



A community of work and prayer

Over summer, we have been experimenting with a rhythm of life at Gembrook Retreat that combines the work of hosting and looking after the land and buildings of the Retreat, with regular times of prayer. This connects us with the spiritual practices that we want to invite our guests to experience.

We have started thinking about more ways that people can be involved in this community of work and prayer. We have founded Friends of Gembrook Retreat (FRoGR!) - you can read about this below, and Sharee (one of our founding members) has already designed us a froggy logo! Jane has started to plan silent days on the land and would like to hear from you if you are interested in how these develop.

We are also looking for people who would like to volunteer 1-2 days a week, or who might consider becoming a resident.

In the meantime, we hosted a camp for the Junior Young Friends (Quaker teenagers) in January and guests have shared their artwork with us. Talitha has also written a meditative walk to help our guests explore the land.



We also got a close view of the lightning, hail, rolling smoke, helicopters and emergency vehicles that responded to the Bunyip fires in early March. (The photo below is from a lookout point up the road.) Thanks to Ben who found himself in the middle of this when he turned up for a working bee - we promise they're not usually like this!



Chestnut Harvest Day

Saturday 13 April, 2019

Join us to pick and roast chestnuts, and enjoy Autumn on the land.

When: Saturday 13 April, 2019

Time: 10am - 3pm (no early callers please!)

Where: 215 Beenak East Rd, Gembrook - enter via Gate 2

Bring: Lunch, picnic blanket, sturdy shoes, gloves and a bag or basket for chestnuts



Donations for chestnuts support the upkeep of Gembrook Retreat

Introducing FRoGR - Friends of Gembrook Retreat

Would you like to lend a hand? Join FRoGR!

Friends of Gembrook Retreat



About FROGR

Gembrook Retreat is a 22 acre property given in trust by Maggie Dunkle to be opened to the public as a place of spiritual retreat and renewal.

Friends of Gembrook Retreat support resident caretakers to develop Maggie's vision of caring for the flora and fauna, and providing accommodation and contemplative spaces for guests to come on retreat.



Members of FROGR receive:

- Monthly email detailing 'What's On'
- Friday working bees 11am - 1pm, gardening, harvesting
- Pick flowers at Waratah Day in October
- Invitation to community prayers at Black Cockatoo House during any retreat booking

Personal information

Name: _____

Email : _____

Phone (optional): _____

Annual Membership

- ☐ \$10 unwaged per year
- ☐ \$25 waged per year
- ☐ Additional one-off donation \$ _____
- ☐ Additional monthly donation \$ _____

Banking details

Gembrook Retreat Inc.
633-000
Acc # 126423615
tag: {name} FROGR

What I'm interested in

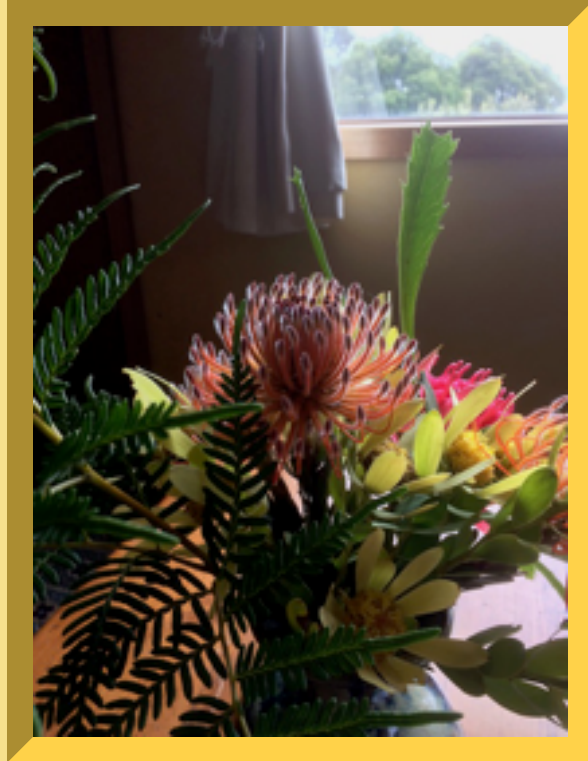
- ☐ land care and maintenance
- ☐ gardening and pruning
- ☐ building construction
- ☐ building maintenance
- ☐ art, writing
- ☐ promotion, social media
- ☐ Friday gardening 11am - 1pm
- ☐ occasional Saturday working bees
- ☐ occasional quiet reflection day
- ☐ other _____

Contact us

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gembrookretreat.org.au
215 Beenak East Rd, Gembrook

Silent Days

About five years ago, Jane began regular weekends throughout the year dedicated to contemplative prayer and silence with an emphasis on the land as a source of spiritual insight and renewal. She is now considering how she might offer this experience of silence and contemplation on the land to others. She is hoping to start a communal weekly practice later this year. If you would be interested in joining her and thinking about how this could be set up, please get in touch.



The Meeting House

The structure is now completed, and we are putting in some solid work days to get the outside cladding completed before winter (even in the midst of monitoring the nearby Bunyip bushfires!!) We have used a mix of second hand materials including some from Tom's old hut, and it has a lovely feel. We are excited about the possibilities for use by groups once it is completed.



We are still looking for the following items:

Wishlist

- second-hand kitchen unit with wood/wood veneer doors (floor cupboards only)
- wooden bench tops
- 12 volt fridge/freezer (\$400 - \$700 approx)
- LPG gas oven and cooker (\$600 approx)
- wood paneling/plywood sheeting
- pavers
- cash to cover these items (Please email us so we can receipt your donation - donations are not tax deductible.)

Gembrook Retreat Inc.

bsb: 633-000

Acc #: 126423615

Help needed!

We are still seeking **volunteer Daily House People** to join resident caretakers one day a week, or 2-3 days a week live-in, to host guests, assist with maintaining retreat facilities, landcare and/or cooking and cleaning, and to share the daily rhythm of prayer and work. You may even want to explore the option of becoming a resident yourself.

Also if you would like to help out at working bees, please consider joining FRoGR for information about work days.



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