

MERRI CROWLER

The Friends of Merri Creek Newsletter

May – July 2016

The Merri Creek exhibition rolls on

The fabulous exhibition: Merri Creek – from wasteland to parklands, rolls on to Darebin after well-received showings in Moreland, Yarra and Hume.

THIS EXHIBITION, which celebrates community achievements since 1975 in transforming the Creek from a weed-smothered drain to the much-loved centrepiece of a bushland corridor, is really moving. Starting at Brunswick Library in October, it has then been displayed at Coburg Library in November, CERES Visitor Centre in December, Richmond Library in February, and Craigieburn Library in March and April. Along the way, people have turned up in their hundreds to the launches held in Moreland and Yarra, while Ann and Bruce McGregor have led informative tours of the exhibition. Now it's off to Darebin for May and then Northward-Ho – as below:

Exhibition Calendar May–August

Monday 2 May: Darebin Launch 10.30am–12.00pm, Northcote Library, 32-38 Separation St, Northcote (Melway 30 F8). The Mayor of Darebin, Cr Vince Fontana, invites you to the Darebin launch, featuring award-winning playwright, Patricia Cornelius. You may still be able to register at www.darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au.

2–15 May: Northcote Library 32–38 Separation St, Northcote (Melway 30 F8).

Friday 6 May: Guided Tour of the exhibition 7–8pm, Northcote Library, 32–38 Separation St, Northcote (Melway 30 F8). Led by David Redfearn, President and Life Member of Friends of Merri Creek.

16–31 May: Preston Library 266 Gower St, Preston (Melway 18 G12).

Sunday 22 May: Guided Tour of the exhibition 11.30am–12.30pm, Preston Library, 266 Gower St, Preston (Melway 18 G12). Led by Ann and Bruce McGregor, who have been involved in transforming the Merri for almost forty years.

Sunday 5 June: Whittlesea Launch 11am–2.30pm, Pacific Epping Shopping Centre, 571–583 High St, Epping (Melway 181 K12), near Best & Less. Celebrate World Environment Day, meet a few furry and scaly creatures, get your face painted and see the Whittlesea launch. No need to register.

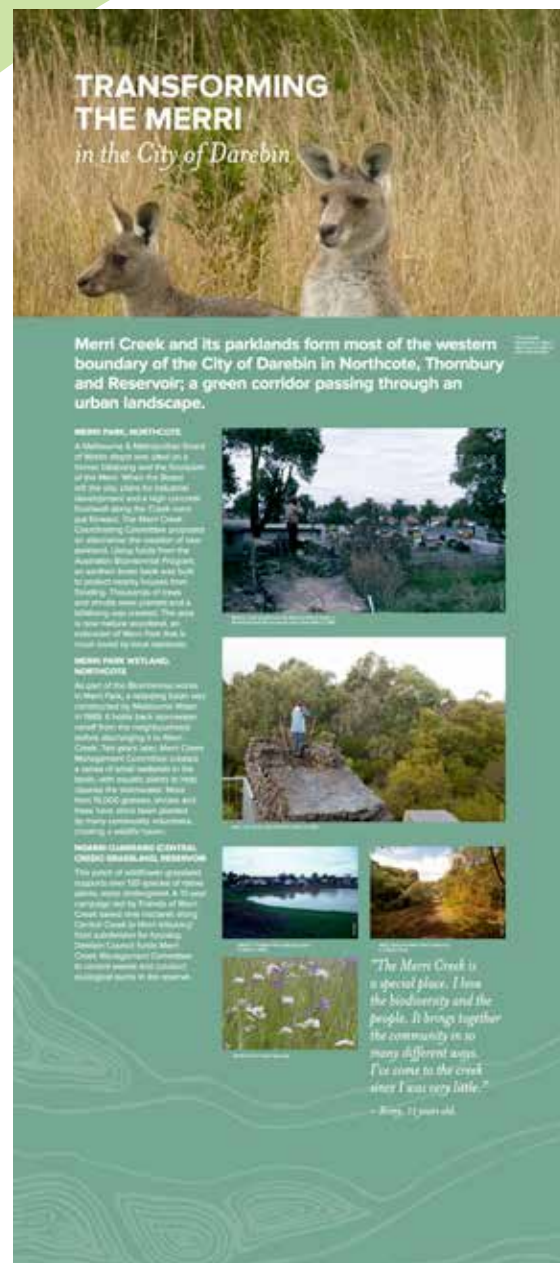
6–18 June: Thomastown Library 52 Main St (Melway 8 G7).

20 June–3 July: Lalor Library 2A May Rd (Melway 8 K5).

4–17 July: Mill Park Library 394 Plenty Rd (Melway 10 C2).

ALL August: Melbourne Water HQ Foyer 990 La Trobe St, Docklands (Melway 2E G3).

For further exhibition dates, check our website www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au under "What's On."



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Merri Musings



Moreland wetland update: We are well on the way to having a wetland along Merri Creek in Moreland by July; major excavation works are complete, including the construction of six pond areas and placement and compaction of fill. No rock or fill was found on site, and the soil and clay that was excavated was of a suitable quality to be used to seal and shape the wetlands. Indeed, some ponds are already holding water.

Some minor landscaping, drainage and pit works are well underway, and the Gross Pollutant Trap was to be installed mid-April. Plant stock has been secured and planting will begin once conditions are favourable.

Dangerous bridges: John McKay wants cyclists to know about the dangers of old decaying bridges along the Merri Creek. He recently severely broke his hip when his bike slipped on the bridge over Merlynston Creek in Coburg. This left him out of action for about four months and his recovery could take two years.

Like a number of bridges along the Merri Creek trail, the bridge over Merlynston Creek has anti-slip strips which are 80% worn - with moisture and algae (mostly during winter), and the wood is like ice. John was riding across carefully at slow speed yet his bike still collapsed.

Recently, excellent non-slip metal mesh surfaces have been installed on the footbridges between High St and Heidelberg Rd, Clifton Hill/Northcote - they make one feel very safe.

Changes to our Representatives to MCMC: FoMC Life Member, Allie Dawe has ended her long-term role as a FoMC Representative to Merri Creek Management



Committee, after starting in 1998 and becoming MCMC Treasurer in 2003. This is a tremendous commitment of over 17 years, including 12 as Treasurer, which involved almost monthly meetings of the Executive, as well as quarterly Finance Sub-Committee and Management Committee meetings. Allie very much deserves our huge thanks for her wonderful contribution to the Merri Creek.

For her part, Allie is glad to have seen that grasslands have become part of public consciousness, people who care for the environment are no longer described as “tree-huggers,” climate change has become a genuine conversation topic, and folk now expect governments to take responsibility for saving our biodiversity and acting on climate change. She says, *“Individual will and cooperation in good work continues to be inspirational.”*

Thankfully, another FoMC representative to MCMC, Ann Sanson, has taken on the role of MCMC Treasurer. We also have a new representative, Jane Miller, who only just agreed to be a Substitute Representative at our AGM in November 2015.

Involvement in Yarra Protection Act: Environmental Justice Australia and the Yarra Riverkeeper have invited FoMC to help give community input into the development of a Yarra River Protection Act. After an initial workshop in February, there have been a series of meetings for community representatives to consider what they want from the new Act, what should be its scope, and the preferred type of organisation to be established. FoMC is represented at these meetings by the Secretary, Ray Radford.



Sydney Road Street Party Stall: Once again, our stall at the grand party on Sunday 6 March was quite successful. At the stall, Suzi Shaw, our Facebook queen, proved that she can make face-to-face conversations too!

Successful grants: FoMC has received \$22,919.60 from Melbourne Water Community Grants for the project: *East Brunswick habitats for fauna, flora and people*, for planting and weed control along 700m of creek near CERES in East Brunswick. Melbourne Water also gave us a Group Support Grant of \$550 for provision of much-needed display material for community events.

Birds along the Merri in late summer

Fine, mild weather provided excellent birding conditions for the 45 people who joined our bird surveys at nine sites on two Sundays in February.

ZEBRA FINCH WAS ADDED to our list, recorded at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands). There were good views of a small flock of White-fronted Chats at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands). The males are particularly dapper, with a white head and belly and broad black hood and breast-band. Chats are related to honeyeaters and are brush-tongued, but mostly eat insects taken on the ground. White-fronted Chats live in grasslands, samphire flats and low shrublands across southern Australia.

A total of 73 bird species was seen across the nine sites surveyed. Most widespread (occurring at every site) were Magpie, Magpie-lark and Common Myna. Not far behind were Pacific Black Duck, Rock Dove, Spotted Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Red Wattlebird, Willie Wagtail, and Little Raven, recorded at eight sites. On the other hand, 19 species were each recorded at only one site. The most numerous species were Rock Dove, Rainbow Lorikeet, Common Myna, Pacific Black Duck and Silver Gull.

The sites with the most diversity were Edwardes Lake (39 species), Galgi Ngarrk (34), Blyth St to Moreland Rd East Brunswick (32), and Coburg Lake (31). Coburg Lake Reserve again had the most individual birds, an estimate of 541.

There were 132 Eastern Grey Kangaroos at Galgi Ngarrk, 84 at Bababi Marning, and 32 at Galada Tamboore. Swamp Wallabies were also

seen at these sites. A Giant Green Slantface Grasshopper, Plague Locusts, a Blue Skimmer Damselfly, two Water Skinks, about 30 Galaxia fish and a freshwater mussel were spotted at Galgi Ngarrk.

Ann McGregor BirdWatch Coordinator

Photo: White-fronted Chat, by Chris Clarke.



Second Merri Birdwatch survey for 2016

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

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

Surveys at the following seven sites are on 15 May

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Surveys at the following two sites are on 22 May

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

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

Creating "Pollen Pathways"

Parklands along Merri Creek play a role in reversing extinctions and surviving climate change – and they could even help you grow more tomatoes!

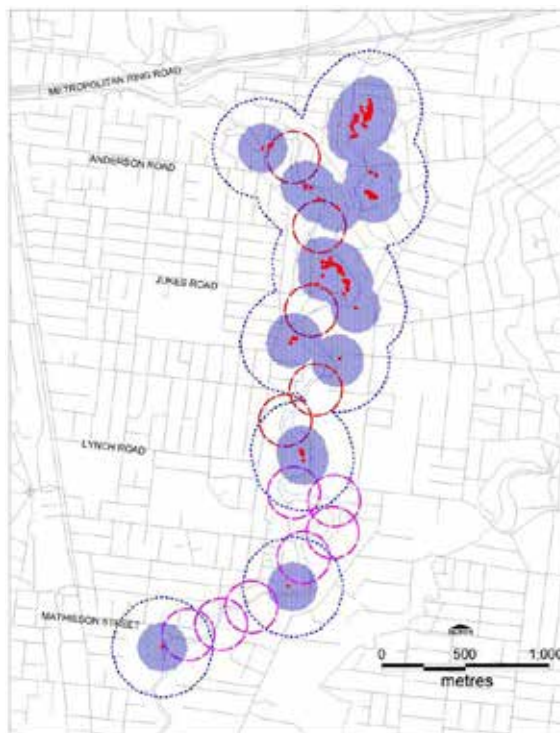
What is a Pollen Pathway? Plants rely on animals, wind and water to move their seeds to help colonise or recolonise distant landscapes. Animals and wind also move pollen between unrelated plants so they can produce viable seed. In this way habitat corridors for animal movement can also be the 'pathways' for pollen!

When we fragment the landscape where plants grow, they sometimes get left on islands of bushland with only a few possible mates, and, over time, all the plants end up being closely related and unable to produce much viable seed. It gets even more difficult when male and female flowers are produced on different plants. In the worst cases, a plant has no partners to cross-pollinate with at all!

Some plants, like Sheoaks and grasses, have pollen that is spread by the wind and may easily reach an isolated individual. Some seed is very good at moving around our new landscapes and can reach isolated islands, such as the berries of Tree-violets - they are eaten by Silveryeyes which then deposit the seed kilometres away.

But many seeds are shifted only a short distance by wind or water or on less mobile animals. And pollen is often moved by insects and birds that move it only a few hundred metres. In some cases, animals and insects that spread seed or pollen have also become rare because they have lost their habitat. Then the plant is in a real fix.

While the work that FoMC does definitely helps to create pathways for pollen and seed movement, some plants, such as the Matted Flax-lily, need more of a helping



hand. Special care is needed to ensure that unrelated individuals have a chance to cross-pollinate and produce viable seed. A local extinction is sad in itself, but it might also weaken the local ecosystem, making other organisms more vulnerable.

The Matted Flax-lily project

This rare lily's surprising sex life relies on a bee with a pitch-perfect hum.

Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*) was described in 1994 and is regarded as critically endangered in Australia. Ironically, in the Merri Creek it is our most common Flax-lily and persists in weedy bits along the creek. A nearby map shows the plants that we know about (red dots) – mainly at two grassland reserves with scattered clusters along

the creek as far south as Coburg. The estimated 300 m range of the bee is also mapped, showing that some of the patches of *Dianella* are well connected, but others are isolated.

We don't see young Flax-lilies establishing, probably because the plants are too far apart and not cross-pollinating, or weeds choke out the places where the seeds might otherwise grow. We hope that by dealing with these two issues, we can assist natural seeding to occur.

This Lily flowers in early summer and has a beautiful carnation-like scent and which is released from the orange structures. These are not pollen, but actually thousands of tiny filaments that act as scent dispersers, like those little sticks in essential-oil bottles. The flowers attract native bees, the most important of which is the Blue-banded Bee. The Flax-lily and the bee have a special relationship.



The pollen is actually held inside the rolled-up tubes of the lily anthers, where most insects cannot reach. It is reserved for a Blue-banded Bee, which has learnt the trick of 'buzz pollination'. The bee approaches the flower, grabs the anthers and begins to vibrate its wing-muscles, causing the pollen to pour down the tube and onto the hairy belly of the bee where it is trapped. The bee packages up the pollen then visits other flowers including native peas which produce a lot of nectar. It mixes the pollen and the nectar together to make a ball of 'bee porridge'. This ball is shoved into a crevice in a boulder or in some crumbling mortar in brickwork. It then lays an egg on the ball and the grub that hatches feeds on the ball of porridge.

Continued opposite

Friends' Life Members — Irene Baker

After a long break since November 2008, this is the 19th short history of one of our latest Honorary Friends' Life Members.

IRENE BAKER is the current Friends of Merri Creek Streamteam Coordinator, a role that she has held since 2005. This role involves coordinating a water quality monitoring session near the St Georges Rd Bridge in North Fitzroy at 2.30pm on the first Sunday of every month – even if it happens to be New Year's Day (as it was in 2012)! As well as this, since June 2010, Irene has also been coordinating another monitoring session for the Friends of Edgars Creek in the morning of the same Sundays. Whew – you can see why she deserved her Life membership!

Irene's love of the environment started virtually from birth as her parents were keen conservationists living in the Long Forest, between Melton and Bacchus Marsh. This is the only patch of Mallee vegetation south of the Great Divide, and her parents were a major part of a community effort to make Long Forest a flora reserve – which it became in 1981.

Because it was such an unusual area, Long Forest attracted a lot of researchers. As a young child, Irene would often tag along with them, and now thinks “it was pretty amazing having scientists in your backyard when growing up.” She particularly liked “the ant lady,” who was actually Jenny Barnett, who became a lifelong family friend – until Jenny and her husband tragically died in the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.

Irene also enjoyed swimming, playing and walking along the nearby Pyrites Creek, so, when she came to Melbourne to go to University in 1985 she was always drawn to areas with plenty of open space and natural environments. First she lived in St Kilda, so she enjoyed spending time along the beach and foreshore. Then, when she moved to Coburg with her partner, Robert Urquhart, she joined FoMC in 2001.

Irene is a chemist who has worked at the EPA and Kodak and is currently employed at CSL, formerly Commonwealth Serum Laboratories. When she was at the EPA, she liked monitoring the air quality and doing



what she saw as a life-saving task, so she jumped at the opportunity to monitor water quality for FoMC. She said: “the Streamteam sessions bring together a dedicated group of people who are interested in water quality monitoring and we always get a number of supportive comments from passers-by. Our presence shows them that someone cares about the creek and we're also able to give them useful information.”

She is also a talented artist who has produced a number of calendars adorned with her beautiful paintings.

Irene recently became a keen cyclist, coached by Melissa, whom she met through Streamteam, and has ridden in the “Around the Bay” event. She is also involved with the Friends of Edgars Creek group, along with her partner, Robert (they share the role of Secretary), and the group's meetings are held at their home in Coburg.

She is thankful to FoMC for being here, for being organised for so long, and for being so effective; and grateful to be part of FoMC. She said, with some emotion: “of all the things that I've ever been recognised for, like degrees and professional awards, being made a Life Member of FoMC has meant the most to me.”

Ray Radford Secretary

Creating “Pollen Pathways”

Without the Bees, the Lily is much less able to produce berries and seeds. However, these bees make foraging trips of up to 300 metres, so only plants that are within 300 metres of each other have a good chance of exchanging pollen. A map of known Flax-lily patches suggests that some of the remnant patches are well connected, but others are isolated, being several hundred metres from other lilies.

In order to create a single, interconnected population capable of ‘gene-flow’ over several generations, we need to plant new populations in the gaps in the bee’s ‘pollen pathway.’ In the short term, we can plant within the existing patches, mixing and matching offspring of plants from different patches.

Continued from previous page

In 2016, our Threatened Species grant *Matted and Tangled* will address the more immediate threat of weed competition around the Flax-lily patches – increasing the vigour of the plants and opening the gaps needed for seeds to establish. We have a number of weekday events, and you can sign up to be notified at: admin@mcmc.org.au

Interestingly, a Flax-lily flower shares a common structure with a Tomato, – they are buzz-pollinated too! While we have bred tomatoes to be largely self-pollinating, they still produce more fruit if ‘buzzed,’ and Blue-banded Bees are happy to oblige.

Brian Bainbridge FoMC Life Member

Solving the problem somehow

The international conference on climate change held in Paris last December was about as successful as could be expected: the nations of the world duly agreed that global warming was a grave threat, and declared what they might do to restrict it (not reverse it).

ON THE WHOLE, however, there was little sense of urgency about renouncing fossil fuels, which are so much simpler, more familiar and seemingly cheaper than renewables, although they could fairly literally end up costing us the Earth. They are deeply entrenched in countries' economies, industries, transportation systems, and ways of life: their use and/or export are considered pretty well indispensable. Australia and others have such a powerful vested-interest in them...

We desperately need to reduce our emissions of carbon dioxide, whose atmospheric parts-per-million have risen from 350 to more than 400; but in reality the decreases anticipated by a few countries, mainly in Europe, are much less than the increases. It's estimated that the overall effect of everyone's fulfilling their current intentions would be a catastrophic 2.7 degrees Celsius hotter planet, "the end of the world as we've known it."

A moment of grim humour at the conference was the presentation of the "fossil of the day" award to Australia for Foreign Minister Julie Bishop's words: "barring some technological breakthrough, fossil fuels will remain critical to promoting prosperity, growing economies and alleviating hunger for years to come." Breathtaking dishonesty, when droughts and floods are already crippling agricultural production. And selling people solar panels, batteries etc. means that's it, they're set for life; whereas getting them on to coal power means they're our customers for life. A little bit of self-interest, hmm?

The impact on flora and fauna was probably not mentioned, being totally irrelevant and unimportant: the planet exists only to look after us. Yet we aren't even taking care of ourselves, ensuring a healthy biosphere that can go on supporting us. We're emitting about twice as much of the gas as the plants can process, so halving our output would merely halt global warming: not good enough, we'd still have disturbed weather patterns, and rising seas from Greenland's melting ice... if it all went, the waves would be 6m higher.

The whole human race should be tackling the problem from both ends: eliminating the use of fossil fuels so as not to add to the carbon dioxide, and subtracting with massive tree-planting to absorb it. Of course we should



Meltwater carves channels in Greenland's ice
(Photo: NASA via Wikimedia Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Greenland_river_July_2012.png)

have been doing the latter anyway to remedy centuries of accelerating deforestation, but it doesn't matter if we only do it for selfish reasons, the environment won't know the difference.

That parts-per-million figure is the planet's most important statistic (are you listening, Ms Bishop?): as it comes down, everything else will start getting back to normal – temperatures, weather, sea-level, ocean acidity, tropical diseases' range, rainfall, coral-reef health, animal habitat, Arctic ice.

If only we could achieve all that by our own efforts! But the record says we're incapable of doing so: the essential ppm reduction will be forced on us by way of a collapse of our unsustainable economies, consumption, population, within a couple of decades.

At this point one either despairingly throws one's hands in the air, which is the more rational response, or enjoys a look at the details of how we could confer on fossil fuels the Order of the Boot.

First let's note the four great advantages of renewables. They're carbon-neutral; inexhaustible; safer and healthier (no coal-mine deaths, oil spills, poisoned farmland, etc. etc.); and more complicated – they make us use our brains!

All our energy needs should be met with electricity, except that ships and planes would use biofuels (these are renewables too, they only recycle atmospheric carbon). For land transport there'd be electric trains, and batteries or hydrogen fuel cells for other vehicles. The discontinuous big two, solar and wind-power, must have heaps of storage so that they can provide reliable baseload *and* extra capacity to deal with any surges in demand: I favour heavy weights hoisted by the "surplus" when it's shining or blowing, and descending and driving generators when it isn't. Very cheap and efficient, I reckon.

On a far bigger scale, vast amounts of hydrogen produced by electrolysis with summer's abundant solar, packed into natural or artificial caverns under high pressure, and then run through enormous arrays of fuel cells to help out in winter: I can't think of any other practicable way of coping with the seasonal variation.

Friends of Edgars Creek Focus



Hello from the Friends of Edgars Creek (FoEC). The planting season is nigh!

FIRST AN UPDATE from our AGM held on March 6th. Our committee has returned unchanged: I have retained the President role, Stephen Northey retains the Treasurer role (and Immediate Past President status until I take that from him!) and our Secretaries are again Rob Urquhart and Irene Baker. Rob Burnett continues in his appointed position as our Works Manager. I am happy to welcome Linda Davis to a support role. She will be assisting with website development and other communications. And further, Cecilia Riebl has offered to act in an assistance role to our Secretaries and will join us as a regular at committee meetings. Thanks to Nathan Matthews for his help over many years with our website.

I am proud to note that FoEC is now officially ten years old with our inception celebrated in February 2016. We will complete our tenth year of planting in September. To all who have given their time and energy to our projects and other objectives over this time: thank you. Volunteer groups are only as strong as their members – we must be made of fairly durable stuff! Our sights have also been cast further ahead with a full five year strategy 2016-2020

having been developed throughout 2015 – and credit must go to Stephen Northey for his diligence with this task.

After a dry summer my hope for rain always seems to be present, again...I really do fear for what our climate will bring in the years ahead. The science is well and truly in and we are living through an era of continued temperature records – we'd better plant more trees! And that is exactly what FoEC will keep on doing. We are ready for a full calendar of planting projects through April to September. Our calendar is now available on our website. The plants have been ordered, planting materials are waiting in our storage container and we look forward to again working with our community of volunteers as we further enhance our beautiful creek environment and make FoEC's revegetation mission a reality.

"See ya on the creek!"

David Pavone President, Friends of Edgars Creek



FoEC President, David Pavone and his sons, Matteo and Massimo, at the Silurian cliff site on Edgars Creek in July 2012



The same site in March 2016. David says: "I am certainly proud of the legacy FoEC has created and continues to work on for our future generations."



Befriend our Facebook page

Join over 1000 others and 'like' our wonderful Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/FriendsofMerriCreek then click on 'Like' to get automatic updates to group activities and news.

Post & win

Win a free bird book for the best post to our Facebook page each month.

And we're on Instagram too

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

Dick's Witticisms

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

*She was only a whisky-maker,
but he loved her still.*

*A dog gave birth to puppies near the
road and was cited for littering.*

MAY

Sunday 1: Litter Clean Up – Reservoir

Edgars Creek, downstream of Edwardes St, 10am-12noon. Melway 18 D5. 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.

Monday 2: Darebin Launch of Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands

10.30am-12.00pm, Northcote Library, see front page for details.

2 – 15 May: Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands

Northcote Library, see front page for details.

Friday 6: Guided Tour of the exhibition

7-8pm, Northcote Library, see front page for details.

Saturday 7: MECCARG* Site Maintenance

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

Sunday 8: Mother's Day Habitat Heroes Planting & BBQ

East end of Jukes Rd Fawkner, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 18 A2. Bring Mum and/or others and help Mother Earth by planting indigenous plants to add to the habitat corridor along Merri Creek. Afterwards enjoy a free barbecue with vegetarian and Halal options. Funded by a Helen MacPherson Smith Trust Grant.

Sunday 15: Merri Creek Bird Survey 2 for 2016

7 sites along the Merri, 8.45-10.30am. See page 3 for details.

Sunday 15: CERES-Blyth St Planting & BBQ

Meet in the Parklands at the east end of Kingfisher Gardens in East Brunswick, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 B 7, follow the flags. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants and the [Merri Creek Environment Fund](#).

Sunday 15: Friends of Edgars Creek Planting:

Caravan Park site stream bank revegetation. Access from north end of Elizabeth St (in behind the caravan park), 1-3pm. Melway 18 C7. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

16 - 31 May: Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands

Preston Library, see front page for details.

Sunday 22: Guided Tour of the exhibition

11.30am-12.30pm, Preston Library, see front page for details.

Sunday 22: Merri Creek Bird Survey 2 for 2016 (continued),

Bababi Djinanang & Coburg Lake, 8.45-10.30am. See page 3 for details.

JUNE

Saturday 4: MECCARG* Planting

Meet at the Murnong Circles, Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873 or [www.facebook.com/meccarg](#).

Sunday 5: World Environment Day Planting, Litter Clean-up & BBQ:

This year it's on Edgars Creek near Ronald St, North Coburg, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 18 A9. A combined event, celebrating World Environment Day, with our other local Friends groups. Funded by Moreland City Council.

Sunday 5: Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 5: Whittlesea Launch of Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands

11am-2.30pm, Pacific Epping Shopping Centre, Epping, see front page for details.

6 - 18 June: Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands

Thomastown Library, 52 Main St, see front page for details.

Sunday 19: 3rd of 6 Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning

Help to rid these native grasslands of Broom, Gorse and Briar Rose bushes. Light refreshments provided. Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 J12. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 19: Friends of Edgars Creek Planting:

Sheoak woodlands in-fill planting and site extension. Access by the Coburg Hill bridge on Spectrum Way, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Funded by Satterley. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

20 June-3 July: Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands

Lalor Library, 2A May Rd, see front page for details.

EVENTS

JULY

Saturday 2: MECCARG* Planting indigenous species

Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873 or [www.facebook.com/meccarg](#)

Sunday 3: Litter Clean Up – Coburg

Harding St Coburg, 10am-12noon. Melway 30 A2. 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.

4 – 17 July: Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands

Mill Park Library, 394 Plenty Rd, see front page for details.

18 – 30 July: Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands

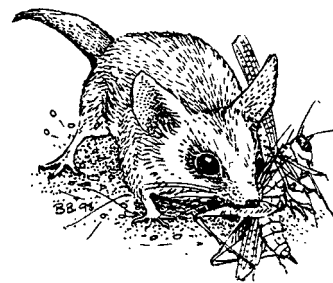
Whittlesea Community Activity Centre, 57-61 Laurel St Whittlesea, see front page for details.

Sunday 31: Yarra City Council National Tree Day Planting & BBQ

Alphington Park, Parkview Rd, near corner of Lugton St, Alphington 10am-12.30pm. Melway 31 B12. Funded by Yarra City Council.

Sunday 31: Friends of Edgars Creek National Tree Day Planting

Meet at the Kodak bridge/escarpment area, west side of the creek – near Ronald St Footbridge, 10.00am-12.30pm. Melway 18 A8. Hosted by the Moreland City Council. Phone Lori/Vince [MCC] on 8311 4386.



AUGUST

ALL August: Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands

Foyer of Melbourne Water HQ, 990 La Trobe St, Docklands, see front page for details.

Saturday 6: MECCARG* Planting indigenous species

Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873 or [www.facebook.com/meccarg](#)

Sunday 7: Planting & Litter Clean Up at Strettle Wetland

Friends of Merri Creek site near Strettle Wetland Thornbury, 10am-1 pm. Melway 30 B3. Help look after the site managed by the Friends with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Contact Martin 0403 942 965.

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.

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

*MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group



Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

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