

Platypus rescued then surveyed in Merri Creek

After a platypus was rescued from plastic litter in Merri Creek near Moreland Rd Coburg on 25 January, Melbourne Water commissioned a survey for platypus in the creek.

A number of reliable platypus sightings in Merri Creek over the past 18 months raised hopes that this iconic species may have recolonised one of Melbourne's most urbanised waterways after a very long absence. Platypuses were apparently abundant in Merri Creek in the late 1800's, but slowly disappeared as the creek and surrounding areas were degraded by the growing urbanisation of Melbourne's suburbs. Widespread surveys in Merri Creek in early 1995 by the Australian Platypus Conservancy failed to capture any platypuses, and it is generally accepted that platypuses have been locally extinct in the creek for decades. Occasional sightings near the confluence with the Yarra River have indicated the potential for recolonisation by individuals entering from the Yarra River. However, in recent years platypuses are rarely seen downstream of Heidelberg in the Yarra Catchment.

In late 2010, several platypus sightings were reported in Merri Creek between Moreland Rd and Bell St. Sightings were also reported from the same area in mid-2011 and near Arthurton Rd later that year. Finally, early this year, the presence of platypuses was confirmed when a local resident rescued an adult male that was entangled in litter just north of Moreland Rd, highlighting one of the key conservation issues in urban waterways. After examination and treatment by a local vet and staff

from Healesville Sanctuary, he was released back into his territory in Merri Creek. Following this, Melbourne Water commissioned *cesar* to conduct surveys to try to determine the extent of the distribution and relative abundance of platypuses in Merri Creek.

In conjunction with the surveys, an information session was held at CERES where more than 50 people turned out to watch *cesar* ecologists demonstrate how fyke nets are set to catch platypuses, followed by a talk on platypus biology and conservation issues. Live trapping surveys were conducted over two nights in February, sampling from Arthurton Rd to Bell St. The surveys involved setting pairs of fyke nets at a number of sites during the afternoon, checking the nets throughout the night to repair holes created by Rakali (water rats), processing any platypuses and releasing any other caught species, and packing up at dawn. We were hopeful we might catch the resident male to see how he was recovering from his injuries. Unfortunately, no platypuses were captured during the surveys. However, a number of native species were recorded including Rakali, short-finned eels, an eastern snake-necked turtle and a broad-shelled turtle. Introduced roach and carp were also recorded. In the period between the two surveys, a platypus was sighted in a deep pool near Summerhill Rd, Craigieburn.

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A fyke net to survey platypus in Merri Creek. Note the number of white ties which are used to repair the nets after Rakali (water rats) chew their way out. Photo by Melissa Laing.

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Merri Musings

Brunswick Terminal Station update:

The Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, has called this application in and rezoned the site to allow the new terminal station to be built without a permit. FoMC has written to the Premier Mr Baillieu that this Ministerial decision denies the residents any examination into how inappropriate it is to have this Terminal Station in a suburban residential area. We support the Merri Creek Residents Group's request for an independent review of the Regulatory Test Process by the Australian Energy Regulator.

Successful Grants: Thanks to Melbourne Water for the following River Health Incentive Program grants:

- \$20,000 for the project: Bringing 'The Merri Island' back to life in Northcote, for restoration of understorey streambank shrubland and control of invasive weeds.
- \$19,612 for the project: Linking up the Merri Creek habitat corridor in Fawkner, for weed control and revegetation alongside the Merri trail from Hare St to Jukes Rd Fawkner.
- \$15,020 for the MECCARG project: Linking Rosemary Grevillea escarpment & Pentridge quarry: riparian & wetland development, for linking sites to increase Biodiversity values.
- \$980 support grant to MECCARG for volunteers to tour Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre.

FoMC can't work in Yarra: A

Yarra Council directive has prevented Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) from doing revegetation work on sites along Merri Creek in the City of Yarra, which also means that it is now difficult for FoMC to work on Yarra sites. These include Hall Reserve,

Clifton Hill, and the area from Rushall Station to Queens Parade, North Fitzroy, which have been established and continuously maintained through partnerships between FoMC, MCMC and the City of Yarra. We have written to the Yarra Mayor and Councillors asking for the decision to be reconsidered ASAP.

Urban Growth update: It seems that the Victorian Government has paused in its headlong rush to finalise the Urban Growth Boundary expansion, which was originally supposed to be completed by the end of March. So FoMC and the animals in the Merri corridor can catch our breath!

The fall and fall of the Growling Grass Frog:

Recent surveys by Dr Geoff Heard of the University of Melbourne have found that the distribution of the Growling Grass Frog has drastically declined in the Merri catchment over the last 10 years, making them even more endangered. He believes the main reason to be urban growth, exacerbated by recent floods and poor weather conditions, and possibly outbreaks of chytrid fungus (a disease introduced from Africa).



Adult female Growling Grass Frog, photo by Dr Geoff Heard.

Platypus rescued then surveyed in Merri Creek

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The problem of litter in Merri Creek is perhaps the most noticeable conservation issue and will require a multi-pronged approach from the general public, industry and councils to reduce the amount of waste we produce, stop litter from entering the creek, and removing the existing rubbish. Increased run-off due to hard surfaces in urban areas is also a major problem, creating periods of high flow following rainfall and washing rubbish and pollutants into the water channel. Urban areas also produce more rubbish, and have increased disturbance (e.g. noise, lights) from human activities and high predation levels.

The extended presence of at least one platypus in Merri Creek since late 2010 is an encouraging sign. The increased rainfall received during this period has improved conditions in many waterways around

Melbourne, but efforts to improve habitat along the creek have undoubtedly helped as well. Melbourne Water and local community groups, such as the Friends of Merri Creek and Merri Creek Management Committee, have undertaken substantial works such as weed removal, native revegetation, and litter clean-ups to improve habitat in the creek and surrounding riparian zone. However, the negative survey results indicate further work is required to improve habitat in this waterway to encourage platypuses and other native aquatic fauna.

Josh Griffiths Wildlife Ecologist at cesar

Public sightings provide valuable information for researchers. Please report any platypus sightings in Merri Creek (with date and location details) to Josh at: jgriffiths@cesaraustralia.com

Birds along the Merri in late summer

Our latest bird surveys were on 19 February, a cloudy, rather humid day with light wind. It was much warmer and windy on 26 February for the Bababi Marning survey, so the birds were keeping to cover.

At Edwardes Lake, Chris Neeson found that the diversity and number of birds did not seem to be affected by the blackwater (de-oxygenated water) that came from the wetlands just upstream in January, and the subsequent algal bloom. Fish, on the other hand, were still affected.

Chris watched a Coot grooming the back of another one's head (the latter with its wings spread in the photo) while another Coot tried to get some attention too, by pushing in with its head lowered.

The East Brunswick birders were impressed to watch a Sacred Kingfisher flying out of CERES to alight on a branch across the Creek, with a house mouse (not much smaller than the Kingfisher) in its bill. It flew back and forth across the Creek a few times, making a chrrrring call. Then it popped into its nest hole in the trunk of an exotic tree and deposited the mouse with its cheeping nestlings. That should have kept them occupied for a while...

Nankeen Night Herons were recorded at three sites; an unusual sighting at Bababi Djinanang where a sub-adult was seen. Two kangaroos were also seen at Bababi Djinanang, and had been there for some time as indicated by the droppings.

Tawny Frogmouths are regularly recorded in the East Coburg survey, but this time there were two families, each with one youngster.



"Me too please!" One Eurasian Coot grooming another at Edwardes Lake. Photo: Chris Neeson

A total of 82 species was seen across the ten survey sites, considerably more than in February 2011 (67 species) and 2010 (66 species). Total bird numbers were estimated at 2100. By far the most numerous species was Rainbow Lorikeet, with an estimated total of 296 recorded across eight sites. Common Myna came next with a total of 178, then Pacific Black Duck (127). Recorded in all ten surveys were Spotted (Turtle) Dove and Common Blackbird.

The survey sites with the highest bird diversity were Coburg Lake Reserve (35 species), Edwardes Lake (34) and Galgi Ngarrk (34), closely followed by East Brunswick (Blyth St-Moreland Rd) with 32 species.

Ann McGregor Merri Birdwatch Coordinator

Second Merri Birdwatch survey for 2012

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

Surveys at the following nine sites are on 20 May & 2 September

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Galgi Ngaark (Craigieburn Grasslands): Meet at 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 27 May & 9 September
Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper Street, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).

Real update on Marran Baba

This newsletter has carried a number of “updates” of the proposed new park north of the Western Ring Rd, however none revealed the frustrating reality of the timeline below.

Nov. 2000: FoMC and VNPA proposed a major park extending to Wallan, in response to the proposed Hume freeway.

2000-2003: FoMC campaigned against the freeway, including two legal challenges against the Federal Government. (Although this campaign was unsuccessful, it achieved a number of wins, the most important of which was limiting the impact on native grasslands.)

Oct. 2003: The Hume Freeway, or Craigieburn Bypass, opened.

March 2004: This was the original date that Parks Victoria was supposed to release the Draft Concept Plan for the Merri Creek Regional Park, which was promised as some compensation for the impacts of the freeway.

Nov. 2004: The release date was subsequently changed to June 2004, then to October 2004, then to November 2004, but there was still no sign of the Draft Concept Plan.

Dec. 2005: The Minister for Environment at the time, John Thwaites, promised to release the Draft Concept Plan. (We said that we would believe it when we saw it.)

Feb. 2006: The Minister broke his promise.

March 2006: Parks Victoria finally released the Draft Concept Plan on 17/3/06, two years later than was originally stated. FoMC invited submissions to the Plan.

July 2006: The Victorian Government allocated \$2.8 million for grassland protection works and visitor facilities in the park over the next four years.

Aug. 2007: Parks Victoria officers briefed a meeting of Merri Creek Management Committee saying, among other things, that the final plan would now be called

the *Merri Creek Parklands Management Plan* to maintain consistency with other Parks Victoria plans, and that the Plan would be released before November (2007).

Nov. 2007: Claire Evans, Team Leader, New Urban Park Planning at Parks Victoria, spoke at the FoMC AGM. She couldn't say when the final plan might be ready, but she did say that there would not be many changes from the draft plan.

2008-2009: Claire provided the first update in our newsletter, reporting that a steering committee was working on a strategic directions statement, and that the main focus would be on Galada Tamboore. Updates followed from Rebecca Scott (Feb. 09) and Andrew Shannon, Team Leader Community Engagement and Communications, Urban Parks, Parks Victoria (May 2009), who reported that the Strategic Directions Statement had been endorsed and that they had started development of the Master Plan for Galada Tamboore. But there was still no news on the final Management Plan.

2009-2010: Andrew Shannon supplied the next three updates, from Aug 2009 to Feb. 2010, which only informed us about the works at Galada Tamboore, as Parks Victoria scrambled to spend the government funding before the four year term expired in July 2010. There was no news whatsoever about the final Management Plan, but then Andrew's seventh update (May 2010) reported that a Strategic Management Plan would be developed. It seemed that this would be replacing the final Management Plan that we were advised was imminent way back in August 2007.

June. 2010: On 22/6/10 FoMC and MCMC met with senior Parks Victoria officers, including David Simondson, who was taking charge of the project. We were told

that the Draft Strategic Management Plan was expected to be released before the end of 2010.

2010-2011: Andrew Shannon supplied three more updates from Aug. 2010 to Feb. 2011, all about the works at Galada Tamboore. There was no news on what had happened to the Strategic Management Plan.



Galada Tamboore

New life for Merri Creek

This article appeared in the UK Guardian newspaper on 20 February.

Melbourne, Australia: It was once a site of heavy industrial use, but now Merri Creek waters the green spaces where it is good to live and breathe

May 2011: Tragically, David Simondson died of a heart condition late in May 2011. FoMC was very sorry to hear about this and our condolences went to his family, friends and work colleagues. Naturally, his tragic death delayed the Strategic Management Plan, especially since Parks Victoria was already under-resourced.

Sept. 2011: Carina Watson, Manager Urban Planning at Parks Victoria, informed us that Anne Van De Meene, an experienced planner, would pick up where David Simondson had left off, and she hoped to release a draft Strategic Management Plan for consultation before the end of 2011.

Nov. 2011: Anne Van De Meene altered the time of the expected release to early in 2012. It is now over four years since Nov. 2007, when we were told that that a final plan would be released.

Feb. 2012: Carina Watson explained that due to staffing resources and restructuring under the new Chief Executive Dr Bill Jackson, the Marran Baba plan is on hold and the person now responsible is Ian Walker, General Manager Environment and Heritage.

So we still don't have a plan after more than four years, despite the facts that the proposed "new parkland" is almost all on public land, and that the Management Plan didn't need much of a change from the draft plan. Clearly, the only time that Parks Victoria moved the Marran Baba project from being considered very low priority was when it became necessary to spend Government funds in 2010-11.

This has all been incredibly frustrating, but FoMC will continue to push for Marran Baba to become a reality.

Ray Radford Secretary

Merri Creek flows some 70km from the north down to join the river Yarra at Dights Falls outside Melbourne. And just a short, downhill walk from where we were staying, in the suburb of Thornbury, the steep and rocky channel of the creek, lined with gumtrees, winds between grassy banks. Some of the banks were built as levees after destructive storm floods in 1974. The number and diversity of eucalyptus trees are bewildering – among the better known are the stringybark, with long, fibrous threads of bark, and the ironbark, hard, deeply furrowed, almost black – but it is the river red gum, very frequent along inland waterways, that attracts my eye. I looked at a tall, handsome specimen, its spreading upper limbs smooth ivory, stripped of bark, while lower down the process of bark-shedding in ribbons left an irregular pattern of stripes and patches in shades of grey, brown and red, with a ragged litter around the base.

By our local stretch of creek is a wetland recently developed from a man-made flood-break and now nurturing native flora and fauna – part of a campaign to restore the nature corridor formed by Merri Creek after the damage done by more than a century of industrial development along its course. In places the water ripples over rocks and boulders of bluestone, a major building material used in the building of the city.

At Northcote, we looked down on boulders and cracked slabs in the riverbed close to the winch tower of a giant quarry developed in the 1860s, and filled, 100 years later, with rubble by a demolition firm. Some disused quarries became refuse tips, and a potential source of pollution. But nowadays, where Merri Creek waters the green spaces of places where it is good to live and breathe, you meet, in the cool of the evening, walkers, cyclists and runners, and fathers and sons out for cricket practice.

John Vallins Guardian.co.uk



Allie Dawe took this photo of Strettle Wetland Thornbury after heavy rains in January, looking westward (towards the creek) from the eastern edge of the wetland. It may well be the wetland referred to in the Guardian article.

Keeping it clean

At the opening of meetings, the Friends and the MCMC rightly acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, who lived in it so respectfully and sustainably, in contrast with our own “civilisation”; and we are honoured that they accept us as fellow-guardians of it, for example by joining with us in ecological burns and the Murnong Harvest.

The new order's relentless pursuit of money, comfort and cheap thrills has led to serious environmental and social problems: depleted rivers and salinity, toxic-waste dumps and contamination by “fracking” to extract gas, excessive logging and extinctions or endangerment of species, high carbon dioxide emissions compounded by galloping population growth; smoking and drug use, gambling and obesity, pornography and alcohol-related crimes, graffiti and...litter.

Those last two are fairly trivial compared with the preceding deadly dozen, nevertheless they too show lack of responsibility and respect towards the natural and human systems that support us; so in tackling them we're seeking to set a better standard, to create healthier, more positive attitudes. Besides, rubbish can be harmful as well as unsightly: animals can die from being trapped in it or ingesting it.

Obliterating the mindless scrawls, so different from genuine artworks, is the more difficult task, which Councils fortunately do undertake. Litter needs dealing with all year round, rather than an annual feelgood P.R. stunt by a major generator of it; hence our monthly blitzes, and the dedicated folk one is privileged to meet from time to time who do the job on an almost daily basis. And speaking of doing jobs, it's great that dog owners are generally conscientious about picking up

– other countries should be so lucky! And good on those who stow their butts in bottles or cans, they deserve to go one better and quit.

Recycling is the more satisfying part of tidying up, saving materials, energy and landfill space. The Northern Territory has recently introduced deposit legislation, following the pioneering South Australia which these days has not only very few bottles and cans left lying around (90 per cent recycled, only 35 per cent elsewhere), but not much general rubbish either. Now that's what you call civilised, as well as planet-friendly.

Paul Prentice Litter Group Coordinator

Join Paul in his regular clean-ups on the first Sunday of each month.

Dick's Witticisms

*Here are some more witty one-liners from
FoMC Life Member, Dick Harcourt:*

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

Every calendar's days are numbered.

Acupuncture is a jab well done.

A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

Merri Creek Oral History Project

Do you know someone who remembers the Merri Creek before 1970? Would they be willing to be interviewed for the Friends' Oral History Project?

We are looking for interviewees who played as children, lived or worked beside the Merri. We are interested to record how it looked, the plants and animals, what they and others thought of the Creek, and how the valley was used.

Or can you help us as an interviewer and/or transcriber? We have written guidelines and suggested questions to assist you, and can lend a digital audio recorder.

Please contact Ann McGregor on 9386 3102 if you can contribute to this project.



A 1908 postcard showing the bridge over Merri Creek at Murray Rd Coburg

Friends of Edgars Creek Focus



The autumn rains have brought good sub-surface moisture and that means excellent prospects for planting in the season ahead. Friends of Edgars Creek are excited!!!

In February Friends of Edgars Creek (FoEC) held our AGM. Our committee was returned back to office unchanged for the year ahead. A big thank you to all on the committee for their ongoing dedication to FoEC (for details see the minutes on our website: www.foec.org.au). As a quick snapshot, financially we are in a good position and our grants are being expended to schedule and in line with budgets. The President's report highlighted planning for the next three years and noted secured funding sources for projects in 2012-13 from Melbourne Water Community Grants and Satterley Property Group (Kodak site developer) for six projects through 2012-14.

Our 2012 Calendar of events has been finalised and is available online. The Friends of Merri Creek (FoMC) calendar also highlights our activities throughout the year.

I am particularly excited to have a "Confluence Planting" in 2012. This is sponsored by Moreland City Council and is on Sunday 3 June to coincide with World Environment Day. What is so great about this activity is that the Friends groups in our immediate area (FoEC, FoMC, MECCARG, and Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds) will come together with Moreland City Council to celebrate our commitment to our natural environment and its nurturance – 'taking care of country' to borrow a phrase!

The before and after photos below tell part of the story of the evolution of the Gooseneck Meander – a site that FoEC is especially proud of.

David Pavone President, Friends of Edgars Creek



Gooseneck Meander from June 2010 about four weeks after planting (at left) and the same site in October 2011 (at right - taken from a slightly different view point.)

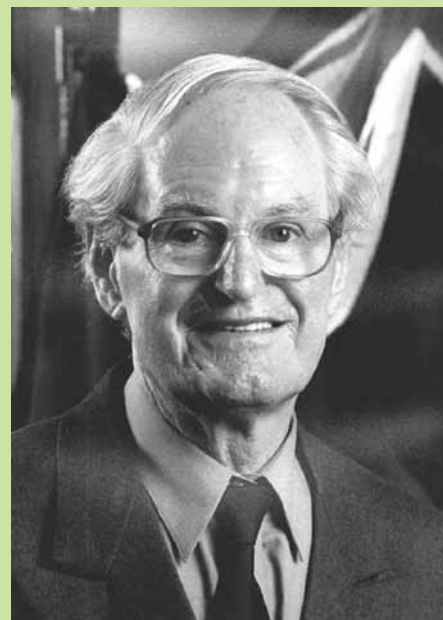
Vale Harold Mackrell OAM

We are saddened by the death of Life Member, Harold Mackrell, on Sunday 1 April. Harold's connection with the Merri began in 1975 when he was a Fitzroy City Councillor (1973 to 1976 and 1979 to 1982 – becoming Mayor in his last year). He helped establish the group in 1988, was a Committee member, a reliable representative on Merri Creek Management Committee until 2009, and a regular at litter clean-ups with his special hooked 14ft folding pole for hard to reach litter.

For decades he hosted Asian students and was active with a number of Asian friendship organisations, and this work led to him being presented with a special gift by the Chinese Consulate. A documentary was even made about him in Mandarin. In 2002 he was awarded the City of Yarra Citizen of the Year and the Order of Australia Medal for his work in the Fitzroy community.

Melbourne University will establish a scholarship for indigenous students in his name.

Tributes can be left to Harold at: <http://haroldmackrell.blogspot.com.au/>



MAY

EVENTS

JULY

Saturday 5 MECCARG* Planting – 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 6 Litter Clean-Up – North Fitzroy

Downstream from Rushall Station, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 D11. 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 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

Sunday 13 Mother's Day Planting & BBQ – Fawkner

Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd grassland), Fawkner, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 18 A1. Bring your mum along and do your bit for Mother Earth at this planting. Funded by Moreland City Council. Phone Lori Arthur at Moreland Council on 8311 4386.

Sunday 13 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet on the creek behind the Melbourne Big 4 caravan park (at the end of Elizabeth St), North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 B-C7. Stream Bank Shrubland restoration at the new 'Caravan Park' site. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant

Wednesday 16 Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds Planting

With Lake Park Kinder from Carr Street to the Merlynston Creek, Melway 17 H9. Funded by Moreland Council. Phone Emma Hopkins: 9355 7982.

Sunday 20 2nd Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2012

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

Sunday 27 A very Merri bike ride!

Ride the Merri Creek trail from Fawkner to Dights Falls, 10am to early afternoon. Learn about the restoration works with Friends of Merri Creek at key points along the ride. Organised by Yarra Riverkeepers. No fee will be charged but donations are appreciated. Register with David Redfearn on dgredearn@yahoo.com.au or phone 0448 852 747.

Sunday 27 2nd 2012 Merri Creek Bird survey at Bababi Marning

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

Wednesday 30 Platypus Talk

Carlton Library, 6:30-8:00pm. Light supper supplied. Presented by Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy. Bookings essential to jane@mcmc.org.au or 9380 8199.

JUNE

Saturday 2 MECCARG* Planting – Coburg

Go to footbridge between Bell St and Murray Rd on the Merri trail and follow the flags, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a bucket and digging tool if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

Sunday 3 World Environment Day Planting, Litter Clean-Up & BBQ

Just south of the confluence of the Merri and Edgars creeks, 10am – 12.30pm. Melway 18 A10. Join four community groups in helping revegetate part of the Merri Creek. Funded by Moreland Council. Contact Lori Arthur at Moreland Council on 8311 4386.

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 17 Food & Fibre Garden Workshop & Infill Planting

'Stomping Ground' on the Merri Creek shared trail, just north of CERES, 10am-12noon. Melway 30 B6. Help CERES to look after a food and fibre garden alongside Merri Creek without the use of herbicides. Led by MCMC staff and funded by a Moreland City Council Community Grant to Friends of Merri Creek. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 24 Planting & BBQ – Brunswick

Clara St East Brunswick, 10am -12.30pm. Melway 30 A5. Funded by Landcare/SP Ausnet. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 24 Friends of Edgars Creek Grassland Planting

Meet at Silurian Cliff site – access via either Ronald St and head North or from Livingstone St and head south, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A8. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 1 Litter Clean-Up - Coburg

Bell St Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 A1. 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* Planting – 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 Planting & BBQ – Fawkner

Emma St Fawkner, 10am -12.30pm. Melway 18 A2. Help to link up the Merri Creek habitat corridor in Fawkner. Funded by Melbourne Water River Health Incentives Program. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 15 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting

Meet at the east bank of the creek immediately downstream of the Silurian Cliff (just north of the Kodak bridge), access via Ronald St, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A8. Funded by Satterley. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Saturday 21 Friends of Coburg Lake & Surrounds Planting

Along Merri Creek at eastern end of Ida St, 10am - 12.30pm. Melway 17 H9. Funded by Moreland Council. Phone Emma Hopkins 9355 7982.

Sunday 22 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 Lisa 9484 1751.

Sunday 29 Yarra City Council National Tree Day Planting & BBQ

Fairfield Park, Fairfield, 10am-12noon. Melway 30 H12. Join in this great annual community event. Phone Craig McGrath at Yarra Council 9489 4588.

AUGUST

Saturday 4 MECCARG* Planting – Coburg

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

Sunday 5 Planting, Litter Clean-Up & BBQ – Northcote

Near Zoe Circuit, Northcote, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 C8. Funded by Melbourne Water River Health Incentives Program. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

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.



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Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to admin@mcmc.org.au by Friday 22 June 2012

*MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group