

Congratulations are in Order

Leon Costermans

In our last newsletter we paid tribute to our friend, Leon Costermans. We weren't the only ones thinking along these lines– Leon received an OAM in the recent Australia Day awards.

The following tribute and photo is from the Frankston City Council Environews:

‘Congratulations to Leon Costermans who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for his ongoing service to conservation and the environment. Leon has been volunteering in the local community for over 35 years, he is a current and founding member of the Frankston Environmental Friends Network as well as an expert advisor in their Biodiversity Action Group.

He is the founder and coordinator of Parks Victoria's Friends of Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve since 1988, handing over the reins at the end of last year. A professional botanist, geologist and author, his most recent book 'Stories beneath our feet, Exploring the Geology and Landscapes of Victoria and Surrounds' was published in 2022 in collaboration with geologist Fons VandenBerg, it took over 16 years to write. Well done, Leon, the honour is well deserved. ‘



Gidja Walker

Another friend of our club who received an OAM is Gidja Walker, also for services to conservation and the environment.

Gidja is an independent Environmental Services Professional, restoration ecologist, artist, and member and leader of numerous Mornington Peninsula Reserve Friends and Trusts. She was a co-founder, and Chair since 2000, of Southern Peninsula Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association,.

As well as that she is an enthusiastic presenter at the annual MP Schools Environment Week, and willing walk leader and speaker. And a wonderful ecology communicator and companion.





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