



Treaty site on the Merri

Historian Rex Harcourt says that recent information shows, almost certainly, that the site of the treaty between John Batman and the Wurundjeri people is on the Merri Creek near Rushall station.

Mr Harcourt, the author of the 2001 book *Southern Invasion Northern Conquest – Story of the Founding of Melbourne*, was writing in the Moreland History News (newsletter of the combined Coburg, Brunswick & Broadmeadows Historical Societies), Feb/Mar 2008. He wrote that his book “provided convincing evidence that the treaty site was at West Bend near Rushall railway station and the new information reinforces that view almost to the point of certainty.”

He acknowledges that there has been doubt and debate (often heated) about the treaty site for well over a century. However, Mr Harcourt provided FoMC with the information on which he based his view. He says that his view is supported by the traditional view of the original pioneer settlers, the folk lore through later generations, and the current Aboriginal view.

The traditional view

During the first 50 years or so of white settlement, it was taken for granted that the west bend at Rushall was the treaty site. However, there was no need to record this, so very few recorded references survive to this day. Clues as to the general area where the treaties were negotiated are provided by Fawcner's frequent diary references, GW Rusden's history and some early paintings.



PHOTO SHOWS A CONCRETE PLINTH, NOW ALMOST OVERGROWN WITH WEEDS, ON THE MERRI CREEK IN NORTHCOTE JUST NORTH OF RUSHALL STATION. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THIS PLINTH ONCE HELD A PLAQUE TO MARK THE SITE OF THE TREATY BETWEEN JOHN BATMAN AND THE WURUNDJERI PEOPLE.

The white settlers' folklore

Over the years a variety of reports told of a plaque mounted on a low concrete plinth to show the correct location of the treaty site. In 2006, while clearing the northern banks of the Merri Creek, Darebin Council unearthed a small concrete plinth with four bolts in place near the corners. It was found at a location which fits in with other evidence sufficient to show that this was the missing base for the original plaque. However, there was no sign of the plaque itself.

The Aboriginal view

Mr Ian Hunter, an elder of the Wurundjeri tribe, remembers his grandmother referring to the plaque and taking his elder brother to see it. She told him that it marked the place where the whites first made contact with her people. This is the most compelling evidence, as Mr Hunter is a descendant of Barak, who was present at the treaty negotiations.

EDITED BY RAY RADFORD FROM THE WRITINGS OF REX HARCOURT

For more information about Aboriginal life in Melbourne during white settlement, see the publication, People of the Merri Merri — The Wurundjeri in Colonial Days available from MCMC, 2 Lee St East Brunswick 3057 for \$19.80, plus postage of \$2.50. The Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre is also well worth a look — at Melbourne Museum next to the Exhibition Building in Nicholson St Carlton.

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Generous Donation

Thanks to the Australian Garden History Society for their generous donation of \$150 which they gave as a result of a walk around the trail in Clifton Hill on Thursday 14 February. The walk was led by MCMC's Brian Bainbridge and the Society wrote: "Those who attended were delighted with what they saw and learned. For many the existence of such a landscape so close to the city was a revelation." The donation was made towards the ongoing work of FoMC "in the transformation of the Merri Creek corridor."

Join in the spring bird survey

If you have any interest in birds, you might like to participate in a bird survey along the Merri Creek sometime in spring. There has not been a bird survey of the Merri Creek since 1993 and we know that since then a number of new birds have been sighted. So a new survey is very much needed and this one would be 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 and is not yet confirmed, but a possible date is Sunday 20 October.

If you are at all interested in being part of this first community bird survey of Merri Creek, please contact the Secretary, Ray Radford, by email to admin@mcmc.org.au or by phone on 0422 989 166 by 2 June.



Rufous Night Heron

Reservoir resident Kerry Borg took this great photo of a Rufous Night Heron on Merri Creek, near the footbridge to Broadhurst Ave Reservoir. Kerry, who is an active member of our sister group, the Friends of Darebin Creek, was cycling with her husband on the Australia Day holiday, Monday, 28 January, when they saw the heron at about 1.15pm. Surprisingly, the heron did not fly away as they walked across the bridge to take the photo and it remained quite close.

20 year anniversary planting success

On Sunday 16 March, we had a most successful planting to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the campaign to put the high voltage powerline underground from Brunswick to Richmond. Despite the very hot day, 39 people turned up to the site of the 1988 protest near Rushall station, North Fitzroy, including a sizeable contingent of staff from Readings bookstores. 300 plants were planted in difficult conditions as well as a substantial amount of weeding and some cleaning-up of litter. Afterwards, because of the total fire ban we couldn't have the usual barbecue so the enterprising MCMC staff ordered in lots of pizza. And there was even some beer as well! There was also an interesting off the cuff talk by Paul Prentice about the 1988 protest that led to the powerline going underground.



Another 20 year celebration coming up

It was only the first 20 year anniversary that FoMC will celebrate this year. The next one will be our own! Yes, in the next newsletter, we hope to let you know the details of the celebration to mark 20 years since Friends of Merri Creek was formed in late 1988.

FRIENDS OF MERRI CREEK NEWSLETTER

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Deadline for articles for the next newsletter is 20 June
Please send your contribution to admin@mcmc.org.au

Water play

Like the majority of Melbourne's waterways, the Merri Creek is more easily explored by bike, 'blade or boot than by boat: the only ones I recall seeing on it were some litter-blitzers' canoes, and water-quality problems regrettably put an end to sailing on the Edwardes Lake. Such a contrast with the Lillydale Lake on the pristine Olinda Creek, where not only rowing but even swimming is possible.

There was a memorable one-off occasion many years ago when the late great George Smith kayaked down the creek in flood conditions, going over the top of the De Chene Reserve footbridge in Coburg; on the other hand we are not far away from the boathouses at Studley Park, Fairfield and Moonee Ponds where more tranquil times afloat can be enjoyed, as well as some gourmet fare.

Most of the world's great cities are situated by river, lake or sea, with Perth effectively having all three, and Amsterdam, Stockholm and Venice almost overdoing the closeness to water. Berlin and Beijing, Adelaide and Canberra wouldn't be the same without their lakes; and when I visited Bregenz where Austria meets Lake Constance (*der Bodensee*), I expected something special and was not disappointed.

Neither, one hopes, would visitors to Melbourne or Geelong be, when they see our bayside and waterfront architecture and reserves, our touristic and recreational facilities: hotels and hostels, shops and theatres, restaurants including eight-wheeled and floating ones; ferries and cruisers, marinas and landings, bathing boxes and boatsheds; shared footways and bike hire, playgrounds and golf courses, woodlands and wetlands, parks and gardens.

Over a century and a half it has all come together: the historic Station Pier, the transformed and tram-stormed Victoria Harbour, the ornate Flinders Street Station, Southbank with the Arts Centre and the promenade; the Grollos' clean blue Rialto and Eureka skyscrapers, the magnificent Royal Botanic Gardens, and the sylvan Herring Island with our most naturalistic outdoor art. And just beyond the mouth of the Yarra lies peaceful Williamstown, our counterpart to Hobart's Constitution Dock.

Nor can one reasonably omit such aesthetically dubious but crowd-pulling features as Jeff's Shed, the Casino, the Aquarium, Federation Square, and the various temples of professional sport. Then again, how elegant are the pleasure-craft tied up on the Maribyrnong on Melbourne Cup Day, and their passengers! Nice work if you can get it.



For more active folk, there's boat racing and water skiing on the Yarra, Barwon and Patterson Rivers, and plenty of sailing on the Albert Park Lake and Port Phillip. And our beautiful, safe beaches (with less *wild* life than Darwin's) invite people to come and relax, play, paddle, swim or scuba dive... but you have to go a bit farther afield to find surf.

Nature-lovers can delight in the land-based conservation zones, and the marine ones vastly expanded in recent times; the creeks and rivers regaining their indigenous vegetation, the characteristic rugged ti-tree that complements the sand – merely thinking about it, one can almost smell the sea air; the dolphins and seals, the ducks and seagulls and myriads of other birds, marvellously diverse fellow-passengers on our trip on Spaceship Earth.

Meanwhile when Melburnians want to take to the water in comfort, there are cruises from Victoria Harbour or beside Princes Bridge; excursions up the Maribyrnong from Footscray, the Westgate Punt near Scienceworks, and the Williamstown to St Kilda ferry. So we are making the most of our opportunities, even if we don't have the serious commuter services of Sydney, Brisbane or Hong Kong.

But we do have Tasmania, thank goodness! and hence those fabulous sea-going vessels. And whose path should they cross but that of another indispensable service, the

Queenscliff-Portsea-Sorrento one; while further east Stony Point like Fremantle or Wellington links trains and ships, with its ferries to French and Phillip Islands.

There's no doubt about it: whether lolling in a li-lo, awkwardly zigzagging up the Yarra or serenely gliding across Bass Strait, one has to agree with the Water Rat from The Wind in the Willows that there is nothing quite like "messaging about in boats".

PAUL PRENTICE (COMMITTEE MEMBER)

Streamteam water quality monitoring highlights

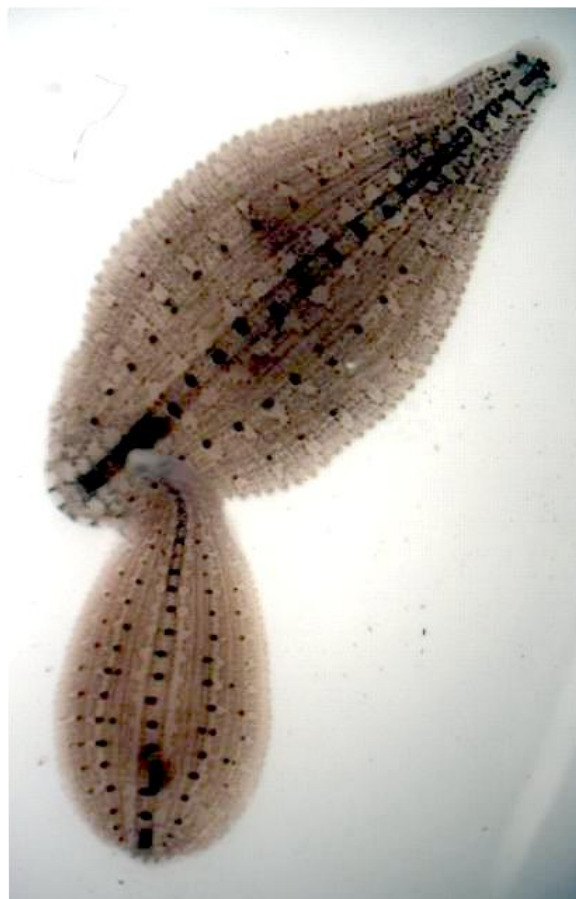
Here we are in 2008 looking back at water quality monitoring highlights from 2007. Streamteam is a group of enthusiasts with a few dedicated regulars plus frequent new faces interested to check out the life in the creek. The highlights of last year are that we completed water quality tests on the Merri Creek in North Fitzroy every month without missing a single event due to bad weather!

We sighted mayfly larvae in the creek on three occasions in 2007, twice at the beginning of the year and once on our last monitoring session in December. Thanks to the efforts of Graham Moore and Simon D'Alfonso we now have a Streamteam page on the Friends of Merri Creek Website that provides details of our monitoring events, a photo diary and data available for download. Another highlight is that a café opened in Miller Street that we now regularly attend after monitoring sessions!!

We are beginning to build up a significant data history for the site. In the long term we hope the data will allow us to see correlations between the health of the stream in terms of bug life and presence of pollutants. At the moment the strongest relationship that is seen in the data is that the bug score is definitely seasonal. In late spring and summer the bugs thrive in the warm weather and we get good to very good bug scores. It also appears that the bug life has got more diverse since mid 2003 when we began regularly monitoring at the site. In 2005 we first started seeing caddisfly larvae, in 2007 we started seeing mayfly larvae and sightings of dragon fly larvae are more frequent than they used to be. On the other hand we now see fewer freshwater shrimp that used to be the predominant creature found in our water samples up until mid 2005.



BEATID MAYFLY NYMPH



HIRUDINEA (LEECHES)

From the point of view of our chemical indicators, it is clear that soluble phosphorus also shows a seasonal variation, being higher in summer than winter. We also notice a lot of algal growth in summer, so we have wondered if the algæ are the food that perhaps supports the higher numbers of bugs in Summer. There have not been noticeable overall trends in dissolved oxygen, conductivity or turbidity. In general the chemical indicators suggest the water quality is fair to degraded, due to elevated conductivity, phosphorous and pH. But we can take comfort from the fact that despite what the chemical indicators say, there are many bugs making a home of the creek, and it is all very fascinating.

The streamteam is always on the lookout for new helpers so if you are interested in joining the fun or finding out more, please contact the coordinator on 9354 9885.

IRENE BAKER (STREAMTEAM COORDINATOR)

Images of a Beatid mayfly nymph and leeches taken by Steve Griffiths from the monitoring session on the 2nd December 2007.

Cubby House on the Merri

Brian's photo shows how the creek parklands are often used informally for nature-based play.



PHOTO BY MCMC SENIOR TEAM LEADER AND FoMC LIFE MEMBER, BRIAN BAINBRIDGE, OF THE REMAINS OF A CUBBY HOUSE AT TATE RESERVE, COBURG.

He says that the Tate Reserve tree plantings date from 1988 and the MCMC plantings of understorey grasses date from around 2000. Prior to this the Moreland Council parks unit used to mow and spray this understorey so that bark and branches were not able to build up.

Vale Grace Pringle

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Grace Pringle on a trip to India. Grace was a founding member to one of the forerunners of FoMC: the Northcote Merri Creek Action Group in 1974 and she helped to get the earthen levee bank alongside Winifred St Northcote, instead of the 3 metre concrete wall that was proposed. Although Grace was not a member of FoMC, she was a real friend of the creek. She leaves behind her husband, son and daughter, who all live near the creek.

Bus tour to the upper Merri

We are after expressions of interest for a bus tour to the upper Merri on Sunday 16 November. Plans are yet to be made, but we want the tour to include some of the upper tributaries and some farm properties, where the owners are revegetating the creek banks. We would like to have some idea of numbers so that we can organise the most appropriate transport and minimise the cost to participants. It is 13 years since our last upper Merri tour, so make sure that you don't miss out on this one. If you are interested, let us know as soon as possible by contacting the Secretary, Ray Radford, by email to admin@mcmc.org.au or by phone on 0422 989 166.

Get the newsletter by email – in colour

Thanks to all those who have already chosen to receive their newsletters by email. This choice not only helps us to save on postage, printing and paper, but also reduces the time and effort involved in the physical mail-out, as well as doing a little bit for the environment. Plus, you can even see the photos in colour! (Actually, the colour version is on our website and we email a link to it so as not to clog up email inboxes.)

If you too would like to receive the newsletter by email, please let us know by emailing merricreek@bigpond.com with your name and postal address.

Wallan Creek flood

Photo by Claudia James of Friends of Wallan Creek, taken about 7.30pm in late December 2007, showing Wallan creek flowing over Windham St Wallan and Hadfield Park, creating a lake around the new police station.

(Friends of Wallan Creek has Working Bees at the Wallan Scout Hall, Windham Street, Wallan from 10am to 1pm on May 11, June 15, July 13 & July 27.)



Crunch time for Victoria's threatened species

An alliance of eight peak environment groups is calling on Victorians to send a clear message to the State Government that it needs to act now to protect and restore habitat for threatened species across the state.

The Victoria Naturally Alliance is led by the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) and also includes The Wilderness Society, Australian Conservation Foundation, Environment Victoria, Trust for Nature, Bush Heritage Australia, the Invasive Species Council and Greening Australia (Vic). It was formed to push for greater action to protect the state's native plants and animals from a range of threats including climate change, habitat fragmentation and extinction.

The alliance's Carrie Deutsch, who is also on the Friends of Merri Creek committee, says Victoria's natural environment has been pushed to breaking point. "CSIRO figures show Victoria is the most damaged state in Australia. Nearly a third of our native animals and 44% of our native plants are officially threatened," she says.

"Add the pressures of increasing numbers of weeds and feral animals and it's easy to see why Victoria's natural environment is in a state of crisis. Increasing temperatures under climate change will only make this situation worse."

Carrie says that quick fixes won't save Victoria's threatened species. "The government has a responsibility to put long-term programs in place to ensure our unique wildlife is here for the future," she says. "We need a plan to support local communities right across Victoria to protect and restore habitat for threatened species. It's a huge job and that's why the Victorian Government has to take responsibility by putting in the funding and resources to make sure our unique wildlife is around in the future."

Carrie believes that the State Government's Land and Biodiversity White Paper, launched last year, is the best chance Victorians have had in years to improve the way we manage our natural environment, on both private and public land.

Stage two of the White Paper process, a "Green Paper", is now open for public comment and she urges Victorians to have their say. "Local communities are working incredibly hard to protect species in their local areas. But it's a huge job and they need the Victorian Government to take responsibility and put in the resources we need to save species," she says.

"This is the opportunity for those working locally on tree-planting and habitat restoration and those generally concerned about our natural environment to put forward their views to the government and

the public and get more support for their work in protecting the environment."

Land and Biodiversity at a Time of Climate Change

When it launched the Land and Biodiversity White Paper in April last year the State Government promised the process would set policy and investment in natural resource management, land health and biodiversity for the next 20 to 50 years.

The first stage was a consultation paper called Land and Biodiversity at a Time of Climate Change, which drew more than 350 submissions. (You can see the FoMC submission on our website: www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc under 'News').

An analysis of these submissions by the Environment Defenders Office revealed overwhelming demand for a massive boost in funding for environmental projects across Victoria.

The need for large-scale habitat restoration projects was mentioned in the majority of submissions, with a strong push to reconnect Victoria's national parks, reserves and remaining patches of native vegetation through strategically-placed habitat corridors and large-scale wildlife links.

Native bushland on roadside vegetation, along railway corridors, drainage lines and creeks was also seen to have a key role in creating and expanding reserves that support habitat corridors and protect native vegetation.

Twenty-four councils made submissions, with those closest to Melbourne identifying urban and peri-urban expansion as the biggest threats to biodiversity, while regional shires were more concerned with the impact of weeds and pest animals.

Take action

You can make a submission to the second stage of the Land and Biodiversity White Paper by visiting the Victoria Naturally Alliance's website: www.victorianaturally.org.au. The website has plenty of background information as well as an online submission form. You can also sign up for the alliance's free monthly ebulletin by emailing your name to info@vnpa.org.au.

For more information phone Victoria Naturally Alliance at the VNPA on 9347 5188.



FEMALE GOLDEN SUN MOTH (PHOTO BY LUCY GIBSON)



GROWLING GRASS FROG METAMORPH (PHOTO BY GEOFF HEARD)

The green invaders

Every once in a while Lake Eyre floods; and somehow way down on the coast or elsewhere flocks of pelicans and other birds know about it, and make the long trip across country for a frenzy of feeding and breeding, until the fierce sun dries everything up and makes it once again a good place to get out of! So it should be no surprise that when we help to create a welcoming habitat on the Merri, word gets around and the wildlife moves in on the renovated home, complete with pantry.

Equally as important as planting suitable indigenous species, and much tougher and more interesting, is tackling infestations of weeds. These range from elms and willows down to the inconspicuous, insidious Chilean Needle Grass and Serrated Tussock; and some of them are not even from overseas but from other parts of Australia. Where they occur naturally, some combination of soil, climate, fauna, topography etc. enables them to exist in harmony with their ecosystem; introduce them elsewhere and they become as great a nuisance as well-known imports like blackberries.

One of the most notorious and sneaky of these Australian-born predators is the Cootamundra Wattle, which wipes out other wattles by pollinating them and producing sterile hybrids... rather reminiscent of the exotic ducks which mate with native black ducks and contaminate their genes. Other spectacularly aggressive species are broom, which grows into dense masses smothering everything else, and water hyacinth which does much the same in aquatic environments.

The simplest method of control is just digging them out: the two-pronged grubber with a pivot for the final yank is excellent for weeds with deep taproots, or the tenacious knotweed of which no remnant must be left. It's like a cross between planting and litter removal – creating an environmental benefit and leaving a tidy, natural look.

The most dramatic is the ecological burn in grasslands, which rejuvenates the indigenous plants while knocking out several intruders; a few fire-resistant ones have to be killed off with herbicides. It's an eye-opener to see the contrast between unburned and burned areas, sort of like cosmetic-surgery Before and After pictures: Poa in particular can be relieved of

its thick tufts and make a fresh green start. Fire, a cleanser and regenerator as well as a destroyer.

The most perfect, but rare, is biological agents. The textbook case of this is the Cactoblastis insect, which proved so successful at tackling the prickly pear in Queensland that they erected a statue in its honour – larger than life-size, one would think. And foxes and cane toads rank high among the failures: we've learned from bitter experience that we really have to know what we're doing so as to avoid creating a worse problem. However a fungal disease is on trial at present as a means of controlling blackberries.

Herbicides, the last resort, are very specific, with varying strengths and applications; and they break down over time, instead of remaining around indefinitely like the insecticide DDT, which even turned up in Arctic animals' blubber and was among the deadly chemicals exposed in Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*.

Weedmat protecting new plantings was formerly made of black plastic which couldn't be reused or recycled and ended up on the tip; its one redeeming feature was the strenuous fun we had removing it, leaving a feeling of satisfaction and completion. Nowadays weeds are sprayed and then squares or sheets of felt are put down, being biodegradable in the long term.

There's a fair diversity of control methods: with Gorse and Briar Rose it's all brawn and no brain, as we chop them (and hastily poison the stumps) and cart them away to be burned; with Chilean Needle Grass and Serrated Tussock one gets careful instruction on how to identify them, and then goes prowling through the grassland with tall metal spikes to pinpoint their location before calling in the artillery – an MCMC operative with spray pack and full protective gear. OH&S, we don't leave home without it.

The campaign is never-ending. In the grasslands, some badly infested areas have to be left "in enemy hands" for now, while we concentrate on maintaining the integrity of relatively pristine ones as indicated above; beside the creek, deciduous trees (woody weeds) have been removed in favour of local evergreens. This will please both the aquatic creatures that prefer a steady year-long leaf drop, and the appreciative human visitors.

PAUL PRENTICE

This year FoMC is holding a number of weeding events at Merri Park, with the next one on 25 May. We'll be tackling the gorse at Cooper St Grassland in September and October (check the events calendar in the next newsletter).



A FoMC HANDWEEDING EVENT AT MERRI PARK WETLAND NORTHCOTE IN JULY 2007.

EVENTS CALENDAR...

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 Megan at MCMC 9380 8199.

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.

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 4 SAFCA Weed Workshop**

Alphington Wetland, View St, Alphington. Melway 31 C12. 10am-midday. Funded by NHT grant, 'Northern Nature.' Phone Megan at MCMC 9380 8199.

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 Megan at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 18 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at Community Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, Nth Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway Map 18 A9. Restore a treeline tussock grassland by a waterfall. Phone Stephen 9350 4212.

Sunday 25 Wetland Weeding No. 3

Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Summer Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-12noon. Melway map 30 C8. Light refreshments provided. Funded by an EPA alternative penalties payment. Phone Megan at MCMC 9380 8199.

JUNE

Sunday 1 Planting & Litter Clean-Up

Levee bank alongside Sumner Ave, Northcote, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 C8. Help the Darebin Bush crew improve the existing vegetation and prepare for future tree removals. Light refreshments afterwards. Funded by the City of Darebin. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 1 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 1 SAFCA Planting & BBQ**

Alphington Wetland, View St, Alphington. Melway 31 C12. 10am-1pm. Funded by an EPA alternative penalties payment. Phone Megan at MCMC 9380 8199.

Saturday 7 MECCARG* First Planting at the Quarry

Follow the flags from the footbridge south of Murray Rd Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway map 18 A12. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a digging tool, a hammer and a bucket if you can. MCMC will provide activities for kids. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants.

Saturday 14 MCMC Planting & BBQ

Hare St Fawkner, 10am-1pm. Melway map 18 A3. Funded by an EPA alternative penalties payment. Note this is a Saturday. Phone Megan at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 15 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at Community Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, Nth Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway Map 18 A9. Tree custodian planting of River Red-gums and Blackwoods. Phone Stephen 9350 4212.

Sunday 22 MCMC Planting & BBQ

Rushwood Drive Craigieburn, 10am-1pm. Melway map 180 E1. Funded by an EPA alternative penalties payment. Phone Megan at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 29 Planting & Litter Clean-Up

Friends' site near Strettle wetland, Thornbury, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 B3. Help to expand the site managed by the Friends with the support of the Darebin Bush crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Funded by the City of Darebin. Phone Pascale 9484 5752.

JULY

Saturday 5 MECCARG* Planting

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

Sunday 6 Litter Clean-Up

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

Sunday 6 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 13 Festival with Planting, & BBQ

Rotunda wetland, Hall Reserve, Clifton Hill 10am-1pm. Melway map

44 H1. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants. Phone Megan at MCMC 9380 8199.

Saturday 19 MCMC Planting & BBQ

Central Creek Grasslands, Davidson St, Reservoir, 10am-1pm. Melway map 8 B12. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants. Phone Megan at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 20 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at Community Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, Nth Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway Map 18 A9. Planting along an exposed Silurian escarpment. Phone Stephen 9350 4212.

Sunday 27 National Tree Day - Yarra City Council Event

Burnley Park Richmond 10am-1pm. Melway map 2H H10. Phone City of Yarra 9205 5555.

AUGUST

Saturday 2 MECCARG* Planting

Just south of Murray Rd bridge, Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway map 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a digging tool for planting and a bucket for watering if you can.

Sunday 3 Litter Clean-Up

Bell St East Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 18 A12. 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 map 30 C10. Phone 9354 9885.

Sunday 10 MCMC Planting & BBQ

Imaroo St, Fawkner, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 17 K6. Funded by Landcare Australia/Spicers Paper. Phone Megan at MCMC 9380 8199.

* MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group

** SAFCA = South Alphington & Fairfield Civic Association