

Results of 2016 Annual General Meeting

Thirty-eight members and six guests attended the FoMC Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 22 November 2016 and heard Brian Bainbridge talk about the fascinating Blue-banded Bee Pollination Pathway project, which was very successfully crowd-funded. Eleven of the members had complimentary memberships as donors to that campaign.

Brian gave a most interesting and informative talk about the project, showing how we will be planting 'stepping stones' of *Dianella Amoena* to create a 'pollination pathway' for the Blue-banded Bee. He also described two previous landmark projects involving plants that lacked nearby partners: the "loneliest tree in Moreland" (a Manna Gum) in Fawkner and isolated Rock Correa plants in Craigieburn.

The AGM also featured the Exhibition: Merri Creek – from wasteland to parklands and music compiled by our newsletter layout artist (and also songwriter and musician) Dean Lombard.

The following members were elected to the 2017 Committee:

Office Bearers:

President: David Redfearn

Vice-President: Ann McGregor

Secretary: Ray Radford

Treasurer: Nicole Lowe

Membership Secretary: Monica Williamson

Committee Members: Nick Williams & Jane Miller

The Committee is similar to 2016, except that Jane Miller has replaced Yasmin Kelsall. Yasmin led a major review of FoMC, including a report on succession planning: thankfully, she has offered to finish off this daunting task. Jane has recently become an active member of our Regeneration Group and is also a Representative to MCMC.

If by chance you're interested in becoming a Committee member in the future, you're welcome to get a taste for it by attending meetings and receiving agendas (phone Ray on 0422 989 166 or email: merriecreek@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 2016.

Representatives to MCMC

FoMC will be represented on the Merri Creek Management Committee by Nicole Lowe, Ann McGregor, Pascale Pitot, Ann Sanson, Jane Farmer, and new representative Jane Miller, who stepped up from being a Substitute during 2016 to replace our long-term representative Allie Dawe. Thanks again to Allie for her 17 years of service, including 12 as MCMC Treasurer.

Substitute Reps to MCMC

David Redfearn, Suzi Shaw, and John Parham remain as Substitute Representatives from 2016, while a new member (since February 2016), Laziza Hawkins, volunteered to replace Rebecca Mayo.

Change to Annual Subscription Fees

It was agreed to increase the membership fees in 2017 to: \$25 Individual, \$15 Concession, \$35 Household or Sub-Group, and \$100 Corporate.



FoMC President, David Redfearn, addresses members at our 2016 AGM

Inside

President's report	2
Working during the holidays	3
Merri Musings	4
Birds along the Merri in true spring	5
First Merri Birdwatch Survey for 2017	5
Dick's witticisms	5
Another day defending the creek	6
Friends of Edgars Creek focus	7
Events calendar	8

2016 President's Report

Telling our story

This year was the year we told our story! Throughout 2016 we took our wonderful ten-panel exhibition right out to our community. These panels eloquently tell the story of our creek in both words and images – from the times of the traditional owners, the Wurundjeri; through European settlement and industrialisation with its resultant degradation; to the community awakening and activism of the 1970s, which led to the wonderful environmental and community asset we have today. It is a story of stewardship: dispossession, degradation, then reawakening and restoration; a story that we have all been part of and one we now commemorate and celebrate. Time doesn't stand still, however; and although many good things have happened we still have so much to do to protect and restore our beloved creek, as the challenges and threats are never far away.

The exhibition toured all of our catchment municipalities as well as Melbourne Water and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and in many of these places we delivered accompanying talks. In 2017 it will also visit the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), the Lyceum Club and the City of Whittlesea again; and it will surely be in demand by others as its reputation continues to grow.

Thanks must go again to the fantastic efforts of the working party who got this all happening and supported the exhibition throughout the year: FoMC committee members Ann McGregor, Anne Sanson and Rebecca Mayo; MCMC people Katrina Roberg and Luisa Macmillan; and Merri Creek Environment Fund Director Glenyys Romanes.

Looking ahead

Urban growth and development pressure, our campaign for a Greater Wallan-Merri State/Regional Park, government policies, and climate change – among

other things – mean that our work is far from done. We continue to need solid community action as well as robust and well-resourced institutions to do this. That is why we set up the Merri Creek Management Committee just over 25 years ago, and why our very own community-based organisation was created. We cannot afford to be complacent though, and we must maintain – in fact redouble – our efforts.

With this in mind, we embraced the opportunity for some serious reflection, and a discussion about succession planning led to a major review of our whole organisation. We asked some pretty important questions of ourselves: are we planning properly for the future? is our organisation fit for its purpose? how do we attract the next generation of activists and champions of the Merri? are we communicating and engaging well with our members and the community? In 2015 we asked one of our committee members, Yasmin Kelsall, to examine and analyse these matters. Her thorough and comprehensive report generated a lot of constructive discussion in our committee and among our members during the year: we now have a much clearer idea of how to improve our structure and communication, as well as the resources required to continue being a leading-edge environmental organisation. We will be placing a big emphasis on this in the coming year.

Crowd funding success

Another exciting first for us was a step into the world of crowd-funding, and what a success that was! The Friends of Merri Creek's *Help the Blue-banded Bee* crowd-funding campaign raised \$25,073, which was over 66% more than the original target of \$15,000. 441 people supported the campaign, which will now receive a further \$15,000 from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The funds will be used in a project designed by the Merri Creek Management Committee to establish pollination 'stepping stones' between endangered Matted Flax-lily populations along the Merri Creek in Fawkner and Reservoir. Many thanks to those members who put so much energy into this, and I really commend the snappy promotional video which can still be found on YouTube; search for "Help the Blue Banded Bee with Friends of Merri Creek."

Acknowledgments

Our gratitude must go to all members for their commitment during the year, to those who held office and to those who organised and carried out the many necessary tasks. Our efforts are all voluntary, a true labour of love, and the time given to ensure the success of the FoMC mission, no matter in how great or how small a way, is immensely appreciated. I must give special thanks to our Secretary, Ray Radford, whose hard work makes the job of the committee so much easier; also to my fellow committee members for their active and constructive participation in our meetings throughout the year. It is good to see our new members actively challenging us to think about who we are and what we do.

Continued on next page



Working during the holidays

While many people were having holidays, some FoMC members still managed to help with two events: a **Golden Sun Moth Survey** on 23 December 2016, and a **Kangaroo Grass Seed Harvest** on 5 January.

Both events only allowed for short notice, so people needed to register with Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) in order to be notified when conditions were appropriate. This meant that only a select few were able to participate; but both events were still quite successful, thanks to MCMC providing coordination and staff.



Golden Sun Moth survey

A markedly lower number of moths were observed at Bababi Marning (Cooper St grassland), with just 19 male moths identified, compared with a few hundred recorded on 24 November 2015. The fewer sightings appear to be correlated with the higher grass cover that the site has developed in 2016. While the low number was a bit boring for surveyors, this data set provides supporting evidence of the impact of biomass and biomass reduction as a factor in moth emergence.

Funding from the State Government's Threatened Species Initiative Project only covers one survey, so there won't be another survey this season. However, we will certainly

look out for ways to continue our sequence of surveys at this site in future years.

The photo shows a male Golden Sun Moth at Patullos Lane Craigieburn in December 2016.

Kangaroo Grass Seed Harvest:

MCMC crew cut the Kangaroo Grass at Ngarri -djarrang (Central Creek Grasslands) after which FoMC volunteers raked it up and put it into nine bails. This will provide excellent seed stock for future plantings.

We noted that the Eastern Grey Kangaroos, that have made the grasslands their home, have increased in number to nine. However, there is also an outbreak of a serious new environmental weed: the [South African weed-orchid](#) (*Disa bracteata*). It produces thousands of seeds and excludes smaller indigenous flora, including orchids, lilies and grasses, so it could become a huge problem if we don't control it now. If you're interested in being part of a group to help, please contact Ray on 0422 989 166, or email friendsofmerricreek@gmail.com



2016 President's report

Continued from previous page

Towards 2017

This list is by no means exhaustive, but I would see some of our key priorities for 2017 continuing to be:

- 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 environmental significance;
- Continuing to campaign for the Greater Wallan-Merri State/Regional Park;
- 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, to ensure that we continue to be a relevant and cutting edge environmental organisation; and
- Celebrating our successes.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks to all of you for your fantastic support and hard work during 2016; and I wish you all the best for the Festive Season, and hope that we all emerge refreshed and ready for the challenges and opportunities of 2017.

David Redfearn President 2016

Merri Musings

Awards for Friends of Merri Creek: Friends of Merri Creek has won two separate awards in the weeks prior to December. On Thursday 27 October 2016, the group was awarded a framed Community Environment Recognition Award by Environment Victoria for our outstanding contribution to our environment – in bringing life back to the Merri Creek.



FoMC Secretary Ray Radford, Environment Victoria CEO Mark Wakeham, FoMC Vice President Ann McGregor, and FoMC President David Redfearn with the framed award from Environment Victoria.

Then on Wednesday 23 November 2016, we received a Community Grants Recognition Award from the Melbourne Water River Health Incentives Program for our “above and beyond contribution to protecting the health of our waterways.” The FoMC Secretary, Ray Radford, accepted the award of a nice glass trophy and a \$500 Visa card, which will be used for purchasing equipment.

These two awards show how highly FoMC is regarded by statewide environmental organisations.

Regenerator to Councillor:

Congratulations to Jodi Jackson, one of our regular Regeneration Group members, who became a Hume City Councillor at the Victorian municipal elections in October 2016. Jodi particularly likes the Woody Weed Whacking events at Bababi Marning (where she is in this photo) and Bird Surveys, where she always manages to find some interesting creature or plant to tell us all about.



Merri Regiment: One of our supporters, Adam Elliott, sent us this photo of the regimental medal for the 57th Battalion which, between 1921 and 1930, was known as the “Merri Regiment” because most of the men who served in the militia battalion were from the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

Another fantastic Murnong Gathering: Now in its eighth year, the Merri and Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group’s Murnong Gathering on 12 November 2016 was bigger than ever! Over 100 people came along to this unique event, which included a Wurundjeri Welcome to Country from Auntie Di Kerr, the Djirri Djirri



dancers (joined by many in the audience – as in the photo), weaving, and of course the harvest and cook-up of the endangered Murnong, along with other bush tucker. Thanks to Moreland Council for funding and to MCMC for providing marquees, equipment and assistance for the BBQ. [See more photos](#)

Blue-banded Bee Band was a real buzz: A load of generous musicians played at Northcote Social Club on 3 December 2016 for our [Blue-banded Bee campaign](#). Local musicians [Courtney Barnett](#), [Jen Cloher](#), the [Orbweavers](#), [Steph Hughes](#) and [Darren Hanlon](#) became the ‘Blue Banded Bee Band’ and tickets were sold through crowdfunding. This helped us to go way over our target, while also shining the light on grassland ecology. Thanks so much to [Milk Records](#) and Jen Cloher for organising the event. The raffle raised a further \$700, we sold out of Blue-banded Bee T-shirts and [The Guardian](#) covered the gig. Thanks also to FoMC member, Katrina Roberg, who did much of the behind-the-scenes organising and presented each of the musicians with a jar of Merri Creek honey.

Courtney Barnett and Jen Cloher perform at the Northcote Social Club as part of a fundraiser for the Blue-banded Bee. Photograph: Salona Chithiray.



Birds along the Merri in true spring

Our bird surveys in November recorded a total of 67 species at nine sites. This compares with 78 species over ten sites in November 2014 and 2015. Forty observers tallied a total of 1525 individual birds.

At Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Road grassland, Fawkner), the group had a great chance to observe a Golden-headed Cisticola (male) calling from the top of a Tree Violet (*Meliclytus dentatus*). The female was foraging nearby. Galada Tamboore continued as a favoured hangout for Grey Fantails: 20 were recorded there in September, and 13 in November.

At Coburg and Edwardes Lakes, the waterbird numbers were well down. Coburg Lake leader Alister Campbell reported "There were way fewer Pacific Black Ducks and Chestnut Teals than usual, and there were absolutely no Eurasian Coots or cormorants of any kind. Our hypothesis on the day was that the wet spring had meant waterbirds could disperse to more ephemeral waterbodies, but of course we have no proof!"

An indicator of the continuing good conditions for bird breeding were the five species seen feeding young at Edwardes Lake: Dusky Moorhen, Galah, Noisy Miner, Little Raven and Magpie-lark. A Collared Sparrowhawk nest was observed. Only two raptors were recorded across the surveys: a Collared Sparrowhawk at Edwardes Lake, and a Whistling Kite at Galada Tamboore.

A Blue-tongue Lizard was spotted during the Clifton Hill survey.

Overall, the Common Starling was the most numerous species (156), followed by the Rainbow Lorikeet (140) and the Red Wattlebird (139). The site with greatest diversity was Blyth St-Moreland Rd, East Brunswick (33 species), with 31 species recorded at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands). The Common Blackbird and the Common Myna (both non-native) were the only species recorded at all nine sites.

Ann McGregor BirdWatch co-ordinator

Whistling Kites usually live near swamps and rivers. They hunt small prey species including insects, fish, birds and mammals, by swooping while soaring. Whistling Kites defend territories, and pairs usually remain together for life. Photographer: Heath Warwick, courtesy Museums Victoria.)



Dick's Witticisms

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

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.

First Merri Birdwatch survey for 2017

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

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

Surveys at the following seven sites are on 19 February

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Surveys at the following two sites are on 26 February

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

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

Another day defending the Creek

Friday November 11 was an absolutely beautiful spring day, sunny blue skies and a warm 24°C. So what were you doing on November 11? Please forgive me for discussing my wife, but I want to relate what she was doing on Remembrance Day.

Ann McGregor left home at 9.30 am and returned at 2.30 pm after presenting the Friends' submission at a Planning Panel for 1-9 Moreland Road, Coburg, adjacent to the Merri Creek. The proposal was for several multi-storey apartment blocks right to the edge of the parkland (see photo montage). Existing vegetation would be destroyed and revegetation might take more than 20



Ann McGregor returning from another of her planning battles for the Merri Creek.

years to reach maturity. The proponent had an army of lawyers and consultants who had been presenting to the Panel all week wanting greater building height and minimal setbacks. The Friends have had a long interest in this site, with our late Founding Member George Smith highlighting problems in the press in 1993.

Ann had spent most of the previous week (often to midnight) preparing for this hearing, going through hundreds of pages of reports. She then prepared the Friends' nine page submission and in the process identified errors in translating a Council resolution into planning controls over building height. Since May she has spent days writing a detailed submission to the exhibited

Photo montage of proposed redevelopment at 1-9 Moreland Rd., Coburg. Proponents' proposal redrawn by FoMC to show the scale of the buildings.



amendment, speaking with Councillors and Council officers, attending Council and on-site visits. I waited outside to welcome her home after her exertions.

While Ann describes herself as a volunteer, she has provided her environmental planning expertise *pro bono* to the Merri Creek community now for 40 years. The community would have made a lot fewer gains in parkland creation, pathway building, getting land into public ownership and defending the public space from inappropriate development without Ann's sweat and tears in a myriad of planning issues. Widespread collaboration including the Friends' input has brought about some great achievements.

As development and redevelopment pressures increase, the need for the Friends and the Merri Creek Management Committee to respond to proposals affecting the creek corridor is increasing. There is a strategic need for specialist advice for both FoMC and MCMC to engage in planning processes and to assist Councils to defend and promote our vision for the Merri Creek Parklands.

Bruce McGregor

Friends of Merri Creek T-Shirts

You can now promote Friends of Merri Creek and also show your support with a cotton T-shirt featuring our logo in colour, for only \$30. Here it is stylishly modelled by Suzi Shaw at the bands' gig in December. It's available at the Merri Creek Management Committee office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, or we can post it to you for an extra \$3 (send your address, T-shirt size and credit card details to merriecreek@gmail.com.au – or a cheque to PO Box 93 Moreland 3058). You'll have to be quick though as there's only a few shirts left!



Friends of Edgars Creek Focus

Hip Hip Hooray...FoEC has turned ten!



Greetings for the first time in 2017! A word or two on our 2017 activities will follow, however it is FoEC's tenth birthday and we are happy and proud to be celebrating this milestone.

I would like to pay homage to all of the people who have joined us at any of our events over the past 10 years and contributed to the wonderful legacy that we have created along the Edgars Creek corridor; we have worked very hard to create a special area of urban open space. I would single out our core group of volunteers who have been working with us over the years, with many of you putting in ongoing active participation to our wonderful community group; and I extend our thanks to our key partners over the years, Moreland City Council (including Sam Niedra, Lori Arthur and Vince Andreana) and Melbourne Water, who have supported our work along the Edgars Creek.

And an extra special call out to the following people who have served on our committee over the years and made our community events a reality – Stephen Northey (inaugural President and now Treasurer), Anita Morgan (past Treasurer), Aliey Ball (past Secretary), Leanne Trickey (past Membership Secretary), Craig Hadley and Jo Searle (past Secretaries), Sylvia Page (past Secretary/Membership Secretary), Robert Urquhart and

Irene Baker (Secretaries; Irene has also been a tireless Waterwatcher for FoEC and FoMC), Robert “Robstock” Burnett (our one and only Works Manager), and I’ll also include myself (President)! If I have missed anyone I do apologise and thank you for your contributions to FoEC achieving our mission.

Finally – 2017: we have a full calendar of events lined up for the year ahead. Please visit the FoEC website to view our latest calendar, and for those on Facebook, search out Edgars Creek to “like” us and get regular reminders of our events throughout the year.

“See ya on the creek.”

David Pavone President, Friends of Edgars Creek

Swamped again!

Flash floods on 29 December 2016 piled up rubbish along Melbourne’s waterways and on footbridges, knocked over many tree-guards and buried some plants. This photo shows the footbridge over Edgars Creek at Ronald St North Coburg. Big clean-ups took place, including a couple by the Brunswick Velodrome and below the Silurian sandstone cliff on Edgars Creek, where guards were restored and plants unearthed. FoMC Litter Coordinator Paul Prentice also organised a special clean-up alongside Merri Parade Northcote on Sunday 22 January.



The FoEC community at work – great people who have made a great change on the Edgars Creek.



Befriend our Facebook page

Join over 1000 others and ‘like’ our wonderful Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/FriendsofMerriCreek

then click on ‘Like’ to get automatic updates to group activities and news.

And we’re on Instagram too

Smartphone users with the Instagram app can share photos with #merricreek #merricreektrail hashtags at Instagram @friendsofmerricreek

FEBRUARY

Saturday 4: MECCARG* Site Maintenance

Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1–3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 5: Litter Clean Up – North Fitzroy

Downstream from Rushall Station, 10am–12 noon. Melway 30 D11. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 5: Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 5: Waterwatch at the Collingwood Children's Farm

Abbotsford from 10am–12 noon, activities for the family including waterbug discovery and frog activities.

Sunday 19 : First Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2017

Seven sites along the Merri, 8.45–10.30am. See page 5 for details.

Sunday 26 : First Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2017 (continued)

Coburg Lake and Bababi Marning Campbellfield, 8.45–10.30am. See page 5 for details.

Sunday 26 : Waterbug Census Training Day

Darebin Parklands meeting room, end of Separation Street, Alphington, 10am–3pm. Learn why Macroinvertebrates (or waterbugs) are important for the health of the waterway. Registration is necessary – contact: juliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au or 9380 8199.

MARCH

Saturday 4 : MECCARG* Site Maintenance

Meet at the Merri path south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1–3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 5 : Clean Up Australia Day

Check the [CUA website](http://CUAwebsite) for Merri Creek locations registered closer to the date.

Sunday 5 : Merri Magical Gum Morning

Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St – follow the flags, 10.00am–12 noon. Melway 30C8. Friends of Merri Park host this family friendly event with Wurundjeri dancers, walk-in butterfly enclosure, SkinArt, Poa twining, coffee van and more. Funded by the City of Darebin and Eucalypt Australia.

Sunday 5: Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 5 : Sydney Road Street Party

Sydney Road Brunswick, 12–7pm Check out the FoMC/ MCMC stall near Brunswick Town Hall. If you can help staff the stall please ring Ray on 0422 989 166.

Sunday 12: Litter Clean Up – North Coburg

Merlynston Creek, 10am–12 noon. Melway 17 H9. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 19 : 1st of 6 Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning

Commemorate Harmony Day on 21/3 by helping to rid these native grasslands of woody weeds. Light refreshments provided. Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit Campbellfield, 10am–12.30pm. Melway 180 J12. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 19 : Friends of Edgars Creek Walk and Talk

Speaker and creekside location to be confirmed, 1–3pm. Phone David on 0428 130 268. See www.foec.org.au

Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

ASSOC. NO. A00246451

PO Box 93, Moreland, Vic 3058

Email: friendsofmerriecreek@gmail.com

Web: www.friendsofmerriecreek.org.au

Editor: Ray Radford

Assistant Editors: Paul Prentice, David Redfearn

Layout & Design: Dean Lombard

Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to friendsofmerriecreek@gmail.com by Friday 10 March, 2017



EVENTS

APRIL

Saturday 1 : MECCARG* Site Maintenance

Meet at the Merri path south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1–3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 2: Litter Clean Up – East Brunswick

Clara St, 10am–12 noon. Melway 30 A5. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 2 : Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Tuesday 4 : Frogs of Edwardes Lake

Meet in front of Reservoir Scout Hall, 6–7:30pm. Do a frog census of the Leamington Street/Edwardes Lake Wetlands, which are home to a number of frog species including Common Froglets, Marsh Frogs and Banjo Frogs. Registration is required as places are limited – contact juliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au or 9380 8199. Please bring weather appropriate clothing.

Sunday 9: Wetland to wetland bike ride

10am–12:30pm. Join MCMC for a bike ride along the Merri Creek, stopping at some beautiful wetlands along the way. Lunch included. Bookings essential – contact juliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au or 9380 8199.

Sunday 9 : Weeding at Strettle Wetland

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

Thursday 13: A little nature play

Whittlesea Public Gardens, end of Barry Road, Thomastown, 10:30–11:30am. Open your child to the wonder and learning local nature provides, with a free program for two to five year-olds. We will listen to frog calls and even meet a local frog. Bookings essential to Julia on 9380 8199 or juliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au

Sunday 23: Friends of Edgars Creek Silurian Cliff site Planting

Extension on the west bank of the creek where Boxthorn removals were undertaken in 2016. Access from Snapshot Drive and Spectrum Way corner, 1–3pm. Melway 18 B9. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 30: 2nd of 6 Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning

Help to rid these native grasslands of woody weeds. Light refreshments provided. Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit Campbellfield, 10am–12.30pm. Melway 180 J12. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

MAY

Friday 5: Friends of Malcolm Creek – Makeover

Malcolm Creek, Elsternwick Way (near Westfolds Loop) Craigieburn, 10am–1.30pm. Melway 387 B6. Join the corporate volunteers from NAB to restore a section of weedy creekbank. Free lunch provided.

Saturday 6 : MECCARG* Site Maintenance

Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1–3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 7: Litter Clean Up – Fawkner

Moomba Park, 10am–12 noon. Melway 8 A2. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 7 : Friends of Malcolm Creek – Greening Crossdale Green

End of Crossdale Green, Craigieburn, 10am–12.30pm. Melway 387 B6. Help re-establish pretty wildflowers. Free lunch provided.

Sunday 7 : Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 7 : Merri Creek Bird Survey 2 for 2017

Seven sites along the Merri, 8.45–10.30am. See page 5 for details.

Sunday 14: Mother's Day "Picking Pockets" Planting & BBQ

East end of Jukes Rd Fawkner, 10am–12.30pm. Melway 18 A2. Help to fill in the gaps between previous plantings. Funded by a Melbourne Water Corridors of Green grant.

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

*MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group