



A Ducks Day

Autumn Grace Gleason

**A Ducks Day**  
Photo Autumn Grace

# Friends of Newport Lakes

## Summer

## What's News

by [FoNL]

### Welcome to Summer!

Dear Members,

We hope that after a challenging 2020, you have received the new year recharged and with some hope that life will return to normal sooner rather than later. For the Friends of Newport Lakes, the lockdown meant that we spend a year without being able to care for the park. Not only that, we also had to face a number of challenges



Lockdown Snake.  
Photo by FoNL Committe

that came from the exponential increase in use that the park saw during that harshest period of restrictions.

Overflowing rubbish bins, walkers and bike riders making trails among the no-go bush areas and dogs on the prohibited section of the park were some of the main issues we had to deal with last year. But if there is something to be said for those of us that deeply care for the park is this: We were not going to the grin it and bear it! No Sir! We at the committee were not alone in getting into the HBCC's ears. Our fantastic members and Facebook followers made sure that there was enough noise made about the issues that Council could not ignore us. And to Council's credit, and particularly to the credit of our wonderful rangers that are always there to help us, most of these problems were addressed.

Not all that happened at the park during lockdown was negative. Give

### CALENDAR

**February 14:**

Walk, Talk & Gawk  
Newport Lakes Flora and Fauna talk  
By HBCC Rangers

**March 07:**

Clean-up Australia Day Activity

**April 11:**

Conservation Activity

**May 09:**

Mother's Day Planting Activity

**June 13:**

Planting Activity

**July 11:**

Planting Activity

**August 08:**

Conservation Activity

**September 12:**

Conservation Activity

**October:**

End of year HBCC event for active volunteers (Date to be confirmed)

# What's News

by [FoNL]

children some time to be creative in nature and here appears a colourful snake, and not of the biting type! And who can forget the black cockies that kept us entertained for about a month!

But enough of the past! We are back on the Conservation Activity Circuit and we have two years of work to do! So make sure to mark the activities dates in your calendars and join us when you can to roll-up your sleeves or just to say hello.

Let's all have a fantastic and productive 2021!

## Destination Place

Last year, the FoNL committee received an invitation from Council to meet with their Open Space Planer and discuss the Newport Lakes Open Space Development and Conservation Plan. We were incredibly pleased to be given the opportunity to have a say on the future development of the park and quickly reached to our members and followers to gather their views and ideas so we could pass them on to Council.



Logan Reserve at Altona. Photograph from Trip Advisor and submitted by platypus150 (Oct. 2018)

The response was fantastic and so we came to the meeting with quite a few

ideas some of which were:

- more rubbish bins
- more toilets
- more formed paths
- exercise equipment rotunda
- repair fence
- develop a leisure area of Paveway park
- repair gates
- more signs
- skate park at Paveway park
- sports area at Paveway park
- island for the swans
- restore stairs near bird hide
- fencing the whole area
- protected area and introduce native fauna
- beehives
- bird boxes

Council has a long term view of improving the park to make of Newport Lakes what they call a 'destination place' similar to Logan Reserve at Altona. In the short term, the plan is to work on the maintenance and repair of existing infrastructure within the park. In the long term, there are plans to improve wayfinding and playgrounds.

Any proposals regarding new amenities and infrastructure for the park will be exhibited for community consultation. So watch this space as we hope to be hearing from Council sometime this year.

## CALENDAR cont'd

### November 14:

Conservation Activity

### December:

Xmas Get Together for members  
(Date to be confirmed)

*Please note that activities may change due to weather or need. All scheduled working bees and events are cancelled on Total Fire Ban days.*

## FACEBOOK

Don't forget to visit the page from time to time to get all the latest photos and posts. And if you like what you see, don't forget to *like* 🍷 us and invite your friends To check it out.

## NOTICE BOARD

### Natural pest management for gardeners by My Smart Garden



Date And Time  
Tue, 23 March 2021  
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM AEDT  
Location  
Online Event  
Book at: [www.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.eventbrite.com.au)

# What's News

by [FoNL]

## Know your flora featuring Wedge-leaf Hop Bush

Among all the many plants in Newport Lakes, the Wedge-leaf Hop Bush would have to be one of the prettiest. This beautiful shrub is easily recognizable by its showy burgundy coloured hops that appear against the backdrop of its dark green foliage during the summer months.



Wedge-leaf Hop Bush  
Photo sourced from  
<https://wtlandcare.org/details/dodonaea-viscosa-subsp-cuneata/>

The Wedge-leaf Hop-bush is not only found in Australia, but also on the dry open plains of Africa, America and India. Indigenous people here and in other parts of the world have used the plant as treatment for a variety of ailments.

Being very drought tolerant, makes the Wedge-leaf Hop ideal for revegetation projects in our constantly drying climate conditions. This ability also allows the plant to be successfully planted under mature trees where competition for water is high.

*"Birds like thornbills, robins, honey eaters and swallows prefer the Hop bushes safe, dense leafy framework for nesting and seed eaters like the lorikeets and rosellas greedily eat the nutritious clusters of winged seeds."*

Home gardeners can use this bush as a hedge. Once established, its slow growth makes it a fairly maintenance free plant.

Below is a list of scientific information about this perennial shrub:

**Scientific Name:** *Dodonaea viscosa subsp. cuneata*

**Plant Family:** Sapindaceae

**Habitat:** This specie has been identified in the following Australian states: Qld, NSW, ACT, Vic, SA, NT. Grows in semi-arid areas and open forest. Mostly on sandy loams

**Height:** Up to 3m.

**Leaves:** Compact spreading shrub to 3m high with wedge-shaped green leaves.

**Flowers:** Greenish, winter-spring.

**Propagation:** From seed or cuttings. While untreated seeds germinate, hot water treatment hastens germination, which should take 2-4 weeks.

**Fun fact:** Did you know that *Dodonaea* leaves are used by indigenous people for pain relief? Leaves chewed for toothache (without swallowing the juice). Chewed leaves and juice used in treating stonefish and stingray wounds (usually bound to wound and left for several days).

**Sources:**  
<https://wtlandcare.org/details/dodonaea-viscosa-subsp-cuneata/>  
<https://www.recreatingthecountry.com.au/wedge-leaf-hop-bush-dodonaea-viscosa.html>

## MEMBERSHIPS

Remember to keep up-to-date with the annual membership fee. We rely on our membership fees to produce printed material (brochures) which we distribute to local organisations to promote the park.

Membership is \$10 per person or household each financial year. As well as receiving the quarterly newsletter and other information, you'll know you are doing your bit for the park.

### Membership Form

Download membership form from our website:

[www.friendsofnewportlakes.com](http://www.friendsofnewportlakes.com)

and email to

[friendsofnewportlakes@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofnewportlakes@gmail.com)

Payment can be made at any Bendigo Bank in person or via internet transfer at the following account:

**Account Name: Friends of Newport Lakes**

**BSB: 633 000**

**Account: 119 888 477**

Remember to include your name so we know who paid and send your details and confirmation of payment to our email address above.

Alternatively, payment can be made by cash to our Treasurer Emmanuel Gaugain at any conservation activity

## MORE INFORMATION

### Contact:

Mary Burbidge: 9391 5758

### Website:

[www.friendsofnewportlakes.com](http://www.friendsofnewportlakes.com)

### Email:

[friendsofnewportlakes@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofnewportlakes@gmail.com)

### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofnewportlakes/>