



NEWSLETTER

February – March
2007

The 2007 Friends' Committee

The following members were elected at the Friends' Annual General Meeting on Saturday 11th November 2006:

Office Bearers

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| President: | David Redfearn |
| Vice President: | Ann McGregor |
| Secretary: | Ray Radford |
| Treasurer | Colin Abbott |
| Membership Secretary: | Monica Williamson |
| Office Coordinator: | Jack Svendsen |
| Committee Member: | Wendy Moore |

This is similar to last year's Committee, except for Wendy Moore who is new, and for Monica Williamson, who has replaced Julie Mason as Membership Secretary. Julie served in the role for three years from 2004-06, including one year after becoming a mother. She helped upgrade the membership database and she initiated and organised the Friends' DVD project. (Interestingly, Julie has followed the 'tradition' of FoMC Membership Secretaries - all of whom have served for three years: Max Sargent 1995-97, Christine Butler 1998-2000 and Anne Elvey 2001-03.)

The Committee welcomes Monica, who is a regular volunteer in the Friends' office, and Wendy, who convenes Friends of Merri Grasslands and is an active member of the Upper Merri Campaign group. Wendy also writes delightful articles on wildlife for the Newsletter.

Sub-Committee Coordinators

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Planting Group: | Ruth Shiel |
| Litter Group: | Paul Prentice |
| Streamteam: | Irene Baker |
| Newsletter (layout): | Dean Lombard |

This is the same line-up as last year.

Representatives to MCMC

The same six members as last year will represent the Friends on the Merri Creek Management Committee in 2007: Trevor Hausler, Ann McGregor, Allie Dawe, Paul Prentice, Harold Mackrell, and Ruth Shiel.

Substitute Reps to MCMC

Although they were not endorsed at the AGM, David Redfearn, Ray McMahon and Pascale Pitot later agreed to continue as Substitute Representatives to MCMC.

Thanks to our two new Committee members for nominating and to all the 'old hands' who re-nominated. We also appreciate Angie Retallack for continuing to welcome the new members and a special thanks to Colin Abbott for continuing on as Treasurer, despite the pressures of running his own business.

RAY RADFORD (SECRETARY)

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Friends news

New Life Members

At the Annual General Meeting on 11th November 2006, Honorary Life Memberships were awarded to Allie Dawe, for her long and active involvement as a representative on the MCMC (and as current MCMC Treasurer), including representation on various sub-committees; and to both Leslie Fraser and Pascale Pitot, for their long and active involvement in the newly named Regeneration Group, particularly their work at Merri Park wetland.

They join the other Honorary Life Members: Harold Mackrell, Ann McGregor, Bruce McGregor, Paul Prentice, Ray Radford, David Redfearn, Tony Faithfull, Linda Parlana, Max Sargent, Brian Bainbridge, Judy Bush, Dick Harcourt, Trevor Hausler, Nicole Lowe, Barb Miles and Ruth Shiel.

FoMC only awards Honorary Life Membership on even-numbered years to members who have played an active role in FoMC for around ten years or who have made an outstanding contribution over a shorter period of time; and also to exceptional non-members who have made a significant contribution in looking after the Merri Creek for around ten years.

More grants won

Friends of Merri Creek have been incredibly successful, winning all of our grant applications for 2006-07. On top of the three grants announced in the November 2006 newsletter, we are pleased to announce the following:

\$31,340.00 from the Australian Government Dept of Environment & Heritage Community Water Grant, for *Sedges for Edges*, to treat water for discharge by reinstating indigenous riparian vegetation at four sites in the Merri catchment.

\$22,000.00 from Melbourne Water's Community Grants Program for *Black & Blue: Blue Wren habitat replacement compensating Blackberry removal* to treat woody weeds and replant at three sites: Cooper St Grasslands (near Istrian-Australian Social Club); Manna Gum Escarpment (south of Jukes Rd Grasslands Fawkner); and Hall Reserve Wetland, Clifton Hill.

\$5,520.90 from Melbourne Water's Community Grants Program for the Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group's *Rosemary Grevillea Escarpment*, to recreate Riparian Escarpment Shrubland, address fragmentation and foster a sense of community custodianship.

\$2,200 from Landcare Australia/SPI Powernet for *Merri Creek Transmission Line Easement Vegetation Management*, to revegetate areas within the 220kv transmission line easement between Brunswick and Reservoir.

We are very grateful for the support of MCMC Conservation Program Manager, Katrina Roberg, without whom we could not have achieved these successes.

Last of the great Golden Sun Moth surveys?

In December, the Friends participated in perhaps our last surveys of Golden Sun Moths.

On the first survey (3/12) of these critically endangered moths, the weather was overcast, cool and windy, all factors that were known to be unfavourable to the very fussy moths. Consequently, MCMC Technical Officer, Brian Bainbridge conducted a tour of Craigieburn Grasslands for the 18

participants, including a number of conservation professionals, and there was no shortage of animated conversation. Despite the weather, we managed to see some moths and we were incredibly lucky to find a pair actually mating. We also saw a young Echidna and listened to a chorus of Growling Grass Frogs from the Merri Creek.

On the second survey (17/12), conditions were perfect for the moths as it was hot and sunny with little wind. So 19 expectant people formed a line of about 100 metres and marched up the grasslands for two kilometres, coordinated by the MCMC's Ben North. However, we only counted 53 moths, hardly comparable to the 2005 score of over 800. Brian Bainbridge suggested that this may be due to the season having more favourable days earlier, so that most of the moths had already emerged and we were seeing the last remaining few.



FEMALE GOLDEN SUN MOTH
Photo by Lucy Gibson

No community surveys have been scheduled for 2007 and advice will be sought from experts to determine the value of conducting similar or modified surveys in future years. Brian Bainbridge said: "The dedication of FoMC and others to make these unique surveys happen has been extraordinary. Opportunities to harness the community's enthusiasm for fauna monitoring will certainly be considered in future projects."

Both of these surveys were funded by a Parks Victoria Community Grant.

Hear Brian Bainbridge talk about the 2004-2006 Golden Sun Moth surveys at the Museum, 8pm Tuesday 20 February (see calendar).

Planting Group regenerates

The Friends' most popular sub-group, the Planting and Hands-on Activities Group, has been renamed the Regeneration Group. The group's previous name was almost always shortened to the Planting Group (even in this headline) and it was felt that this name did not really reflect the variety of the group's activities. The new name, Regeneration Group, was chosen at the group's planning meeting in November because it incorporates vital maintenance activities such as weeding, mulching and seed collection. This year the Regeneration Group will enhance its skills by undergoing training in basic herbicide use on 15 April (see calendar). This will enable more efficient Gorse control works in Craigieburn and Cooper St grasslands. 🌱

Works threaten Growling Grass Frogs

Botched pipeline installation works by Yarra Valley Water (YVW) at Kalkallo Creek in Donnybrook have threatened an important core breeding colony of the nationally endangered Growling Grass Frog.

FoMC has called on YVW to complete the remediation works that they promised and to perform a study that would provide useful data on the frog's habitat. If the works have impacted on the colony, YVW should buy and protect comparable habitat in the catchment as compensation.

In November 2005, YVW bored a pipeline through known Growling Grass Frog habitat causing the Kalkallo Creek bed to collapse. Then they dug a trench through the creek to take the pipeline and all they've done since is to fill in the hole.

At the time of writing, we are investigating the possibility that YVW could be fined up to \$5.5 million for boring the pipeline and digging the trench without the necessary approval under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

After more than 14 months, none of the promised remediation works have been done and even some of their sandbags are still at the site. What's more, a subsequent study into the impact of the works on the frogs is useless.

FoMC members uncovered the size and extent of the Growling Grass

Frog population along Merri Creek (of which Kalkallo Creek is a tributary) in 2000. Recent scientific research on the conservation biology of Merri Creek's Growling Grass Frog population has found the Kalkallo Creek site to be a core breeding site.

YVW is currently studying the impacts of its pipeline works on the Growling Grass Frog colony. The study, which involves listening for frog calls, has so far found no evidence of the endangered frog.

This indicates that the pipeline works may have had an impact on the frogs. Any impact could be disastrous in the face of the current drought, as the frogs will be extremely stressed. However, the impact cannot be assessed by occasionally listening for frog calls.

Yarra Valley Water has failed four times: firstly undertaking its pipeline works without environmental approvals, boring under the creek too near the surface so the creek bed collapsed, then not doing any remediation works and finally this useless study.



GROWLING GRASS FROG METAMORPH
Photo by Geoff heard

RAY RADFORD (SECRETARY)

The first Koel –in Brunswick

On New Year's Day we had a rare avian visitor.

“There's currently a Koel at Methven Park in East Brunswick. Apparently it started calling at 6:00am annoying the jeepers out of the local community on New Year's morning.” (Source: *Birdline Victoria* webpage.)

Seven days later, one was found in the Botanic Gardens, possibly the same bird. Tim Dolby, who reported the Brunswick sighting, told me that the bird was possibly scared from elsewhere by New Year's fireworks and later more fireworks may have sent it in search of the more tranquil surrounds of the Botanic Gardens. In December a male Koel was reported in Bendigo, and this may also be the same bird.



The Common Koel is about the size of a Kookaburra. The male is glossy black with a bright red eye. It is shy but easily located by its loud monotonous call. It calls day and night!

Like other cuckoos, the Koel lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, who raise the impostor chicks. This is hard work as the chick is loud and demanding and can grow to twice the size of its unwitting foster parents.

Koels overwinter in

Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, migrating south each spring to breed, generally as far south as Sydney. A handful of birds travel to Victoria. There are reports from Bendigo, Bruthen, Boisdale and Marlo.

WENDY MOORE (COMMITTEE MEMBER)

Endangered frogs found at Edwardes Lake

On 5 December 2006, 23 local residents gathered to learn about the secret life of the frogs at Edwardes Lake, Reservoir. After an introduction about frogs, we then gathered around the wetlands adjoining Edwardes Lake to listen to them.

At first we were greeted by the single syllable “bonk” sound of the Banjo or Pobblebonk Frog, however it wasn't long before we realised that there was another species calling. The long and deep growling could only belong to the Growling Grass Frog. But that frog hasn't been recorded at the Lake since the 1990s! We listened closely and it was indeed the endangered frog. Of course we were all very excited.

To find out more about frogs or to register your interest in events at Edwardes Lake in 2007, email Therese Grinter at: thereseg@dcmc.org.au or phone: 9499 4454.

THERESE GRINTER (LOCAL RESIDENT)

President's Report

As given at the AGM

Another year has passed and, as usual, we are never short of things to keep us busy. A lot of what we do is certainly not headline grabbing but a lot does happen and there are many achievements worth noting.

One particularly exciting event during the year that should be highlighted is the awarding of the 2006 Caring for Community Group Award to our Secretary, Ray Radford, by the Port Phillip and Westernport CMA. It is a well merited recognition of the tireless work that Ray does for FoMC but also underpins the enormous credibility and respect that we enjoy as a community group.

Ray has covered most of our activities in his Secretary's Report (in the November newsletter) so, as usual, I will seek to focus on the broader strategic issues but first a few well deserved thank yous.

I would like to thank all members for their commitment during the year, those who held office and those who organised and carried out the many tasks that befall an organisation such as ours. Our efforts are all voluntary, a true labour of love and the time given to ensure the success of the FoMC mission no matter how great or small is immensely appreciated. A couple of special thank yous although I am ever reluctant to single out any particular individuals but I must give special thanks to Ray as FoMC Secretary - his efforts make the job of the committee so much easier - and also to Jack Svendsen and his dedicated team for holding the fort at our office at the Brunswick Town Hall throughout the year dealing with the flow of correspondence and emails. I would also give special thanks to my fellow committee members for coming out to our monthly meetings particularly on those bleak (but, sadly, all too dry this year) winter evenings.

Now to some of the issues that we faced throughout 2006:

Merri Regional Park

The long awaited plan for the park was eventually released by the State Government in March 2006, many months after the original promised release date in late 2005. There is much to commend the plan as far as it goes but it falls short regarding the area to the north of Craigieburn Road East where there are places of high sensitivity value which are still vulnerable to development pressures. There are two real tests of the plan and the government's commitment. One is the undertaking to extend the park to the north of Craigieburn Road and the other is to commit to following through with the plan as it stands due to there being a significant amount of private land within the designated area. FoMC has provided comment through the process but to date we haven't heard any more about the final plan for the park. We remain vigilant and will keep members informed.

Wetlands in Moreland

Members will recall that this issue arose when the City of Moreland reneged on the construction of a wetland as part of stormwater treatment on the Pentridge Estate in Coburg. After repeated representations to the Council a meeting was held with FoMC and MCMC to canvass the possibility of wetland development along the Merri in Moreland. We discussed some potential sites and will be meeting again in the near future to move this forward. Potential sites that were discussed were Moomba Park in Fawkner and Golf Road in Newlands (which is on a flood plain and not really suitable

for development). The future of VicRoads land in the area is still unresolved despite continued representations from FoMC, MCMC and the Moreland Council and we continue to seek clarity on this issue from the State Government.

Growling Grass Frog Trust Fund

As reported last year, the Growling Grass Frog Trust Fund has continued to fund Geoff Heard's valuable research project into the habitat requirements of the Growling Grass Frog. We are now in the second year of a three year research project which will yield valuable information about the Growler.

The Trust recently received a progress report from Geoff where he outlined some of his preliminary findings. A trial of a visible implant system for tracking the frog was successful and Geoff has also come up with valuable information about the status of the wetlands as well as a potential opportunity on a private property in Donnybrook. The trust agreed to continue funding of Geoff's project in 2007.

Upper Merri Campaign and planning controls

We have continued to meet with other groups in the upper Merri campaign to protect the values and the sites of significance in the Upper Merri. Important research continues to increase our knowledge base of upper Merri issues thanks to the work of Brian Bainbridge and Wendy Moore. Issues discussed during the year and acted on have included development pressures in the Shire of Mitchell in the area of Hernes Swamp and the regional park plan and its strengths and shortcomings such as the failure to include sites of significance north of Craigieburn Road East.

FoMC also sent in an objection to the City of Whittlesea regarding the proposed planning amendment for the Aurora



development whereby it appears the lower density residential development than was originally proposed will be permitted at the expense of conservation areas and wildlife corridors. At the time of writing, this issue was still before the responsible authorities.

Native Vegetation Guidelines

In March a package of planning provisions was introduced by the Dept of Sustainability & Environment as part of the Native Vegetation Management Framework. Our concern is that this means a weaker than hoped for regime for the protection of native vegetation. For example, remnant grassland with more than 75% weed cover can now be cleared without offset while failing to take into account seasonal factors. FoMC believes that there is a great need for continual vigilance and we continue to be represented and active in a grasslands group convened by the Victorian National Parks Association, the Green Wedges Coalition and activities organised by Environment Victoria as part of maintaining our vigilance and advocating for better protection of native vegetation.

FoMC DVD

This DVD is now reality and was launched at the AGM. Many thanks to all those who participated, particularly Paul Prentice for his poetic touch at the end. Producer, David Wardell, a VCA graduate, has done a splendid job in capturing some of the essence of the Merri Creek and its champions. We thank the Department of Victorian Communities for the funding of this project which will be a valuable tool in the promotion of our activities.

Challenges for 2007

This list is by no means exhaustive but I would see some of our key priorities for 2007 as:

- Continuing to campaign to ensure that the Merri Regional Park delivers real protection to the whole of the upper Merri corridor;
- Working with other groups, the community and government to ensure appropriate development along the whole of the Merri but particularly in the upper Merri and to secure the protection of sites of significance;
- Continuing to work with Moreland Council and MCMC to develop wetlands along the Merri in Moreland;
- Continuing our commitment to the good governance and the operations of the MCMC;
- Exploring opportunities to further educate and engage our community in the values of the creek and its environs;
- Continuing to support the research into the protection and improvement of the Growling Grass Frog habitat.

Finally I would like to give my thanks to all of you for your fantastic support and hard work during 2006 and I hope that we all emerge from the break refreshed and ready for the challenges of 2007.

DAVID REDFEARN (PRESIDENT)



MERRI CREEK SOUTH OF NORMANBY AVENUE

See the Friends' DVD

After its premiere at our AGM in November, the DVD about our group is now available for loan to anyone interested. The DVD was funded by a Victorian Volunteer Small Grant from the Dept for Victorian Communities with the aim of attracting new volunteers to the group. So, we hope that it will be seen by a wide range of people, schools, community groups, etc. If you would like a copy, please email your request to Ray Radford at admin@mcmc.org.au or ring at work on 9380 8199 (MCMC, Mon-Thurs).

Office helpers wanted

Although we currently have a few office volunteers, Jack Svendsen, Monica Williamson and Warren Cooper, we could do with just a couple more to allow more flexibility and to cover holidays and sickness. If you have a few hours once a week to help out at our office in Brunswick Town Hall, please ring our office coordinator, Jack Svendsen at home on 9354 5304.

Stall helpers wanted

The Friends need members to staff our information stalls at such events as the Sydney Rd Festival or the Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival. A stalls kit has been assembled so all that is needed is a couple of hours from you to chat to interested people about the group. It's most enjoyable and very easy - all you need to know is in our Membership leaflet, which is always available on the stalls. If you're interested, please email Ray Radford at admin@mcmc.org.au or ring at work on 9380 8199 (MCMC, Mon-Thurs) or on 0422 989 166.

Wild discoveries

The Cooper St Native Grassland Reserve was the venue for the 2006 Parks Victoria wildlife wander and wonder, as Brian and Dave of the MCMC gave a dozen Friends of Merri Creek members and supporters a glimpse of the diversity and beauty of nature.

The pleasantly warm day, lightly clouded, with a gentle north wind, had a few Golden Sun Moth males rushing to find a mate before they died of old age – two days! – or were caught by a predator. Both sexes are eagerly hunted in the air and on the ground: for the female too it's a mad dash to distribute her fertilised eggs before her time is up.

Weeds seen included Gorse, of which some piles cut earlier still awaited incineration; the pretty Briar Rose; and the insidious Serrated Tussock, barely surviving a dose of herbicide. But what looked like undernourished Blackberry was actually Native Raspberry, with the most harmless thorns imaginable; then there were Chocolate Lilies, Blue Devil and its cousin Prickfoot, Convolvulus, Milkmaids, Native Fireweed and Bluebells – which also have a “Mustard” variety, with that colour under their petals.

One of the River Red Gums must have been centuries old, while among the wattles was the oddly dark-hued Lightwood. We saw five big Eastern Grey Kangaroos and a Swamp Wallaby, which by feasting on the saplings keep the grassland from becoming a woodland. In addition we learnt that occasional fires scorch the Mistletoe plants on gums, so they

rarely grow big enough to kill their host; but that although parasites, they play a vital role as habitat and a food source for a wide range of animals. Nature has its own systems of checks and balances, its own ways of looking after all forms of life...

It was fascinating to see different bands of colour across the grasslands, representing various stages of regrowth following controlled burns from previous years. Fire is such a vital tool in managing this ecosystem: Poa needs it to clean out its “dead wood”, and the remains of Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda*) would clutter the ground and give the wildflowers no chance.

The Koories of course were conducting burns for thousands of years, possibly to promote new growth and attract the animals they hunted. In grassland management we strive to relearn and apply traditional techniques, but we must also contend with introduced weeds and where necessary use chemicals to suppress them.

Meanwhile we gazed at the heart of the whole thing, the Merri Creek: broad and peaceful below fairly steep banks, adorned with a few rocks, and a modest cliff high up on the east side; further downstream masses of tall dark-green reeds, and a narrow passage between two boulders. How precious and fragile our planet is, and what a privilege it is to learn about it and care for it.

We weren't lucky enough to encounter any reptiles, but we did spot a White-faced Heron, some swallows, and a pair of Black and White Trillers – the female is actually a dull brown; and on a young Black Wattle, some ants assiduously guarding and “milking” their pet bugs for “honeydew” – a sugar-rich waste product. Finally at the early-afternoon tea and chat that ended a fabulous morning, one of the group felt very honoured to be twice visited by those most elegant and intelligent-looking of insects: Praying Mantises!

PAUL PRENTICE (COMMITTEE MEMBER)

P.S. We are planning to have another Wildflower Walk this year on Sunday 11th November. Remember, you heard it here first!



Join the Upper Merri Campaign

You can help to protect important native vegetation sites in the north of the catchment that are threatened by development in the Hume Growth Corridor. The Upper Merri Campaign group includes the Friends of Wallan Creek, Environment Victoria and the Victorian National Parks Association as well as some concerned individuals. If you would like to be added to the campaign email list of this vibrant group, please email Ray Radford at admin@mcmc.org.au or ring at work on 9380 8199 (MCMC, Mon-Thurs) or on 0422 989 166.

Interested in being a webmaster?

The Friends would like a person with experience with websites to relieve our current webmaster, Simon D'Alfonso, who wants to take a break. Simon has recently revamped the website so it is only necessary to make basic changes. He has also set the site up so any changes are easier to make. The webmaster's duties should now only take about an hour a month on average. If you are interested, please email Ray Radford at admin@mcmc.org.au or ring at work on 9380 8199 (MCMC, Mon-Thurs).

Friends' Life Members – Trevor Hausler

This is the fourteenth in a series of short histories of the Friends' Life Members

Trevor Hausler is in the rare position of being an active member of the Friends of Merri Creek for over ten years, yet rarely seen at any Friends' activities. This is because he puts most of his volunteering time into representing the Friends on the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC). It has been time well spent as, at the end of 2007, Trevor will have held the role of MCMC President for nine years, equalling the record of the former MCMC President David Redfearn (currently Friends' President).



Trevor has had environmental interests as long as he can remember, collecting bugs, lizards and tadpoles as a child. He pursued this interest in his later studies and completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in Biology in 1977. After this he worked as a Lab Technician in Aquatic Science at Warrnambool College of Advanced Education (now part of Deakin University), where he enjoyed organising field trips to Lake Purrumbete near Camperdown. There he became involved in the local anti-nuclear campaign while indulging his passion for outdoor sports like bushwalking and scuba diving.

He then travelled for twelve months, mainly through south-east Asia, and his most memorable highlight was trekking in Nepal. When he returned, he completed his Dip. Ed. and added kayaking, skiing and rogaining to his growing list of outdoor sports. He then taught maths and science at Whittlesea Technical School, where he met his partner, Robyn Knowles, and at Collingwood Technical School which had a camp in Buxton. He combined the camp with environmental science and developed it into an outdoor education camp. The students found this very interesting and the camp was heavily used.

The travelling bug hit again in 1987 and Trevor, this time with Robyn, spent 18 months touring through northern Australia, SE Asia, China and on to Europe – none of it pre-planned. On his return he embarked on a new career as a production manager for Outgear, manufacturers of bushwalking equipment. In 1993 he moved to Flexispray, manufacturers of shower systems, where he is still employed as a Production and Purchasing Manager.

Trevor has always cycled along the Merri Creek shared path to Flexispray in Banbury Rd Reservoir, first from East Brunswick, then from his current home in Coburg. He remembers that originally some of the path was still unpaved. It was on his rides to and from work that he saw notices about

the Friends of Merri Creek and decided to get involved.

Almost immediately after joining the Friends in 1995, Trevor jumped straight into the deep end. He became the Friends' first Planting Group Coordinator and a MCMC representative, where he was elected as MCMC Vice President. He enjoyed plantings and was initially surprised to find himself at MCMC Committee meetings. However, the next year there wouldn't have been a MCMC Secretary, so Trevor filled that role and held it for three years until 1999. He then became MCMC President and he has remained in this role.

Trevor remembers the difficulty of forming the MCMC Executive during the time of Council amalgamations and that it was only the FoMC representatives who comprised the Executive – without which MCMC would have certainly foundered. This vital long-term role in managing the MCMC gained Trevor an Honorary Life Membership of the Friends at our AGM in 2004.

During his daily bike rides, Trevor enjoys seeing the changes along the Creek, such as trees growing and native birds returning. He was particularly thrilled by the recent return of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos to the Merri and a family of Kookaburras on his back deck in East Coburg. However, he sometimes experiences a different kind of thrill upon seeing snakes on the track, especially one that lay right across it.

Besides the array of outdoor sports already mentioned, Trevor also enjoys gardening (he and Robyn have a vegetable garden with fruit trees and chooks), brewing excellent beer and playing the Gamelan (Indonesian musical instrument). He also recently organised his street to become a Sustainability Street involving residents in reducing waste, energy and water use as well as planting indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses.

RAY RADFORD (SECRETARY)

Friends of Merri Creek Events Calendar 2007

FEBRUARY

Sunday 18—City of Yarra Community Day

Edinburgh Gardens, St Georges Rd North Fitzroy, 10am-5pm. Melway map 30 B12.

Tuesday 20—Talk: 'The Great Merri Gold Rush'

Entomological Society meeting, Museum Victoria Information Centre, next to Exhibition Building, 8pm. Hear MCMC Technical Officer, Brian Bainbridge, talk about the 2004-2006 Golden Sun Moth surveys.

Sunday 25—Triple Treat

Meet at CERES café at 1.00pm. Melway map 30 B7. Ride to Studley Park boathouse (about 1.45pm), ramble on to Galatea Point and row row row your boat; or any two of the above. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

MARCH

Saturday 3—MECCARG* Site Preparation (continued)

Just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway map 18 11. Wear gloves and sturdy footwear and bring secateurs and pruning saw if you can. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants Program.

Sunday 4—Wetland and Weed Awareness No. 3

Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Sumner Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-12noon. Melway map 30 C8. Develop skills in wetlands and weed control. Light refreshments provided. This is part of MCMC's Northern Nature Grant from the Natural Heritage Trust. Phone Ruth 9489 5259.

Sunday 4—Streamteam Water Quality Testing

Upstream side of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller Street North Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway map 30 C10. Phone 9354 9885.

Sunday 4—Moreland Council, Sydney Rd Street Party

Sydney Rd Brunswick, 12 noon-7pm. Melway map 29 G8. Look for the Friends' stall near the Brunswick Town Hall. If you can help staff the stall, please ring Ray Radford 0422 989 166.

Sunday 11—Litter Clean-Up

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

Friday 16—Deadline for articles for the next newsletter

Please send to admin@mcmc.org.au

Sunday 18—Planting & BBQ

Near Rushall Station North Fitzroy, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 D12. Help reinstate indigenous riparian vegetation to treat water for discharge. This is part one of our *Sedges for Edges* Community Water Grant from the Australian Government Dept of Environment & Heritage. Phone Dick 9853 3162.

Sunday 25—Planting & BBQ

W.H. Robinson Reserve, Preston, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 B2. Help reinstate indigenous riparian vegetation to treat water for discharge. This is part two of our *Sedges for Edges* Community Water Grant from the Australian Government Dept of Environment & Heritage. Phone Nicole 9354 5045.

Sunday 25 Darebin Community and Kites Festival

Darebin City Council event at Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir, 10am-4pm. Melway map 18 E5.

APRIL

Sunday 1—Planting, Litter Clean-Up & BBQ

Murray Rd Coburg, below Pentridge Village, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 18 A11. This is part three of our *Sedges for Edges* Community Water Grant from the Australian Government Dept of Environment & Heritage. Phone Pascale for planting on 9484 5752 or Paul for litter on 9489 5062.

Sunday 1—Streamteam Water Quality Testing

Upstream side of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller Street North Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway map 30 C10. Phone 9354 9885.

Saturday 7—MECCARG* Site Preparation & Planting

Just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway map 18 11. Wear gloves and sturdy footwear and bring watering can, bucket, and digging tool if you can. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants Program.

Sunday 15—Woody Weed Removal & BBQ

Cooper St grasslands, Epping, near Istrian-Australian Social Club, 10am-1pm, or car pool outside the MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, by 9.30am. Melway map 180 K10. Features training in basic herbicide use. This is part one of our *Black & Blue: Blue Wren habitat replacement compensating Blackberry removal*, funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants Program. Phone Leslie 9481 7365.

Sunday 29—Woody Weed Removal

Craigieburn Grasslands; enter from O'Herns Rd Somerton, 10am-1pm, or car pool outside the MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, by 9.30am. Melway map 180 F6. Light refreshments provided. This is part of our Parks Victoria Community Group Grant for works in native grasslands. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

MAY

Saturday 5—MECCARG* Planting

Just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway map 18 11. Wear gloves and sturdy footwear and bring watering can, bucket, and digging tool if you can. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants Program.

Sunday 6—Wetland and Weed Awareness No. 4

Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Sumner Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-12noon. Melway map 30 C8. Develop skills in wetlands and weed control. Light refreshments provided. This is part of MCMC's Northern Nature Grant from the Natural Heritage Trust. Phone Nicole 9354 5045.

Sunday 6—Litter Clean-Up

Merri Park Northcote, alongside creek, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 30 C8. Afterwards, join the crew at the wetlands for light refreshments. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 6—Streamteam Water Quality Testing

Upstream side of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller Street North Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway map 30 C10. Phone 9354 9885.

Sunday 13—Planting & BBQ

Central Creek Grasslands, Davidson St Reservoir, 10am-1pm. Melway map 8 B12. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants Program grant to MCMC.