

MERRI GROWLER

The Friends of Merri Creek Newsletter

August–October 2013

Friends of Merri Creek is the proud winner of the 2011 Victorian Urban Landcare Award

Urban growth to engulf nature in Merri catchment

The Federal Environment Minister, Mark Butler, has the task of deciding on a blanket environmental approval for all urban development over coming decades within Melbourne's vastly expanded urban growth boundary. This is the last step in a long-drawn-out Strategic Assessment process under national environmental law that began in 2009.

Throughout the process, the Friends and Merri Creek Management Committee have sought protection for waterway corridors and significant native vegetation. We have advocated a conservation network across the planned suburbs that will carpet the Merri catchment between Craigieburn and Wallan. But the State Government planners seem intent on maximising the area of land available for development, and will trade off critically endangered grassland, woodland and wetland communities for cash payments by developers.

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) and associated species strategies, which are supposed to protect nationally threatened species and ecological communities and also to inform the Growth Corridor Plans, were finalised after the Growth Corridor Plans were released. Between the draft and final versions, the conservation strategies have gone backwards in conservation terms. Almost 19% of so-called 'conservation areas' have disappeared, and it seems that more could become developable land through the precinct planning process. Corridors for the Growling Grass Frog along the Merri and other waterways in the northern growth area have been reduced by 23%. One of the healthiest populations of the endangered Growling Grass Frog is likely to be lost with the development of a town centre straddling the Merri Creek north of Donnybrook. The BCS fails to achieve a commitment to protect 80% of River Red Gum woodland within the growth areas, without providing a justification. The promised reserve for this vegetation community outside the growth area still has not been delineated or secured.

The 15,000 hectare Western Grassland Reserves (towards the You Yangs) are being established to supposedly offset the clearing of grassland and wetland within the urban growth areas. But it has recently been revealed that the majority of the planned reserve area comprises fertilised and/or de-rocked pasture or crop. There is very little high quality native vegetation, and efforts to re-establish grassland in the reserves will be enormously expensive and difficult. In exchange, many areas of high quality grassland will be cleared within the growth areas and only a blanket fee paid for their destruction.

The State Government sent the final Biodiversity Conservation Strategy to the Federal Minister in December 2012, but did not release it publicly until mid-May. Staff of the Federal Environment Department have been willing to receive written comments, in the short time available before the Minister makes his decision. FoMC Committee member Yasmin Kelsall has done a sterling job, as a Victorian National Parks Association volunteer, in coordinating preparation of a 70-page joint submission on behalf of 15 environment groups including the Friends. The Environment Defenders Office also provided valuable assistance with this.



A stony knoll in the upper Merri, taken by Rebecca Mayo on day four of her walk along the entire length of Merri Creek. See page 4 for her story.

Our submission calls on the Minister to use national laws to ensure that:

- important grassland, grassy woodland and wetlands are protected within the urban growth areas
- there is adequate protection of habitat for all the nationally-listed threatened species within the growth areas
- all roads and major infrastructure avoid the designated conservation areas
- an independent monitor is appointed to ensure the proper implementation of conservation measures that form part of his approval of urban development under the Strategic Assessment.

Ann McGregor FoMC Vice President

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Merri Musings

Bababi Djinanang name approved: Moreland City Council has notified us that the name for the reserve at Jukes Road, Fawkner has finally been approved as “Bababi Djinanang” and was gazetted in the Victoria Government Gazette on Thursday 30 May 2013.

Bababi Djinanang is the Wurundjeri name for “mother’s foot” and it forms part of an innovative system of Wurundjeri names for native grasslands along Merri Creek as making up parts of the mother’s body. Five names were provided by the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council in 2006, after a request by Friends of Merri Creek to provide appropriate names for sites of cultural and ecological significance. However, only one other site name has been approved: “Ngarrri-djarrang” (or “thigh”) for the grasslands at Central Creek in Reservoir.

The approval of the remaining names is the responsibility of Parks Victoria. They are: “Bababi Marning” (or “mother’s hand”) for Cooper St Grasslands in Campbellfield, “Galgi Ngarrk” (or “back bone”) for Craigieburn Grasslands and “Marran Baba” (or “mother’s body”) for the new regional Merri Creek Parklands, north of the Western Ring Road.

Help us to get Merri art flowing

We are still hoping to run an event early next year to engage with the wonderful artistic community that lives and works within our area. We’re looking for people to help plan a suitable project or event and then bring it to life. If you have skills in events management, publicity, creative pursuits, people management, or you simply feel enthusiastic about this idea, we’d love to hear from you. Contact Yasmin Kelsall on ykelsall@hotmail.com

Tell us what you want – and win a prize!

We know that FoMC has lots of members (around 500) and we know that you love the Merri Creek (was there any doubt?). BUT we’d like to find out a bit more about you and what you like, and also what you don’t like, so that we can be sure that our group is catering to your needs/wants. Plus, all the respondents will go in a draw to win a complete set of seven beautifully illustrated booklets, *Birds of South-eastern Australia*, published by the Gould League of Victoria and worth approximately \$90.

If you receive the newsletter by email, the survey will be attached electronically, and if you don’t, a hard copy will be enclosed. Please take the time to fill it out. You might win the prize but, even if you don’t, you will win our lasting gratitude.

We hope to publish the survey results and the prize winner in the next newsletter.

Marran Baba Strategic Management Plan: On 20 May, Parks Victoria finally released this long awaited management plan for the Merri Creek Parklands north of the Western Ring Rd. Hard copies of the plan are available at the MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, or online at: http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/580503/merri_creek_parklands_plan_2013.pdf

Inspiring talk at our AGM on 20/11: We are fortunate to have secured Brian Bainbridge, a Life Member of the Friends and a flora and fauna expert, as a speaker at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 20 November. His presentation, *Signs of life*, features great photos showing nature’s resilience along the Merri Creek and its response to human helping hands.

Of course you can also have your say in running the Friends group and chat with other members afterwards. Drinks and nibbles supplied. You don’t want to miss it, so put the 20/11 into your diary now (7.15pm in the Eco House at CERES, Lee St East Brunswick).

Merri Creek flooded in June: So much rain fell on Saturday 1st June that it was the wettest June day in Melbourne on record, and the stream rose about five metres above its normal level. This led to the issuing of a “major flood warning” for the creek in Coburg. The flood

caused some plantings and mulch to be swept away, it left large amounts of mud, litter and debris on the shared path, and it filled up holes that had been dug for a planting. It also filled up Strettle Wetland in Thornbury, which takes water from an overland flow.

The flood caused FoMC to change from our planned planting at Strettle Wetland on 21 July, and do a litter clean-up instead.

Strettle Wetland, in Thornbury, overflows outside the perimeter fence, hours after the June 1 flood had passed.



Birds along the Merri in early winter

Colourful winter migrants to the Merri, Golden Whistlers and Flame Robins, were each spotted during four of our May bird surveys. While Flame Robins are mostly seen in open grassland at this time of year, Golden Whistlers stay in the trees; Bababi Djinanang in Fawkner was the only site to record both species.

Mingling with the flock of female Flame Robins at Bababi Djinanang was a Red-capped Robin, which is a new species for our survey list. Normally found north of the Great Dividing Range, there are only two other records of Red-capped Robin in the northern suburbs, according to survey leader Brian Bainbridge. It occasionally breeds in Greenvale near the airport. The Sustainable Fawkner website (www.fawkner.org) has an illustrated article about the May survey and robin sighting.

The Hall Reserve team added Crimson Rosella to our survey list. It was the first time that leaders Ruth and Des Shiel had seen it in the area. One of the youngest and keenest observers in the East Brunswick survey spotted a pair of Tawny Frogmouths roosting up in a eucalypt right beside the path, a couple of minutes after the survey began. A Buff-banded Rail was a surprise for the East Coburg-West Preston birdwatchers, and leader Trevor Hausler managed to take a photograph to confirm the sighting.

We saw a total of 84 species across the ten sites, considerably more than in February 2013 or in May last year (both 73). Bababi Djinanang had the highest site total (36 species), closely followed by Blyth St-Moreland Rd, East Brunswick (35).

As in February, the two lakes had the greatest numbers of birds. At Edwardes Lake, the total (estimated at 450) was boosted by over 200 Eurasian Coots, while Coburg Lake had nearly 150 Pacific Black Ducks and an estimated total of 627 birds. The two lakes must have been teeming with waterfowl – thirteen species of ducks, grebe, herons, and cormorants at Edwardes Lake, and twelve species at Coburg Lake. Nine Little Egrets flew up the Creek corridor in a single flock over Coburg Lake.

The most numerous species for this round of surveys were Rock Dove, Eurasian Coot, Rainbow Lorikeet, Pacific Black Duck, and Red Wattlebird. Rainbow Lorikeets, Red Wattlebird and Magpie were recorded at all ten sites, while Spotted (Turtle) Dove, Little Raven and Common Blackbird were each seen at nine sites.

The people who ventured north to Galgi Ngarrk really enjoyed the experience. There are generally few participants at our northerly sites – Galgi Ngarrk, Bababi Marning, and Galada Tamboore – so if you would like some wide open spaces, fresh air, interesting birds and personal tuition in bird identification by the survey leader, why not try one of these sites next time?

Ann McGregor Birdwatch Coordinator



Buff-banded Rail by the Merri in Strettle Reserve, Thornbury. Photo: Trevor Hausler

Third Merri Birdwatch survey for 2013

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 1 September & 10 November

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

Egan Reserve – Harding Street – Strettle Reserve – Normanby Avenue: Meet at the bluestone steps at the 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 the end of Victoria Street, East Brunswick, at the 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 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 8 September & 17 November

Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper Street, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).

Walking Merri Creek – from source to confluence

FoMC member, Rebecca Mayo, writes about the walk that she and her friend, Lesley Harding, did along the entire length of Merri Creek.

The walk started at the Source in Heathcote Junction on 29 March and continued to its confluence with the Yarra on 4 April. This walk was conceived as part of my PhD research, as a method of getting to know the creek that runs close to my home in Preston, and also as a performative art walk/work. My practice-led research explores how print and performance can examine the degradation and restoration of an urban creek, and how grief, loss and hope might mobilise citizens to act. Preparation for the walk, in particular seeking permission from landowners, revealed the creek as a contested site, shaped by its legal boundaries and markers.

These legal boundaries are reflected in the land, physically and imaginatively, they also shaped my passage and experience of the creek. In order to gain permission to walk across large tracts of privately owned land I first had to establish who owned each property. I started with a few clues and contacts (thanks MCMC). Neighbours passed on names and numbers, along with opinions and warnings of who would say yes, and who might not. Gradually, I mapped out our route.

Some land parcels along the creek are hundreds of hectares, while most are less than twenty acres, and many are just the size of a large urban block. Titles can span both sides of the creek, or sometimes The Merri is a title boundary. This meant that in some sections I had many owners to consult, while in others, I had only one chance at passage.

Around the world humans engage in ritual as a means of illustrating connection, ownership, interdependence and love of land. 'Welcome to Country' ceremonies in Victoria represent indigenous people's continued connection to country. They are also a reminder that free passage across land was not the norm in Australia until teams of surveyors and explorers began to walk and map the country they deemed Terra Nullius.

In Victoria in 1881 the bed, banks and frontages to 280 rivers and lakes were reserved as Crown land. The reservation did not apply retrospectively, so land already under freehold ownership was exempt. In theory, if



waterways have Crown frontage, public access does not require landowner consent. Maps and consultation with Melbourne Water confirmed the Merri's Crown frontage was within the Craigieburn Grasslands (*Galgi Ngarrk*) and Cooper St Grasslands (*Bababi Marning*). Three major landowners refused to grant permission, so my imagined walk along the creek would have two major detours.

Questions of artistic authenticity arose: would it really be a walk of the creek from *Source* to *Confluence* if access were denied to some stretches? Activist friends offered to accompany me through these tracts of creek. 'Could we don waders and keep right in the centre of the channel?' they asked. Ultimately, the 'exclusion zones', as I came to think of them, told a story of land and profit that seemed more telling than a potential media flurry around a trespassing artist on a walk.

I wondered about the owners who refused me entry to properties that were within the Urban Growth Boundary, but hadn't yet been zoned for development. I thought they probably had a lot to lose in terms of their development dreams, should an artist walker happen upon a rare or endangered species.

On the fourth day we walked through land owned by *Stocklands* and *National Pacific*. Both developers were happy for us to walk through, proud of the linear park that would follow their sections of creek. Their land parcels and development plans are already firmly in place: thirty years of building and profit lie ahead.

Property and other legal boundaries along the creek are marked on historic and contemporary maps, with new edges and overlays emerging as the Urban Growth Boundary is expanded and parameters shift. These lines and shapes inscribed on the landscape are also visible through the actions and words of current landholders.

Day Three: Merri Park (© Rebecca Mayo)



Interspersed along the creek are landholders attending to its health. Between the property, *Camoola*, and the residential development, *Lockerbie*, is a property with a long stretch of creek that has been fenced off from livestock for more than 30 years. It is incredibly rich and beautiful. The freeway is out of earshot, bird song and insects abound, and native raspberry and maiden hair fern have recolonised the land. But this land is also destined to become a freight terminal, necessary, they say, to feed the needs of our growing population. Over the duration of the walk, hope would rise at the sight of landowners rehabilitating their stretch of creek, then at the next twist or turn hope would be dashed by the sight of a dead cow in the water or through visualising a freight terminal and the dirty run-off that it would produce.

Run-off takes no notice of zoning or property boundaries, requiring human intervention to create storm water mitigation and filtration. Invasive weeds also take no notice, spreading with the wind, via animals, and down the creek's channel itself. Despite this, boundaries between one property and the next were often clearly defined by the visible changes in plant distribution. Some properties were full of blackberries or gorse, but then on the other side of a fence line the weeds abruptly disappeared and a softer landscape emerged. Knowing how easily invasive species can spread, it was surprising to see how sharp these contrasts could be. Coupled with this, the visual quality of the water and the presence of indigenous aquatic plants also seemed to respond to the quality of the riparian landscape. It seemed clear that isolated differences could be made and sustained, but surely controlling those edges would still be hard work.

On each day of the walk I collected plants, mostly weeds, but also some indigenous plants. With dye extracted from the collected plants, I have started to make a sample book. Common and botanical names will carry the colour of the plant, and the location of their collection will be recorded. This transference of foraged plant to dyestuff to fabric will realise the walk physically in the turning of the pages, thereby providing a post-walk experience for others, and a physical trigger of reminiscence to those of us who walked and foraged.



Native Raspberry
(© Rebecca Mayo)

Representing the walk through my art practice, alongside concerns arising from human interaction, both beneficial and destructive, lies in front of me. During the walk, in addition to collecting plants, I also wore specially constructed gaiters and pockets to aid my passage and assist in my collecting – one pair for each day. These props, printed with dye extracted from weeds previously collected at the creek, recorded my footsteps. Collecting seeds, mud, creek water and sweat, they acted as a membrane between my body and the environment, tracing the moment of passage one step after another. The boundary between the creek and me was permeable and in some ways symbolic or imaginary too, as I discovered when I fell in on Day Five!

Before we knew it we were smack bang back in suburbia where property boundaries took on a new hue. I wonder how many back yards have been quietly expanded to make room for veggies or swings, or just a little bit more of one's own secluded outdoor space. The freeway



Day Five: South of Lockerbie (© Rebecca Mayo)

overpass signals the confluence of the Merri and Yarra, the route of the creek redirected for the freeway in the 1970s. The site of the Merri Creek Aboriginal School, established in 1845, is nearby. It is a reminder of the history and beginnings that shaped the Merri Creek as a contested waterway defined by its potential economic value.

The walk marks a new phase in my art practice, and in this way whenever I visit the creek now, I always have in the back of my mind the rest of the creek and how what is happening upstream will trickle down eventually, for better or worse. The complexity of negotiating passage and what this ultimately tells us about a landscape and its waterways will persist in my imaginings as I wander and live by one small section of this creek.

See more of Rebecca's walk at:
www.merricreekwalk.com



Day Three collection (© Rebecca Mayo)

Streamteam sorts the bugs out better

Here we are in 2013—the Friends of Merri Creek Streamteam has been performing water quality monitoring at St Georges Rd North Fitzroy for ten years!



year, in that four members of the team have undergone some additional training thanks to the efforts of our *Waterwatch* coordinator. Now we are able to identify macroinvertebrates to a sufficient level to obtain water quality scores using the Agreed Level Taxonomy (ALT) identification key. The SIGNAL scores obtained using the ALT key provide a more robust indication of stream health than we have previously been able to achieve. Once we are accredited the data obtained using the ALT key will also be able to be entered into the *Waterwatch* database and compared with data from other sites and from previous or later monitoring sessions.

Streamteam has a few “regulars” who come to our activities (on the first Sunday of each month) to dabble in the water samples and get excited by all the different bugs we see. We are often also joined by students or passers-by who are pleasantly surprised by all the life in



the creek. The Streamteam is always on the lookout for new helpers so if you are interested in joining the fun or finding out more, please contact the coordinator on 9354 9885.

Irene Baker FoMC Streamteam Coordinator

Images of some macroinvertebrates we have seen at the Merri Creek St Georges Rd site: a damselfly nymph (top left), a fresh water shrimp (bottom left) and a needle bug (above).



Dick's Witticisms

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

How will I know if I am enlightened?

How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?

You can't have everything, where would you put it?

How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?

Friends of Edgars Creek Focus

Droughts and flooding rains (again!)



We've seen the extremes of our environment again in 2013 with two major weather events. March's long hot spell of nine 30+ degree days seared the ground and scorched the trees; while memories of this dry faded quickly with some wet weather in May/June, including the big rain event of June 1, which was worse than the storms of Christmas 2010 for the Edgars Creek. Our catchment areas had over 100mm of rain on already wet ground in an overnight rain event. I can only describe the affected areas as smashed!

The damage we see creates a real emotional challenge for our Friends groups. We put a lot of hard work into organising funding, coordinating plantings, and of course there is the physical labour of completing a project. Then, totally beyond our control, along comes the weather...

Planting events ahead for FoEC include our July planting at the 'Caravan Park' site (pictured). For this project we have secured Commonwealth funding from the Department of Sustainability and Environment for maintenance and revegetation around an area of remnant vegetation. The site has a number of remnant specimens, making it an unfortunate rarity for the lower Edgars Creek. Species present at the site include a gnarly old River Red gum, Sweet Bursarias and Tree Violets with a grassland



The Friends of Edgars Creek 'Caravan Park' site, before works due in July. We hope to include a photo of the site after planting in the next Merri Growler.



understorey including Weeping Grass, Mat-Rush, Wallaby Grass and Saltbushes. We have previously undertaken works around this site and have witnessed the first self-seeded red gums in a mulched area around the periphery of the red gum's canopy. The photo of the new site shows a self-seeded Bursaria on the path edge – there are currently three of these within our new project area. A reward to our hard work that no flood can wash away! And that is the reason I'll keep on working hard for our waterway.

I hope to see you on the creek!

David Pavone

President Friends of Edgars Creek.

A tree guarded, self-seeded, remnant red gum at the 'Caravan Park' site, North Coburg.

August

Saturday 3 MECCARG* Weeding & Planting

Meet at the Merri path south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Mel 0404 043 010.

Sunday 4 Litter Clean Up - Reservoir

Central Creek near Davidson St Reservoir, 10am-12noon. Melway 8 B12. 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 11 Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds Planting

Ida St, Coburg North, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 17 H9. Funded by Moreland Council. Phone Emma 9355 7982.

Sunday 18 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. Contact Fiona 0408 522 366.

Sunday 18 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at the escarpment, west side of the creek and up the hill from the bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A8. Planting: Sheoke woodland and ephemeral waterhole – at the top of the escarpment. Funded by Satterley. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 25 Sheoke Planting at Galgi Ngarrk & BBQ

North entrance to Craigieburn Grasslands - from Craigieburn East Rd, 10am -12.30pm. Melway 387 F10 (See map link <http://goo.gl/maps/mks81> or join a car pool outside the MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, leaving at 9.15am.) Re-establish populations of Sheokes along the escarpment to complement woody weed removal. Funded by Melbourne Water River Health Incentives Program. Contact Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

September

Sunday 1 3rd Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2013

Nine sites along the Merri. See page 3 for details.

Sunday 1 Litter Clean Up - Northcote

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

Sunday 1 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 7 MECCARG* Weeding & Burning

Meet at the Merri path south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Mel 0404 043 010.

Sunday 8 3rd Merri Ck Bird Survey for 2013 at Bababi Marning

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

Sunday 8 Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds Planting

Confluence of Merri and Merlynston creeks, Coburg North, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 17 J9. Funded by Moreland Council. Phone Emma 9355 7982.

Sunday 15 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting & "Christmas Party"

Meet at the Ronald St footbridge, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Planting: Stream Bank Shrubland and Creek Line Grassland. Funded by Satterley. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

EVENTS

October

Saturday 5 MECCARG* Weeding & Fence Maintenance

Meet at the Merri path south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Mel 0404 043 010.

Sunday 6 Litter Clean Up - Reservoir

Edgars Creek below Edwardes St Reservoir, 10am-12noon. Melway 18 D5. 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.

Sunday 13 Strettle Wetland Weeding

Friends' site near Strettle Wetland Thornbury, 10am-1 pm. 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 20 Wild Discoveries Walk

Bababi Marning, Cooper St Campbellfield, near the Istrian Club, 10.30am - 12noon. Led by experienced members of MCMC's Parkland Management Team. Light refreshments will be provided. Phone Ben at MCMC on 9380 8199 or 0421 683 926 on the day. Funded by Communities for Nature.

Sunday 20 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at the Ronald Street footbridge, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Planting: Stream Bank Shrubland restoration at the concrete channel. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 27 5th of 6 Woody Weed Removals at Bababi Marning

Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands), near Istrian Club, Cooper St Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K10. The fifth of six days to rid Block A of Broom and Gorse bushes and this "mission impossible" is almost done! Light refreshments provided. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

November

Saturday, 2 MECCARG* Preparation for Murnong Harvest

Meet at the Merri path south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Mel 0404 043 010.

Sunday 3 Litter Clean Up - East Brunswick

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

Sunday 3 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 9 MECCARG* Murnong Harvest

(Check website for confirmation.) If it's on, it will be near the Merri path south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Join in this fantastic unique cultural event. Phone Mel 0404 043 010.

Sunday 10 4th Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2013

Nine sites along the Merri. See page 3 for details.



Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

ASSOC. NO. A00246451

PO Box 93, Moreland, Victoria 3058

Phone: (03) 9389 8633

Email: merriecreek@bigpond.com

Web: www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc

Editor: Ray Radford

Assistant Editors: Paul Prentice, David Redfearn

Layout & Design: Dean Lombard

Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to admin@mcmc.org.au by Friday 20 September 2013

*MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group