritage surveys.



A beautiful local "Green Space"



Wodonga to Bandiana Railway Corridor

Parklands has been awarded a lease to establish a rail trail along the disused railway corridor from Harris Rd (off the Lincoln Causeway, Gateway Island) through central Wodonga to Whytes Rd near Wodonga saleyards, Bandiana.

The High Country Rail Trail is managed through an active partnership with three volunteer groups at Bonegilla, Tallangatta and Koetong. We are keen to partner with our new neighbours, businesses and interested community members in enhancing this new section of the rail trail.

Public Meeting - 6pm to 8pm Wednesday 27 August 2014 at the new Quest Apartments, Reid St, Wodonga. Come share your ideas, concerns and suggestions for the new Wodonga trail, and check out the great meeting space available at Quest, which has been kindly donated.

Medibank Grant to Kick Start Hearts

Parklands have successfully been awarded a grant from the Medibank Community Fund to help progress its plans to develop both Baranduda Parklands and McFarlanes Hill (Hunchy) into sought after mountain bike destinations.

The grant will help cover the costs of cultural surveys to ensure track works will not disturb any historical sites or relics, and will pay for some machinery costs to help take some of the back breaking effort out of track construction.

Baranduda is the hub of the future growth areas of Wodonga. Having great walking and riding facilities adjoining these future urban areas will help keep the population fit and healthy. Contact us to get involved.

Flora & Fauna - Fact of the Month

Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)

This egg-laying native mammal is one of the most mysterious animals in the world. In fact upon its discovery in 1798 a specimen was sent to Britain for analysis. The animal was deemed so bizarre it was initially considered to be a hoax by scientists who believed a prankster had mixed up several animal parts! A very secretive animal, its cute exterior and apparent harmlessness is not always the case. Males of the species have bony spurs on their hind legs which are connected to a gland that excretes venom. People that have been spiked by these spurs say the pain is the most excruciating agony that they have ever experienced. So in this case, if you're lucky enough to see a Platypus in the wild by all means look, but it's best not to touch.

More Ways to Get Involved in 2014...

Have Your Say on Wodonga Rail Trail - August 27

Share your ideas, concerns and suggestions at this community meeting and information evening. 6 - 8 pm at Quest Apartments.

Weed Workshop, Nail Can Hill - August 31

Learn to identify plants and the practical skills to control high threat weed species - Followed by a free BBQ lunch.

Open Spaces Photography Exhibition - Oct 23 to Nov 9

Explore our regional parklands through the lens of local photographers at the old Info Centre on Gateway Island.

Sandy Creek Rail Bridge Walk - October 8

A scenic return walk from Huon Reserve (Hume Weir) to the Sandy Creek Rail Bridge, followed by afternoon tea.

Tallangatta Tall Trestle Treadle (bike ride) - October 19

Guided bike tour of the High Country Rail Trail. Bus transfers, afternoon tea and pub lunch all included for \$75.00

Note: Some events are by RSVP. Please see the Parklands website for more specific event details: www.parklands-alburywodonga.org.au

HELP THE TEAM AT PARKLANDS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WHO WE ARE: Parklands Albury Wodonga is a not-for-profit, cross-border, community driven manager of public land.

WHAT WE DO: Conservation, heritage and recreation projects in **BUSH PARKS** right throughout the Albury Wodonga region.

HOW: We work in partnership with the regional community, including 12 Friends Groups, numerous businesses and with tailored volunteer programs for youths and marginalised groups (refugees, long term unemployed, corrections and dis-Ability).

WHO FUNDS US: We generate two thirds of our annual income through a diversity of fundraising activities. Donations also play an important role in ensuring we can continue our work, so if you can support us please fill out and return the donation slip below.

HOW TO HELP: To donate send in the slip below or use the secure site: <http://www.givenow.com.au/parklandsalburywodonga>



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