

Help protect Merri Creek

We need your help on this – the biggest issue we have ever faced.

Victoria's Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, has released the final North Growth Corridor Plan to extend Melbourne's suburbs 15km from Craigieburn north to Wallan. Unfortunately this Plan is very similar to the draft except that the "Logical Inclusions" have now been added. Our submission has been completely ignored and the Plan will result in some really bad outcomes for Merri Creek. However, the Conservation Biodiversity Strategy, which should precede the Plan, still hasn't been released.

But it gets even worse, as the Strategy doesn't include the "Logical Inclusions" anyway!

As a result, the Upper Merri Campaign Team has been re-convened to coordinate our response. If you would like to be involved in this team, contact Ray on 0422 989 166. Otherwise, please write to newspapers, your State MP, and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Tony Burke. See our website: www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc for more details and letter-writing tips.

Our President awarded OAM

Hearty congratulations to our President, David Redfearn, on being awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the General Division, in the 2012 Australia Day Awards.



David was honoured for his service to conservation and the environment, to local government, and to the community. Besides his being President of Friends of Merri Creek since 2004, there is a most impressive list of organisations to which he has made a substantial contribution. These include, among others: President of Merri Creek Management Committee from 1990-99; inaugural President of Yarra Riverkeeper Association from 2004-09; Mayor, City of Northcote from 1984-85 and 1986-87, and a Councillor from 1982-93. In 2000, David was also awarded the City of Darebin Citizen of the Year.

FoMC to represent Victoria at Landcare Awards

As the winner of the 2011 Victorian Urban Landcare Award, Friends of Merri Creek will represent Victoria at the 2012 National Landcare Awards in Sydney on 4 September.

We believe that what makes us special as an Urban Landcare group is our intimate involvement in the organisation that manages our asset (ie: Merri Creek Management Committee), and our efforts to protect threatened species like Growling Grass Frog, Golden Sun Moth, Murnong, and Dianella amoena.

FoMC President, David Redfearn, will be at the awards on our behalf, but we're up against some pretty big heavyweights, like Darwin International Airport in NT, Gold Coast Catchment Association in Qld, and Adelaide & Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board in SA. Our David will need more than a slingshot to beat those goliaths.

Vote for us online: Luckily, you can give David some support by voting for us in the People's Choice Award. Just look for the Urban Landcare category and cast your vote for Friends of Merri Creek at: www.landcareonline.com.au/nationalawards

Inside

Merri musings	2
Growling grass frogs threatened	3
Go batty on the Merri	3
Latest birdwatch report & upcoming survey	4
The best deposits for litter · Merri Creek labyrinth	5
Building on a rich inheritance · Dick's witticisms	6
Friends of Edgars Creek focus · Letter from Israel	7
Events calendar	8

Merri Musings

Brunswick Terminal Station update:

The Premier, Mr Baillieu, has replied to FoMC's letter (see May newsletter) which said that the decision by the Planning Minister denies the residents any examination into the incompatibility of having a Terminal Station in a suburban residential area. The Premier handballed it to the Minister for Energy and Resources, Michael O'Brien, who basically said that alternative sites were too costly and electromagnetic field levels weren't a problem, so the works would go ahead. Preparatory works around the Terminal Station have already started, but the residents' group is still campaigning against it (see their signs "No BTS 66.")

Marran Baba update: We have received a reply from Parks Victoria Chief Executive, Bill Jackson, to our concerns about lack of progress on Marran Baba (Merri Creek Parklands – north of the Western Ring Road). He wrote that he has asked his staff to complete the Management Plan for Marran Baba by 30 September 2012. We hope that this time the release date is reliable.

Successful Grants: FoMC is very thankful to the Australian Government for two Communities for Nature Grants, totalling \$288,374, that each extend over four years:

- \$138,374 for the project: Continuing and extending Golden Sun Moth density and habitat surveys, for addressing threats to the Golden Sun Moth population at Bababi Marning.
- \$150,000 for the project: Galada Tamboore grassland and escarpment restoration: bringing the management together, for controlling environmental weeds, enlargement of remnant vegetation patches, and raising awareness of the reserve in the local community.

Without the indispensable assistance of MCMC Conservation Program Manager, Katrina Roberg, we wouldn't have achieved such success with grants.

One of our sub-groups, Friends of Edgars Creek, also won a two year Communities for Nature Grant of \$5,146 for the project: Edgars Creek Remnant Indigenous Vegetation Protection and Enhancement, for preserving and enhancing an area of remnant vegetation.

New Representative to MCMC

wanted: One of our long-term representatives to Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC), Trevor Hausler, has resigned to take on the role of Waterwatch Coordinator at MCMC, while the previous Coordinator, Jane Bevelander, is on Maternity Leave. Ann McGregor has taken on Trevor's role as MCMC President and now we need someone to fill the vacancy. If you are even vaguely interested, contact Ray on 0422 989 166.

New Merri birds leaflet out now

Friends of Merri Creek have produced a new leaflet with photos and brief information on 61 of the common birds of Merri Creek and northern Melbourne. The handy pocket-sized leaflet is laminated for outdoor use and is available for \$2 from the Merri Creek Management Committee office at 2 Lee St East Brunswick or at CERES, or by post for \$2.60 (request by email to merricreek@bigpond.com), or it's free for Merri Birdwatch participants.



New path works in Brunswick:

Moreland City Council has improved the Merri shared path with some new raised boardwalks. One, alongside the Brunswick Terminal Station, was completed in early June and the other, under Blyth St, should be completed by August.

The joys of woody weed removal:

Our most underrated activity has to be Sweeping up Broom and mopping-up Gorse. However, it is incredibly satisfying to remove a swathe of woody weeds to reveal the native grassland underneath. Unlike planting, the results are immediate. Experience it for yourself, in celebration of World Rivers Day at Bababi Marning on 30 September.



The woody weed removalists at Bababi Marning on 18 March.

Merri Growling Grass Frogs site threatened

A recent referral to the Federal Government has sought to fill in a quarry at Bolinda Rd in Campbellfield that is home to a large and significant population of Growling Grass Frogs. Disappointingly, the referral entailed a dubious assessment of the size and significance of the population, and ignored previous research on the frogs at this site.

The referral, compiled by the consultants, Ecology and Heritage Partners (EHP), concluded that the Growling Grass Frog (GGF) population is 'small and isolated', and doesn't meet the significant impact guidelines of a viable population. This finding would have enabled the developer to say that the in-fill did not need to be notified to the Federal Government as a "Controlled Action," under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. This notification is necessary if a proposed development is considered to have a detrimental effect on endangered species.

However, the conclusion that this population is small and insignificant was based on just two spotlight counts conducted in February last year. Counts are an unreliable approach for assessing the size of frog populations, because they display very erratic activity levels. A more intensive study conducted at the quarry in 2005 (by Dr Geoff Heard and colleagues at La Trobe University) recorded over 100 GGFs at this location, and found evidence of substantial reproduction. It is a major failure by the consultants that this work was not mentioned in the referral documents.

EHP also argued that this population is isolated from surrounding GGF populations in the Merri, and is genetically moribund as a result. Again however, this conclusion was flawed. EHP missed surrounding breeding populations of GGFs, and did not discuss past genetic work on this population (also by Dr Geoff Heard and colleagues). That work found evidence of reduced connectivity relative to other populations in the Merri catchment, but no evidence of reduced genetic viability.

Worryingly, the consultants also suggested that the GGFs within the quarry could simply be captured and



Adult female Growling Grass Frog, photo by Dr Geoff Heard.

translocated when it is destroyed. In reality, this would entail moving hundreds of GGFs to some unspecified location. It also implies that translocation may be used to offset the impacts of habitat loss for GGF, which is not supported by any scientific evidence, and is contrary to the significant impact guidelines for this species developed by the Federal Government.

Thankfully, the proposal to fill in the Bolinda Rd quarry has been listed as a Controlled Action by the Federal Environment Department, following submissions from the Merri Creek Management Committee and researchers involved in the past research at this site. This is good news, but it is only a first step toward stopping the extinction of this highly threatened population.

Ray Radford Secretary

Go batty on the Merri

Bats are fascinating animals that are common across Melbourne, but most of us are unaware of their existence. Native microbats range in size from that of a large moth to a human hand. They feed on insects, eating up to 600 mosquitoes an hour. Fruit-eating bats (flying foxes) are much larger, weighing 600-1000g with a wingspan around 1m.

The Australasian Bat Society held an informative public forum, Managing our Nocturnal Neighbours, as part of its conference at the University of Melbourne in April. You can download 11 of the talks as information sheets on bat-related issues at www.ausbats.org.au (click on the example at lower left of the home page). They include practical advice on tree pruning, street lighting, dealing with bats in buildings, and bat boxes.

Talk and Tour: Friends of Merri Creek have invited one of the speakers, Caroline Wilson, to give us a talk about Melbourne's

bats on Thursday 18 October, 7.00pm at CERES. This will be followed by a session beside the Merri using hand-held digital bat detectors. How many species will we find? Please register with Ray Radford, phone 0422 989 166 or email ray@mcmc.org.au by 15 October 2012.



Grey-headed Flying-fox photo by Vivien Jones, from the DSE website.

Birds along the Merri in early winter

Our May bird surveys were carried out in excellent birding conditions – calm and clear, so the birds were active and relatively easy to see and hear. Forty-four people joined in the ten surveys, which recorded a total of 73 species.

The rains have extended the breeding season: recently-fledged juveniles were seen at some sites, and some birds were still nesting, including Spotted Pardalotes at Bababi Djinanang. The estimated total number of birds was over 2200, even more than in February.

Our winter migrants are here. Plenty of diminutive Silvereyes have arrived from Tasmania to join the resident birds, making them the third most common species. Eastern Spinebills were seen at four sites. A Flame Robin was recorded at Bababi Djinanang, and another at Galada Tamboore just outside the survey. Golden Whistlers were seen at two sites.

A new species for the surveys is the White-naped Honeyeater, recorded at Galgi Ngarrk. This small honeyeater is normally found in forests and woodlands. Part of the southeast Australian population migrates to northeast NSW and southeast Queensland in April-May, so perhaps the bird found in the shrubs along the Creek was resting, on its way to warmer parts.

The six Tawny Frogmouths in East Coburg/West Preston were recorded again, indicating that the two juveniles are still roosting close to their parents. Mistletoebirds were seen again at Bababi Marning, not in mistletoe but in non-native hawthorn trees, which have small red fruits (haws) at this time of year. The surveyors on the East Brunswick - Northcote route enjoyed a beautiful male Common Bronzewing (pigeon), loafing in a dead wattle. Eastern Rosellas, usually only recorded at Clifton Hill, were also seen at Edwardes Lake and East Brunswick.

Four of the top five most numerous species are natives – Rainbow Lorikeet was top again, with 189, followed by Rock Dove (non-native) – 159, Silvereye – 133, Red Wattlebird – 112, Pacific Black Duck – 105. Red-browed

Finches easily outnumbered House Sparrows, 53 to 32.

Sites with the highest diversity were Bababi Djinanang (37 species), East Brunswick (33) and Edwardes Lake and Galgi Ngarrk (32). Species recorded at all ten sites were Rock Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Red Wattlebird, Australian Magpie and Little Raven.

Of the other fauna, Eastern Grey Kangaroos were most numerous, with around 200 at Galgi Ngarrk and small mobs at two other sites. Swamp Wallabies were also seen at these three sites. The sighting of individual foxes at three of our grassland sites possibly reflects the good breeding season for birds and rodents.

Ann McGregor Birdwatch Coordinator



A pair of Galahs investigating a potential nest hollow at Edwardes Lake, photographed during the May survey. Photo: Chris Neeson.

Third Merri Birdwatch survey for 2012

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.

Free leaflets on Merri Birds (normally \$2) are now available for all participants

Surveys at the following nine sites are on 2 September & 11 November

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

Egan Reserve – Harding Street – 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 9 September & 18 November
Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper Street, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).

The best deposits for litter

Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) is proven as the best way to recycle beverage containers. This system has been working successfully in South Australia for years and has now been adopted by Northern Territory.

The independent Boomerang Alliance shows that Victoria recycles 49.5% of used containers, compared with 80% in South Australia. This difference results in noticeably cleaner roadsides in South Australia. Closer to home, you can see the large amount of beverage containers in Merri Creek and other waterways.

However, CDL is strongly resisted by the beverage and packaging industries, as they want to take no responsibility for the products they create.

But the industries have also spread their tentacles into Keep Australia Beautiful, which offers community grants up to \$10,000 for projects that can increase the recycling of beverage containers. However, it wouldn't be any use applying for these grants to campaign for the introduction of CDL, because they are funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation.

Keep Australia Beautiful also publishes the National Litter Index, which manages to find the worst litter to be cigarette butts. It does this by counting the sheer numbers of items on hard surfaces (like car parks), while ignoring the volumes, and failing to look at waterways, where most litter ends up after rain. Not surprisingly, the Index is sponsored by the packaging industry.

Our Litter Group Coordinator, Paul Prentice, has picked up thousands of plastic bottles and plastic bags, but



A raft of litter in Merri Creek near the Brunswick velodrome.

hardly any cigarette butts. So, while cigarettes are an issue, they are not as big an issue as drink containers and plastic bags. The cigarette butt problem could be considerably eased (apart from cutting down on smoking) by returning to making the filters from biodegradable material – as most smokers seem to think they are anyway. And we could reduce the number of plastic bags by charging for them at supermarkets. But the best way to have fewer used drink containers in our waterways, is to tell your local MP that you want Container Deposit Legislation and you want it NOW.

Ray Radford Secretary

Merri Creek Labyrinth revealed

Merri Creek Labyrinth has recently emerged from its veil of mystery and mass of weeds to project a more visible public image.

It is located in Hewsons Hollow, Clifton Hill on the shared path between the Esplanade and Ramsden St (Melway 2D E2), and people find that the ancient practice of walking it allows reflection and reduces stress in our modern age.

Created by local residents over summer 2001-2002, the labyrinth is also a significant art installation, and is the only known labyrinth in a Melbourne park. However, it depends on volunteers to maintain it and, despite the efforts of a dedicated few, it often became overgrown.

Friends of the Labyrinth was formed in 2011 to care for it, and the group seeks to develop collaborative relationships with Friends of Merri Creek, Merri Creek Management Committee and City of Yarra. Their aim is to preserve, maintain and include it in future plans for Hewsons Hollow. Friends of the Labyrinth help care for the space, increase awareness of the labyrinth and its health benefits, and encourage its use as a public asset.

The group recently hosted a very successful open day, which helped bring the labyrinth to the attention of the media, the public and the City of Yarra. FoMC has agreed to auspice the group's application for funding for promotion, maintenance, and facilitated walks.

To find out more, look up Facebook@MerriCreekLabyrinth, contact Steve Martin on 0478 076 541, or email FriendsofMerriCreekLabyrinth@gmail.com.



Our Facebook page wants friends

Our wonderful Facebook wizard, Suzi Shaw, has done a great job putting all sorts of interesting stuff on our Facebook page, so now there's even more reason to like it. Just search for the Friends of Merri Creek page on Facebook, and click on 'Like' to get automatic updates to group activities and news.

Building on a rich inheritance

Among the Merri's focal points are the spiritual Koorie Garden at its confluence with the Yarra; the stretches from Coburg Lake to Bell St, and East Brunswick to Heidelberg Rd.

There are fine examples of forty years of progress along the creek, like the ornate Russian Orthodox Church and hall, mirrored in the Jones Park pond; the friendly Aboriginal retirement home, nestled amid the trees; the MCMC, and the multi-faceted CERES.

Talk about losing a lot and gaining much more, when the stream flooded Northcote's Sumner Estate in 1974: some said "What a pain, turn it into a drain," while those who thought that'd be a pity formed the Merri Creek Coordinating Committee!

They duly got a protective levee built, a Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works depot transformed into parkland, a billabong and wetland created, a reserve in St Georges Rd, North Fitzroy; and best of all, blocked plans for a freeway from Fawcner to Clifton Hill. Life is a never-ending battle between good and evil, and as the old Builders Labourers declared, "if you don't fight, you lose."

The arched footbridge named after these pioneers leads to the Merri Wetland and Park and the renowned Northcote High School, or the Brunswick Zebras' soccer ground and the Merri Creek Primary School; but the electrical sub-station's planned expansion has all of us very concerned.

The Velodrome and CERES artworks add a respectful or quirky touch, as do the antique crane beyond the end of Victoria St, the Concrete Spiral beside the viaduct of the South Morang (formerly Epping) line, the indigenous murals beneath it; and Kirkdale St's relic, the base of a winch that transported a quarry's bluestone.

On a personal note, it was my coming to teach at Fitzroy High School in 1966 that led to my discovering and starting to clean up the creek; so you can imagine my feelings at the school being reopened in 2004 after eleven years in limbo, and enhanced with landscaping and a striking new wing, *and* being kept just as tidy by the present generation.



Remains of the old winch near Kirkdale St East Brunswick with the "Merri Island" in the background.

And the delightful DVD of the Friends' activities produced by Julie Mason featured my most regular helper at litter-blitzes, the late great Life Member Harold Mackrell, who passed away on Palm Sunday, 1st April 2012. Well done, good and faithful servant of God's world...

The stately Albion Charles Hotel dominates the pivotal St Georges Rd roundabout, which works much better since it got traffic-lights, and from which a tramline and a bikepath head north towards Preston; just downstream we had a narrow escape when some bureaucrat nearly entrenched the Groves timberyard in its improper creekside occupation.

Meanwhile Andre Rigoni had planted masses of native trees in the area, and Louise Elliot had prevailed on the Councils and Government and Victorian Railways to have a footbridge attached to that viaduct; the new "Koonda Lat" crossing, however, requires a refuge in Merri Parade, for a safe link with Union St, Merri station, and the Reservoir cycle route.

A community garden, an exquisite hillock and the elegant Old Colonists' village see the railway through North Fitzroy; near the red-brick-and-greenery Rushall station, demonstrations in 1988 persuaded the Government to put underground the Brunswick to Richmond powerline. Trains, trams and buses and bikes and creek meet at High St; the Hurstbridge line viaduct was doubled, path access improved, and a fascinating mini-park added.

There's plenty of good social housing; the Merri's footway, officially opened by PM Bob Hawke in 1985 during Melbourne's 150th festivities, forms part of the orbital Capital City Trail; John Batman's treaty with the Wurundjeri is said to have been concluded across the creek from what is now Rushall station; the World War II munitions tunnel below the Oldis Gardens recalls less peaceful times, likewise the cannons in High St.

Escarpments and cliffs rear up above the ("very stony") Merri Merri, whose water quality and macroinvertebrates our Streamteam monitors monthly; we are privileged to work with the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land; the indigenous plantings and suppression of weeds have been good for our numerous friends, from the heights of the sky to the fertile earth to the bed of the beautiful creek.

Paul Prentice

Dick's Witticisms

Some more witty one-liners from FoMC Life Member, Dick Harcourt:

A backward poet writes inverse.

Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft, and I'll show you A flat minor.

Friends of Edgars Creek Focus

Joy, misery and a sense of déjà vu are what I think about when I look at the site pictured.

The joy came with a gathering with my FoEC friends in August 2011 when we planted what we hoped would be a wonderful revegetation project; coming to life and thriving in the months ahead. I get this sense every time I am planting and it continues to draw me back to work on the creek time and time again; rain, hail or shine!

Christmas Day 2011 brought the dream of a blossoming project to an end in a big, big way for sections of our creek and the creek line along the Merri, Darebin and other creeks in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. Nature showed us who was the real boss that day and the project at this site was given a thorough working over. We lost a lot of stock from this site as our little creek became a raging torrent and flattened most things in its path.

Letter from Israel

I have now left Australia 17 years ago, since then I have been here in Israel. Some things are transportable, including birdwatching and a love of wildflowers, and my latest addition is watching butterflies. Hardly any of the knowledge of nature I brought with me is applicable here, but the local versions rouse the same emotions, thank heavens.

I read the latest Newsletter avidly, and share with the enthusiasts in their bird counting and planting.

Here we have two distinct groups of birds. Some live here all the year (sparrows, bulbuls, crows, Eurasian jays, blackbirds, doves and pigeons are amongst the most common town birds); – but in Spring and Autumn Israel witnesses an enormous number of migrating birds – swallows, storks, cranes, birds of prey (very high up), wagtails and others too numerous to mention. I go every year to the Northern coast to watch a variety of small wading birds feeding on rocky reefs there on their way to avoid winter. Sometimes it seems that the same individuals return. We also watch for migrating butterflies. This year we added spiders and grasshoppers to our list of species to watch for.

Happy planting to all,

Margaret Gottstein (ex active member)



Volunteers put the final bags in place on the restoration of the revegetation project (note the pile of willows behind the planting at right).

The trees, shrubs, grasses and rushes we have planted along the creek over the years have endured some of nature's harshest - literally *droughts and flooding rains*. They bounce back, shoot from the base of the stem, reach for the sun, when laid over, and sprout again through the charred remains of a burn. June 24th 2012 this project bounced back! Our wonderful volunteers planted 300 grasses, rushes, shrubs and trees through this site and we can again dream of the poas and lomandras sprouting from the top of the bags in the months ahead; trees and shrubs getting a foothold and bursting into new growth and bud in spring.

The picture also shows a wonderful escarpment that has been "unearthed" after a Melbourne Water funded removal of willows along the creek line. There was a plan to remove one more willow, though it went missing! It was removed by the floodwaters of Christmas Day 2011, such was the force of the water. No wonder our footbridges and other trees were taken out that day.

FoEC planting events include our first Satterley funded project at the downstream end of the Silurian Cliff in August. We then have our September "Christmas" planting at the Gooseneck Meander site – more restoration of works that suffered at Christmas time. November we return to the new Caravan Park site.

I hope to see you on the creek!

David Pavone President, Friends of Edgars Creek

Regeneration Group member regenerates



Congratulations to FoMC Regeneration Group member, Martin Elliott, and his partner, Cheryl Sargeant, on the birth of their baby girl, Mia, in January.

EVENTS

AUGUST

Saturday 4 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 5 Planting, Litter Clean-Up & BBQ – Merri Island

Near Zoe Circuit, Northcote, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 C8. Help bring 'Merri Island' back to life by restoring understorey streambank shrubland and controlling invasive weeds, while cleaning up litter as well. Funded by Melbourne Water River Health Incentives Program.

Sunday 5 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 12 Community Planting, BBQ and Welcome to Country

Between Merri Creek Shared trail and the Aboriginal Community Elders Service Parkview Ave, East Brunswick, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 B6. Hosted by The Wurundjeri Council, and funded by the Australian Government Caring for Our Country. Contact Fiona 0408 522 366.

Sunday 12 Friends of Malcolm Creek Planting & BBQ

Malcolm Creek, Corner Aberfeldie Place and Malcolm Creek Parade (Melway 386 H5). 10am-1.30pm.

Sunday 19 Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds Planting

At Coburg Lake, across from the contemplation garden, 10am - 12.30pm. Melway 17 J9. Funded by Moreland Council. Phone Emma Hopkins 9355 7982.

Sunday 19 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at the east bank of the creek immediately downstream of the Silurian Cliff (just north of the Kodak bridge). Access the site via Ronald St, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A8. Funded by Satterley. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 1 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 2 Litter Clean-Up – Craigieburn

Aitken Creek Axminster Dve Craigieburn, 10am-12 noon. Melway 386 J10. 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 2 3rd Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2012

8.45-10.30am at nine sites along the creek. See page 4 for details.

Friday 7 Threatened Species Day Bus Tour

Come and join Waterwatch, Banyule Council staff and Parks Victoria on this tour - focusing on birds in the amazing Morang wetlands in South Morang, home to an array of birdlife, including threatened species. This free tour is suitable for adults and older children and there will be short walks on the day. Lunch will be provided. Bookings essential - phone Julia at Banyule Council on 9457 9885.

Sunday 9 3rd Merri Creek Bird survey for 2012 at Bababi Marning

8.45-10.30am. Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper St, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).

Sunday 16 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting & "Christmas Party"

Meet at the Gooseneck Meander/Kodak Bridge, access via Ronald St, North Coburg. 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Stream Bank Shrubland consolidation around the Kodak bridge. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 30 Broom Sweep and Gorse Mop-up at Bababi Marning

Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands), near Istrian Club, Cooper St Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K10. Celebrate World Rivers Day (on 29/9) by helping to sweep up Broom and mop up the remaining Gorse on the way. Light refreshments provided. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

OCTOBER

Saturday 6 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 7 Litter Clean-Up – East Brunswick

Clara St East Brunswick, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 A5. 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 14 FoMC 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 Pascale 0437 240 956.

Thursday 18 Talk and Tour on Merri Bats

Caroline Wilson, bat expert, will talk about Melbourne's bats then lead a walk along the Merri, using hand-held digital bat detectors. How many species will we find? Please register with Ray Radford 0422 989 166 or ray@mcmc.org.au by 15/10/12.

Sunday 21 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet on the creek behind the Melbourne Big 4 caravan park (at the end of Elizabeth St), North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 B-C7. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 3 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 4 Litter Clean-Up – Reservoir

Broadhurst Ave Reservoir, 10am-12 noon. Melway 18 B3. 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.

Saturday 10 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.

Sunday 11 4th Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2012

8.45-10.30am at nine sites along the creek. See page 4 for details.

**MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek
Confluence Area Restoration Group*



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