

Friends of the Diamond Creek (Eltham Lower Park) + Friends of Edendale

Sue Dyet



Friends of the Diamond Creek (Eltham Lower Park) And Friends of Edendale

Presentation by Convenor of Friends of the Diamond Creek (Eltham Lower Park): Sue Dyet

Basically, Friends groups work on Council land to improve the environmental values of the vegetation in order to encourage the indigenous flora and fauna to have an improved habitat. Landcare groups undertake similar work but on private land. There are 25 Friends Groups in Nillumbik, with 10 working around Eltham. They generally meet regularly during the year – Council has a full list on its website with relevant contact details.

The Friends of the Diamond Creek (Eltham Lower Park)

The Friends of the Diamond Creek (Eltham Lower Park) has operated in Eltham Lower Park and other places along the banks of the Diamond Creek since 1991. It is probably the oldest Friends Group in Nillumbik.

I and others waved a long slender banner that hung in the centre of Eltham at Eltham Festival time when the community groups were involved with a parade along Main Road in the town to the park!

We meet on the last Sunday of the month, starting at 10am and promptly finishing at midday. We can be found working between the train sheds and pony club along our nature trail close to the creek – you will see our green & white sign nearby *which was then waved by more helpful people from the audience.*

NB If you are on our email list you will be sent a reminder email from FODCELP@hotmail.com saying where we will be working and what we will be doing and if you might need to bring anything special.

Weeding and revegetation along any waterways and other areas is the most important work that Friends groups undertake. Even in the semi urban area of Eltham Lower Park, this work is important to assist the survival of a range of fauna found in the park.

In the park there are:

- 6 species of breeding parrots
- 8 species of bats
- 7 species of native fish
- 11 species of reptiles
- 9 species of butterflies
- a lot of humans also use the park

Importantly, the Eltham Copper Butterfly is considered as Endangered in the statewide listing, the Swift Parrot is listed a Vulnerable and the Freshwater Blackfish is Rare. All are found in and around the park.

The Friends of Edendale

We were going to be the newest Friends group in Nillumbik when we formed in 2020. However that was also the start of COVID so the first three planned activities along the Diamond Creek were cancelled. Eventually the community activities started ten years later around Edendale along the Diamond Creek – working from the entrance to Edendale along to the Eltham North playground – *and again a banner was waved but of a more modest size!*

Many of the activities have been supported by Melbourne Water as well as by the staff at Edendale. You can find out about the activities via the Edendale website.

The Friends of Biodiversity Hohnes Hill is now the newest Friends group, contact them at: friendsofbiodiversityhh@email.org.au.