

MEWRA Membership Helps Protect Woodland

MEWRA (Mount Eliza Woodland Residents Association) is a vibrant organisation that supports the people who live in this beautiful area, by:

- supporting residents to plant fauna-friendly vegetation and to protect and increase the tree canopy;
- supporting developments that comply with the local planning scheme provisions;
- raising objections with the Shire when there are applications for inappropriate developments;
- organising community gatherings.

Members are the lifeblood of MEWRA. The association is made up of the residents of Woodland and those who support the survival of its unique environment. Membership fees are important to cover the association's modest expenses. Committee members all volunteer their time.

Membership fees are:

- individual – full or associate membership is \$20 a year;
- family – full or associate membership is \$30 per year.



If you value this unique place you call home, please speak with your neighbours and others in the area and encourage them to support MEWRA's work by becoming members, and renew *your* membership if you have not yet done so this year. MEWRA can only remain viable if Woodland residents support it.

Membership forms are available on the [MEWRA website](#).

This is becoming ever more important in light of the increasing wholesale clearing of blocks for building new houses, the removal of trees without a permit and the erection of fences that do not comply with the local planning overlays. Also of concern to many Woodland residents are the announcements coming from the state government: to achieve targets for the housing needed for a growing population, the government is pushing for greater housing density.

MEWRA, as an organisation, can and frequently does raise issues with the Shire, in writing and in meetings with Shire officers and councillors, and by lodging official objections against inappropriate development.

Mt Eliza Farmer's Market

On 26 January, members of the MEWRA committee were at the farmer's market in the village. Many people stopped and chatted with us about what MEWRA is doing about:

- development in the area;
- breaches of planning rules;
- supporting birdlife;
- protecting canopy trees;
- educating residents about planting 'appropriate' trees and understory.



[photo supplied by Anja Sridharan]



We found that there were still many Woodland residents who did not know of MEWRA's existence and, those that did, often were not aware of all the things the committee has been doing to support Woodland residents.

We will have another stall at the next market on 23 March. Please come and say hello and bring your neighbours.