



Thinking of joining Friends of Warriparinga?

website: friendsofwarriparinga.com.au

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Welcome!

Thank you for considering becoming a volunteer to help care for Warriparinga. The Friends have been restoring and maintaining this important area for three decades, and we hope you will enjoy contributing. The site is important for the Kaurna people and the broader community, and has many significant indigenous plants. Our group aims to create a relaxed and friendly working atmosphere. There are nevertheless some important things that new people should know so that our activities run safely and enjoyably.

Getting started

Potential members will be given three months to try out the group, including the option of attending committee meetings in a non-voting capacity. After three months, if you wish to become a member, this will be considered at a committee meeting in your absence. The first annual subscription will fall due in August (currently \$25), whatever time of year you join.

Registration

When you begin work with us, you will be asked to complete a registration form with your contact details so that we can keep you informed of meetings, changed arrangements, etc. and for use in case of an emergency.

Times and places

Thursday is our usual working day on site, with ad hoc arrangements on other days. Matters such as the weather and holiday absences sometimes affect arrangements, so it is advisable to check beforehand with Chair Rosalyn Shute or Secretary Lew Owens, although as a rule a number of members will be present from about 10 a.m to 1 p.m. on a Thursday. Members initially come to our tool room in Fairford House to sign in and collect equipment. For safety reasons, members should not work alone. Most members bring a packed lunch, generally eaten together outdoors around noon. Our monthly meetings are usually held at 12 noon.

Legal issues

We are an independent Incorporated Association, but operate under the City of Marion (council), with support from a dedicated volunteer coordinator, Sam Ryan. We are insured through SAicorp, the SA state government's insurer. Although we are volunteers, we are treated, and have responsibilities, as if we were employees, in matters of workplace health and safety.

Safety - a priority

1. Current Covid-19 protocols, such as social distancing and proper wearing of effective masks, must be adhered to. We meet outdoors whenever possible. Marion Council now requires all volunteers to be fully vaccinated. Digital or scanned hard copies of certificates can be sent to sam.ryan@marion.sa.gov.au and details other than name and vaccination details can be redacted for privacy reasons if you wish.
2. Members must sign in and out (so that we have a record of who is present and the hours worked). For Covid safety, this is currently done by one person on behalf of attendees.
3. Appropriate safety equipment and tools will be provided. Gloves, safety glasses and high-visibility jackets must be worn, and long trousers, long sleeves and solid shoes or boots. Weed poisoning and

- use of heavy equipment such as chainsaws require special safety techniques and supervision.
4. Directions of the on-site supervisor must be followed; this may be the Chair, Secretary, Health and Safety Officer or their nominee. Some members have undertaken training in a range of areas such as workplace health and safety, snake awareness, first aid, safe chemical handling, and site hazards assessment.
 5. Wear sun or rain protection as needed.
 6. Bring water to keep yourself hydrated.
 7. We have several first aid kits in our toolbox. These must be taken near to where volunteers are working.
 8. Members may wish to download a phone app that enables attendance by emergency services. See <https://emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au/>

Participation in tasks

Even for those with a good knowledge of bushcare techniques or gardening, there is a lot to learn about caring for Warriparinga, and it can seem quite daunting at first. For example, there are several types of *Oxalis* (Soursob) on site, and one is a wanted local native! Some weeds need to be removed only at certain times of the year, or with special methods (e.g., poisoning, digging out the roots, bagging up seed heads for removal). Weeding inappropriately can do more harm than good.

It is often best to concentrate at first on a specific task (e.g., removing a specific weed or planting seedlings). Members gradually develop expertise and preferences for certain tasks, but asking advice and checking with supervisors and knowledgeable colleagues is an ongoing process for everyone.

Workshops

From time to time, there are opportunities to increase our knowledge and skills through workshops put on by ourselves or outside agencies. Members who choose to attend find that they are enjoyable and contribute to the Friends' ability to understand and care for the environment and keep ourselves and others safe.

Other activities

There will occasionally be opportunities to be involved in other activities, such as giving talks, tours or public demonstrations.

Respecting the group

Please keep other members' contact details private. Do not pass them on to others and take care not to circulate email addresses to people outside the group by forwarding messages or including others in messages (use the b.c.c. facility if necessary – if you want to know what this is, ask Rosalyn Shute or anyone else knowledgeable about email).

Please do not speak, lobby or campaign on any issue while putting yourself forward as a representative of FoW without express permission from the Chair. You may, of course, do whatever you wish in a private capacity.

Facilities for members

Access to various FoW documents via the members' section of our website.

A dedicated room for our tools, including wheelbarrows, watering cans and safety equipment.

A dedicated meeting room in Fairford House. Facilities there include:

- A small library of books available for borrowing.
- Herbaria of indigenous and weedy plants for reference.
- Collected seed.
- A microscope suitable for studying seeds.
- Hand lenses.
- A press for making herbarium specimens.