

# MERRI GROWLER

The Friends of Merri Creek Newsletter

February – April 2013

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

## Results of 2012 Annual General Meeting

Nineteen members attended the FoMC Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 21 November 2012 and heard from Associate Professor, Chris Walsh, as to how there's actually too much stormwater going into our waterways.

Chris told us that when vegetated land is replaced by impervious surfaces, like roads and roofs, much less water is lost to the air, and stormwater drainage systems deliver all runoff directly and unfiltered into waterways. Unfortunately, he has found no evidence that the health of Melbourne's streams has improved after 15 years of stormwater management aimed at environmental protection.

However, he is involved in an encouraging project at Little Stringybark Creek in Mt Evelyn that provides a useful guide as to where we should be heading in the future. The project is aimed at minimising change to flow regimes and protecting water quality through a combination of retention in the landscape, harvesting and filtration. He hopes that these new stormwater management objectives will form part of new best-practice stormwater management guidelines currently being developed.

### Other business...

The following members were elected to the 2013 Committee:

#### Office Bearers

President: David Redfearn

Vice-President: Ann McGregor

Secretary: Ray Radford

Treasurer: Nicole Lowe

Membership Secretary: Monica Williamson

Committee Members: Yasmin Kelsall & Nick Williams

The Committee remains the same as in 2012. However, if you're interested in becoming a Committee member in the future, you're welcome to see what we do by attending meetings and receiving minutes and agendas (phone Ray on 0422 989 166 or email: [merricreek@bigpond.com](mailto:merricreek@bigpond.com))

#### Sub-Committee Coordinators

Regeneration Group: Nicole Lowe

Litter Group: Paul Prentice

Streamteam: Irene Baker

Newsletter (layout): Dean Lombard

These coordinators remain the same as in 2012.

#### Representatives to MCMC

FoMC will be represented on the Merri Creek Management Committee by Ann McGregor, Allie Dawe, Paul Prentice, Nicole Lowe, Pascale Pitot and Louise Wright.

Two of our long-term representatives, Trevor Hausler and Ruth Shiel, have stepped aside, with Trevor resigning in May 2012 after 13 years as MCMC President. They were replaced by Pascale Pitot (in August 2012), and Louise Wright. Both Trevor and Ruth were thanked for their considerable contributions at the AGM.

#### Substitute Reps to MCMC

David Redfearn, Yasmin Kelsall, Nick Williams, Ann Sanson and Ian Patrick agreed to be Substitute Representatives to MCMC. Nick, Ann and Ian are new Substitute Representatives, although Nick has been a FoMC Committee member for a year. Ann came along to the bus trip to the source in November 2012, while Ian is new to us too (but he seems keen).

Ray Radford Secretary



At the AGM, FoMC Members drank a toast to Jack Svendsen, who died in October 2012. Jack was a long-term volunteer in the FoMC office, and he usually provided wine to our AGMs. The toasting wine actually came from Jack's cellar, compliments of his family.

(Jack's family and friends have just made a generous donation to FoMC – see page 2.)

### Inside

Merri Musings 2

Birds along the Merri in true spring · First birdwatch survey 3

President's report 4

We sought a source for our watercourse! 5

Volunteers all · Dick's witticisms 5

Friends of Edgars Creek focus 7

Events calendar 8

# Merri Musings

**Urban Growth Boundary Update:** The Environment Defenders Office (EDO) has sent a letter to the Federal Minister for the Environment, Tony Burke, on behalf of FoMC and 13 other environment groups. The letter documented four instances of non-compliance by the Victorian Government with legal requirements for the Melbourne Strategic Assessment. These are the failure to appoint an independent monitor to assess implementation of the endorsed Program; inadequate consultation; the finalisation of the Growth Corridor Plans before the biodiversity strategies which are supposed to inform the growth plans; and inadequate protection for matters of national environmental significance.

The letter conveyed our view that Minister Burke cannot lawfully grant approval under the EPBC Act for development in the new growth areas unless the non-compliances are rectified.

The Minister has responded that he is happy to accept submissions on the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and species strategies, which will be published early in 2013. He will only approve these strategies if they are consistent with the endorsed Program, utilise effective offset mechanisms and do not diminish overall protection for matters of national environmental significance.

**Successful grants:** FoMC has again started off another year with successful grant applications:

- \$20,000 from Melbourne Water River Health Incentives program for the project: Restoration along the Merri's Backbone, to control woody weeds and plant Allocasuarina in areas of significant remnants at Galgi Ngarrk.
- \$1000 from Melbourne Water as a Group Support Grant to repair an augur (for drilling holes at community plantings) and to contribute to postage of newsletters.
- \$4360 from 2013 Hume Community Grants Program for establishing a website for our sub-group, Friends of Malcolm Creek.

**Donation from Jack Svendsen's funeral:** FoMC is very grateful for the donation of \$695 from the family and friends of Jack Svendsen in lieu of flowers at his funeral. Jack's daughter, Helga, writes that Jack spent many of his childhood days frolicking around Merri Creek and then his older days contributing to its upkeep through FoMC (he was irreplaceable as our office coordinator). He contributed right to the end by attending a FoMC handweeding at Strettle Wetland only four days before suffering the stroke that ended his life. This donation enables him to keep on contributing – through his friends and family.

**Brunswick Terminal Station Update:** The Merri Creek Residents' group continues to oppose the building of a new terminal station - with their regular Wednesday morning 'Wake-up Call' protests and a public rally on 23 November

## Our Facebook page wants friends

Check out our wonderful Facebook page, we're sure you'll 'like' it!

Just search for the Friends of Merri Creek page on Facebook, and click on 'Like' to get automatic updates to group activities and news.

2012 outside the Parliament House office of Planning Minister, Matthew Guy. That rally was addressed by the FoMC President, David Redfearn.

Follow the campaign on: [www.nobrunswickterminalstation.org](http://www.nobrunswickterminalstation.org)

**Merri Bat Survey results:** Bat specialist Caroline Wilson has provided the results of the bat survey along the Merri in East Brunswick on 18 October 2012. After Caroline gave an interesting talk attended by 33 people, they split into five small groups and walked along the creek with each group using a hand-held digital bat detector. These detectors



Gould's wattled bat. Photo by Caroline Wilson.

Two species were recorded: Gould's Wattled Bat (*Chalinolobus gouldii*) and the Little Forest Bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*), both of which are fairly common in Melbourne.

A lot of calls were recorded in a short time, which suggests that there could be quite a few bats in the area. Bats tend to like riparian corridors, especially when they are well vegetated, so areas like Merri Creek are very important for our bats.



The little forest bat. Photo by Caroline Wilson.

record the ultrasonic pulses of sound that the insect-eating microbats use for echolocation, to navigate around obstacles and to find food.

**Marran Baba update:** Although we hoped to see the final Management Plan for Marran Baba in November 2012, after its approval by the landowners, it was unfortunately held up in the Parks Victoria bureaucracy. We're now hoping to see it by March 2013.

**Themeda Harvest:** Half a dozen MCMC staff and one Friend collected a lot of grass at Bababi Marning's (Cooper St) Block B – unfortunately it did not contain much seed, most of it had dropped.



# Birds along the Merri in true spring

Almost 2000 birds were counted across our ten sites in the November 2012 bird surveys. This was despite the windy conditions that made many birds stick close to cover. A total of 81 species was recorded.

The sighting of a Latham's Snipe at Bababi Marning (Cooper Street Grasslands) was notable. It leapt out of the grasses in boggy ground just as the surveyors entered the gate to the grassland. This was the first Brian Bainbridge has seen at Bababi Marning since 2010, and before that there was a gap of over ten years between sightings. This long-billed wader migrates each year between Japan and Australia, feeding in swamps and wet grasslands. It is listed on several international migratory bird agreements as well as the national Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act, and is classified as 'near threatened' in Victoria.



Latham's Snipe, *Gallinago hardwickii*. Photo by Don Dennes

Another interesting sighting was the two Mistletoebirds near the Roseneath Street bridge in Clifton Hill. One was also recorded at this site in November 2011. Since the survey, they were found to be nesting in a small River Red Gum. Their beautiful little nest is described in the books as a 'suspended baby's bootee'. The female has been tending the nest, which seemed to have two young.



The beautiful Mistletoebird nest in Clifton Hill. Photo by Des & Ruth Shiel.

Tawny Frogmouths continue to breed along the Merri. At Clifton Hill, a Frogmouth was sitting on one or two young ones, in an ironbark tree. Subsequently, one of the survey participants with a night scope observed the adults coming back with food and enticing the fledgling to fly by sitting on a tree nearby with the food in their mouths. The distance

was gradually increased and by 5 December they were about 50 metres from the original nest site.

There were plenty of waterfowl to be seen in the surveys, particularly ducks, but also coots, moorhens, herons and three species of cormorant. This contributed to Edwardes Lake having the highest species count of 35, while Coburg Lake had 34.

The most common species were Red Wattlebird (est. 124), Common Starling (118), Rainbow Lorikeet (114), Silver Gull (112) and Pacific Black Duck (111). It is good to see that four of these are native species. The most widespread species were Red Wattlebird, Australian Magpie, Little Raven, Common Blackbird and Common Myna: these were recorded at all ten survey sites.

Mobs of Eastern Grey Kangaroos were noted at Galgi Ngarrk, Bababi Marning and Galada Tamboore.

**Ann McGregor** Birdwatch Coordinator

## First Merri Birdwatch survey for 2013

Bird surveys will be held from 8.45–10.30am at ten sites along Merri Creek as listed below. Beginners welcome, BYO binoculars if possible, but no dogs please, as they reduce the number and variety of birds to be seen. The contact for all Birdwatch events is Ann McGregor 0429 386 102.

**Free leaflets on Merri Birds (normally \$2) are now available for all participants**

**Surveys at the following nine sites are on 17 February & 26 May**

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

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

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

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

**CERES – Moreland Road:** Meet at the seats on the path at rear of CERES, East Brunswick (Melway 30 B7).

**Merri Park – Phillips Reserve:** Meet at end of Victoria Street, East Brunswick, at BBQ shelter (Melway 30 B8).

**Hall Reserve – Yarra Bend Park:** Meet at the Rotunda, Hall Reserve, Clifton Hill (Melway 2D D1).

**Galgi Ngaark (Craigieburn Grasslands):** Meet at O'Herns Rd gate off Hume Highway, Somerton (Melway 180 E6).

**Galada Tamboore:** Meet at the end of Hatty Court, Campbellfield (Melway 7 K6).

**Surveys at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands) are on 24 February & 19 May**

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

# President's Report 2012

Given at the AGM on 21 November 2012

Firstly, I want to mention the passing of Jack Svendsen in October 2012. Jack was a long-term volunteer in our office, and we give our sincere condolences to his family.

It gives me once again great pleasure as President to report to our membership and our community. I 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. I must give special thanks to Ray as FoMC Secretary as his efforts make the job of the committee so much easier. I would also give special thanks to my fellow committee members for coming out to our monthly meetings throughout the year in rain hail and shine (with a lot more rain for a change this year!!).

As Ray has covered our activities well in his Secretary's Report, I would like to comment on the major issues of 2012.

## Urban Landcare Awards

Following our winning the 2011 Victorian Urban Landcare Award, I went to Sydney in September to represent FoMC at the National Landcare Awards. Sadly, we didn't win but FoMC received an honourable mention which is like winning Silver or Bronze, so we can be very proud of our achievements and it was a real honour to be among the very inspiring finalists from the other states and territories. Congratulations must go to the Georges River Combined Councils Committee in NSW for being a very worthy winner.

## Urban Growth Boundary expansion and threats to our biodiversity

In 2009, the then Labor State Government recommended significant expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) to cater for an eventual Melbourne population of 5 million people. The government also reached agreement with the Federal Government on a Melbourne Strategic Assessment process which would guarantee that issues of biodiversity and species protection would be considered via a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy before any structure plans allowing development could be approved. Subsequently the Liberal National Coalition Government continued consideration of the UGB expansion, in addition setting up a process to look at "logical inclusions" in the Green Wedges.

In 2012 Victoria's Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, eventually released the final North Growth Corridor Plan to extend Melbourne's suburbs 15km from Craigieburn north to Wallan. The package includes yet more expansion of the urban growth boundary into the green wedges and around Wallan, and fast-tracked Precinct Structure Plans to facilitate development of large slabs of developer-owned land at Lockerbie, Lockerbie North and Merrifield West. However the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, which was supposed to prescribe the conservation measures for threatened species and communities, has not been released. This is very much a "cart before the horse" approach and we wonder why.



We have been advocating for many years for a conservation reserve network across the upper Merri catchment that would protect and sustain the wildlife, native wildflower grasslands, ancient River Red Gums, wetlands and waterways corridors. It seems that our proposals, and comments on the draft Growth Corridor Plan, have been ignored by the State Government and the "planners" at the Growth Areas Authority (whose role is to facilitate urban growth, not conservation).

We have made representations to government and supported the continuing campaign of the Green Wedges Coalition to ensure that there is no compromise on the erosion of our Green Wedges. We wrote to State and Commonwealth environment ministers pointing out the need to protect high conservation value grassland sites within the growth areas from imminent development under an over hasty, back-to-front urban planning process.

Given the above as well as the hasty "consultations" that occurred we also sought the help of Kelvin Thomson MP who, after holding discussions with us and the VNPA and touring affected sites with us in August, made representations to Federal Minister Tony Burke to intervene using his powers under the EPBC Act. Other parliamentarians who have offered support are Adam Bandt MP, Harry Jenkins MP and Senator Richard Di Natale. We offer our thanks to them all.

We have also worked with the VNPA and the EDO to strengthen our case with Minister Burke who represents our best hope of overturning this blatant subversion by the Victorian Government of the agreed process.

Members can be assured that we will not relent on this campaign as, once development happens, it will be impossible to turn the clock back.

## Brunswick Terminal Station (BTS66) campaign:

Earlier this year Planning Minister Matthew Guy announced the rezoning of the land on which the current Brunswick Terminal Station sits to allow the construction of two new 66KV terminals on the site. This was done without consultation with local residents nor the Moreland City Council and overrides planning law and appeal rights.

We believe that there are better alternatives to this development which may bring health risks as well as being an additional eyesore in our landscape. There could be an opportunity with a relocated terminal station to complete the restoration of that part of the creek complementing earlier restoration on both sides of the Merri in Merri Park and the old Whelan's tip site.

We were proud to join and speak at the rally organised by the residents in July and join with the community in calling



on the State Government to set up an independent process to evaluate all the issues related to the BTS.

### Engagement and capacity building of membership

Committee member Yasmin Kelsall produced an excellent document for FoMC to help with our approach to reengaging and building the capacity of our members. It discussed attracting members and looking after them, supporting volunteers, financial sustainability, technical resources such as web presence, promoting ourselves, engaging with our community especially young people, and running meaningful activities. The FoMC committee discussed the document and many tangible proposals were put forward. These will certainly form the basis for much of our work in 2013.

### Challenges for 2013

- This list is by no means exhaustive but I would see some of our key priorities for 2013 as being:
- Ensuring 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 creek but particularly in the upper Merri, and to secure the protection of sites of environmental significance
- Supporting the community campaign against the redevelopment of the BTS
- 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
- Engaging and building the capacity of our 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 2012; and I wish you all the best for the Festive Season, and hope that we all emerge refreshed and ready for the challenges of 2013.

**David Redfearn OAM** President, 2012

## We sought a source for our watercourse!

*(The quest for the Merri's origin on 24 November 2012)*

10am departure from Northcote Plaza, just eighteen of us to Kalkallo by bus; we went for a stroll by the stony knoll – no climb, couldn't force our way through the gorse; admired the tombs and the wildflower blooms...

We heard of people's attempts to sneak bits of land from the park by the Wallan Creek; at Heathcote Junction met Gil and Helen Berry, whose name happens to rhyme with some creek or other. Lunch is something you can depend on, there we were joined by our driver Brendan.



*The bus tourists at the source of the Merri (invisible due to dryness) on Gil and Helen Berry's property in Heathcote Junction.*

Thanks to our hosts and the Wallan crew: just a perfect-sized bunch, not too many or few. A lovely outing with new and old friends, which our range of activities further extends.



*Blue-tongued Lizard at Old Sydney Road.*



*John Robinson from Wallan Environment Group (pointing), shows the bus tourists around Wallan Community Park.*

A tour led by Gil covered plenty of ground, accompanied by the usual friendly hound; and we gazed with adoring eyes at the spot where the stream's thought to rise.

Finally we went to seek the flowers by the Strathaird Creek – Dianella, Convolvulus, Goodenia, Chocolate Lily, Bidgie Widge, Pimelia; and the low-slung highlight of our visit was a magnificent Blue-tongued Lizard.



*Some of the bus tourists admiring wildflowers on Old Sydney Road, with Claudia James, from Wallan Environment Group, at left.*

**Paul Prentice**

# Volunteers all

*Those pioneer environmental activists, the Friends of Organ Pipes, certainly started something when about forty years ago they set about rehabilitating a badly degraded site in Keilor, opposite that towering basalt formation and the exquisite Rosette Rock.*

It's a spectacular spot, with the 60-metre-deep ravine of Jacksons Creek and a few dark-green *Callitris* indigenous conifers; and what a showpiece it has become, the piles of rubbish and the trespassing exotics having long since been evicted and the rightful local plants reinstated. There's a welcoming, informative visitor centre, and an ongoing study of tiny insect-eating radar-equipped bats which could sit on the palm of your hand – gloves recommended. Now almost every part of Victoria has its own Friends, and even some particular species such as the Grey-crowned Babbler... yes, that is a bird, not a person.

We devoted greenies plant, weed and tidy, monitor, publicise and lobby, scarcely able to think of anything more important, absorbing and satisfying; yet we're just a small part of a grand community tradition. Across the country innumerable people in many fields enrich their own lives and those of others by volunteer service – helping schoolchildren with their reading, running Scouts and Guides and amateur sport, saving lives at beaches, working with the St John Ambulance, CFA, SES; participating in Neighbourhood Watch, raising funds for hospitals and other worthy causes, looking after puppies that will grow up to be guide dogs, doing meals on wheels. It's humbling and heartwarming to think how much altruistic energy there is in our society: there's even a 20-cent coin from 2003 with sixteen faces and "AUSTRALIA'S VOLUNTEERS – MAKING A DIFFERENCE," and a 50-cent one with pictures of them in action.

During Great Victorian Bike Rides I was most impressed by the marshals at the checkpoints along the road, probably not passionate cyclists themselves, yet happy to sit there for hours on end maintaining communications, guarding the water supply, etc. All they were getting out of it was heaps of sunshine and fresh air, the sight of thousands of excited pedallers from kids to grandparents, and the knowledge that they were absolutely essential to the safety of the event.

Other categories include those who staff National Trust properties, conduct tours and so on; employees of civic-minded companies, some attending Merri Creek plantings; and adventurous types who go outback or overseas, often into arduous conditions, under the auspices of Australian



*FoMC members and volunteers after a weeding at Strettle Wetland in Thornbury.*

Volunteers International, churches and similar bodies. The ultimate, though, must be the courageous, selfless characters who undertake foster parenting.

At the opposite extreme is the slightly less durable person who will make it to a charity fun run, a National Tree Day or a Friends' event and never be seen again, that's enough for one lifetime thank you. A student on a GVBR declared that he would never drop litter, but felt no responsibility to pick up anyone else's: I was too stunned to think of the obvious reply, that the only condition required for evil (or ugliness) to triumph is that good people do nothing.

What actually motivates anyone to get involved, however, remains a mystery to me: it can't be a conscious decision, there must be something innate which means they simply can't imagine not helping, no matter how frazzled and exhausted they may become at times. Family background, the individual's unique personality and reactions to various influences and experiences: if there's a common theme in our Life Members' stories, it's a keenness to find worthwhile things to do, and being in the right place at the right time to fulfil their destiny.

I could hardly believe a "how not to do it" sketch at a Friends' Network seminar on boosting membership: it seemed over-the-top, but I was assured that it was based on reality. It showed an eager potential recruit discouraged by disorganised, quarrelsome leaders and being alternately ignored and lumbered with difficult tasks; we'd like to think our mob is not quite like that.

You can't change people's nature, you can only be as dedicated, efficient and positive as possible and enjoy the great reward of the kindred spirits you meet along the way. Of course for groups like ours the extra bonus is that many of our new pals come in a variety of shapes and sizes, colours and calls, numbers of legs and methods of locomotion!

**Paul Prentice**

## Dick's Witticisms

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

Once you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.

She often broke into song because she couldn't find the key.

The poor guy fell into a glass grinding machine and made a spectacle of himself.

The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.



# Friends of Edgars Creek Focus



## Reflections on 2012

As the Friends of Edgars Creek President, I'd like to briefly reflect on the group's 2012 activities. In a nutshell, seven planting events, just under 4000 plants in the ground, and a wonderful committed group of volunteers.

See FoEC's website ([www.foec.org.au](http://www.foec.org.au)) for our 2013 Calendar of Events – which are also shown on the FoMC calendar. Highlights for me in 2013 include a second “Confluence Planting,” which is sponsored by Moreland City Council and coincides with World Environment Day. What's so great about this activity is that the five Friends groups in our catchment



area will come together with Moreland Council to celebrate our commitment to the natural environment. Besides that, FoEC will revisit our usual sites of the gooseneck, the Silurian cliff and the new caravan park site. We will also be back at the footbridge area and will move away from the creek to an ephemeral water hole area at the top of the escarpment.

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

Friends of Edgars Creek 2012 Committee members toast the end of the 2012 planting season at our “Christmas in September” planting at the Gooseneck Meander site, followed by a traditional Christmas. Shown from left to right, in front of the specially-built trailer, are David Pavone (President), Irene Baker (the ‘first lady to the secretary’), Stephen Northey (Immediate Past President), Anita Morgan (Treasurer), Rob “Robstock” Burnett (Works Manager) and Robert Urquhart (Secretary/Membership Secretary).

*These photos show the transformation of the Edgars Creek “Gooseneck” from September 2010 to winter 2011 and then December 2012. Wow!*



# FEBRUARY

# EVENTS

# APRIL

## Saturday 2 MECCARG\* Event – Coburg

Meet at the Merri path just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a bucket and digging tool if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

## Sunday 3 Litter Clean Up – Coburg

Bell St Coburg, 10am-12noon. Melway 30 A1. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

## Sunday 3 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

## Sunday 10 2nd of 12 Woody Weed removals at Bababi Marning

Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands), near the Istrian Club, Cooper St Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K10. The second of 12 days to rid Block A of Broom and Gorse bushes. Light refreshments provided. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

## Sunday 17 1st Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2013

8.45-10.30am at nine sites along Merri Creek. See page 3 for details.

## Sunday 24 1st Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2013 at Bababi Marning

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

# MARCH

## Saturday 2 MECCARG\* Event – Coburg

Meet at the Merri path just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a bucket and digging tool if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

## Sunday 3 Sydney Road Street Party

Sydney Rd Brunswick, 12 noon-7pm. Melway 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 3 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

## Sunday 10 Litter Clean Up – Craigieburn

Aitken Creek, near Axminster Drive Craigieburn, 10am-12noon. Melway 386 J10. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

## Sunday 17 Galada Tamboore Woody Weed removal

Hatty Court Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 7 K6. Help remove Boxthorn and other woody weeds along the escarpment. Funded by a Communities for Nature grant. Phone Nicole 0450 144 544.

## Sunday 24 3rd of 12 Woody Weed removals at Bababi Marning

Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands), near the Istrian Club, Cooper St Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K10. The third of 12 days to rid Block A of Broom and Gorse bushes. Light refreshments provided. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.



“They paved paradise to put up a housing blot” (with apologies to Joni Mitchell). An inevitable consequence of the expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary: the Wallara Waters housing development at Wallan.

## Saturday 6 MECCARG\* Event – Coburg

Meet at the Merri path just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a bucket and digging tool if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

## Sunday 7 Litter Clean Up – North Fitzroy

Downstream of Rushall Station North Fitzroy, 10am-12noon. Melway 30 D11. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

## Sunday 7 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

## Sunday 14 4th of 12 Woody Weed removals at Bababi Marning

Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands), near the Istrian Club, Cooper St Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K10. The fourth of 12 days to rid Block A of Broom and Gorse bushes. Light refreshments provided. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

## Sunday 21 Hand Weeding - Strettle Wetland

Friends' site near Strettle Wetland Thornbury, 10am-1 pm. Melway 30 B3. Help look after the site managed by the Friends with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Phone Suzi 0403 595 466.

# MAY

## Saturday 4 MECCARG\* Event – Coburg

Meet at the Merri path just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a bucket and digging tool if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

## Sunday 5 Woody Weed removal, Planting & Litter Clean Up Kalkallo South

Malcolm St Kalkallo, next to the cemetery, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 367 F2. Remove Gorse to aid access and plant Hedge Wattles to replace habitat. Funded by Port Phillip & Westernport CMA. Phone Heidi (for weeding & planting) 0417 544 412, or Paul (for litter clean-up) 9489 5062.

## Sunday 5 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

\*MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek  
Confluence Area Restoration Group



## Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

ASSOC. NO. A00246451

PO Box 93, Moreland, Victoria 3058

Phone: (03) 9389 8633

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

Web: [www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc)

Editor: Ray Radford

Assistant Editors: Paul Prentice, David Redfearn

Layout & Design: Dean Lombard

Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to [admin@mcmc.org.au](mailto:admin@mcmc.org.au) by Friday 15 March 2013