

# MERRI GROWLER

The Friends of Merri Creek Newsletter

August – October 2014

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

## Merri Trail land for sale

The Education Department intends to sell the former Lakeside Secondary College site in Reservoir, which includes the Merri Trail.

The Department has requested that the site, which runs between Radford Road Reservoir and Merri Creek, be rezoned to Industrial, after which the site will be sold. However, several hectares of the site lie outside the school fence on a bend of the Creek and have been planted and managed for about 30 years by Darebin Council, as part of the Merri Creek open space corridor. The Merri Trail runs across the frontage, and there are nationally-listed endangered plants (*Dianella amoena*) on a rocky outcrop. Much of this area is flood-prone.

The Education Department has offered to sell the frontage to Darebin Council, but the Council does not want to pay the price being asked.

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council in their 2011 *Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation* recommended that surplus public land be assessed, and retained as public land if it has public land values including open space, ecological connectivity and a water frontage. The Lakeside frontage has multiple public land values, and clearly should be retained in public ownership as open space. FoMC considers that the frontage area should be transferred free-of-charge to Council.

In 2010 the community was able to prevent public land being sold privately when 10.7 hectares of VicRoads land along Edgars Creek was gifted as public open space to be managed by Moreland City Council. Now we need to do it again or risk losing part of the Merri Creek public open space, including the Merri Trail.

**What you can do:** Please write or email the Premier and/or the Education Minister to advocate for the Merri Creek frontage of the former Lakeside Secondary College to be retained as public open space, and given to Darebin City Council.

#### **Premier of Victoria:**

Hon Denis Naphthine, Premier of Victoria  
Level 1, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne, VIC 3002  
or email: [premier@dpc.vic.gov.au](mailto:premier@dpc.vic.gov.au)

#### **Education Minister:**

Hon Martin Dixon, Minister for Education  
2 Treasury Place, Level 1, East Wing, East Melbourne, VIC 3002  
or email: [martin.dixon@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:martin.dixon@parliament.vic.gov.au)



## Friends of Merri Creek Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 11 November, 7pm for 7.30pm start  
Eco House CERES, Lee St East Brunswick**

*Featuring 25 Years of FoMC, presented by Honorary Life Members, Ann and Bruce McGregor, with interesting stories of the old days illustrated with great 'before' and 'after' photos.*

Help celebrate another successful year by joining us for refreshments at 7.00pm before the AGM at 7.30pm. Have your say in running the Friends group and party afterwards. Drinks and nibbles supplied. Phone Ray 0422 989 166. Please note this in your diary now.

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# Merri Musings

**Celebrating FoMC's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday:** In November this year it will be 25 years since the Friends of Merri Creek was formed. We want to hear your ideas about how to celebrate this anniversary: please email your suggestions to [merricreek@bigpond.com](mailto:merricreek@bigpond.com) before the end of August.

The anniversary has actually already received some recognition on Saturday 17 May, when Parks Victoria presented FoMC with a certificate in recognition of our 25 years of service to the Victorian parks system. Parks Victoria will also provide us with some funding for our ongoing woody weed control works at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands) and Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands).

**New Honorary Life Members:** Congratulations to our newest Honorary Life Members: Irene Baker for coordinating the Streamteam Group for over ten years; and Dean Lombard for his superb layouts of the Friends' newsletter for over ten years.

**Another successful grant:** \$5500 from the Moreland Community Grants Program has allowed our sub-group MECCARG to continue gathering Murnong at their unique Wurundjeri Cultural Renewal & Community Craft Day on 8 November. (Put this date in your diary now.)

**Gnawing away at Beavers Rd Northcote:** FoMC has been in discussion with Darebin City Council about the ownership and management of the land alongside Merri Creek between Beavers and Arthurton Roads Northcote. Currently, the land is privately owned by the businesses fronting the creek and they have failed miserably to look after the steep escarpment, which is ugly and covered with weeds. Not only that, but they can't even properly maintain the buildings on the rest of the site, with the underpinnings spilling out onto the access road from a holding wall due to missing sleepers that haven't been replaced for well over a year.

The land is proposed to be rezoned from Industrial 3 to Commercial 1 Zone and we have taken this opportunity to try and get the frontage land to be owned and

**Donations to Merri Creek Environment Fund:** Thanks to all our members and supporters who responded to our special appeal letter by generously donating to Merri Creek Environment Fund. The fund received \$5375 by the end of June, the great majority of which will go toward the donors' choice of creating native habitat for Merri Creek in the area of Lorne St Fawkner.

**Brunswick Terminal Station:** We were stunned to find out that Moreland Council had issued a permit for the proposed works at the Brunswick Terminal Station. The high level of community concern expressed at a well-attended public meeting had led us to believe that there would be further consultation before approval.

We now have quite a battle on our hands to try and mitigate the effects of concrete retaining walls that are 80m long and 4m high (in places) on the boundary. These walls are a big departure from the original plan, so we'll definitely try for a more acceptable solution.

**Darebin Natural Heritage Plan:** Thanks to those Darebin members who responded to the campaign run by new community group, [Wild Darebin](#), to urge Darebin Council to fund the finalisation of the Natural Heritage Plan (\$30,000) in their 2014/15 Budget. This plan was presented as a draft in 2011 and identifies important flora and geological sites in the area, especially on the Merri and Darebin Creeks. The campaign, strongly supported by FoMC and Greens Councillor Trent McCarthy, was successful and Darebin Council approved the funding on 30 June. Now the next step is to ensure that the plan retains its effectiveness and is implemented rigorously once it is adopted.



*Fill from the underpinnings of buildings on the Beavers Rd site spills out onto the access road due to missing sleepers.*

managed by Darebin City Council as part of the creek parkland corridor. On 12 June, our Vice President, Ann McGregor, made an excellent presentation of the FoMC case to a Panel Hearing about the rezoning. We will continue to press for this land to come into public ownership. Please lend your support if you have any contact with Darebin Councillors.

*The weed-covered escarpment on Merri Creek between Beavers and Arthurton Roads, Northcote.*

# Birds along the Merri in early winter

The aptly-named Flame Robins are regular winter visitors to the grasslands of the Merri valley, and were recorded at three sites in our May surveys. They had plenty of recently-burnt ground to hunt through at Bababi Marning and Bababi Djinanang, where ecological burns were conducted in autumn.

An exciting sighting in early June at the end of Jukes Road, Fawkner was a pair of Scarlet Robins, a male and a female, consorting with a team of around eight Flame Robins. The Scarlets were sticking to the woodland style revegetation (planted about 14 years ago) while the Flame Robins were staying in the open parkland and recently-burnt grassland. However, they frequently crossed paths

and chased each other. These are the first Scarlet Robins that Brian Bainbridge has seen in the Merri Creek valley. This was the same spot where a Red-capped Robin turned up last year and a Western Gerygone over summer. Merri Creek Management Committee will be expanding this woodland revegetation by half a hectare this winter with grant funding.

Two male Scarlet Robins were observed (by Ann McGregor) two weeks later, a little downstream in another revegetation area. Scarlet Robins live in eucalypt woodland in SE and SW Australia, moving locally to more open habitats in autumn/winter. Flame Robins breed in the foothills and high country of the Great Divide and Tasmania, and disperse widely to lower elevations in autumn/winter; some Tasmanian birds migrate annually across Bass Strait.

A total of 70 species was recorded across the 10 survey sites in May. The most numerous were Rock Dove (304), Coot (154), Common Starling (147), Rainbow Lorikeet (134), Black Duck and Silver Gull (both 127). Four native species were seen at every site: Little Raven, Magpie, Red Wattlebird and Rainbow Lorikeet.

A new, non-native species was added to our list: Collared Dove, seen at Edwardes Lake.

The site with the best variety was Coburg Lake Reserve with 33 species; it also had the highest number of birds at 489.

Mobs of Eastern Grey Kangaroos were seen at the three outer-urban sites, with an estimated 130 at Galgi Ngarrk.

**Stop press:** Irene Baker reports that she has seen Scarlet Robins along Edgars Creek in North Coburg for several years now. Perhaps they are more common on Edgars Creek than the Merri?

**Ann McGregor** Birdwatch Coordinator



*A Flame Robin at Bababi Djinanang on 18 May, in native grassland burnt in recent months. Photo: Brian Bainbridge.*

## Third Merri Birdwatch survey for 2014

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 available for all participants*

**Surveys at the following nine sites are on 31 August and 9 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 Merri Path at rear of CERES, East Brunswick (Melway 30 B7).

**Merri Park and 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 7 September and 16 November**

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



# Wild life on the Merri – episode 1

This is the first of three articles on the fauna around Merri Creek in bygone days  
– from memories of participants in the Merri Creek Oral History Project.

Yabbies, of course, were right along the Creek. They were a popular food and were caught by a variety of simple methods. Mick Graham, who grew up near Hall Reserve in Clifton Hill recalls his yabby-catching days during the 1940's. *"There were plenty down there, heaps. We used to take a kerosene tin down there. I used to knock the meat off from the coolgardie safe, no refrigeration in those days, and then down we'd go. We'd get a stocking and put it around a bit of wire, drop the meat in, put the stocking underneath, pull it up and down, and when the yabbie took it, put the stocking with the net under him and pull him out. We ate them all, tail was the main part, beautiful. We used to move from one yabby hole to another."*

Up at Fawkner in the late sixties, Brendan Casey caught yabbies in the nearby quarry holes. *"We would take a piece of cotton and a couple of bits of chop fat and we would just throw the cotton with the bit of meat on the end into the water, wait till the line tightened and pull the yabbies out. So in a couple of hours we would fill half a bucket with yabbies. Big yabbies and a lot of blackberries around at that time too. We could spend an afternoon out there and come home with half a bucket of yabbies and half a bucket of blackberries."*

Eels were present throughout the Creek. John Jordan, who has lived in Bakers Road since he was a boy, recalls his father and a mate catching eels using snails as bait. This particular night in the 1940's, they arrived home late at night with a sugar bag half full of eels which they had caught at Devil's Elbow at Coburg Lake. Too tired to clean them that night, they put them in the gully trap. But unbeknown to them, the bag had a hole. The next morning the Jordan backyard was a slithering mess of shiny eels. His mother was not too impressed!

John loves eels. His father would *"clean and skin them, then he would turn around and take the backbone out of them, and he would boil them in a half and half mixture of milk and water. Give them about five minutes, take them out, put them in the colander and dry them, then he used to roll them in egg and breadcrumbs and fry them. They were simply beautiful. But the silver ones were the ones he used to like, the mud eels he wouldn't have a bar of them."*

The Jordans were a fishing family. From Somerton, going up the Creek, *"there used to be a terrible lot of Blackfish."* These were the Australian Blackfish. *"Not a lot of scales on them, like a shiny fish, when you cooked them they had a very white soft flesh. Some of them grew huge. My*

*father and a mate, they used to ride the pedal bike up to Craigieburn, go down onto the Creek, and they used to bring them (the fish) home. When I was a kid, I used to go up there with them. They brought one home one night, that he got up there at Craigieburn, and the old concrete wash trough, when he brought it home, it was a very hardy fish, he put water in the trough and put this fish in there and it was that long, angle-wise across the trough, that it still had its tail curved around the side. It wouldn't fit across, it was that big."*

Redfin occurred in places and River Galaxias were common. Brendan Casey recalls *"schools of them, swimming up and down."* John Jordan tells of the disaster befalling these Galaxias, which were about 8 or 9 inches long. *"They put a ladder in at the Lake wall to let the minnows up to follow their route up the Creek. There were a few of them along the Creek. The ladder worked real good, but they came up into the Lake and got as far up as the Merlynston Creek, and instead of continuing straight up the Creek, they did a left turn and went up the Merlynston Creek. There, dye from the old Lincoln Mills used to run into the Creek, and nothing was ever cleaned or anything like that, it just poured down. And sometimes the Merlynston Creek would run red, it would run black or green or blue. All sorts of colours. And the minnows got into all the pollution up there and got killed, the lot of them. And I don't think that you would now find one, that's it. You don't see them anymore."*

Another endangered creature is the water rat or Rakali. John worried about one particular water rat he'd become fond of. *"There used to be a lot of water rats, terrible lot of water rats. When they did the so-called beautification as is there now, I was very worried because there was one water rat, a huge water rat, he'd been there I don't know how long, but he was nearly as big as a cat. And he used to work from*

**Continued at bottom of next page**

## Dick's Witticisms

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

You can't tell a book by its movie.

Whenever you fall, pick up something.

A clear conscience is usually the  
sign of a bad memory.

The money saved for a rainy day  
now buys a smaller umbrella.

Rakali or native Water Rat. Photo from Bing Images.



# Our visit to Westgate Park

Twelve FoMC members enjoyed a sunny Sunday morning exploring Westgate Park on 25 May with our hosts, Friends of Westgate Park (FoWP). Westgate Park borders the Westgate Bridge, the Yarra River and Fisherman's Bend industrial area. The site was mined for sand and suffered other horrors of industrialisation.

FoWP receive little direct support from Parks Victoria, but for over 20 years, the group has used a different revegetation model, skilfully utilising volunteers from companies who have community volunteering programs. Almost all of the volunteer work, and FoWP activities, are undertaken during the working week.

FoWP also organise support from companies such as garden management companies who donate wood chips for mulching the revegetated areas. We were transfixed by the impressive revegetation work completed by the group. In one area a large number of inappropriate, but well grown shrubs planted long ago had been removed by volunteers so that the correct plant species could be grown. Most seedlings are grown in their own nursery.

The various vegetation types including a coastal heath plant community were thriving. The famous "Pink Lake" looked spectacular in the light of the noonday sun. We are grateful for their efforts as Melburnians and also for hosting our visit.

Bruce McGregor



The so-called "Pink Lake" at Westgate Park looks spectacular during the FoMC visit on 25 May (note some newly planted plants in the foreground). Photo: David Redfearn.

## Our Facebook page wants more friends

If you haven't already done so, check out our wonderful Facebook page, we're sure you'll 'like' it.

Just point your web browser toward [www.facebook.com/FriendsofMerriCreek](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofMerriCreek) and click on 'Like' to get automatic updates to group activities and news.

## Wild life on the Merri – episode 1

*Continued from previous page*

*Carr Street around to the other side of the Creek in Bakers Road, mainly living on yabbies. I used to walk there because of the diabetes, I used to walk there of a night, that's where I used to get all my exercise, and I used to go down after tea and I'd pick him up just above Carr Street, and I'd follow him all the way up. And when they started digging down and wrecking, mucking round with the Creek, I'd thought that he would either go or die. They took a lot of foliage away from along the Creek there, and the cats would have got him. But the people who did the pipe from Reservoir across over to the other side of Essendon somewhere, one of the guys there said he had just seen a water rat down the*

*bottom. So I knew from that, went down and had a look, and oh yeah, that's him. So to my knowledge, he still exists down there. Hopefully."*

The platypus is also rare, Joe Garita remembers seeing them near Harding St Coburg and Brendan Casey found an abandoned burrow at Galada Tamboore. Happily there have been some recent sightings. Terrapins used to live under the Heidelberg Rd bridge, but they are not seen now.

Des & Ruth Shiel



# The dynamic interface

Marshes, quagmires, bogs, fens or swamps, wetlands have long been regarded as rather strange, sinister places. Neither terra firma nor open water, they're inaccessible to most vehicles and vessels; they've been associated with mosquitoes and malaria; they provide the setting for the climax of the Sherlock Holmes mystery *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Mangroves are considered especially unglamorous, although they're a remarkable case of plants surviving in salty, oxygen-starved soil; the phosphorescent will-o'-the-wisp was believed to be an evil spirit luring unwary travellers to their doom; and if you're bogged down or swamped, it means you're in trouble, powerless.

Nevertheless there are some celebrated ones around the world: the bayous and Everglades in the U.S., England's Norfolk Broads, the French Camargue beside the Mediterranean, the Pripyat Marshes of Belarus, the Sudd on the White Nile, the extensive Okavango Swamp just north of the Kalahari Desert. On a grimmer note, there was Saddam Hussein's attempt to wipe out the marsh dwellers of southern Iraq by destroying their environment.

As for getting around in them, there are canoes and dinghies, hovercraft, and the skimmers driven by big wind-propellers as featured in the opening credits of *CSI: Miami* (we'll rule out the destructive amphibious vehicles). Again, what a pivotal moment in our ancestors' switch to an upright stance was suggested by the apes that David Attenborough watched as they waded across shallow water!

Like other parts of the environment – mountains, rivers, lakes; forests, woodlands, grasslands, deserts; coastlines, continental shelves, ocean depths – they have their specific flora and fauna suited to the conditions. Some are seasonal rather than permanent, similar to the temperate zones with their tremendous variation between summer and winter: a striking example is northern Australia, where vast areas are flooded during the six months' wet season and baked dry the rest of the year.

Macroinvertebrates, fish, amphibians, native water rats, reptiles, waterfowl from stilts to pelicans flourish in these lands of plenty; twitchers delight in spying on their feathered friends from hides such as the one in Edithvale Rd. For human and avian species alike, "if you build it, they will come".

Far from being unhealthy spots, wetlands actually have a major role to play in filtering and cleansing storm and waste water. This is seen on a large scale in the Werribee sewage treatment facility; and in a more modest way, at Clifton Hill's Walker St and Hall Reserve, Merri Park behind Northcote High, Darebin Parklands in Alphington, Leamington St above Edwardes Lake, Jacana on the Moonee Ponds, and – once saved from the monstrous motorway, but now threatened again – Royal Park.

And the grand Edinburgh Gardens in North Fitzroy now collect and purify stormwater by means of a "raingarden". It is such a thrill to be able to cooperate with the planet's natural processes; and to complement them by controlling plant or animal pests, such as alligator weed, water hyacinth, European carp and mosquito fish.

Sometimes the improvement has happened by chance, as with the mini-wetlands created by the bridges across Central Creek in Reservoir; while the gilgais (natural depressions) in the adjoining grasslands trap rainwater for plants needing extra moisture. With the stony knolls and the wildflowers and the kangaroos, plantings and ecological burns and weed suppression, the place is a microcosm of our beautiful world and our efforts to look after it.

But the complexity and fragility of the web of life, the repercussions that may be caused by human folly (extinctions, excessive water take, introduced species, destruction of habitat, toxic chemicals, overfishing, climate change) or just by accident are illustrated by a couple of fascinating cases. In one of them, removal of wolves from an area in North America allowed a population explosion of elk; so they devoured all the aspens, the beavers couldn't build their dams and the wetlands dried out.

And a documentary showed an African swamp rich in wildlife, with the hippos browsing on the plants and fish swarming around to feast on their droppings; then another where the hippos had died out (drowned when they'd got trapped in an underwater cave) and the other creatures had disappeared too. They weren't exactly the top predators, but they were the locomotives that powered the whole system.

**Paul Prentice**

*Nardoo growing in the Rotunda Wetland at Hall Reserve Clifton Hill. Photo from MCMC files.*



# Friends of Edgars Creek Focus



*Thankfully our winter finally arrived after the mild autumn (remember the record was set for days over 20 degrees in May!). We have had some welcome rain and the subsurface moisture is now available to reward our planting efforts again: so watch out, here comes the spring flush of new growth.*

Some highlights for Friends of Edgars Creek (FoEC) since our last update include the Confluence Planting, our scheduled events on the Edgars Creek and a successful role facilitating environmental activities in the school curriculum at Reservoir West Primary School (RWPS).

In early June FoEC teamed up with Moreland City Council, MCMC and FoMC for what has become an annual planting event at the confluence of the Edgars and Merri creeks. It was wonderful to see a committed group of volunteers braving a cold, wet morning that saw a substantial revegetation project completed at the confluence of our creeks. In July we returned to our caravan park site and we continue to expand this site towards the border between Moreland and Darebin - another opportunity for a “confluence” celebration of sorts (stay tuned for more updates on this).

Part of FoEC’s mission is to engage our community with the natural environment and with thanks to “the two Angela’s” (Angela Foley at MCMC and Angela Gigliotti, science teacher at RWPS) Edgars Creek and the natural environment has become a part of the curriculum for grade 2 students at RWPS. I probably should declare my interest in this as my son started at RWPS this year and I thought as the President of FoEC that I should encourage a partnership of this sort. If only we could have something like this in every school!



*Rob Burnett and David Pavone wonder how the tubestock got so big - at the FoEC planting, M9 water main site extension, May 2014.*

Our last planting event for this year is our annual Christmas in September planting event which will be at the Ronald St footbridge this year (not at the Gooseneck site – that is our August event). We welcome any members and guests to join us in a celebration of volunteering, community and the natural environment!

See you on the creek!

**David Pavone** President, Friends of Edgars Creek

## On the Western Plains

Volcanoes. Driving west toward Long Forest, clearly seen, in clusters or standing alone. The distinct conical hillsides emerging from the basalt plains gives them away, a hint of things occurring a long, long time ago. Hard to imagine, all that rumbling explosive force, spewing molten rock, just a short drive out of town. I live on the eastern edge of the volcanic plains, on an island hill of ancient Silurian sediment, in what was once a sea of hot glowing lava, the flow pushing rivers and creeks aside, to place them in their present courses. The lava solidified into basalt, and out on the Werribee plains, west of Melbourne, eroded to produce red rust soil. However, the rain shadow cast by the Otway Ranges has limited the potential for abundance. The resulting terrain tends to be dry and sparsely vegetated, except for marshy wetlands within shallow depressions, and waterways fed from higher ground. Some waterways have gouged out deep rocky gorges, washing away volcanic basalt to reveal shale, slate and mudstone, carved into rugged escarpments. In the gorges, magnificent river red gum, blue box, yellow and

mann gum grow, little pockets of lush green tucked into serpentine bends and gullies.

I’m on the road to Coimadai Creek, a Werribee River tributary near Bacchus Marsh, which descends from hills beyond the basalt plains. While driving, I play spot the volcano, and whimsically toss about the thought that I have yet to experience an active volcano. I suspect I am a little too late to encounter one here, but very likely, the Indigenous people of the area witnessed these violent geological events. Did they watch in awe or flee in terror?

I arrive at Long Forest and walk through bull mallee gum, toward the creek. The track winds in and out of gullies, then climbs over a crest. The landscape opens out to an expansive view of the valley below, slopes covered with low wattle shrub in bloom, an eruption of gold, the scent of honey in the air. Spring.

**Angie Pötsch** Member, Friends of Edgars Creek



## AUGUST

### Saturday 2 MECCARG\* Planting indigenous species

Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Mel 0404 043 010.

### Sunday 3 Planting & Litter Clean Up at Strettle Wetland

Friends of Merri Creek 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.

### 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.

### Sunday 10 3<sup>rd</sup> of 5 woody weed control Block B Bababi Marning

The third of 5 days to rid block B of Broom, Gorse and Briar Rose bushes. Light refreshments provided. Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands). Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit (Road Runner factory), in between Transit Drive and Connection Drive Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K12 - park on the factory side and check the No Parking signs. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

### Saturday 16 Sumner Loving Weed Workshop

Merri Park Wetland, Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, 1.30-3.30pm. Melway 30 C8, follow the flags. Help rejuvenate Merri Park. Funded by Communities for Nature and supported by the City of Darebin. Phone Ray or Monica at MCMC 9380 8199.

### Sunday 17 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at the Gooseneck Meander, access via Ronald St North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Planting: Site extension at the Gooseneck Meander, east side of the creek. Funded by Satterley. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

### Sunday 24 Habitat Heroes Launch & BBQ

Come to the eastern end of Jukes Rd in Fawkner and follow the flags, 10-12:30. Melway 18 A2. Featuring: Wurundjeri Elder Welcome to Country, planting, reptile display (including snakes), unveiling of new grassland signage, self-guided walks to learn about 10 top plants for providing habitat followed by a BBQ. Funded by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust.

### Saturday 30 Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds Planting

Merri Creek Gleen St to Ida St Coburg Nth, 10am-12-30pm. Melway 17 H9. Funded by Moreland Council. Phone Emma 9355 7982.

### Sunday 31 Third Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2014

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

## SEPTEMBER

### Tuesday 2 Wildlife Gardens Presentation

Fawkner Library, 37 Jukes Rd Fawkner, 6.30pm. MCMC's Ecological Restoration Planner, Brian Bainbridge, will show how gardens can be stepping stones in our wildlife corridor. Register online at: [www.morelandcitylibraries.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.morelandcitylibraries.eventbrite.com.au) or phone 9355 4200.

### Saturday 6 MECCARG\* Site Maintenance

Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Mel 0404 043 010.

### Sunday 7 Litter Clean Up – North Coburg

Keady St North Coburg, 10am-12noon. Melway 17 J8. 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 7 Third Bird Survey for 2014 at Bababi Marning

See page 3 for details.

### Saturday 13 Sumner Loving Weed Workshop

Merri Park Wetland, Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, 1.30-3.30pm. Melway 30 C8, follow the flags. Help rejuvenate Merri Park. Funded by Communities for Nature and supported by the City of Darebin. Phone Ray or Monica at MCMC 9380 8199.

### Sunday 21 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting & "Christmas Party"

Meet at the Ronald St footbridge, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Planting of Stream bank shrubland and ephemeral water holes. Funded by Satterley. Christmas celebrations funded by FoEC. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

### Sunday 28 4<sup>th</sup> of 5 woody weed control Block B Bababi Marning

The fourth of 5 days to rid block B of Broom, Gorse and Briar Rose bushes. Light refreshments provided. Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands). Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit (Road Runner factory), in between Transit Drive and Connection Drive Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K12 - park on the factory side and check the No Parking signs. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

# EVENTS

## OCTOBER

### Saturday 4 MECCARG\* Site Maintenance

Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Mel 0404 043 010.

### Sunday 5 Litter Clean Up – North Coburg

Merlynston Creek North Coburg, 10am-12noon. Melway 17 J9. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

### 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 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 Suzi 0403 595 466.

### Sunday 19 Friends of Edgars Creek Site Maintenance

Meet behind the Big 4 caravan park (at the end of Elizabeth St), North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 B-C7. Mulching, weeding and general site maintenance activities. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

### Saturday 25 Habitat Gardening Workshop

MCMC Depot, 2 Lee St, East Brunswick, 1:30-4:30pm. Melway 30 B7. Learn how to create habitat in your garden or 'nature' strip. Light refreshments will be provided. Funded by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries Communities for Nature Program. Registration essential with Ray or Monica, phone 9380 8199 or email [admin@mcmc.org.au](mailto:admin@mcmc.org.au)

### Sunday 26 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 Ray or Monica at MCMC on 9380 8199 or 0421 683 926 on the day. Funded by Communities for Nature.

## NOVEMBER

### Saturday 1 MECCARG\* Murnong Gathering Preparation

Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Mel 0404 043 010.

### Sunday 2 Litter Clean Up – Reservoir

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

### Saturday 8 MECCARG\* Murnong Gathering

Don't miss this unique cultural event. Meet at the old quarry, near the footbridge on the Merri Creek trail between Murray Rd and Bell St Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Mel 0404 043 010. Funded by the City of Moreland.

### Sunday 9 Fourth Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2014

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

### Tuesday 11 FoMC Annual General Meeting

Details on page 1



### Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

ASSOC. NO. A00246451

PO Box 93, Moreland, Victoria 3058

Phone: (03) 9389 8633

Email: [merricreek@bigpond.com](mailto:merricreek@bigpond.com)

Web: [www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au](http://www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au)

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](mailto:admin@mcmc.org.au) by Friday 19 September 2014