



Ponderings

Seasonal newsletter of the
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

Autumn 2024 Issue 82

Special Edition in honour of our editor, The Late David Widdowson

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Have Lost A Giant



All members of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc., and all readers of '*Ponderings*', were shocked and in disbelief to learn of the recent, sudden passing of our friend, David Widdowson.

It is right and true to say that this community group lost a giant when he left us during a brief hospital stay in mid-January. David was a kind, talented and giving man who always put others before himself.

There are others in the Friends Of Moonee Ponds Creek who knew David more closely than myself, and some of these tributes are on the following page, but in all my dealings with him I found him to be true gentleman - a beautiful person—and for me this is the highest accolade one can receive. This has been reinforced by the outpouring of so many since his passing.

David's interests were many and varied. He had a brilliant mind and was an expert in all things astronomical. His astronomical calendar was sold around the world. He had a deep passion for nature and a wonderfully quick, quirky sense of humour. He was also a keen supporter of the Essendon Football Club.

Since his passing, his family, in particular his sister, Julia, have shared with us how much love he gave to each and every family member. Naturally, they are devastated by his loss and our sincere and heartfelt condolences go out to them all.

Our deep appreciation to his family for sharing this wonderful person with us. It has been my pleasure that my life has intersected with David's life, and on behalf of all who have received so much pleasure from his sterling efforts with '*Ponderings*' I say a sincere 'thank you'.

Vale David Widdowson

John Kavanagh OAM

President of Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc.



Some Tributes To David from FOMPC Members

What I do know about David is that he helped with advocacy when I needed support to write letters of objection to council and state government. David was always willing to support a good cause to protect open spaces. We worked on protecting local Strathmore parkland and the MPC, and helped each other with archiving and ponderings. We often went on walks with our dogs and would report back to Council with ideas for improvements along the MPC and other parkland.

Nina

I was honoured to engage with David on Moonee Ponds Creek matters but particularly the Ponderings magazine which he did a fantastic task of editing and I distributed to an extensive email list.

He kept me abreast of progress as publication time approached as was happy to receive feedback from readers.

I recollect some great interactions with dry humour.

Frank

David had a great love for researching history relating to the Moonee Ponds Creek. This included series of 14 articles in Ponderings on tributaries of the Creek: "Down the Drain - Lost Tributaries of the MPC" Another series was "Between the Bridges - Circuit Walking the MPC"

David expertly edited our quarterly Creek newsletter Ponderings taking it to a high standard informing the wider Creek community, distributed to over 600 readers. He will be sorely missed not only as Ponderings editor but as an active member of the FOMPC and 'colleague'. So sad and shocking that he died so unexpectedly and with so much more life to live.

Kaye

Some FOMPC Facebook Comments

Maurice J Austin
Oh no! So sad, his skills in several fields will be hugely missed.

4 w Love Reply 3

Kevin Balaam
His sundial would be casting a long shadow.

4 w Love Reply 2

Maurice J Austin
Indeed...

4 w Like Reply

Write a reply...

Lori Arthur
Sorry to hear this. David was a great advocate for the MPC and did a fantastic job with the newsletter over the years. Sad to hear of his passing

4 w Love Reply 3

Anna Lanigan
An enormous loss to the MPC family.

4 w Love Reply 5

Anne Whight

Love Reply 1

Kelvin Thomson
I am shocked and very sorry to hear this, John. David was doing a mighty job with Ponderings.

4 w Love Reply 5

Melanie de Vries
I'm so very sorry for Davids family and friends.

4 w Love Reply 1

Catherine van Wilgenburg
So sorry for your loss - what a man!

4 w Love Reply 1

Janet W'ley
I am so very sorry to hear this.

4 w Love Reply 1

Enza Benincasa
David Widdowson was such a wonderful, interesting, helpful and kind person and a friend from high school. I am truly saddened by his passing and he will be missed. RIP David

4 w Love Reply 2

Brad Tregear
Sincere condolences to David's family.

4 w Love Reply 1

Deborah Burbidge
So sorry to hear this. Rip David. You will be missed

4 w Love Reply 1

Nina Ninucha
Such sad sad news. Korra and I will miss our walks with David, and his dogs Bruno and Cassie

4 w Love Reply 1

David's Death Notice (The Age—January 29th)

WIDDOWSON, David Alan

Passed away on 19 Jan. Beloved brother of James, Eleanor (D. 2019) and Julia. Loving uncle of Michelle, Renee, Whitney, Nova, Aisha, Xander and Astra. Remembered fondly by all of his Grand Nieces and Nephews. David leaves behind his dog companions Bruno and Cassiopia. David will be remembered as a caring friend and dedicated community member. He will be deeply missed by all.

The FOMPC remains committed to continuing to produce a high quality and engaging 'Ponderings'.

The next edition is scheduled for June 1st—the first day of Winter.