



## Hello from Teresa Day - MVS Convenor

Hi MVS Friends,

Winter is almost over - hope you have been keeping warm? We've been busy with campaigns, clean-ups, initiating sustainability projects, responding to Council consultation processes and preparing for our upcoming AGM (details below).

If you have an idea, or you notice an environmental problem and you want to do something about it, then head down to the last article which shows how MVS works with members of the community to get change happening. It's what we're about: 'Being the Change', starting right here in our community.



### Membership 2023-2024

By now you will have received an invitation to renew or become a member of Moonee Valley Sustainability Inc. Membership is a way to support us and what we do, but also be part of a passionate community of changemakers, being the change in Moonee Valley. If you haven't already, we'd really appreciate it if you could become a member for 2023/24. Simply choose the membership that suits

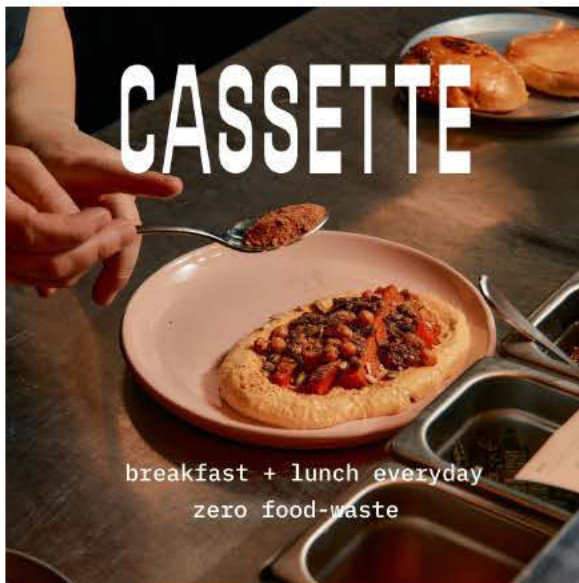
your circumstances:

Join or Renew Membership

### Membership Drive Winner

The winner of our July membership drive was Sara Melvin who won two FREE tix to the Lume immersive exhibition Connection.

Yay Sara, thanks for renewing your membership by 15 July - we love earlybirds!



You can still be a winner! Renew or join before 29 August and you will be in the running for a \$50 voucher at Cassette, your local low-waste cafe in Kensington. They make great breakfasts!.

Join or Renew Membership

### FYI - Good News!

Moonee Valley residents can now bring certain types of soft plastics to the Transfer Station for recycling. Woo Hoo!

Check out the Transfer Station website for details:

<https://mvcc.vic.gov.au/community-information-on-soft-plastics-recycling/>



## Upcoming Events . . .

### MVS Sustain A Valley

**Saturday 19 August**

The focus of Sustain A Valley this month will be a little different. We are hosting a yarn about the upcoming Voice Referendum while the Repair Cafe will move to the 4th Saturday of August.

We will still have our usual food swap and community waste sorting table on 19 August (details below), and you can volunteer here for jobs on the day:

**Volunteer: SAV**



*Artwork: Billy JANGALA Williams, 2023*

#### **Voice Yarn**

**Date:** Saturday 19 August

**Time:** 10am - 12pm

PLACES LIMITED so register today

**Register: Voice Yarn**

#### **Food and Produce Swap**

**Date:** Saturday 19 August

**Time:** 11:30am - 12:00pm

Bring your excess harvest or produce and swap if for something else. Be prepared to hear lots of tip swapping too.

#### **Community Waste Sort**

**Date:** Saturday 19 August

**Time:** 10:00am - 1:00pm

Bring your tricky recyclables and sort them into our collection boxes. See what we take in the image below, plus plastic cards and stationery.



**Plastic bottle caps**  
 - recycling number 2 and 4  
 - washed and dry  
 - remove the white foam insert



**Blister packs**



**Plastic bread tags**  
 - no cardboard bread tags



**Mobile phones and  
 chargers**



**Oral care (toothbrush,  
 toothpaste, floss)**  
 - plastic toothbrushes only,  
 not bamboo



**Batteries**  
 - AAA, AA, A, C, D and 9V  
 and button batteries

## MV Repair Cafe

Saturday 26 August

We are always in need of more fixers, menders and other help to run our Moonee Valley Repair Cafe events. If you are interested, please get in touch [repaircafe@mvsustainability.org.au](mailto:repaircafe@mvsustainability.org.au)



Any and all help is welcome. You will develop new skills and hone the ones you have!

Feel free to drop in and chat with our fixers and menders and other volunteers to discover how rewarding the whole event can be for all involved!

Now moved to the fourth Saturday of the month until the end of the year (excluding December.)

**Date:** Saturday 26 August

**Time:** 10am - 2pm,

**Place:** Dwell, 78 St Leonard's Road Ascot Vale

Reception opens from 10am - 1pm to register your request. Repairing finishes at 2pm.

Future dates for 2023:

Saturday 23 September

Saturday 28 October

Saturday 25 November



The Moonee Valley Repair Cafe team of dedicated fixers are there to help you with your broken household items. Need something glued or sewn? Got something that just won't work and you don't know why? Got something broken and have a spare part but don't know how to install it? We've got you covered.

## AGM & Community Plan

### Tuesday 29 August

This year our AGM will be a hybrid event! This means that it will be both online and face to face. It will take place at DWELL, 78 St Leonard's Road Ascot Vale. Please put the date in your diary.



**Date:** Tuesday 29th August

**Time:** 7:00pm - 8.30pm

**Place:** DWELL, 78 St Leonard's Road, Ascot Vale OR [Zoom](#)

#### Committee Election

Part of the business of the AGM is to elect the committee for the next year. There are several spots left, so if



#### Developing an MVS Community Plan

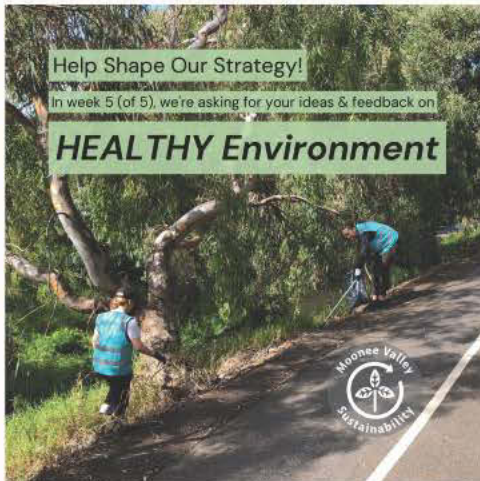
As well as the AGM business, we will be discussing the development of a community plan. The committee has started working on the framework for this, but the content and actions will be developed by members and volunteers: you!

We will be outlining the purpose of the surveys we have been running over the past month and how they will feed into our plans for the coming year. We will then be confirming the name of the plan and discussing how some of our projects might work to meet our goals over the coming year (see further details below).

you're a member and want to get more involved in MVS, then this is your chance. All members have received an email with a link to the nomination form.

## Help Shape Our Strategy for....

### HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



### Week 5 (of 5) short surveys to help shape our MVS strategy

This is the 5th of 5 short surveys. We know that shade and water will help keep us cool as temperatures rise. We also need to regenerate balanced and biodiverse ecosystems to sustain us.



This survey gives you a chance to share your ideas and help us prioritise what we as a community group can do to help achieve our goal for 2033 to **shade our streets and clean up our waterways.**

It only takes a few minutes to complete, so please fill out our survey today at

[Complete Final Survey](#)

The survey will close on Sunday 20th August.

## Our recent activities . . .

### Sustain A Valley & Repair Cafe - May/June/July

We have loved connecting with our community through our monthly Sustain A Valley and Repair Cafe events. In **May** our focus was on clean transport. We had EV test drives, E-Bike demos and an EV panel who agreed - it's all about the charge! In **June** we heard an inspiring talk from Jane Canaway about remnant grasslands and gardens for wildlife. In **July** we hosted two fabulously interesting talks on food waste. One from Kirsty Bishop Fox who dispelled myths about use-by dates and

another talk by Phoebe and Alex from Bardee who wowed us with futuristic fly farms that turn food waste into plant fertiliser and animal feed! Our repairers were fully occupied every session with all manner household objects that just needed a little attention.



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## Community Clean Ups - May/June/July

The Clean Ups are really taking off now. They are on the first Sunday of the month and are attended by a regular team of volunteers, committed to getting junk out of our natural spaces. New volunteers are always welcome. If you have missed out on the fun, join in! Starting at 10am, the next session is:

**Sunday 3 September:** Steele Creek, Niddrie. Meet at the bridge where The Avenue and Steele Creek Drive / Valley Lake Boulevard converge (Facebook Event link below).



September Clean Up Details

### Our MVS Community Plan

2023 has been a year of building our base and capacity, so that we can do bigger and better things in 2024. But to do so effectively requires strategy. We've spent the past few months defining our role, concerns, goals and targets. Given the enormous complexity of acting on climate change and regenerating our environment, we have grouped our interests into five key themes:







We've consulted our community through a series of surveys on what kind of action, education and advocacy work is most important. This is so we can work in the most effective way with the precious volunteer time that we have.

We can't wait to present our plan, Sustain A Valley - Our community plan for an active, renewable, resilient, responsible & healthy Moonee Valley by 2033 to you in the coming months.

## Campaigns, Advocacy & Projects

### Volunteers Needed

All our events are volunteer-powered. Some volunteers organise events, and others turn up and help out on the day. If you can help out at this month's Sustain-A-Valley, then let us know by popping your name on the roster [here](#). This will let Fiona (pictured!) know and she will be eternally grateful, as we all will be.



## Draft Nature Strip Landscaping Guidelines

Great News! Moonee Valley Council have reviewed their Nature Strip Policy of 2018, and are looking to transition from a policy to guidelines. This will make it easier for community members to plant in nature strips, by simplifying the process and removing the requirement for a permit. MVS strongly supports these new guidelines (including a Nature Strip Suitable Plant Guide), which are aligned with neighbouring councils advice for nature strip plantings.

If you would like to provide feedback on the draft guidelines, you can, until 28 August 2023 on council's 'Your Say' page, here:

<https://yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/naturestrip-landscaping>



## It starts from a frustration or an idea

Recently we were approached by a regular clean up volunteer and resident of Moonee Valley. She had been contacting the Council about artificial turf on nature strips and had been disappointed by their response. She knew MVS had completed a nature strip showcase project and asked us to help her raise the issue of this prohibited material on nature strips.

While the nature strip planting policy is under review the council has stopped enforcing their rules against artificial turf. But surely if the Council knew how widespread the issue was they would revisit their current stance?

Did you know Council are considering removing the natural grass ovals at Quinn Grove and installing synthetic turf?

We think our community deserves better than...

### **HOT & TOXIC FAKE TURF**

Our concerns are:

- kids exposed to toxic PFAS chemicals
- fences to stop people and pets using ovals
- microplastics in Valley Lake & Steele Creek
- dangerously hot temperatures in summer

Join our call for Council to use only well built...

### **Cool & Safe Real Grass**

The great benefits are:

- keeping players safe from injury
- freely accessible for people and pets to use
- similar hours of play per week when well maintained
- stays much cooler in summer

So why fake it?

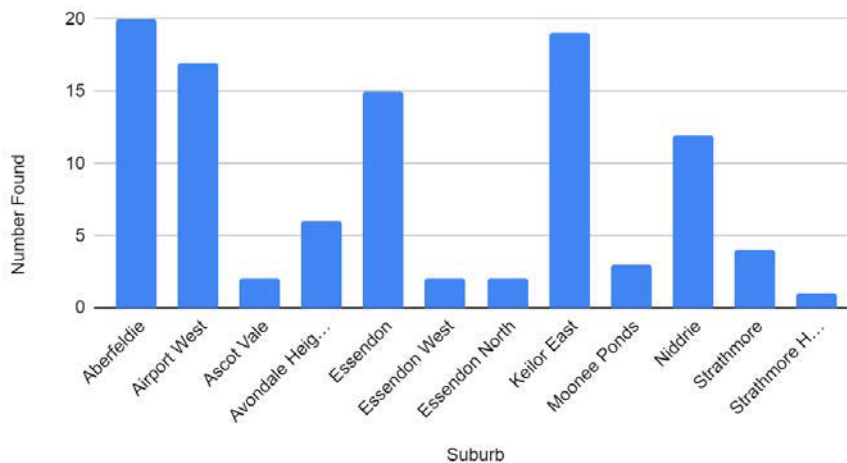
Volunteers sent in what they found, and our member/activist logged all the findings. Over one month the team located 106 nature strips with approximately 2000 square meters of artificial turf. That's the same as eight double tennis courts!

At the same time we were trying to raise awareness about the Council plans for artificial turf at Quinn Grove and began a letterbox campaign amongst local residents in that area - see our flyer here.

After several discussions, emails, letterboxing sessions later, we found ourselves working together as a team of fourteen MVS volunteers to undertake a citizen science project to log artificial grass nature strips in Moonee Valley.

This information has now been submitted to the council, with a request to reinstate the enforcement of rules prohibiting this toxic, environmentally damaging material on our nature strips. If you see any plastic grass on nature strips, please send your findings (address, rough meterage, number of trees on nature strip) to: [info@mvsustainability.org.au](mailto:info@mvsustainability.org.au)

Number of Artificial Grass Nature Strips Found in Suburbs



Graph of the group's findings, showing the number of plastic-coated nature strips per suburb.

So if you have an idea or you notice a problem and you want to do something about it, get in touch. We might be able to help you take action!

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## How To Get Involved

We would love to hear from you! There are many ways to get involved with your local community through MVS.

- Come along to an MVS event and chat with us
- Email us at [info@mvsustainability.org.au](mailto:info@mvsustainability.org.au)
- Head on over to the [MVS Connect Page](#) on our website and sign up to become a member for just \$20 (individual) or \$40 (family/household) per year or let us know how you would like to help / get involved.

- Join our [Moonee Valley Sustainability Forum group on Facebook](#)
- Follow our [Moonee Valley Sustainability page on Facebook](#)
- Follow [Moonee Valley Sustainability](#) on Instagram

*We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of Moonee Valley, the Wurundjeri Woiwurrung people of the Kulin Nation, their spirits, ancestors, elders and community members past and present. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty and that it was never ceded. In the shadow of the brutal impacts of colonisation on First Nations peoples and the land we aspire to walk alongside Indigenous peoples in processes of collective truth-telling and healing. We honour this land as the greater organism of which we are all a part and recognise the need for urgent action on climate and care for Country.*

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