

Newsletter

Vision for Werribee Plains

Issue No 4 July 2009

Project - Growing Turf with Recycled Water

Following concerns by Wyndham City Council staff about difficulty in establishing turf with Class A recycled water from the Western Treatment Plant, a demonstration trial was conducted in association with the Werribee Park Golf Club and City West Water.

The trials, conducted by Victorian Turfgrass Consultancy Services, in partnership with Wyndham City Council, showed that turf could be successfully established with sod and sprigs but there were limitations with seed from some turf species. The V4WP fund contributed \$10,000 toward the project which is in draft final report stage. The experience from this project will assist other managers of sports ovals using recycled water



The demonstration site at Werribee Park Golf Club: seeded, sprigged and sodded grasses were established using full recycled, half recycled and one third recycled water, as well as water from the Werribee River and potable water supply.

www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/programs/recycling/v4wp

Project Office Phone: 9742 8787

Project - Laverton North Grasslands

Work has commenced in the re-colonisation of rare and endangered species into the native grasslands at Laverton North, with a monitoring and weeding workshop scheduled in mid-July. The long term recovery of endangered species is necessary if the region is to make any claim to leadership in sustainable development.



Laverton North Grasslands – Contact Gerry Sansico, Ranger, Parks Victoria gsansico@parks.vic.gov.au or Karen Lester, Biodiversity and Environment Services, DSE karen.lester@dse.vic.gov.au if you would like to know more about this project.

Project Control Groups

The purpose of the PCG is to ensure each project is implemented consistent with the Funding Deed and any potential budget alterations are identified as early as possible, along with an appropriate correction strategy.

These meetings enable both parties to raise issues about the project and the funding deed, and often are able to quickly resolve issues before they become a major problem. Experience so far is that the managers of projects have been encouraged as a result of these meetings

The Project Control Group meetings will normally consider one or more of the following issues

- Reviewing the progress of the project - especially budget, milestones, monitoring and reporting, risk and quality of outcomes;
- Facilitating discussions between senior personnel to resolve issues relating to the project;
- Reviewing and commenting on any tender recommendations to contract goods or services for the project (large projects);

- Negotiating any proposals to amend the funding agreement – especially substantial variations, including any risk or liability issues that may arise;
- Identifying and facilitating any approvals, consents or the like that may be required in order to carry out the project;
- Considering other matters relative to the project as may be raised by either party; and
- Making recommendations to the parties in relation to any dispute or conflict that may arise.

If you are managing a project, you are encouraged to use the PCG meetings as opportunities to address issues to achieve the desired project outcomes. So far all issues raised in these meetings, which typically take 20 – 40 minutes, have been resolved.

Announcement of Rounds 1 and 2 Grants

Minister Jennings announced 14 grants totalling over \$2M at the Werribee Open Range Zoo on the morning of June 5, World Environment Day. The organisations responsible for each of these projects are now free to organise any follow-up press release they may wish to conduct. Seventy stakeholders attended the event.



Altona North Reserve

The Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek received \$49,000 from V4WP as part of Round 2 funding. The grant will be used to plant native vegetation and build a walking trail along the Kororoit Creek between Dohertys and Barnes roads in Altona North.

The group intends to improve the degraded industrial landscape adjoining the creek, and use it as public open space. In addition to these works, rabbit proof fencing will also be erected to protect the new plantings and sitting areas will be provided for community members to take a break while walking along a new all-weather trail.



Workers from Toyota's Altona plant have volunteered to assist the FoLKC to plant trees along the reserve that runs past their workplace. FoLCK president Mr Geoff Mitchelmore said that the reserve was once a weed-infested area along the creek that no-one ever went to.

Some of the new furniture recently installed at the Altona North reserve.

Five Projects funded in Round 3

In our latest funding round, five projects were recommended for funding:

- The Australian Plant Society Keilor Plains are developing a web-based environmental data-sharing system for Groups in the Werribee plains
- The Parwan Landcare Group are undertaking the Parwan Gorge Recovery project, which will involve removal of boxthorn, serrated tussock, fencing of a grassland lignum swamp
- The Quang Minh Buddhist Temple will complete a sustainability program at the temple that permit the teaching of practical sustainability in a Buddhist context, and will empower as sector of the community that is not reached by current sustainability programs
- The Western Melbourne Catchments Network will produce a DVD entitled 'Through the Grasslands' A series of short films capturing historical and environmental experiences within the Werribee catchment for use in schools and libraries
- Western Water, in partnership with Pinkerton Landcare Group will create a 12 ha biodiversity corridor between Pinkerton Forest and Bush's Paddock at the Surbiton Park waste water treatment plant, Melton South, using tree seedlings and native grasses selected from the local area.

Internal Review Process

As part of DSE's continuous improvement process, an internal review of Stage 2 of the Vision for Werribee Plains Program will commence shortly. This review will examine progress to date, future direction, and the changes required to maximise the benefits from the program.

The review will guide changes to the funding process, and will be complete prior to the commencement of the Round 5 application process, the first round of Year Two, 2nd November closing date, and may also inform broader strategy and project governance.

Closing date for Round 4 draws near

Our next closing date is drawing near. The Vision for Werribee Plains project office welcomes your Expressions of Interest (EoI), which should be submitted before the full application in order to ensure that projects meet selection criteria and that the most suitable project partner/s have been identified.

While we accept Expressions of Interest at any time, full applications for Round 4 are due at Close of Business on Monday 3rd August.

EoI and Application forms can be downloaded from:

www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/programs/recycling/v4sp/apply

Quarterly Reporting - What we need from you!

In common with most other grants programs, V4WP requires all grants recipients to provide a quarterly report. This is not meant to be arduous, and will consist of a sentence or two describing each Milestone that has been met, together with a statement of how much of the grant money has been spent, and how much remains. Most projects will need a report of around a page long .

The Project Office would also appreciate a photo or two that we could use in this Newsletter to publicise the good work being undertaken.

The Project Office will be in touch with each group who have been funded, and will tailor a report for your project.

Update on the Regional Sustainability Framework

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) continues to develop a Regional Sustainability Framework for the Werribee Plains region. The project, which has been running for over 2 years, aims to, “*transform the region into a global leader in water management and sustainable development*”. This project is identifying goals and actions across 4 key themes integral to achieving sustainability in the Werribee Plains region.

- Urban water
- Biodiversity
- Transport and reducing car dependency
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency

The Urban Water theme is now complete, and the ACF is moving on to the other three project areas.

Biodiversity

A Biodiversity Scoping Forum was held at Melton on 7 May with an audience of about 30 participants from state agencies, regional organisations, local government and community organisations to scope the current strategies, programs and organisational networks in the Werribee Plains and identify key priorities for future action. A research proposal is currently being prepared with the major theme of connectivity that will address both the protection and enhancement of biodiversity assets and ecological processes.

Transport and reducing car dependency

A review of potential strategies for reducing car dependency is complete and available from the ACF Werribee Project website. The review contains 7 international and national case studies and examines key success factors and potential applicability to the Werribee Plains region. A research consultancy on the role and success of urban design in providing physical infrastructure in urban growth areas of Werribee Plains that reduces car dependency has commenced, and will be the subject of a community forum in October.



Werribee Station car park overcrowding (Photo: Suzie Brown) (Source: ACF website: Sustainable Transport in a Peri-Urban Context: a review of potential strategies for reducing car dependency; Pg 12)

Renewable energy and energy efficiency

A research consultancy has been advertised for developing a strategy for the Werribee Plains to achieve zero net emissions from the region, in conjunction with the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA). The study will look at the source of greenhouse gas emissions, solutions for reducing emissions and the identification of indicators to monitor progress over time. The study will commence in August and findings will be presented and discussed at a community forum.

Register to receive this newsletter

Newsletters such as this one tend to be forwarded across numerous email networks on an ad hoc basis. If you would like to ensure you receive the latest V4WP newsletter information please register your interest at werribee.plains@dse.vic.gov.au

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter and would like to be removed from our database let us know by replying "Please remove me from your database" to the above address

Thank you

Vision for Werribee Plains
Project Office