

Back-to-front Planning

We are concerned about the Victorian Government's proposal to follow an illogical out-of-sequence planning process for the new growth areas. Currently, the Government plans to release the Growth Area Framework Plans before the Golden Sun Moth strategy is prepared, which is contrary to what is supposed to happen.

The endorsed sequence is that strategies to protect several EPBC-listed species must be approved by the Commonwealth before Biodiversity Strategies are finalised, which in turn must be approved before the Framework Plans are finalised. The draft framework plans are expected to be released in August, but survey data is currently inadequate to complete the strategy for the endangered Golden Sun Moth, and more data cannot be gathered until next summer. Clearly the Framework Plans need an extended preparation period to allow for another season of surveys and an adequate Golden Sun Moth strategy.

Along with other Melbourne environment groups, including the Green Wedges Coalition and Victorian National Parks Association, Friends of Merri Creek (FoMC) has written to State and Commonwealth environment ministers. We pointed out to them the need to protect high conservation value grassland sites within the growth areas from imminent development under an over hasty, back-to-front urban planning process.

FoMC also sent letters to local MPs Kelvin Thomson, Member for Wills, Harry Jenkins, Member for Scullin, and Ms Maria Vamvakinou, Member for Calwell, asking them to draw it to the attention of the Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke. We received a reply from Kelvin Thomson who enclosed copies of the letters that he sent to Tony Burke as well as the Chair of the Victorian Growth Areas Authority, Chris Banks.

Unless there is some change in the planning process, it would mean that EPBC approved grassland planning prescriptions would be applied in a piecemeal way late in the process, precinct-by-precinct, resulting in much uncertainty and poor outcomes for both conservation and development. DSE officers recognise that this could result in blocks of degraded, species-poor grassland being retained for just one species – the Golden Sun Moth – whilst high quality, species-rich grassland sites are cleared.

Regardless of what happens in this flawed process, FoMC will continue to press for the best possible environmental outcome.



FoMC is striving to protect significant areas like this in the upper Merri.

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Merri Musings

Brunswick Terminal Station update

The power companies have designed a new 'leafy' look for their Brunswick Terminal Station (BTS) proposal, which now contains all the electrical equipment within buildings. Although the 'leafy' design is a little misleading, it is a huge improvement on any previous plans and would be a lot better than the current horror. However, FoMC still has concerns about landscaping and we share the residents' queries regarding safety.

In this regard, it is odd that the power companies are saying that the electromagnetic field that will be produced by the proposed facility will be governed by the Australian standard, when the Australian Radiation Protection And Nuclear Safety Agency states that there is no Australian standard for regulating exposure to electric and magnetic fields.

New Facebook page

Thanks to new member, Suzi Shaw, anyone on Facebook can now get automatic updates on group activities and news by searching for the Friends of Merri Creek page then clicking on 'Like.'

Opposition to the proposal seems likely to continue, but in any case, the residents' group and the community at large have already had a major win by at least ensuring a vastly improved design.

Sewerage works update The Northern Sewerage Project is now lining the shafts at Carr St Coburg North, LE Cotchin Reserve Reservoir and Newlands Rd Coburg North, while the sites at De Chene Reserve Coburg (near Bell St) and Jukes Rd Fawkner are already being demobilised and reinstated. The project is proceeding ahead of time and is now due to be completed late this year. See www.nsp.net.au

Friends of Malcolm Creek Planting

The Friends of Malcolm Creek enjoy a BBQ after a very successful planting on Sunday 22 May at Malcolm Creek in Mickleham. As this is a sub-group of FoMC, you may recognise some of them as FoMC members. The canopy of a magnificent red gum sheltered the group from the rain, with branches reaching down to the ground as the photo shows.



Photo by Ann Jessop, Friends of Malcolm Creek.

Opportunities on FoMC Committee

There are three ways that you can be involved in the FoMC Committee:

- The Committee still has a vacancy – without office-bearing responsibility. Currently the Committee holds 5 meetings a year of about 2 hours, in even months before our Annual General Meeting in November.
- Any member interested in becoming a Committee member in the future can also receive Agendas and be able to attend meetings as they wish.
- You could also be a Substitute Representative to MCMC in preparation to becoming a full Representative.

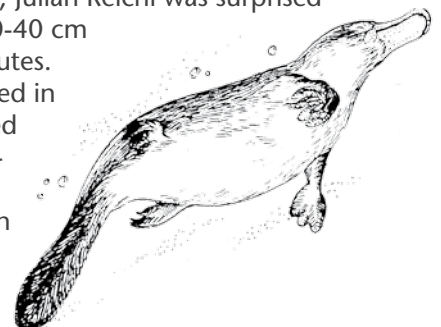
If you're even slightly interested in one of these roles, please phone Ray Radford on 0422 989 166 or email: merricreek@bigpond.com

Another platypus in Merri Creek

During May two people saw a platypus in Merri Creek, both about 500 metres north of Moreland Rd in a similar area to the one seen in September 2010. However, the later sightings were around 7am, whereas the 2010 sighting was around 3pm.

In early May, Lori Arthur watched a platypus about 20-25cm long swimming quickly upstream in a direct line for a few minutes before losing sight of it when it dived. She said: "It was very exciting to see a platypus in Merri Creek and it's a really positive sign for the work done to improve the creek corridor."

About three weeks later, Julian Reichl was surprised to see a platypus about 30-40 cm long for about five minutes. The platypus first hovered in the current, then ducked under, before reappearing about ten metres upstream. This was then repeated as it worked its way upstream for about 50 metres.



Birds in early winter along the Merri

The Friends' latest bird surveys were on 22 May at the usual nine sites, and 29 May at Bababi Marning. Fifty-four observers recorded a total of 72 species. Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Road, Fawkner) had the highest diversity with 30 species. All sites recorded more than 20 species.

Rock Dove (feral pigeon) was the most numerous species with 375 estimated, followed by native species: Straw-necked Ibis (157), Rainbow Lorikeet (103), Red Wattlebird (99) and Little Raven (91).

White-necked Heron was added to the survey list at Bababi Djinanang.

Most of the regular winter migrants were seen: Eastern Spinebill at four sites, Pied Currawong at two, Golden Whistler at one, and Silvereyes from Tasmania at one site at least. However no Flame Robins were recorded this time. It was unexpected to see a Weebill (one of Australia's smallest birds) in Merri Park, Northcote.

At Coburg Lake, it was good to see only four Greylag Geese. This feral species had been multiplying rapidly (130 counted in February) and was pushing out other waterfowl. Moreland Council arranged for most of the geese to be taken to a shelter that looks after unwanted birds like this.

Mistletoebirds, first recorded in May last year, reappeared at Bababi Marning (Cooper Street Grasslands) at three different locations. They were feeding on mature Drooping Mistletoe fruits. One male did the 'wiggle dance' – twisting movements to deposit (defecate) a seed onto the branch, where the sticky coating dries and cements the seed in place to germinate and grow. Mistletoebirds ensure their continuing food supply

by dispersing mistletoe in this way. As a tree parasite, mistletoe has an undeserved bad reputation, but it provides valuable food, shelter and nesting sites for many birds and invertebrates.

A notable sighting by Euan Fothergill was a Southern Whiteface at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands) a week after the regular surveys. This inland bird has seldom been recorded in the Melbourne region.

Ann McGregor Merri Birdwatch Coordinator



Mistletoebird (Photo: Ipic via Flickr Aust National Botanic Gardens)

Third Merri Birdwatch survey for 2011

Bird surveys will be held from 8.45-10.30am at ten sites along Merri Creek as listed below. Beginners welcome, BYO binoculars if possible, but no dogs please, as they reduce the number and variety of birds to be seen. The contact for all Birdwatch events is Ann McGregor 0429 386 102.

Surveys at the following nine sites are on 4 September & 13 November

Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grasslands), Fawkner:
Meet on Merri Path at end of Jukes Road, Fawkner (Melway 18 A2).

Egan Reserve – Harding Sreet – Strettle Reserve – Normanby Avenue: *Meet at bluestone steps at end of The Grove, East Coburg (Melway 30 A3).*

Coburg Lake Reserve: *Meet near the car park, Lake Grove, Coburg (Melway 17 H10).*

Edwardes Lake: *Meet at the playground adjacent to Griffiths Street, Reservoir (Melway 18 E5).*

CERES – Moreland Road: *Meet at the seats on the path at rear of CERES, East Brunswick (Melway 30 B7).*

Merri Park – Phillips Reserve: *Meet at end of Victoria Street, East Brunswick, at BBQ shelter (Melway 30 B8).*

Hall Reserve – Yarra Bend Park: *Meet at the Rotunda, Hall Reserve, Clifton Hill (Melway 2D D1).*

Galgi Ngaark (Craigieburn Grasslands): *Meet at the O'Herns Road gate off Hume Highway, Somerton (Melway 180 E6).*

Galada Tamboore: *Meet at the end of Hatty Court, Campbellfield (Melway 7 K6).*

Surveys at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands) are on 11 September & 20 November
Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper Street, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).

Planting celebrates Galada Tamboore

The new section of shared walking and cycling trail at Galada Tamboore was celebrated with a community planting on Sunday 19 June.

The planting, in a bend in the path reached via the entry at Hatty Court Campbellfield, provides walkers and riders with the chance to see some of the local grassland plants without leaving the trail.

The new shared trail extends north from Somerset Rd Campbellfield, then heads east across the creek, to join up with the footbridge over the Hume Freeway into Whittlesea Public Gardens. Most of the trail has a concrete surface, except for the section between Merri Creek and the Hume Freeway, which will be sealed later on. A smaller walking track leads from the main trail near Hatty Court down to the fascinating gorge.

Parks Victoria aims to eventually link this section of trail to the existing Merri Creek Trail, which currently finishes at the Western Ring Road, approximately 1.5 Km downstream.

Andrew Shannon Parks Victoria

Further information: www.parkweb.vic.gov.au



The Community Planting at Galada Tamboore on 19 May, by Andrew Shannon

Upper Merri Bus Tour with Wallan Environment Group

Wallan Environment Group is hosting a bus tour of the upper Merri catchment (from Beveridge to Heathcote Junction) on Sunday 23 October 2011 (9am-4pm).

The bus tour will include visits to:

- the head waters of the Merri Creek catchment;
- Old Sydney Road, Wallan, and site of the proposed flora reserve along this roadside;
- extensive new areas of urbanisation in Wallan and the impacts on waterways;
- Wallan Community Park, Taylors Creek Reserve and other sites where Wallan Environment Group and Mitchell Shire are working to enhance, restore and protect local flora etc.

Where: meet at Beveridge Community Centre, Lithgow Street, Beveridge (Melway 686 A3). FoMC members can car pool outside the MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick,

leaving at 8.15am. If you want to do this, ring Ray on 0422 989 166.

Time: 9am: registration & morning tea; 9:30am: visit adjoining Beveridge Recreation Reserve; 10am: bus departs Beveridge; 4pm: return to Beveridge after bus tour.

Catering: lunch and morning tea provided; vegan & vegetarian foods will be available. If you have other special dietary needs, please indicate these when you register.

Itinerary: will be sent to you on booking.

Bookings: must be completed by 31 August, including payment

Cost: \$10 per person – payment must accompany completed booking form to secure your seat

WALLAN ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Name

Address

.....

No. of seats@ \$10 **Total cost**

Phone

Email

Special dietary needs.....

.....

PAYMENT

Circle payment method:
cheque/money order/postal note direct credit

Cheques to be made payable to Wallan Environment Group

Direct credit account details:

Account name: Wallan Environment Group
Branch: Bendigo Bank, Wallan, Victoria
BSB: 633 000
Account no: 140 939 562
Reference: your name & WEG 2011 upper Merri bus tour

Copy this form and send, completed, to:
Secretary, Wallan Environment Group
PO Box 327, Wallan, VIC 3756
(with payment unless using direct credit)

UPPER MERRI BUS TOUR 2011

New Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds group is busy already

Although Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds was only formed in 2010, we have already held six events, planting over 2000 indigenous plants with the help of over 100 people. It has been very exciting watching the local community come together to put plants back into the landscape across Coburg and Coburg North and share some fun, food and play whilst at it!

The group has worked closely with Moreland Council, which has been fantastic, to extend the planting along the Merri Creek at the Bakers Rd footbridge and at the Contemplation garden at Coburg Lake. We have also been working along the fence lines at Coburg and Coburg North Primary Schools as well as further planting at the Moreland Salvation Army site in Bakers Rd. This has



Some of the planters at Coburg Lake Contemplation Garden on World Environment Day, 5 June.

been very rewarding as we are able to enjoy the efforts of last year's work whilst doing more planting – the garden is looking great.

The most popular planting event was the World Environment Day planting at the Coburg Lake Contemplation Garden. This event, sponsored by Moreland Council, brought together over 60 people of all ages to plant out around the garden and alongside Merri Creek. The day was fun filled with a buzz of activity, the kids had a great time and we all enjoyed the tasty BBQ put on by the Rotary club – thank you!

All in all it has been a very successful start to the year and very rewarding to work with so many friends, neighbours and local residents as well as with such supportive partners: Moreland Council; Coburg and Coburg North Primary Schools. Thanks also to Kelvin Thomson MP for coming along and helping out at two of our events.

We still have a few events lined up, so come along or contact Emma Hopkins, phone 9355 7982 or email emma_hopkins@optusnet.com.au

Emma Hopkins Coordinator, Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds

Romancing the Creek

*Between the lines
where the rock face
and stone stands
against the sky.
a gap with serried
a phrase to bound
pick out a corner*

*A tree's roots
Their fingers search
blue tilted
In the shade
Grain
into the bed. Abandoned
a rusted bike,
playing and
to toss over a lamp.
as the rock wall
up to its chin.*

*a lizard slips
shears from the earth
stacked like crates
Moss probes
tongue and risks
the mineral. Weeds
and an edge.
twist around the blocks.
the face turned up,
rugged and away.
the Merri dawdles.
sloughs like time
beside the track
a guitar past
a frail skin
The light softens,
pulls the creek*

Anne Elvey FoMC member and a former Membership Secretary

*"Romancing the Creek" first appeared in
Island 122 (Spring 2010): 44-45*

Dick's Witticisms

*Here are some more witty one-liners from
FoMC Life Member, Dick Harcourt:*

Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.

*It is hard to understand how a
cemetery raised its burial costs and
blamed it on the high cost of living.*

*He's not dead, he's
electroencephalographically challenged.*

*What's the definition of a will?
(Come on, it's a dead giveaway!)*

A tree of many branches

The Merri Merri, our “very stony” creek, with its riffles and reaches and rearing escarpments, its dozen tributaries and various lakes, its grasslands and wetlands and wildlife – such a treasure for us and the planet.

Close to its source there’s the Wallan Environment Group, looking after the popular Taylors Creek, the well-wooded Wallan in the heart of the township, the Mittagong with its lakes, the Strathaird (“strath” is Scottish for valley) near the wildflower-rich western watershed.

The Kalkallo’s confluence with the Merri has age-old spiritual significance; the creek flows past a serene little cemetery, a traditional common, and an extensive stony knoll. To the east, the Merriang Landcare Group shows the bond locals have with their territory.

The Scots reappear with Craigieburn and its Malcolm and Aitken Creeks, and the Highlands Lake, and a golf course!, not to mention Campbellfield, Glenroy, Strathmore and Glenbervie. Paths, parks and ponds enhance people’s and creatures’ enjoyment; suburban trains rush past the Aitken’s reeds, massive River Red Gums line the Malcolm.

The Curly Sedge Creek meets the Merri below the O’Herns Rd bridge that blends perfectly into the scene; the flora and fauna corridor runs from the Craigieburn and Cooper St Grasslands (Galgi Ngarrk and Bababi Marning) to the iconic Galada Tamboore. The Central Creek Grasslands or Ngarri-djarrang have their three Eastern Grey Kangaroos, mini-wetlands beside road crossings, water-catching depressions called gilgais, and again, those exquisite flowers.

And speaking of bonds and Wurundjeri names, few folk have an intense attachment to the land to match our indigenous people’s: there’s a feeling of appropriateness, the return of the rightful owners, with events like the Smoking Ceremony, Murnong Harvest and Welcome to Country. The Koorie Garden forms a sacred conclusion to the Merri, while just down the Yarra at the Abbotsford Convent, the richness and warmth of the cultural centre are marvellously soul-uplifting.

On a similarly positive note, the Merlynston Creek has a swimming-pool and the Seabrook Community Hall, the Jack Roper Reserve with its lake, and the Ring Road bikepath; then along with the Campbellfield Creek, it brings comfort and peace to mourners in the lovely Memorial Parks... A tunnel and a secret valley lead to the main stream, and on to the splendid Coburg Lake, with a “ladder” for the fish, an island for the fowl, and playgrounds, and seats and barbecues.

This jewel of the Merri is just one of its human adornments, such as sports grounds and schools and places of worship, and retirement homes for the aged. The paths foster healthy recreation and awareness of nature’s

beauty; rail viaducts and bluestone bridges, and High St’s red-brick with its buses and trams, are not merely essential, but handsome; so are footways, from Creek Parade’s modest connection to Harding St’s grand construction. And artistic creations both whimsical and naturalistic, including a number at CERES, are a further bonus.

Before we get on to the big one, let’s mention the last two additions: the Goff St and Golf Course rivulets. The former comes in above Bell St, near a broad, rocky



The crossing leading to Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands) at O’Herns Rd Somerton, by Paul Prentice

stretch of the Merri and hexagonal tessellated pavements; the latter, below Normanby Ave, has huge boulders and shady pools. They’re both unimaginably ancient, with deep channels carved out across hundreds of thousands of years.

The Creek’s major tributary, the Edgars, has a wealth of features, from the historic German precinct of Westgarthtown, the Epping line now being extended across the Darebin to South Morang; the hospital, skate bowl and seniors’ centre, to the Edwardes Lake Park with its wetlands, its social and sporting facilities and stately old steam locomotive; the rescued parkland, the sandstone waterfall, the spectacular sweeping meanders.

Its supporters, for whom the Pied Cormorant’s the emblem, are joined by a host of others: the Friends of the Coburg and Edwardes Lakes, Malcolm Creek, and the Merri Grasslands; the Friends on Parade and MECCARG; the Yarra Riverkeepers and the Choppers of Rushall Reserve; Wallan and Merriang and CERES and the MCMC, as well as ourselves. So many natural wonders, and so many passionate defenders.

Paul Prentice

Friends of Edgars Creek Focus

Message from the Friends of Edgars Creek President

As we move into the 2011 planting season, I would like to note that it marks the fifth year of planting for Friends of Edgars Creek (FoEC). As a way to acknowledge this milestone, see these before-and-after pictures, which show how our work has brought about a marvellous transformation of the creek.

There are also plans to extend our works into some new territory in the near future, including a new site behind the caravan park on Elizabeth St in North Coburg.

This is a fitting time to pay tribute to FoEC's founding President Stephen Northey, along with those who have served on the Committee and all of the Members and Friends. I also thank our key supporters including Melbourne Water, Moreland City Council (MCC), Darebin

City Council, FoMC, and those who have been our 'contractor' partners in delivering and maintaining the improvements along the creek.

There are exciting and challenging times ahead for FoEC, including the development of a master plan for the Edgars Creek corridor. We look forward to working with MCC and Satterley, the developer of the Kodak site ("Coburg Hill"), to ensure a sensitive interface is developed between the residential zones and the creek corridor.

See you on the (different looking) creek!

David Pavone President, Friends of Edgars Creek



Silurian cliff

May
2009



June
2011



Gooseneck Meander south of Kodak bridge

September
2007



June
2011



Actual Gooseneck Meander

2009



June
2011



AUGUST

EVENTS

OCTOBER

Saturday 6: MECCARG* Planting – Coburg

Meet at the Merri path just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a bucket and digging tool if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

Sunday 7: Planting & BBQ – Nth Fitzroy

Near Rushall station North Fitzroy, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 D11. Funded by Landcare/SP Ausnet. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 7: Litter Clean-Up – Northcote

Walker St East, Northcote, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 F12. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 7: Streamteam Water Quality Testing

Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

Sunday 21: Planting & BBQ – East Brunswick

Parkview Ave East Brunswick, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 B6. Continue the planting between the new shared path north of CERES and the established vegetation. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant to FoMC. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 21 : Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at the notice board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. In-fill planting of sites planted in 2010. Hosted and funded by Moreland City Council (MCC). Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 28: Wetland Weeding – Merri Park

Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Sumner Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 C8. Light refreshments provided. Funded by City of Darebin. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 28: Friends of Malcolm Creek Planting

Malcolm Creek, off Willow Way, Craigieburn, 10am-12.00pm, followed by Lunch. Melway 386 K6.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 3: MECCARG* Planting – Coburg

Meet at the Merri path just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a bucket and digging tool if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

Saturday 3: Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds planting – Coburg North

Ida St Coburg North, 10am-12noon. Melway 17, H 9. Help plant along Merri Creek. Phone Emma on 9355 7982.

Sunday 4: Litter Clean-Up – East Brunswick

Clara St East Brunswick, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 A5. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 4: Streamteam Water Quality Testing

Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

Sunday 4: 3rd Bird Survey for 2011

8.45-10.30am at nine sites along the creek. See page 3 for details.

Sunday 11: 3rd Bird survey for 2011 at Bababi Marning

8.45-10.30am. See page 3 for details.

Sunday 11: Woody Weed Removal – Kalkallo Common

Malcolm St, Kalkallo across from the old cemetery - turn off the Hume Highway at Kalkallo Hotel, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 367 F2. Light refreshments provided. Funded by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 18: Planting & BBQ – Reservoir

Broadhurst St Reservoir, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 18 B3. Help establish low maintenance shrub and tree vegetation in areas that have yet to be brought into intensive management, near the new bridge. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant to FoMC. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 18 : Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at the notice board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Riparian stream bank shrubs around the Kodak bridge. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 25: Friends of Malcolm Creek Planting

Malcolm Creek, east of Hanson Rd, Craigieburn, 10am - 12.00pm, followed by Lunch. Melway 387 B6.

Saturday 1: MECCARG* Weeding – Coburg

Meet at the Merri path just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a bucket and digging tool if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

Sunday 2: Litter Clean-Up – Reservoir

Edgars Creek Wetlands, Leamington St Reservoir, 10am-12 noon. Melway 18 E4. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 2: Streamteam Water Quality Testing

Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

Sunday 16: Hand Weeding – Strettle Wetland

FoMC site near Strettle wetland, Thornbury, 10am-12.30. Melway 30 B3. Help look after the site managed by the Friends with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Phone Martin 0403 942 965.

Sunday 16 : Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at notice board adjacent to Ronald Street, Coburg North, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Riparian stream bank shrubs on the east bank at the Silurian Cliff. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 23: Bus tour to the Merri headwaters

Wallan Environment Group invites FoMC members on this tour of the upper Merri. Booking essential – see page 4.

Sunday 30: Wetland Weeding – Merri Park

Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Sumner Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 C8. Funded by Darebin City Council. Light refreshments provided. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 5: MECCARG* Site maintenance – Coburg

Meet at the Merri path just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a bucket and digging tool if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

Sunday 6: Litter Clean-Up – East Coburg

Harding St East Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 A1. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 6: Streamteam Water Quality Testing

Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

Saturday 12: MECCARG* Murnong (Yam Daisy) Harvest & Cook-up

Merri path just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Don't miss this wonderful cultural ceremony featuring traditional dancers and activities. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.



Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

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Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to admin@mcmc.org.au by Friday 23 September 2011

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