

New Yarra River Protection Bill (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn)

In an historic occasion on Thursday 22 June, Wurundjeri Elders addressed the Victorian Parliament to introduce the Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Bill 2017. The new legislation signals the start of a new era of protecting Victoria's most famous waterway, including stronger planning controls to protect against inappropriate development. The heartfelt speeches can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/VicParliament/videos/1912280542363107/>.

For the first time in the Victorian Parliament's history, the Bill is co-titled and part of its preamble is written in Woi-wurrung, assuring Traditional Owners a permanent voice in the governance and protection of the Yarra River. The Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Bill combines the 'Caring for Country' wisdom of Traditional Owners with the most modern river management expertise. It identifies the Yarra River and the many hundreds of parcels of land it flows through as one living, integrated natural entity.

The Bill will strengthen the protection and management of the Yarra River by:

- Developing a Yarra Strategic Plan to coordinate 14 public entities that operate along the river corridor;
- Establishing a new statutory body, the Birrarung Council, to act as an independent voice for the river;
- Requiring regular reporting by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability on the environmental condition of the river and its parklands;
- Designating the parklands and open space along the river as the Greater Yarra Urban Parklands; and
- Ensuring future governments protect the Yarra River.

The Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne, said: "Today is an historic day for Victoria. This is all about celebrating the rich history of the Yarra River and safeguarding its future for many generations to come."

The Bill was welcomed by the Yarra Riverkeeper Andrew Kelly, who said "This proposed law represents a world-leading example of urban river management," and by Environmental Justice Australia lawyer Dr Bruce Lindsay, who said "The Act will set up an integrated, landscape framework for governance of the Yarra, guided by environmental and social principles and subject to long-term planning."

FoMC participated in community consultation on this proposed Act and we are delighted to see this coming to fruition in such a meaningful way. We will continue to press for extension of stronger planning controls along the Merri as well, which is similarly under pressure from inappropriate development.

See Merri Musings on page 2 for updates on two of our current planning issues.



Wurundjeri Elders introduce the Yarra River (Birrarung) Protection Bill to the Victorian Parliament on 22 June (ex: www.theguardian.com)

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Merri Musings

Friends of Merri Park gears up: Irena Cassettari, the coordinator of Friends of Merri Park, has geared up the group's activities. Following a weeding on 25 June, there's a planting on 30 July and then more weedings on 27 August and 24 September. Help this enthusiastic recently-formed sub-group to look after their wonderful site at Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, (Melway 30C9) from 10.00 am–12.00 noon.

Weeding at Merri Park Wetland in September 2016



Successful funding: Friends of Merri Creek has received the following two grants:

- \$2,793 from the Department of Health and Community Services Community Shade Grants Program - Round 2, for two marquees, 15 sunhats and 8 tubes of sunscreen.
- \$16,900 from Port Phillip Bay Fund Community Large Grants - Round 1, for the first year of a three year program to develop a rapid response to litter clean-ups after high rainfall and coordinate clean-ups along Merri Creek. The full amount will be \$52,420.

Weed out African Weed Orchids: Become part of the Special Weed Orchid Terminators (SWOT) and help remove the invasive South African Weed Orchid (*Disa bracteata*) from our grasslands. Come along to Ngarri-djarrang (Central Creek Grassland) Davidson St Reservoir (Melway 8 B12), from 10 am-12 noon on these Saturdays: 26 August, 23 September and 21 October. Light refreshments are provided at all events and the last one also features a wildflower walk led by MCMC's Michael Longmore.



New MCMC rep wanted: We need a FoMC member for at least 12 months to represent us at quarterly meetings of Merri Creek Management Committee. If you're interested, email friendsofmerriecreek@gmail.com

2nd Great Merri Creek Spring Clean-up: It's happening again on Sunday 8 October at a number of sites between Murray Rd Coburg and Heidelberg Rd Clifton Hill. Check our website events for details.

Planning updates:

2 Spry St Coburg North: Moreland City Council refused this application and the developer has taken it to VCAT. Thanks to our Vice-President and planning expert, Ann McGregor, FoMC lodged the following Statement of Grounds with VCAT:

1. The proposed development will visually overwhelm the Merri Creek corridor, degrading the recreational and environmental amenity of the public open space along the creek.
2. The development is contrary to the Environmental Significance overlay, other policies and strategies and the well-established community vision for the Merri Creek Valley



Architect's representation of the proposed development at 2 Spry St Coburg North

FoMC objected to this proposal, pointing out that the Merri Creek parkland is a vital recreation area which is becoming increasingly popular. However, there are lots of areas along the creek that are too narrow and the Spry St proposal offers an opportunity to extend the parkland area.

1-9 Moreland Rd Coburg: On 14 June, Moreland City Council resolved that this development should be set back a minimum of 50 metres from the Merri Creek or 12 metres from the eastern property boundary, whichever is greater.

Cancelled events: FoMC has hardly ever cancelled an event since we began, yet in June we had to cancel three events in two weeks – for different reasons.

- The Streamteam events on the Merri and Edgars creeks scheduled for 4 June were cancelled as Irene the Coordinator had to go overseas on a business trip and no replacement could be found.
- The Friends of Merri Park Handweeding scheduled for 4 June had to be cancelled as Melbourne Water had closed off access to Merri Park Wetland due to sewerage works.
- The Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning scheduled for 11 June had to be cancelled, as it was the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend and we couldn't be guaranteed of a worthwhile turn-up.

For each of these events, we notified the people who might have come and changed the calendar entries on the website for FoMC and MCMC. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Wildlife Gardening

Lessons from a suburban front yard in Summer

Over summer, a fascinating array of insect life visited the wildlife garden at the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) depot in East Brunswick. Their presence in the garden illustrates some valuable principles of wildlife gardening.

Plants and animals – ancient bonds

Indigenous plants and animals have co-evolved over millions of years, and discovering these one-on-one ecological relationships is one of the joys of planting local. Flax-lilies (*Dianella*) allow us to witness one of these relationships, 'buzz pollination'. The lily flowers hold pollen tightly within in-rolled anthers, only releasing it to insects that have learnt to vibrate the anthers at high frequency. This fascinating pollination method has shaped the *Dianella* flowers and the behaviour of native bees till they are exquisitely attuned to each other's needs. Over summer, Miner Bees (*Lasioglossum*) were hard at work shaking the anthers of Flax-lily flowers, occasionally joined by their more famous relatives, the [Blue-banded Bees](#), [Amegilla](#).

Animals need structure in their life

Animals need more from a garden than plant foods... structures and layout are also crucial.

Placing a log, paving or boulder in an area of the garden that receives morning sun in the summer will create a 'lizard lounge'; a basking site that helps cold-blooded animals function. These are not just for lizards: in the depot garden, a sunny boulder acted like a passive solar battery for Red Percher Dragonflies, readying their powerful wing muscles for chasing insect prey.

Some animals are picky about their perches. Over several weeks, a male Resin Bee could be observed attached to the same slender flower stem of Black-anther Flax-lily... the stem made a safe resting site from larger predators. A second male Resin Bee soon joined the first and the two could be seen wriggling. This behaviour suggests the prominent perch also plays a role in courtship, perhaps by helping attract the attention of passing females. The dead Flax-lily stems are a popular venue for tiny creatures in our garden ecosystem; don't be tempted to tidy them away too soon.

Messy garden? Congratulations!

When it comes to wildlife gardening, a bit of mess is a sign of success! Unlike a traditional garden, the aim of wildlife garden is to see your plants chewed, bored, sucked or otherwise besieged by as many native animals as possible. During a visit to the nearby CERES nursery in May, grubs of the Bottlebrush Sawfly were seen feeding on tubestock of River Bottlebrush *Callistemon sieberi*. The poor plants were very munched, leaving elegant leaf skeletons. In summer I was delighted to see one of the colourful adult sawflies resting in the MCMC depot garden. The adult Sawfly, (not a fly but actually a vegetarian relative of wasps), is harmless, despite its alarming appearance. An attack by sawfly larvae can thoroughly defoliate a bottlebrush or paperbark, however the plant usually soon recovers.

Why not develop a wildlife garden and have 'nearby nature' at your own front door?

Brian Bainbridge MCMC Ecological Restoration Planner



Miner Bee collecting pollen from a *Dianella* flower.



Red Percher Dragonfly warming up on boulder.



Resin bee males perched on *Dianella* stems.



Bottlebrush sawfly larva



Bottlebrush sawfly adult

Birds along the Merri in early winter

Our May bird surveys were held on Sunday 7th (7 sites) and 21st (2 sites). A total of 64 species was seen, rather less than the 75 species seen in May last year.

Regular cool-season visitors to the Merri grasslands, Flame Robins were seen at Bababi Djinanang (Fawkner) and Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn East).

Silvereyes are more numerous in winter, including some that come across Bass Strait from Tasmania. Fifty-three were seen across four sites, compared with seventeen across two sites in February.

Native birds seen at every site were Magpie, Rainbow Lorikeet, and Red Wattlebird. The Common (European) Blackbird was also recorded at every site. On the other hand, 18 species were each recorded at only one site. Rainbow Lorikeet was the most numerous species (a count of 186), followed by Silver Gull (135), then Red Wattlebird (132) and Common Myna (113).

Species diversity and numbers of birds were lower at most sites in comparison with May 2016 and February 2017. The site with the highest diversity was Bababi Djinanang (32 species), followed by Galgi Ngarrk with 30 species. Galgi Ngarrk also had the highest count, an estimated total of 375 birds.

The calm conditions that prevailed on our May surveys and have continued through June are ideal for hearing bird calls. An article in the *Australian Birdlife* magazine (June 2017) explains that some familiar calls that sound as though they are given by a single bird are, in

fact, sung by two different individuals singing different parts of the same song. This is known as antiphonal singing. At least three of the birds recorded in the May surveys are known to do this: Grey Butcherbirds, Magpie-larks and Noisy Miners. Male Magpie-larks often call “pee” and the female answers instantly with “wee.” They use visual cues to keep in time with each other. Both birds rhythmically open and lift their wings in time with the calls, flicking the tail up and down. The melodious tune of the Grey Butcherbird can involve two, or even three birds responding with particular phrases. So next time you hear a Magpie-lark or Butcherbird, check how many birds are actually calling.

Ann McGregor BirdWatch co-ordinator

One or two Little Pied Cormorants were recorded in five of the May surveys. Photo: Peter Mollison



Third Merri Birdwatch survey for 2017

Bird surveys will be held from 8.45–10.30 am at nine 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 seven sites are on 17 September

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

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

CERES – Moreland Road: Meet at the seats on the Merri Path at the 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 Ngarrk (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 the following two sites are on 24 September

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

Bababi Marning: Meet near the St George Chaldean Catholic Centre (ex Istrian Club), Cooper Street, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).

The Creeks of Craigieburn

It's a good strong Scottish name, isn't it, especially if you roll the r's a bit! (and "burn" is Scots for "brook"): a suburb on some fine, hilly, well-watered land, of significance for both environmental and transport reasons, and also noted for a factory that really makes money...

We managed to get the Bypass moved away from the Merri, whereas the Moonee Ponds, the Koonung and the Gardiners were less fortunate; still there remains the threat of rabid "road-ragers" ravaging to ram the Ring Road through to the Eastern.

Electric trains arriving from Broadmeadows a decade ago were more planet-friendly, nevertheless such developments – Sunbury and South Morang, next Mernda, Melton, Cranbourne East – only encourage the sprawl of Melbourne's unsustainable population growth (100,000 per annum) which is destroying the Green Wedges and wildlife habitat: Craigieburn is regrettably one of our city's five fastest-exploding suburbs, led by South Morang. Not that such minor matters concern our Federal, State or Council politicians, they're generally quite apathetic or even enthusiastic about the boom.

However, at least the lovely linear parks alongside the Malcolm and Aitken Creeks (the Merri itself and the Curly Sedge are harder to access) benefit the locals' physical and spiritual health. There are also the rather small Mount Ridley Reserve with its 289 m. high peak, and the Craigieburn Gardens; while Roxburgh Park has views of the Greenvale Reservoir, and is only 4 km. from Woodlands Historic Park, with its Homestead and other attractions

A number of pedestrian underpasses beneath major roads in Roxburgh Park save time and lives – a wonderful feature not matched anywhere else in Melbourne as far as I know; the homes are large and handsome, whether in traditional or modern styles, somewhat extravagant perhaps but avoiding the worsening overcrowding of inner suburbs; and the schools correspondingly allow lots of room for the youngsters to dash around.

From the subway at Somerton Rd a shared footway heads down the Broadmeadows Valley Park beside the Yuroke to meet the Moonee Ponds creekway; another follows the motorway to the Ring Road's bikeway, connecting with those of the Merri, the Darebin and the Plenty. It also leads to the Whittlesea Public Gardens in Lalor, and via the stark brown "Ned Kelly" footbridge and one over our own waterway to Barry's roadway and Upfield's railway!

Access along the Aitken Creek is blocked by a golf course, but its downstream section, ending with a mass of lofty reeds near the rail bridge, is charming, and according to a self-proclaimed authority on the subject, increasingly litter-free. On the west side there are some splendid lakes including the Highlands (continuing the Scottish theme) – very pleasing to see a restaurant situated on its shores. All around, the Melway shows proposed reserves: it reminds one of the Cairnlea estate in Deer Park.

Golden Sun Moth sightings secured a generous corridor for the Malcolm: its path runs uninterrupted for some five k's from the Hume

Highway to Mount Ridley Rd, weaving around a few ponds enjoyed by our fellow-creatures and several fabulous, ancient River Red Gums; among the outdoor artwork there's a row of decorative poles beside Malcolm Creek Parade. But it is at its most beautiful near the well-named Arcadia Avenue, with such a peaceful rural air, and a small natural lake: following some revegetation there a few years ago, our barbecue was sheltered from the light rain by a big eucalypt.

Craigieburn's greatest glory is of course Galgi Ngarrk, the grasslands that stretch all the way down to O'Herns Rd, familiar from various activities like the gas-pipe picket and Golden Sun Moth counts; and hopefully to be joined up with Bababi Marning's kangaroo-patrolled expanse by Cooper St and the spectacular Galada Tamboore... Woolly Tea Trees on the creek banks, planting of Sheoaks and grasses, stony knolls, birds, wildflowers, eradication of Gorse and other weeds – so many satisfying memories: this part of our natural heritage, at least, we are keeping.

Paul Prentice

*Come along on a tour of Malcolm Creek on Sunday
12 November. See calendar for details.*

Malcolm Creek Craigieburn, with water ribbons



Friends of Edgars Creek Focus



Hello from the Friends of Edgars Creek

Our 2017 planting season has rolled out beautifully to date and we look forward to the remainder of our calendar events – I hope we can see you at one soon!

So far this season we have seen our inaugural foray north of the Silurian cliff site, crossing the creek again to the west side with our first planting in the area targeted by Melbourne Water's 2016 capital works project (the spider-legged grooming machine that removed the Boxthorn at the Livingstone Street escarpment area), an extension of the Caravan Park site – where we've now got to the Darebin City Council border area, two combined events with Moreland City Council for World Environment Day and National Tree Day (July 30), and an extension at the M9 pipeline easement site (July 16). We finish our year with an August planting at the top of the escarpment area, building on the Sheoak Woodlands area, and round out the planting season with "Christmas in September" (our annual end of planting celebration) at the Silurian cliff site – undertaking an extension and buffer planting for the grand old Red Gum that has been sitting below the escarpment for a lot longer than I've been on the planet. For those who have previously struggled with access to the Sheoak woodlands area, Moreland Council have now opened up the fence line across the old Kodak bridge and access is much easier. I should also mention our maintenance activities in October and November, and please stay tuned – we are working on an exciting bird-related educational activity for spring.

Every year I am astounded by the people who regularly volunteer their time and energy to our projects – where would we be without you guys! Your efforts have been phenomenal yet again and our revegetation/restoration outcomes bear testament to the work and dedication we have all put into FoEC and our lovely little creek. I am not alone in regularly using the word "legacy" when it comes to our work along the Edgars Creek: I am truly able to say that our achievements have brought a tremendous amount

of meaning and richness to my life – thank you FoEC. I also know that we have planted up something that will live well beyond my relatively short human lifespan – perhaps this is my claim to fame. I wish that I could be an old man of two or three hundred years of age and come back for a look at some of the magnificent gnarly old specimens I hope our trees will have become! I'll simply have to put that into a wish list that will never be fulfilled (unless science changes in a hurry) and take solace in every opportunity I get to be at the creek. Nature is a great leveller: I believe that if it is embraced, truly experienced, then humility comes. Our dependence on the environment is highlighted; my insignificance in the 'grand scheme of things' is fed back to me, though it also serves as my guide, an inspiration – I am part of something, it's bigger than me, but it is something that I can help shape when I put my energy to that cause.

I also thank those people who come and join us in our mission for a period, some only briefly, others longer and they then drift away again like a dandelion seed on the spring breeze. I often muse as to how we can hold these people longer or if this is just not to be!? Can we make our groups more accommodating? Did we neglect to do something that they wanted? Did we do something they disliked? Did the shoe just not fit? If anyone can help me out with an answer to these questions I'd gladly receive your contributions, and I dare say every other Friends group would also like to hear them as well.

We'll keep at our work... it will help us to stay sane in what is arguably a "mad" world.

"See ya on the creek!"

David Pavone President, Friends of Edgars Creek

World Environment Day 2017 – planting with Moreland City Council at the new wetlands area on the confluence area of the Edgars and Merri Creeks in North Coburg.



If only all of the fencelines along our waterways got this sort of attention! The photo on the left is Moreland City Council in the foreground and Darebin Council in the rear – more work ahead and another Council to bring on board with our agenda!



The preparation is done; all we need now is the volunteers to turn up! The new Silurian Cliff extension area – our first planting of 2017. This photo brings to mind one of my anxieties as the President of the FoEC – a bit like the proverbial dream where you are in your undies or nude in public – I have this horrible feeling sometimes that almost no-one will turn up and just a few people will be left to complete the planting. Thankfully our “army” keeps turning up and getting the job done.



Friends of Merri Creek T-Shirts

There are only a few small sizes left of our cotton T-shirts (Kids sizes 10-14 and Adult size small). Here it is stylishly modelled by Suzi Shaw at the bands' gig in December. It's available for \$30 at the Merri Creek Management Committee office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, or we can post it to you for an extra \$3 (send your address, T-shirt size and credit card details to friendsofmerriecreek@gmail.com – or a cheque made payable to Friends of Merri Creek at PO Box 93 Moreland 3058).



Befriend our Facebook page

Join over 3,000 others and 'like' our wonderful Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/FriendsofMerriCreek then click on 'Like' to get automatic updates to group activities and news.

And we're on Instagram too

Smartphone users with the Instagram app can share photos with #merriecreek #merriecreektrail hashtags at Instagram @friendsofmerriecreek



Dick's Witticisms

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

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

I dropped out of the communism class because of lousy Marx.

August

Saturday 5: MECCARG* Planting indigenous species
Commemorating National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on 4/8. Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1–3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 6: Litter Clean Up – Coburg
Bell St Coburg, 10 am–12 noon. Melway 30 A1. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 6: Streamteam Water Quality Testing
Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth Fitzroy, 2–3.30 pm. Melway 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

Sunday 13: Planting at Strettle Wetland
Strettle Wetland Thornbury, 10 am–12.30 pm. Melway 30 B3. Help look after the site managed by FoMC with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Contact Martin 0403 942 965.

Sunday 20: Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning
Help to rid these native grasslands of Broom, Gorse and Briar Rose bushes. Light refreshments provided. Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit Campbellfield, 10 am–12.30 pm. Melway 180 J12. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 20: Friends of Edgars Creek Sheoak Woodland Planting
Meet at the escarpment – access by foot from the old Kodak bridge, Spectrum Way, North Coburg, 1–3pm. Melway 18 A9. Planting: extension and consolidation at the top of the escarpment.

Saturday 26: Weed out African Weed Orchids
Ngarri-djarrang (Central Creek Grassland) Davidson St Reservoir, 10 am–12 noon. Melway 8 B12. Join the SWOT (Special Weed Orchid Terminators) to remove the invasive South African Weed Orchid (*Disa bracteata*) from our grasslands. Light refreshments provided. Phone Michael 0412 142 800.

Sunday 27: Hand Weeding Merri Park Wetland
Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, 10 am–12 noon. Melway 30 C9. Help the Friends of Merri Park to look after this wonderful site.

September

Saturday 2: MECCARG* Site Maintenance
For details see the MECCARG event on 5 August.

Sunday 3: Litter Clean Up – Coburg
Harding St Coburg, 10 am–12 noon. Melway 30 A2. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 3: Streamteam Water Quality Testing
For details see this event on 6 August.

Thursday 7: National Threatened Species Day on the Merri
An opportunity to visit special sites along the Merri and learn about some of our local threatened flora and fauna. Bookings essential – see the website: www.mcmc.org.au. Funded by Whittlesea City Council.

Sunday 17: Merri Creek Bird Survey 3 for 2017
7 sites along the Merri, 8.45–10.30 am. See page 4 for details.

Sunday 17: Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning
For details see this event on 20 August.

Sunday 17: Friends of Edgars Creek Planting & "Christmas Party"
Meet at the Silurian Cliff site – access via corner of Spectrum Way and Red Box St North Coburg, 1–3 pm. Melway 18 A8. Stream bank grassland restoration around the remnant red gum at the Silurian cliff site. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Saturday 23: Weed out African Weed Orchids
For details see this event on 26 August.

Sunday 24: Bird Survey 3 for 2017 (continued):
Bababi Marning Campbellfield, and Coburg Lake, 8.45–10.30 am. See page 4 for details.

Sunday 24: Hand Weeding Merri Park Wetland
For details see this event on 27 August.

*MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek
Confluence Area Restoration Group

EVENTS

October

Sunday 1: Litter Clean Up – Reservoir
Ngarri-djarrang (Central Creek Grassland) Davidson St Reservoir, 10 am–12 noon. Melway 8 B12. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 1: Streamteam Water Quality Testing
For details see this event on 6 August.

Thursday 5: Discovering the Frogs of Whittlesea
Le Page Homestead car park Plenty Gorge Parklands, South Morang, 6–7.30 pm. Learn to recognise different frog calls and help collect important data for the frog census. Bookings essential – see: www.mcmc.org.au.

Saturday 7: MECCARG* Site Maintenance
For details see the MECCARG event on 5 August.

Sunday 8: Friends of Merri Creek 2nd Great Merri Creek Spring Clean-up
At a number of sites between Murray Rd Coburg and Heidelberg Rd Clifton Hill. Check our website events for details. Contact Christian on 0439 835 824.

Sunday 15: Weeding at Strettle Wetland
Strettle Wetland Thornbury, 10 am–12.30 pm. Melway 30 B3. Help look after the site managed by FoMC with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Phone Suzi 0403 595 466.

Sunday 15: Friends of Edgars Creek Site Maintenance
Meet at the Gooseneck area – access from Spectrum Way, North Coburg, 1–3pm. Melway 18 A8. Weeding and general maintenance activities at Gooseneck site, east side of the creek. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Saturday 21: Weed out African Weed Orchids & Wildflower Walk
For details see this event on 26 August, plus this one also features a wildflower walk led by MCMC's Michael Longmore.

Sunday 22: Murnong Patch in Spring
Just south of Murray Rd Coburg, 10 am–12 noon. Melway 18 A11. See native wildflowers and a diverse array of indigenous food, fibre and medicinal plants. We will also target some specific weeds. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 29: Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning
For details see this event on 20 August.

November

Saturday 4: MECCARG* Preparation for Murnong Gathering
For details see the MECCARG event on 5 August.

Sunday 5: Litter Clean Up – Reservoir:
Downstream of Edwardes Lake, Edwardes St Reservoir, 10 am–12 noon. Melway 18 D5. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 5: Streamteam Water Quality Testing
For details see this event on 6 August.

Sunday 5: Waterwatch at the Fawknor Festa
CB Smith Reserve, Fawknor from 12–4 pm. Melway 17 J2. Come and find waterbugs or make a crafty creature and hear some local frogs.

Friday 10: A little nature play
Waterdale Village Park, Doreen. Melway 391 G7. 10:30–11.30 am. Free program for two- to five-year-olds to learn about nature. Bookings essential – see: www.mcmc.org.au.

Saturday 11: MECCARG* Murnong Gathering
Don't miss this unique cultural event. Meet at the old quarry, near the footbridge between Murray Rd and Bell St Coburg, 11 am–2 pm. Melway 18 A11. Phone Melissa 0417 255 873. Funded by the City of Moreland.

Sunday 12: Malcolm Creek Tour
East end of Crossdale Green, Craigieburn, 10 am–1 pm. Melway 387 B6. Friends of Malcolm Creek will show us woodlands, ancient River Red Gums and grasslands. BYO lunch/snacks. Contact Jodi 0407 331 181.

Tuesday 14: Friends of Merri Creek Annual General Meeting
CERES Lower Merri Room, Roberts St, East Brunswick, at 6.30 pm. Details in next newsletter. Put it in your diary now!

If no contact details given above, phone Ray or Monica at MCMC on 9380 8199.



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