



Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetlands

Statement of Purpose

Aim of the Friends of JW

To promote the conservation and further development of Jerrabomberra Wetlands as a significant and unique nature reserve in the ACT.

Background to the Friends of JW

The Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetlands (JW) was established in 2013 as the result of a successful grant application to the ACT Government by Inner South See-Change group. The objectives of the initial grant were:

- To conduct a community information and awareness raising workshop focused on Kingston Foreshore residents
- To develop and print an information brochure on the Wetlands
- To encourage community members to join the existing friends group to assist with regeneration work at the wetlands
- To employ a project coordinator to direct the work and lead the volunteer efforts

All aspects of the funded project were completed in line with the project brief. Ongoing funding was provided by Inner South SEE-Change after the initial funds had been distributed. The incorporated parent body See-Change Inc. managed project finances with the coordinator working to the JW park ranger, and later, also to the JW project officer.

The FJW has representation on the JW management sub-committee of the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust.

Current Working Arrangements

Working relationships of the Friends of JW

- The Friends work under the direction of the Friends of JW Coordinator (currently Deb Kellock), and the JW Park Ranger (currently Michael Maconachie), in collaboration with the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust program manager for JW (currently Lori Gould).
- The Friends have a representative on the JW Management Committee and work with the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust through the Trust Program manager for the Wetlands.
- The Friends work with SEE-Change Inner South in relation to both inner south and broader Canberra issues which may impact on the Wetlands.
- SEE-Change Inc. is responsible for the administration of funds allocated for the employment of the JW coordinator.



Current Role of the Friends of JW Coordinator

The role of the Coordinator of the Friends of Jerrabomberra Wetlands is:

- To provide liaison between JW management sub-committee and members of the community interested in conservation work within the Jerrabomberra Wetlands.
- To coordinate the relevant parkcare activities of volunteers at the Jerrabomberra Wetlands.
- To seek to build connections between the community and the Jerrabomberra Wetlands, particularly with nearby residents such as those of the Kingston foreshore.

The key responsibilities and tasks to be undertaken by the Coordinator in this role are:

- Act as the main point of contact for external stakeholders in relation to the Friends of JW.
- Coordinate Friends of JW, organising, implementing and promoting and communicating appropriately in relation to activities such as:
 - i) an on-going program of revegetation, weeding and litter management activities in coordination with the JW Park Ranger.
 - ii) participation in flora and fauna surveys organised in coordination with the JW Park Ranger or other organisations, eg. Canberra Ornithologists Group (COG), Frogwatch.
- Liaise with and inform SEE-Change Inc. about any matters to do with the administration of funds for the position, upcoming Wetland activities, in order to increase awareness about the events through the SEE-Change newsletter.
- Attend SEE-Change Inner South local group meetings or provide reports about the activities of the Friends, and seek additional support from SEE-Change, as required.
- Assist in the implementation of any grants relevant to the Wetlands, in cooperation with the Woodlands and Wetlands Trust.

Future Developments

Potential for a broader-based Friends of JW

The focus of the Friends of JW has been mainly on parkcare work such as weeding and tree planting activities. However, it has always been recognized that there is a wider group of people who have an interest in JW and may wish to be part of a broader-based Friends of JW. A broader-based Friends group would attract more members as well as extending the range of activities undertaken to promote the conservation and development of JW. Financial support for the Wetlands may also be provided by some members of a broader-based Friends group.

SEE Change supports the development of a broader-based Friends of JW in order to encourage more people to participate in the conservation and development of the Wetlands.



New and evolving JW activities involving Friends

The range of activities undertaken by a broader-based Friends of JW is likely to evolve over time. The current parkcare activities would, of course, continue but have already been supplemented by some of the activities listed below:

- i) Various surveys, including the quarterly bird survey, frog monitoring with Frogwatch, platypus surveys, vegetation monitoring through Vegwatch.
- ii) Guided walks in the wetlands.
- iii) Work to preserve and enhance native wildlife in the Wetlands, e.g., improving habitats and discouraging predators.
- iv) Education activities with school children and the community.
- v) Community engagement, e.g., participation in the wetlands open day.
- vi) Preparation of environmental grant applications relevant to the Wetlands.
- vii) Planning/data management, e.g., an education plan for the wetlands, working on the Wetlands management plan, and working with the Canberra City Farm and Beekeepers' Association of ACT.
- viii) Litter management

Coordination of new activities

- Currently, the role of the coordinator of the Friends of JW is to focus on parkcare activities, as described above. This is expected to continue.
- Some of the evolving activities listed above have been coordinated by Trust program manager for JW and by the JW Park Ranger.
- New Friends may wish to take on a coordination role for other new activities, under the direction of the Trust program manager for the Wetlands and the JW Park Ranger.

Website changes to encourage new Friends of JW

The process of developing a broader-based Friends of JW has begun with changes to the Jerrabomberra Wetland website. Visitors to the website are encouraged to become a Friend and to express their interest in a limited range of activities. The range of potential 'Friendly' activities is likely to expand as individuals step forward to coordinate new activities. The new website also offers the possibility for individuals to provide financial support for the Wetlands by becoming a Jerrabomberra Wetlands supporter.