



President's Report

As given at the AGM on 28 November 2007

Another year has passed and as usual we are never short of things to keep us busy. As I have said previously, much of what we do is certainly not headline grabbing but a lot does happen and there are always achievements worth noting.

Our hard working secretary Ray Radford has covered most of our activities quite comprehensively in his Secretary's Report so, as usual, I will seek to focus on the broader strategic issues, but first the 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 and 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 through rain hail or shine (although the former is still all too rare).

Also heartfelt congratulations to FoMC Committee member, Wendy Moore, who was honoured at the Moreland City Council Honouring Women Awards on 14th March. Now to some of the issues that we faced throughout 2007:

Merri Regional Park

Planning continues for the park, the plan for which was eventually released by the State Government in March 2006. We stand by our view that the plan is good as far as it goes but it still 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. As a result, we would like to extend the park to the north of Craigieburn Road. We are also pleased that the park is not going to have a recreational focus.

Land and Biodiversity Submission

The Friends of Merri Creek made a submission to the Government White Paper, *Land and biodiversity at a time of climate change*. Our most important point was the need to immediately protect threatened sites of critical importance, such as native grasslands, of which we cited a number of examples in the Merri Creek vicinity.

Our submission requested that the Government address ways to protect biodiversity values in the metropolitan region and beyond; provide more funding; adopt priorities for land management; and initiate public awareness and environmental education. We also made suggestions about monitoring and about using MCMC as a model for employment in environmental restoration. The submission also disputed statements made in the paper that called for submissions about the "trade-offs" between water supplies and a healthy environment

Northern sewerage works

Two major sewerage projects are commencing that will affect Merri Creek over the next several years. Both projects will help protect the creek from wet weather sewage overflows and ensure that the sewerage system can cope with growth in

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the northern suburbs. Both FoMC and MCMC are represented on Community Reference Groups for these projects.

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 have now reached the final year of the three year research project which will yield valuable information about the Growler. The trust will be shortly receiving a report from Geoff where he will present his findings and recommendations which will concern protection and enhancement of the frog's habitat.

Friends of Edgars Creek

The Friends of Edgars Creek was established early this year to help improve the environmental and recreational quality of the Edgars Creek reserve. We are delighted that they have become an organisational member of FoMC and we look forward to working with them on the protection of our waterways.

Merri and Edgars Creek Parklands

The Merri and Edgars Creeks Parklands are under threat of being sold into private hands. 10 Ha of parkland, one of the last areas of open parkland left in the Northern Suburbs, is being treated like a commodity.

We believe, along with the local community, that this is an opportunity for the Government to show what its policies can do through creating long term positive outcomes for the people and not a momentary financial gain for VicRoads. The Moreland Council has stated that it wants the land gifted and has ensured that it would be retained as parkland.

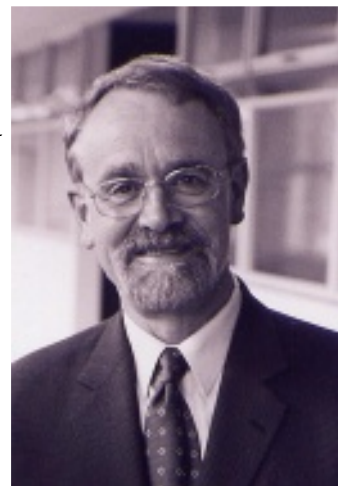
The Merri and Edgars Creeks Parkland Group has run a very active campaign which included a rally on the steps of Parliament house and having a strong visible presence at Council meetings and at the Sydney Road festival.

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 north.

FoMC also sent in a comment for the audit of Melbourne 2030 reiterating our strong position regarding the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and at threatened species in the Upper Merri as new areas are developed. The key challenges that we identified are:

- Protecting conservation values and regional-scale public open space in peri-urban areas ahead of urban development.
- Holding firm on the Urban Growth Boundary and maintaining the Green Wedges in the face of speculative pressures.
- Achieving public transport targets.



FoMC DVD

This DVD was distributed after its launch last year and has generated much interest particularly in local schools. We again thank the former Department of Victorian Communities for the funding of this project which will be a valuable tool in the promotion of our activities.

Membership

We continued to get a steady stream of new members throughout the year and we always pick up new people at the various events where we set up stalls. This is most gratifying and we hope that these new people will become actively involved and be part of our future.

Challenges for 2008

This list is by no means exhaustive but I would see some of our key priorities for 2008 as being:

- Continuing 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;
- Taking up the issue of wetlands along the Merri in Moreland and seeking community partners to ensure this happens;
- A continued 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;
- Promotion and implementation of the recommendations of the research into the protection and improvement of the Growling Grass Frog habitat;
- Membership, the next generation and succession planning.

Finally I would like to give my thanks to all of you for your fantastic support and hard work during 2007 and I wish you all the best for the Festive Season and hope that we all emerge refreshed and ready for the challenges of 2008.

DAVID REDFEARN (PRESIDENT)

New freeway proposal

VicRoads is planning a new freeway, called the Outer Metropolitan Ring (OMR), to link Werribee, Melton, Tullamarine and Craigieburn/Mickleham.

The aim of the OMR is to provide a high speed transport link for freight and people that: serves key international transport hubs, such as Melbourne and Avalon Airports; serves key interstate and major regional destinations; and better links residential and employment growth areas to the north and west of Melbourne, such as Werribee, Melton and Mickleham.



VicRoads is doing an OMR Planning Study to identify the long term need and demand for this transport link road. Stage 1 of the study seeks to identify the wide range of land-use, geographic and environmental opportunities and constraints and identify broad options for a transport corridor. This will enable VicRoads to seek interim planning scheme protection for the corridor. Stage 2 of the study seeks to place a reservation for the corridor into Council Planning Schemes to enable land to be acquired. Stage 2 may also include seeking Commonwealth and State clearances under environmental legislation.

For more information see: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au and click on OuterMetropolitanRingPlanningStudy

Platypus sighted in Merri Creek

Jane Healy of East Coburg is absolutely certain that she saw a platypus about 150m north of the Murray Rd bridge, near Outlook Rd Coburg, between 5pm and 7pm on 5th December 2007. It was too small to be an adult, so Jane believes that it was possibly a male juvenile seeking new territory.

She says: "I first noticed its bill, as I was watching a mother duck with six ducklings, and thought it was one of that family returning to the surface after fishing. It hovered just below the surface, and because of the way the light fell, I was able to get a really good look at it. I have seen water rats before, and this was definitely a platypus. I could see its bill really clearly and, when I slightly moved my position, I could also see its flat tail, and its feet which looked like every photo I've ever seen of a platypus. Nobody was more excited than me - it made me feel better than if I'd won Lotto! I have NEVER seen one, except for in the zoo, and I am still over the moon about it."

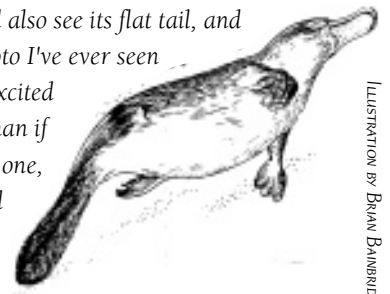


ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN BAINBRIDGE

Get the newsletter by email – in colour

If you make the choice to receive the newsletter by email, it would not only help us to save on postage, printing and paper, but would also reduce the time and effort involved in the physical mail-out, as well as doing a little bit for the environment. Plus, you will even see the photos in colour! (Actually, the colour version will be on our website and we will email a link to it so as not to clog up your inbox.)

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email in future, please tell us so by sending an email to: merricreek@bigpond.com with your name and postal address.

FRIENDS OF MERRI CREEK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Ray Radford

Assistant Editors: Paul Prentice, David Redfearn

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People power

"If you don't like it, why don't you do something about it?!" — and time and again, somebody has. The abolition of the British slave trade, and then of slavery in the U.S., and then of segregation; Lech Walesa's Solidarity movement in Poland; the Eureka Stockade, the Franklin blockade; Emily Pankhurst's Suffragettes who won women's right to vote.

What courage and determination the reformers have needed; what powerful, sinister vested interests (and general apathy) they have been up against. They may have risked ruin, ostracism, imprisonment; sometimes, as with Martin Luther King junior or Donald McKay who took on the drug traffickers of Griffith, they have paid with their lives. Or they may have got involved because of a cruel double impact: a loved one's life has been taken or shattered, and the perpetrator has got away with a slap on the wrist.

Fortunately there are also many less gut-wrenching situations where some well-applied popular pressure may boost our quality of life, save a treasured icon or avert a visual or environmental calamity. Dozens of examples come to mind: no toxic dump at Niddrie or Nowingi, no petrochemical depot at Point Lillias near Corio; no apartment towers on Princes Pier, no ugly boxes disfiguring the Abbotsford Convent; no Ferris wheel by the Yarra, no in-your-face arcade on the historic Sandridge Bridge.

North Carlton got the Hardy-Gallagher Park instead of warehouses, Fitzroy kept its swimming-pool; benefactor Bill Baxter built the beautiful bike bridge beside the Boulevard in Burnley. Tramlines

have been extended and superstops multiplied; the Otways reserve was expanded, Point Nepean not privatised.

However there have been heavy defeats, many of them irreversible: the theft of parkland for the drab museum and luxury housing, the messes made of the City Square and the Queen Vic site; more motorways than anywhere else in Australia, but no Doncaster or Rowville light rail; the Yarra almost bled to death, the iniquitous north-south pipeline; the planet-harming desalinator and Bay gouging.

The better outcomes have occasionally been due to Councils or the Government (the Maribyrnong boathouse restored, Zone 3 abolished, No.70 trams to Flinders St), but mostly to grassroots action: the Pool, the Convent, the Children's Farm parking; the Otways, the Upfield line, the Federation Trail to Werribee; Fitzroy High reopened, the rescue of Clifton Hill's House of the Gentle Bunyip. How much satisfaction and motivation even this brief list must create!

The Brunswick to Richmond powerline

And twenty years ago it was the Brunswick to Richmond powerline issue that came to a head. I can recall a lattice tower beside Merri Parade near the rail bridge, part of the old one; and the glossy brochures gushing about how the new minimalist pylons would grace the Studley Park skyline, in fact you'd hardly notice them, especially if you shut your eyes.

Activists whose leaders included the Mayor of Fitzroy Cr Geoff Millman, a worthy successor to the feisty Bill Peterson who fought the Alexandra Parade widening, made a stand between High St and Rushall station, blocking and picketing the earth-moving equipment and defying the police presence — none of the ultra-violence of recent G-20 rioters of course. I was there for two or three of the early-morning demonstrations in mid-March 1988 but missed the fiercest clash. However it may have been that dogged bit of brinkmanship that finally tipped the balance, along with the fact that the Premier at the time was the gentle, decent John Cain



junior: a day or two later came the news that the police had been called off...

And that's why the powerline now goes under the creek bank, Hoddle St and Punt Rd to the sub-station beside the grand Burnley Harbour: the improvement didn't turn out to be prohibitively expensive after all. It was not as big an issue as curbing motorways or protecting waterways, but still worth standing up for, as a reminder that unity is strength, or in the words of the Builders' Labourers' Federation: "Dare to struggle, dare to win; if you don't fight — you lose!"

PAUL PRENTICE
(COMMITTEE
MEMBER)

Note: FoMC has organised a special planting on Sunday

16 March to commemorate 20 years since the Brunswick to Richmond powerline campaign. (See the events calendar on the last page.)

We gratefully acknowledge Brigid Ennis of the Melbourne Times for providing a scan of the front page of the 23 March 1988 edition (previous page), with photos by Peter Weaving. Many thanks also to active member, Pascale Pitot, who found this and other reports about the powerline issue.

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The Leader

LAYING IT ON THE LINE



Ugliness . . .

History will judge the State Government harshly if it goes ahead with the SEC proposal to run new pylons for power supplies down the Merri Creek and along the Yarra Bend area.

A project to give us 60 years of ugliness. (By then, hopefully, we will have caught up with the rest of the civilised world and begun to use below ground generation.)

New councillor Jill O'Brien says the power lines will cross the Yarra 11 times through parkland including Yarra Bend and Studley Park.

At the Merri Creek end the beautification so laboriously being achieved will be reversed.

Bush drivers?

The eastern suburbs freeway debate has resumed once again.

The Member-elect for Templestowe Province, Mr John Miles, claimed the Labor Party was against freeways and the modern road system.

Mr Miles said: "If certain powerful Left-wing influences in the Labor party have their way there will be no freeways built in the Melbourne metropolitan area in the next 10 years."

He added that, according to Labor Party policy, the eastern freeway from Doncaster to Lilydale would not be built.

Mr Miles also complained about the attitude of Member-elect for Sunningdale Province, Mr Bob Ives, and the Member for Box Hill, Mrs Margaret Ray, towards the freeway.

"The attitude conjures up an incredible vision for the future — people chugging along leafy bush tracks in horse and cart or T-model Fords, riding ancient bicycles or perhaps even swinging to work from tree to tree!"

INTERESTING CLIPPING FROM THE PROGRESS PRESS,
WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, 1988

Successful 2008 grants

FoMC has started off the year wonderfully, with more successful grant applications.

\$25,707.27 was received from the Australian Govt Water Fund Community Water Grants for the project: Uncover, Recover and Discover Merri and Aitken Creeks in Melbourne's North. This will involve converting 1187m² of exotic vegetation to Streambank Shrubland vegetation, modified to endure urban conditions, at Robinson Reserve Preston on 13 April, at Hall Reserve Clifton Hill on 20 April and at Aitken Creek Craigieburn on 11 May (see calendar for details).

\$20,000 was received from the Melbourne Water Community Grants Program for the project: Bridging communities, which aims to encourage local communities, particularly public housing residents, to connect with the Merri Creek corridor, and increase awareness of native vegetation and the threats of environmental weeds.

A further \$8,427 was received from the Melbourne Water Community Grants Program for the project: Merri Basalt Flows: Rosemary Grevillea Escarpment & Pentridge Quarry. This is on behalf of the Merri & Edgars Creeks Confluence Area Restoration Group and it aims to recreate Riparian Escarpment Shrubland, strengthen a sense of community and foster community custodianship.

Many thanks to MCMC Conservation Program Manager, Katrina Roberg, without whom we would not have achieved these successes.

Foot/bike path on new rail bridge abandoned

The campaign for a pedestrian/bicycle path on the new rail bridge north of Clifton Hill has now been abandoned as the goal is unlikely to be achieved and the level of support from bike groups was not high.

The Dept of Infrastructure replied to our letter to the Minister for Public Transport, Lynne Kosky, stating that such a path was virtually impossible for a number of reasons. We

do not feel that we have enough support to take the issue further. Thanks to those members who wrote to Ms Kosky — they would have received a similar response.

However, we are still trying to get the best result possible for the new paths that need to be created as a result of the bridge construction — thanks to Paul Prentice for his detailed investigations of these paths.

Sewer works underway

Vigilant users of the Merri path around the Coburg-Fawkner area will have noticed that construction for the Northern Sewerage Project stage 1 & 2 has begun. These works will continue until 2012.

The shaft sites on the Merri are De Chene Reserve (Bell St), Carr St, Newlands Rd (north of the drive-in) and Jukes Rd Fawkner (Cotchin Reserve, east of the creek parklands). When the shafts are completed, sewer tunnels will be

constructed between them, deep underground.

Representatives from FoMC and MCMC were consulted before works commenced, as part of the Community Reference Group for this project.

If you have any concerns about this project, phone the 24-hour toll-free Northern Sewerage Project hotline on 1800 097 565. All calls will be responded to within an hour and logged.

Two award nominations

Friends of Merri Grasslands

The FoMC sub-group, Friends of Merri Grasslands, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the 2007 Victorian Weedbuster Week Awards, for "outstanding weed management" at Craigieburn and Cooper St grasslands. The certificate was presented at Melbourne Botanic Gardens on Friday 19 October and accepted on behalf of Friends of Merri Grasslands by one of its founders, Ray Radford, who is also the FoMC Secretary.



Kookaburra Award

FoMC was also nominated for a Parks Victoria Kookaburra Award for volunteer effort in the environment category for their involvement in the three years of volunteer Golden Sun-moth surveys in Craigieburn Grasslands. Pascale Pitot, a keen Regeneration Group member and survey participant, represented FoMC at the Awards ceremony.

Another successful benefit gig

Thanks to Lisa Zeeher for organising another successful benefit gig, this time at the Edinburgh Castle Hotel, Cnr Sydney Rd & Albion St Brunswick on Sunday 4 November evening. Despite bad weather on the night, the gig raised \$360 for FoMC. This is the second benefit gig that Lisa has organised for us, after her first successful gig on 3 August 2006.

Thanks also to the bands: Lady Grey, Rose Turtle Ertler, Dance Contest, Fresh Grass, Cunning Stunts, Gold Gull and DJS, the hotel management and to Ben North, who again gave a short talk about FoMC on the night.

Wanted: changes to Strettle Wetland

Last year, five environmental engineering students from RMIT University volunteered to study Strettle Wetland, Thornbury, and the possibility of diverting stormwater to the wetland.

Late in the year, after a semester of study, the students, Charles Brown, Nathan Cherry, Jennifer Learmonth, Lee Mouat and Elizabeth Smolinska produced their report, entitled "Rejuvenation of Strettle Wetland." In compiling the report, the students consulted with FoMC Secretary, Ray Radford, and with representatives from Melbourne Water and Darebin City Council.

The students discovered that there was no inlet pipe to the wetland, as was rumoured, and that the only way that water can get to the wetland is by an overland flood. As there has been a drought, the wetland has been dry for a long period.

The report considers three options before recommending

allowing limited stormwater from the catchment to be diverted through a gross pollutant trap and treatment train into a modified wetland. This would not only enable the wetland to actually have water in it most of the time, but it would also help to treat stormwater before it gets to the creek. The Strettle Wetland would then perform a similar function to the wetland at Merri Park, Northcote.

Ray Radford was most impressed with the students' work and has sent the report to Melbourne Water and Darebin City Council. However, nothing is likely to happen unless Darebin City Council can be convinced to put such a project on its priorities.

The 2008 Friends' Committee

The following members were elected at the Friends' Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 28 November 2007

Office Bearers

President: David Redfearn

Vice President: Ann McGregor

Secretary: Ray Radford

Treasurer: Colin Abbott

Membership Secretary: Monica Williamson

Committee Member: Wendy Moore

Committee Member: Carrie Deutsch

This is similar to last year's Committee, except that Jack Svendsen has stepped down and we welcome Carrie Deutsch, who comes with considerable experience as a Project Leader with Victoria Naturally, an alliance of conservation organisations. Thankfully, Jack Svendsen is continuing to coordinate the FoMC office in Brunswick Town Hall.

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

This year, the Friends will be represented on the Merri Creek Management Committee by Trevor Hausler, Ann McGregor, Allie Dawe, Paul Prentice, Ruth Shiel and new member Louise Grgat. This line-up is almost the same as for 2007, except that long-serving representative Harold Mackrell has graciously stepped down for Louise Grgat. Louise has a background in threatened species research and recently completed a Masters in Social Science (Environment and Planning). She has shown her keenness by already attending a MCMC meeting, on 15 November, as an observer.

Substitute Reps to MCMC

Harold Mackrell, David Redfearn, and Pascale Pitot have agreed to be Substitute Representatives to MCMC. Although Harold stepped down as a representative, thankfully he plans to still be active as a substitute. Pascale Pitot and David Redfearn remain as Substitute Representatives from 2007, however Ray McMahon, who attended a number of meetings as a substitute in 2007, has not re-nominated, as he is unsure about future work and study commitments.

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 once again as Treasurer, despite the pressures of running his own business.

RAY RADFORD (SECRETARY)

New Parks Victoria Grasslands Rangers

Parks Victoria has some new staff looking after grasslands.

Brendan Sullivan has replaced Fiona Smith as Head Ranger, Grasslands, and Tamara Karner has replaced Katrina Lovett as Grasslands Ranger. We will undoubtedly get to know them better through our ongoing works on the grasslands at Craigieburn and Cooper St.

New MECCARG baby

Hearty congratulations to Nic Drever and Dave Crawford on the birth of their daughter, Freya.

Nic and Dave coordinate the FoMC sub-group, Merri and Edgars Creeks Confluence Area Restoration Group (known as MECCARG), which has helped transform the wonderful escarpment area south of Murray Rd Coburg.

Help do a bird survey in Spring

We are after expressions of interest from anyone interested in birds to help with a bird survey along the Merri Creek sometime in Spring.

There has not been a bird survey of the Merri Creek since 1993, so this is very much needed and participants would be involved in the first bird survey conducted by the community along the creek. No special expertise is necessary, but of course experienced birders would be most welcome. The organisation of the survey depends on the numbers of interested people. If you are at all interested, please contact the Secretary, Ray Radford, by email to admin@mcmc.org.au or by phone on 0422 989 166 as soon as possible.



ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN BAINBRIDGE

EVENTS CALENDAR...

FEBRUARY

Sunday 10 – Wetland Weeding

Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Sumner Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-12noon. Melway map 30 C8. Light refreshments provided. Funded by an EPA alternative sentencing payment to MCMC. Phone Leslie 9481 7365.

Thursday 14 – Australian Historical Garden Society Walk and Talk

Quarries Park, meet near cnr Wright and Dwyer Streets Clifton Hill at 6pm. Melway map 44 G1. BYO picnic and comfortable walking shoes. MCMC will talk about the

revegetation programs that have created a wildlife corridor along the creek and enhanced the recreational amenity of the area. Afterwards, there'll be a walk from Quarries Park along the Merri Creek trail for about half an hour to look at the newly created wetlands and plantings of indigenous species.

Sunday 24 – 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.

MARCH

Saturday 1 – MECCARG* Laying Jute Mat

Just south of Murray Rd bridge, Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway map 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Help prepare the site for planting – bring a hammer and strong scissors. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants Program.

Sunday 2 – Wetland Planting & BBQ

Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Sumner Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 C8. Funded by an EPA alternative sentencing payment to MCMC. Phone Pascale 9484 5752.

Sunday 2 – Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 9 – Litter Clean-Up

Murray Rd Nth Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 18 A11. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Friday 14 – Deadline for articles for the next newsletter

Please send to admin@mcmc.org.au.

Sunday 16 – Celebratory Planting & BBQ

Near Rushall Station North Fitzroy, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 D12. Help expand this greatly improved site in celebration of the critical campaign to get the Brunswick to Richmond powerline underground. Funded by the City of Yarra to MCMC. Phone Dick 9853 3162.

APRIL

Saturday 5 – Planting & BBQ

Rotunda wetland, Hall Reserve, Clifton Hill 10am-1pm. Melway map 44 H1. Funded by an EPA alternative sentencing payment to MCMC. Note this is a Saturday. Phone Ruth 9489 5259.

Saturday 5 – MECCARG* Planting

Just south of Murray Rd bridge, Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway map 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a digging tool and a bucket if you can. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants Program.

Sunday 6 – Planting & BBQ

W.H. Robinson Reserve, end of Goodwin St, Preston, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 B2. Funded by the Australian

Government's Community Water Grants. Phone Martin 9025 9394.

Sunday 6 – Litter Clean-Up

St Georges Rd Nth Fitzroy, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 30 C10. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 6 – Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 20 – Planting & BBQ

Rotunda wetland, Hall Reserve, Clifton Hill 10am-1pm. Melway map 44 H1. Funded by the Australian Government's Community Water Grants. Phone Ruth 9489 5259.

MAY

Saturday 3 – Planting & BBQ

Central Creek Native Grassland, Davidson Street Reservoir, 10am-1pm. Melway map 8 B12. Funded by Australian Govt Envirofund Grant. Note this is a Saturday. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Saturday 3 – MECCARG* Planting

Just south of Murray Rd bridge, Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway map 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a digging tool and a bucket if you can. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants Program.

Sunday 4 – Litter Clean-Up

Rushall Station Nth Fitzroy, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 30 D11. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 4 – Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 11 – Planting & BBQ

Aitken Creek Craigieburn, enter at Hexham Court, 10am-1pm. Melway map 387 B12. Funded by the Australian Government's Community Water Grants. Phone Heidi 0417 544 412.

* MECCARG — MERRI & EDGARS CREEK CONFLUENCE AREA RESTORATION GROUP

Don't forget to keep an eye on the Friends' website: www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc