

Raining, raining, raining on the Merri

Big rains keep on coming, our Merri keeps on running (with apologies to John Fogerty)

Just after our February newsletter was published, heavy rain fell on Melbourne causing widespread flooding: on this page are some photos taken by our former Treasurer Colin Abbott.



People get their feet wet on the walkway alongside the Brunswick Terminal Station, Albert St East Brunswick.



Willowbank Rd East Brunswick is flooded as the water is unable to go down the drain because Merri Creek is flooded on the other side of the levee bank (shown by steps).



The Merri path is completely submerged at Sumner Park East Brunswick.

The long drought has now broken and it is likely that from now on we'll have to cope with rain at some of our events. So far only one event has had to be cancelled due to rain (on 28/11/2010), and we hope that this won't happen again.

We all need to remember that our planting season is in autumn and winter, so we should expect some rain and learn to bring our raincoats. (Also see the article by Brian Bainbridge on page 2.)



Merri Creek in flood downstream of the footbridge to Merri Park Northcote.

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Merri Musings

Brunswick Electricity Terminal Station update

A community meeting on 7 February attended by about 70 people unanimously passed the following motion: *"This meeting opposes an expansion of the Brunswick Terminal Station (and its continuation) in an inner residential area. We call on the representatives of our community to wage an ongoing campaign to resist such development."* You can follow this campaign on the website: <http://powergridsolutions.blogspot.com>

Rain, rain, come again...

"There's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing."

(Attributed to Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes)

Is it still on? This has become one of the most asked questions regarding activities run by FoMC and MCMC in recent months. Rainy weather has attended many events, but staying comfortable indoors cuts one off from the joys of experiencing the Merri in some of her finest moments. Shafts of sunlight on glistening canopies, bark glowing with varnished colours, aromas of wet earth and leaf-litter and water-spangled spider webs are the rewards of a few hours of squelchy socks.

During a recent FoMC birdwatch at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grassland), the smaller birds made up for lost time with furious activity during the lull in the rain. Memorably, our hardy observers were surrounded by dozens of zooming Tree Martins. A bedraggled Brown Goshawk showed off an unusual fan-tailed posture for drying its feathers. Best of all are Galahs which engage in the most absurd acrobatics in the rain.

After more than a decade of drought, it seems many of us have lost the art of staying comfortable in wet weather, including myself! My row of wrinkly runners, my inadequate rain jacket and the gap where my gumboots should be (reckon they perished about 2006) all warn me to set up better for this winter.



Rain seems to bring out the acrobat in Galahs. Photo by Brian Bainbridge.

New FoMC Treasurer Thanks to Nicole Lowe who has generously volunteered to be Treasurer in addition to her roles as Coordinator of the Regeneration Group and as one of our Representatives to MCMC.

Also we welcome Ruth Shiel back on to the Committee.

Harold Mackrell invites visitors Harold, who is a Life Member of FoMC, would like anyone who knows him to visit at his new home at Westgarth Aged Care, 121-127 Westgarth St Northcote, opposite the Oldis Gardens, or ring 9276 9276 or 0415 700 880.

Unless extreme conditions are forecast (thunderstorms, windstorms, slow-moving torrential rainbands), it is safe to assume that a FoMC or MCMC event will run. So why not dress appropriate to the weather and for a few hours enjoy an Antarctic blast and the rain in your face, and anticipate how much sweeter the comforts at home will be when you return?

For those needing another tack to provoke reluctant partners, the following was attributed to an Oregon basketball coach: *"There's no such thing as bad weather, only soft people!"*

Brian Bainbridge FoMC Life Member

Opportunities on FoMC Committee

Committee member: *There's still a great opportunity to contribute to FoMC and learn how the Committee works, without having the responsibility for a particular portfolio.*

New "Future Committee Members" positions: *The Committee is now open to any member who is interested in becoming a Committee member in the future. The "Future Committee Members" would receive Agendas and can attend any of our meetings of about 2 hours, which are held in even months from February to October, making 5 meetings a year. The current office-bearers have offered to be mentors to anyone who might like a specific role on the Committee. If you would like to see what happens behind the scenes, contact Ray Radford as below.*

FoMC Office Volunteer: *This role involves a couple of hours once a fortnight during a working day, to check the mail and do the banking at our office in Brunswick Town Hall.*

All the above roles would suit someone who would like to do more for the group, but is unable to participate in our events. If you're interested, phone Ray Radford on 0422 989 166 or email: merricreek@bigpond.com.

Birds along the Merri in late summer

The latest quarterly bird surveys were conducted on 20 or 27 February 2011, at our ten regular sites along the Merri and at Edwardes Lake. A total of 67 species was recorded (similar to this time last year), and over 1600 birds.

The most numerous species were Rock Dove, Greylag Goose, Little Raven and Common Myna. Apart from Little Raven, these are all introduced species. Every site recorded Australian Magpie and Common Myna, while Magpie-lark, Spotted (Turtle) Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet and Red Wattlebird were seen at eight or nine sites. The East Brunswick site (Blyth Street to Moreland Road) had the largest number of species, with 32. Coburg Lake Reserve had the most birds, with 407.

Several survey leaders commented that things were rather quiet, particularly in relation to waterbirds. Eighty ducks were counted, compared with 180 in February-March 2010. There is plenty of alternative aquatic habitat after the high rainfall of recent months across eastern Australia. Of the regular summer migrants to the Merri, the Australian Reed Warbler was still present at Bababi Djinanang and Edwardes Lake, but the Sacred Kingfisher was not recorded at any site.

We recorded two new species for our survey list: Swamp Harrier at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands) and Tree Martin at Bababi Marning (Cooper Street Grasslands). The Swamp Harrier is a large, long-tailed bird of prey with a prominent white rump that is found over wetlands and open country. The wings have 5 'fingers' on the wing tips in flight. Swamp Harriers hunt for birds and eggs, large insects, frogs, reptiles and small mammals. They systematically search for prey by gliding low to the ground or water, then dropping down on to their quarry.

Tree Martins feed on the wing, catching insects in the air. Martins are generally smaller and 'dumplier' than swallows, and have a shorter, squared rather than forked tail in flight. Tree Martins can be difficult to distinguish from



Brown Thornbill by Brian Bainbridge. This is one of those "Little Brown Birds" that can be tricky to identify. (Come along to a Merri bird survey if you want to improve your skills.) Brown Thornbills were recorded at 6 sites in the February surveys.

Fairy Martins; a Tree Martin has a black head and a 'dirty' white rump, while a Fairy Martin has a rusty-red head.

(Thanks to the Birds in Backyards website, www.birdsin-backyards.net for information about these species.)

Ann McGregor Merri Birdwatch Coordinator

Second Merri Birdwatch survey for 2011

Bird surveys will be held from 8.45-10.30am at ten sites along Merri Creek as listed below. (Please note that the survey is no longer held at Kalkallo Common.) 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.

Surveys at the following nine sites are on 22 May & 4 September

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

Egan Reserve – Harding Sreet – 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 the 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 the 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 Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands) are on 29 May & 11 September
Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper Street, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).

Grasslands feature at the Museum

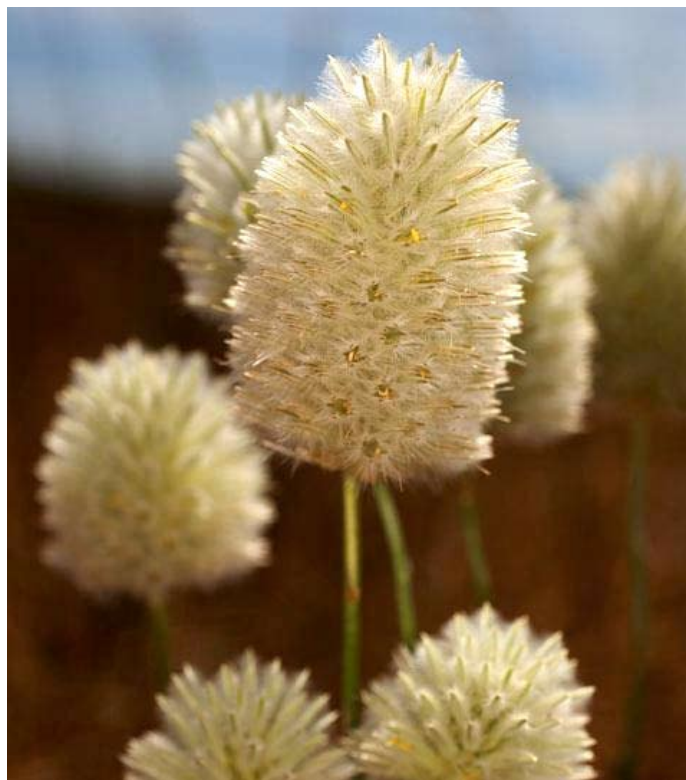
The Melbourne Museum has an interesting display on native grasslands as one of five featured Victorian Environments in its Wild section.

The display provides information on grasslands including the following: *When the first Europeans arrived in Victoria, there were grasslands on the vast, undulating western plains, on the northern plains and in Gippsland. Aboriginal people used fire to maintain the open nature of the grasslands, stimulate the growth of useful plants and attract animals for hunting. European settlers found that the expansive grasslands provided good grazing and were easy to convert to cropping and improved pasture. Today less than 1% of these magnificent grasslands remain. Grasslands in the Melbourne area are still under pressure as land values increase and the demand for new housing continues.*

We are lucky to have a few of these last remaining grasslands along the Merri Creek: Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn grasslands), Bababi Marning (Cooper St), Ngarrri-djarrang (Central Creek), Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd), as well as sites at Galada Tamboore and Kalkallo Common.

Drop in to the museum and have a quick look at the grasslands display, perhaps when visiting the exhibition *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs*. Just walk through the dinosaur section and the grassland display is on your left as you come to the stuffed animals. The display includes a video which you can see on line, of Mel Doherty, from Victoria University, talking about the special features of Melbourne's grasslands. See the website:

<http://museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum/discoverycentre/wild/victorian-environments/grasslands/>



Featherheads, Ptilotus macrocephalus by Benjamin Heally. Reproduced courtesy of Museum Victoria

Dick's Witticisms

Here are some more witty one-liners from FoMC Life Member and active Regeneration Group participant, Dick Harcourt:

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
Just remember...if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.
If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

Stalling Sydney Road



FoMC members Ruth and Des Shiel with Nicole Lowe staff our stall at the Sydney Rd Street Party on Sunday 6 March. This stall, which is our only remaining regular stall at a public event, is observed by thousands of people and attracts quite a bit of interest. We generally get a few new members too.

(Photo by Paul Prentice)

Water walks are healthier

Aquatic scenes have been rated as significantly more likely to be attractive, emotionally positive and restorative than non-aquatic scenes of nature.

This is the finding of research written up in the *Journal of Environmental Psychology* Volume 30, Issue 4, December 2010. The article, "Blue space, the importance of water for preference, affect, and restorativeness ratings of natural and built scenes" also found that it did not matter if these aquatic scenes were man-made or already existing.

This research suggests that if you need a break, and have the option of taking a stroll along a waterway, such as Merri Creek, you are likely to gain greater benefits compared to walking in other natural environments. Planners should take note – the inclusion of plenty of "blue space" has a positive effect on community wellbeing, and should be emphasised along with other scenic areas.

Friends of Edgars Creek Focus



The advantages of native gardens

It is deeply regrettable that there are not a far greater number of native gardens in Melbourne's inner and outer suburbs. Apart from the fact that native gardens are so obviously in complete harmony with the Australian environment and are green and fabulous looking at any time of the year, they have other important attributes.

Firstly, once the plants are established they really do not need watering except in times of extreme heat, and even then, depending on the varieties planted, are usually drought resistant, so there is a massive saving of water and labour hours.

Secondly, native gardens attract native birds and insects and detract snails and other European garden pests. Honeyeaters and parrots delight in the fruits and seeds of native trees and shrubs and it is exciting to have native birds in one's garden as opposed to pigeons, doves and sparrows. Prior to planting my first native garden, sparrows were the only inhabitants amongst European plantings. It was therefore a complete surprise and absolute thrill to see wattlebirds and White-naped Honeyeaters move in as soon as the first trees became established. As the trees grew taller, Musk Lorikeets and brilliant Rainbow Lorikeets arrived with their noisy happy chatter. The sound of summer has since been etched on my brain as that of Musk Lorikeets.



Thirdly, native trees provide much needed shade in summer and shelter in winter, resisting strong winds and protecting buildings from the elements depending on the size of trees and thickness of plantings. Strong winds will lift right over a thickly planted group of trees, the trees taking the severe lashings that



would otherwise have been given to the building. More importantly, trees and plants give out oxygen during the day and absorb environmental dust and pollution, allowing a more 'breathable' environment even in the direst concrete-paved suburbs.

I have selected photos of some local gardens to show their unique beauty. It is a complete mystery to me as to why the exotic English plant is still preferred by the majority of garden owners. Native flowers are more subtle, more sweet and subdued, and infinitely more rewarding in the Australian 'place'.

Although we had some prior knowledge before planting, we found a free little booklet on indigenous plants published by Moreland City Council to be a valuable guide in selecting plants that are 'at home' in Coburg North and surrounds.

Continued overleaf

New Friends of Edgars Creek Committee

The 2011 FoEC AGM was held on 26th February, highlighting the many achievements of 2010.

The 2011 elected committee is:

President: David Pavone.

Secretary/membership secretary: Robert Urquhart.

Treasurer: Anita Morgan.

Non-elected positions:

Immediate past-president: Stephen Northey.

Works manager: Robert "Robstock" Burnett.

Website management: Nathan Matthews.

Please refer to www.foec.org.au for details of exciting upcoming events, information about Edgars Creek and contact details.

Look out for invasive water hyacinth

Water hyacinth presents a serious threat to the environment and the economy, as it can double its biomass in a couple of weeks in ideal conditions.

Water hyacinth has distinguishable purple flower spikes and fleshy round leaves that sit on the water's surface while its long roots occupy the water below. The plants form a dense mass of vegetation that impedes light penetration and movement through the water. Decaying plant parts can also affect water quality.



Due to illegal trade in markets and garage sales, water hyacinth has been found across the state. For example, an infestation, which originated from Melbourne, was found in a Halls Gap pond in the Grampians, 240 kilometres away.

Metropolitan Melbourne has also had its share of reported infestations, with more

an infestation of water hyacinth, found by Department of Primary Industries (DPI) staff near Orbost in 1987, is still being treated

more than 20 years later. The ability for water hyacinth to survive and continue to re-emerge after repeated treatments shows the importance of regular monitoring by DPI, and continued vigilance.

Awareness, prevention and early detection are the best tools in the fight against this weed and will hopefully prevent water hyacinth invading key ecologically valuable water bodies. It is more important than ever to look out for this weed when visiting markets, garage sales, friends' backyards and waterways.

Please stay alert for this pretty, but invasive, weed and report any sightings to the DPI on 136 186.

water hyacinth plants being removed from Hawthorn, Reservoir, Caulfield North and Keysborough. Meanwhile,



Erin Cox Weed Alert Incursion Controller, DPI

The advantages of native gardens *(continued from page 5)*

At our home in Coburg North we have taken out a number of dark and gloomy European trees which failed to provide food for native birds, and in fact debilitated the soil drastically. We left the ground fallow and covered with native mulch for several months before we embarked on new planting. In order to try and avoid desecration when we no longer live here (as happened in a previous home), we have planted a shrubby low maintenance garden with lots of grasses that have proved extremely attractive. In two years this new garden has flourished, obviously 'at home' here. It possesses a rare and distinct beauty. The flowers bloom in various shades of blue, red, yellow and white and while not heavily perfumed, like roses and camellias, they are infinitely easier to look after and are far more comfortable in our harsh climate. They 'belong'.

The only eucalypts are two existing small trees, and our planting of four dwarf *Leucosylons* to give background structure, provide extra shade to the south side of the house, and to attract parrots. These *Leucosylons* will not grow to an excessive height

and can in fact be trimmed if necessary. In this way we hope that the next owners will keep the garden largely as is and not plant roses.

In the neighbouring streets there are several extraordinary examples of native gardens. One in particular stood out for its beautiful and interesting design, incorporating two ponds which are home to countless happy frogs. This garden has a particularly restful and private serenity, a magical world away from its suburban surroundings. All of the gardens that I looked at are extremely attractive and have provided a home for colourful native birds. They are all easily maintained.

In the context of this newsletter I am obviously preaching to the converted. But do tell anyone who is contemplating making a new garden, or even changing the old one, the real environmental benefits of saving water and the pleasure to be taken in the quiet beauty and 'rightness' of indigenous native plants.

Betty Snowden (edited)



Crossovers

Walkers and runners and bikes and wheelchairs, prams and pushers and trikes and kid-trailers, wheeled boots and skateboards and scooters – all kept “on the move” by road, rail and waterway crossings.

Our local stream has about twenty, including Louise Elliot’s achievement, the footway on the Epping line viaduct – recently joined by the easy-grade “Koonda Lat”; and the Merri Creek Coordinating Committee’s graceful commemorative arch that stands by their early triumph, the Northcote levee, while last year a bridge at Galada Tamboore linked up with the “Ned Kelly” overpass.

On the other hand, years ago there were plans for the path to cross from the Hall Reserve to Yarra Bend Park and back, to avoid the precipitous slope by Heidelberg Rd: thank heavens it never happened, and this secret, idyllic spot has remained unspoiled.

But pedallers and pedestrians now pass over South Yarra’s beautiful Morell, the Sandridge and Webb in the city, the bluestone span by the Coburg Lake, and the “Former Stock Bridge” in Kensington. It’s great that historic assets can find a new role, like the Outer Circle’s bicycle route from Hughesdale to Royal Park, with the North Carlton station that’s become a community centre; the Old Treasury, the restaurant trams and the Abbotsford Convent.

There are boardwalks by the Dandenong Creek near Jells Park, pontoons in Richmond and the Westgate Punt, Darebin and Merri stepping-stones and genuine fords on the Elster; Boronia’s Dorset Rd underpass, Mount Waverley’s below the freeway, a friendlier one at Flinders Street; and flyovers, from Forest Rd Ferntree Gully to *four* that traverse the tracks by the Tennis Centre.

Between Kendall St Preston’s escarpment and a market garden, the rugged old-fashioned suspension bridge sways like a living thing beneath our feet; there’s a modern single-pylon one near the Maribyrnong’s Moonee Ponds Boathouse, and another over in Mont Albert North that leads to the miniature steam railway. Cycling on Adelaide’s “jungle bridge” across the Torrens is banned, not that anyone in their right mind would attempt it!

The sturdy red-brick and bluestone structure at High St has got the lot: the Merri Creek and the Trail below it, the Latrobe Uni bus and Bundoora tram on it, beside it the Hurstbridge and above it the Epping line. The Burnley and Richmond rail viaducts, the Miller St Preston tram overpass, and the Maribyrnong’s E. J. Whitten Bridge, on the orbital 903 bus route, have paths for bikers and hikers; creek crossings lead to three Coburg trams, and to Rushall, East Malvern, Pascoe Vale, Narre Warren and Yarraman stations.

Yes, our network of paths is matched by our public transport: 200-plus stations, many with storage for bicycles; 800-odd tram stops, many equipped with platforms; neighbourhood, airport, school and community buses. And trams and buses are steadily becoming low-floor and wheelchair-accessible, and now accept folded bikes within 82 by 69 by 39 centimetres.

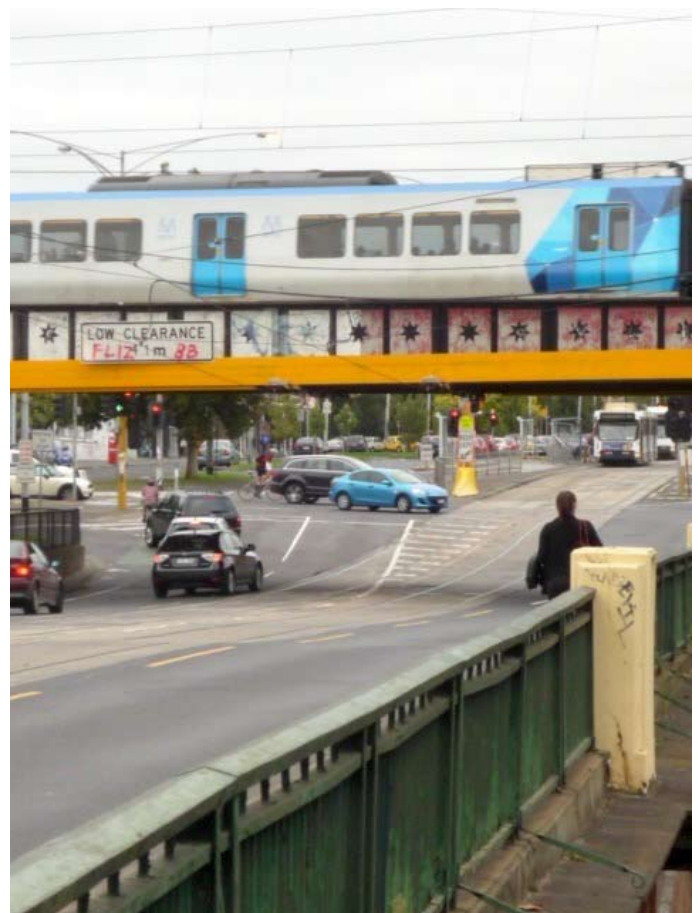
Returning to bridges, the Yarra has the vital connection at Gardiners Creek; Eltham’s by Montsalvat, Lenister

Farm, Pettys Orchard and more little trains; Lower Templestowe’s beside Finns Reserve, above a jumble of rocks and islets; the elegant Kanes at Studley Park’s Boathouse, the Pipe Bridge that dominates Fairfield’s. The path goes via the Mullum Mullum to Ringwood and onward to Carrum, with the Bay Trail back to Port Melbourne completing a 100-kilometre triangle.

Meanwhile the Capital City Trail simply goes from strength to strength. There’s the “Seafarers Bridge” that bypasses South Wharf, and a gaudy Parkville overpass; we’ll skip the vicious steep Gipps St steps with a crossing below the Convent, and the path will be widened above Dights Falls, opposite the Koorie Garden.

How rich is that place in spiritual significance, in flora, geology and history; so too is the confluence with the Edgars Creek by the bluestone Murray Rd arch, near the sandstone waterfall, the artificial loop, the no longer endangered parkland, and the tessellated pavement, the natural lake and the murnong (yam daisy) plantation. It’s the paths and bridges that get us there, and the latter can do even more, like collecting rain for the new mini-park in Westgarth, and creating wetlands on Reservoir’s Central Creek.

Paul Prentice



The bridge over Merri Creek at High St Northcote with a tram in Queens Parade and a train on the Epping line overhead. (Photo by Paul Prentice)

MAY

EVENTS

JULY

Sunday 1 Litter Clean-Up – Coburg

Murray Rd Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway 18 A11. 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 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

Saturday 7 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 15 Riparian Planting – Bababi Marning

Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands), near Istrian Club, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K10. Join an interesting streamside planting alongside this amazing native grassland. Light refreshments provided. Funded by Parks Victoria & a Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 15 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Stream bank tussock grassland restoration at the Gooseneck meander. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David 0428 130 268 or email david.pavone@austin.org.au

Sunday 15 Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds Planting

Bakers Rd bridge Nth Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway 17 J8. Funded by Moreland City Council. Phone Emma 9355 7982.

Sunday 22 2nd Bird Survey for 2011

8.45-10.30am at nine sites along the creek. See page 3 for details.

Sunday 22 Friends of Malcolm Creek Planting

Malcolm Creek North, off Arcadia Ave, Mickleham, 10am-12.00pm, followed by Lunch. Melway 366 D10.

Sunday 29 Planting & BBQ – Brunswick

Clara St Brunswick, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 A5. Help revegetate the narrow strips between the new shared path just south of Moreland Rd and the established vegetation. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant to FoMC. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 29 2nd Bird survey for 2011 at Bababi Marning

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

JUNE

Saturday 4 MECCARG* event

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 World Environment Day Planting, Litter Clean-Up & BBQ – Nth Fitzroy

Near Rushall station North Fitzroy, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 D11. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 5 Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds Planting

Murray Rd Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway 17 J10. Funded by Moreland City Council. Phone Emma 9355 7982.

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 19 Planting & BBQ – Campbellfield

Galada Tamboore, Hatty Court Campbellfield. 10am-12.30pm. Melway 7 K6. Funded by Parks Victoria. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 19 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Stream bank shrubland restoration at the regionally significant Silurian cliff (aka: Kodak Cliff). Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David 0428 130 268 or email david.pavone@austin.org.au

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 - Reservoir

Ngari-djarrang (Central Creek Grasslands) Reservoir, 10am-12 noon. Melway 8 B12. 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 Restoration Planting & BBQ at Bababi Marning (Cooper Street Grasslands)

Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper St Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K10. Help restore a formerly weedy site at this magnificent native grassland and enjoy a bbq afterwards. Funded by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 17 FoMC Planting – Strettle Wetland

Friends' site near Strettle wetland Thornbury, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 B3. Help continue the expansion of our site. Light refreshments afterwards. Funded by the City of Darebin. Phone Martin 0403 942 965.

Sunday 17 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet on the south west side of Edwardes Lake, opposite Zagame's Hotel on Edwardes St, 1-3pm. Melway 18 D5. "Circling the Lake Project" a joint planting at Edwardes Lake with Friends of Edwardes Lake, Darebin Bushland Management Crew and MCMC. Hosted by Darebin City Council with funding from the Circling the Lake Project. Phone David 0428 130 268 or email david.pavone@austin.org.au

Sunday 24 Planting & BBQ – Fawkner

Imaroo St, Fawkner, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 17 K6. Funded by Landcare Australia/Spicers Paper. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 31 Yarra City Council National Tree Day Planting & BBQ

Burnley Park, Yarra Boulevard upstream from Swan St, 10am-12noon. Melway 2H H10. Join in this great annual community event. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

AUGUST

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 Planting & BBQ – Nth Fitzroy

Near Rushall station North Fitzroy, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 D11. Funded by Landcare/SP Ausnet. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 7 Litter Clean-Up - Northcote

Walker St East, Northcote, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 F12. 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.



Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

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Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to admin@mcmc.org.au by Friday 24 June 2011

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