

Moreland's wonderful new wetland

Huge congratulations to Moreland City Council for creating the wonderful new wetland near the confluence of the Merri and Edgars Creek on the old golf driving range site. However, it wouldn't have happened without us!

It all started in 2003 when the plan for the Pentridge development included a sedimentation wetland, but this was removed by Moreland Council and replaced with an underground tank system, without public consultation. As this option completely neglected the habitat value of a wetland, FoMC obtained legal advice from the Environmental Defenders Office (now Environmental Justice Australia) that the Council decision was open to a legal challenge. This threat resulted in a promise from the then Moreland CEO, Peter Brown, in October 2004 to create a wetland in Moreland, as well as trying to secure VicRoads land in the area.

We then reminded Moreland of their promise a number of times, before suggesting a number of possible sites including this one in 2009. At that stage however, the land was still owned by VicRoads, so another spot near Lowson St Fawkner was given priority, but it turned out not to be viable.

The confluence site was always our favourite, as it's a natural wet area, and located in the heartland of our own membership and that of our two very active sub-groups, the Friends of Edgars Creek and the Merri and Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group. We also saw it as a celebration of the retention of this land in public ownership, when it was gifted by VicRoads to Moreland Council following a vigorous campaign by ourselves and others, including local MPs Christine Campbell and Kelvin Thomson.



Happily, the new wetland is a far better option than the much smaller and less accessible sediment pond that was proposed for the Pentridge Village: it will help improve stormwater going into Edgars and Merri Creeks and contribute towards biodiversity, as well as improving the amenity of the area for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy. Already lots of the plants in the wetland are well established, and it has the appearance of being around for a lot longer than eight months or so.

Go and admire the wetland for yourself. Already a Kookaburra has done so!

Ray Radford Secretary

Come along to Moreland's World Environment Day Planting adjacent to the wetland on Sunday 4 June, 10am-12.30pm – details on back page.



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Merri Musings

It all happened at Happenstance: What a special and unique event was Happenstance on Saturday 25 February. FoMC auspiced this event which featured artists, musicians, actors and participatory activities like weaving a rug (photo), spotting artistic birds, or involvement in a brief play. It was a lovely sunny day and many passers-by stopped their walk or bike ride to join in the activities or talk to the volunteers at the FoMC stall. Congratulations to the organisers for a fantastic one-off event.



Sydney Rd Street Party: We had our regular stall at the Sydney Rd Street Party on Sunday 5 March (the same day as Merri's Magical Gum Morning) and once again attracted lots of interest.

Path upgrades for Galada Tamboore: On 5 February the State Government announced \$1.7 million to upgrade and develop visitor infrastructure, including 6km of bike and walking paths in Marran Baba (Merri Creek) Parklands at Galada Tamboore in Campbellfield/Thomastown. The plans are consistent with the Galada Tamboore Masterplan (2009) and the Merri Creek Marran Baba Parklands Strategic Management Plan (2013), and will include:

1. Sealing an existing gravel path from the Merri Creek pedestrian/bicycle bridge at Galada Tamboore to the pedestrian bridge across the Hume Freeway that leads to Whittlesea Public Gardens;
2. Sealing an existing gravel path that leads south from Somerset Rd to Horne St on the western (Campbellfield) side of Galada Tamboore;
3. A new path on the eastern side of Merri Creek, within the park's conservation zone;
4. A new bridge crossing over Merri Creek at the southern end of Galada Tamboore.

When construction begins (after August), these works will result in a loop track around Galada Tamboore and good access from both east and west. We trust that it won't be too long until the paths in Galada Tamboore are connected to the existing Merri Creek Trail.

New representative to MCMC: Jane Farmer has resigned as one of the six representatives to MCMC, as she is very busy in a new role and has to be overseas a lot. She has been replaced by Laziza Hawkins, who has already attended one MCMC meeting.



Planning proposals: A good outcome of the work by Ann McGregor (reported in the February newsletter) is that the Planning Panel has recommended that Moreland Council NOT rezone the site at 1-9 Moreland Rd Coburg, but keep it as an Employment Zone and limit it to four storeys. We are now hoping for a similar good result to another intrusive proposal at 2 Spry St Coburg North.

What a Magical Morning: We had our biggest turnout ever on Sunday 5 March with about 160 people at Merri's Magical Gum Morning at Merri Park in Northcote. Our sub-group, Friends of Merri Park, held the event which was tailored for pre-school kids and coordinated by Merri Creek Management Committee, with funding from Isabel Henderson Kindergarten, Darebin City Council and Eucalypt Australia.

It was a great setting for Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson's Welcome to Country and for Wurundjeri dance group Djirri Djirri. People also loved creating creatures with Trash Puppets, making paper Kingfishers, having their arms painted, twining toys with wool and poa grasses, watching waterbugs, and delighting in live butterflies.



Blue-banded Bee and Pollinator Projects: We have two important plantings coming up that are aimed at helping the Blue-banded Bee and the endangered Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*), as well as improving vegetation along the banks of Merri Creek. Both events involve planting additional Flax-lilies as well as flowering understory plants to attract the Flax-lilies' primary pollinator, the Blue-banded Bee. The aim is to augment isolated populations and create new pollination 'stepping stone' links between these and other Flax-lily populations.

Sunday 18 June: Buzz Planting & BBQ

Meet at the car park at McBryde St Fawkner, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 8 A12.

Sunday 16 July: BBB Planting & BBQ

Meet at Preston Lions Soccer Club Car park Melway 18 B3 OR Cr Glasgow Ave & Radford Rd Reservoir, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 18 B3.



More fans of the creek: Downstream from the grand High St bridge, Northcote, is a spectacular section of the Merri with steep escarpments and dense vegetation (some exotic) giving it a cool micro-climate, and various feathered or scaly inhabitants; and its own bunch of enthusiasts, the Friends of Merri on Parade, who plant, weed, tidy, or admire the wildlife on most Sundays. Anyone's welcome to join them: the contact person is Carolyn Lunt on 0466 517 993.

Industrial fires threaten Merri waterways: Three separate fires at industrial premises threatened Merri waterways during January/February. Thankfully, prompt and skilled response of Melbourne Water limited the impact of the runoff which contained fire-fighting foam and likely contaminants from the fires.

Edwardes Lake: A fire at a soap factory in Thomastown resulted in over 100 dead fish (carp) in the lake, some dead waterbirds and strong odours.

Campbellfield Creek: A fire at a factory in Camp Rd Campbellfield led to pollutants flowing into Campbellfield Creek, a tributary of the Merri, which at this point is in a concrete drain. Fortunately Melbourne Water contained the contamination largely within the creek/drain.

Merlynston Creek: Runoff from a large fire at a recycling factory in Coolaroo threatened Merlynston Creek, another tributary of Merri Creek, but the potential for runoff was well managed and there was no pollution of the creek.

Golden Sun Moth survey lessons

The Golden Sun Moth surveys in summer 2016/17 led to three important lessons:

- Golden Sun Moths (GSMs) don't mind how much it rains, as long as the grass is kept short;
- Small reserves make it hard for Golden Sun Moths to avoid predators;
- Golden Sun Moths live on the Great Dividing Range.

In April 2016 MCMC held an ecological burn at the site in Patullos Lane Craigieburn, and the reduced biomass added to a very wet winter and spring resulted in whopping grass growth that favoured Golden Sun Moth activity in the summer. However in other wet years we have seen low numbers, presumably because the moths chose not to emerge when dense grass makes it hard for GSM males to find displaying females. We did indeed see much lower numbers at two sites, one of which was the FoMC survey at Bababi Marning, but a third one showed high counts compared to other seasons. The network of GSM surveyors also reported high numbers at some sites, the common factor being that grass had been reduced by grazing livestock or kangaroos, by fire, or by mowing.

This raises some questions for reserve managers: could a well-timed slashing of grasses have increased moth activity this season? Is it important to maintain high activity most seasons? How many years of low activity can a moth population survive?

Wile E. Wagtail flies again

At the tiny Amberfield Reserve in Craigieburn, GSMs were seen being eaten by Willy Wagtails that use fences as hunting perches. In 2016, bird-scarer tape installed by Hume City Council was deterring the Willy Wagtails from using the fence; but they had become used to it and were once again using the fence as an observation point to launch attacks on the GSMs. Willy is taking advantage of two factors: the GSM's main strategy to live long enough to mate and lay eggs is to overwhelm predators by emerging all at once, but when a population is divided into small sub-populations, this strategy is less effective; and the addition of perches - fences, posts and signs - to the formerly open grassland landscape allows predators to pounce on a passing moth with much less effort.

Across the Divide

In December, MCMC found GSMs at the Say G'day trail reserve in Heathcote Junction. This linear reserve follows a gas pipeline, with one end of the reserve in the Merri catchment and the other sloping down to a creek that flows to the Goulburn River. Over the decades, management to maintain open ground around the pipeline has fostered a good habitat for GSM as well as a grassy groundstorey rich in lilies, orchids and the Common Yam Daisy (Murnong). This population falls between those on the Volcanic Plains to the south and those north of the Divide at Yea and Broadford.

Since working here in 2015, MCMC crews have found other rare species including the Rare White-spot Skipper Butterfly and the Dwarf Boronia.

GSM surveys have now been conducted with community assistance for nearly ten years. Only through these long-term projects can we learn which population changes are due to natural fluctuations, and which result from the changes that humans make to the environment.

Edited from a MCMC article by Brian Bainbridge



Female Golden Sun Moth on the hand of Wendy Moore (photographer)

Birds along the Merri in late summer

The mild summer conditions have meant that many birds have continued to breed this year. There were many juvenile Dusky Moorhens and Eurasian Coots at Coburg Lake, and young were being fed by White-plumed Honeyeaters at Bababi Marning (Cooper Street Grassland), by Little Ravens and Noisy Miners at Edwardes Lake; and Little Ravens were nesting in East Coburg/West Preston.

It was unofficially the 'Day of the Cormorant' at Edwardes Lake: 12 Little Pied, 1 Great, and 40 Little Black Cormorants were recorded.

The Zebra Finches at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grassland), first recorded in February last year, have built up their numbers to sixteen.

There was a noticeable shortage of smaller birds in Merri Park, Northcote and East Brunswick (Sumner Park to Moreland Road – two survey areas). Aggressive species like Red Wattlebirds, Noisy and Bell Miners and Common Mynas were plentiful and could be displacing them. Avian predators were also recorded in these surveys: Grey Butcherbird, Little Raven, Pied Currawong and the highlight of the CERES-Moreland Road survey, an Australian Hobby. The Hobby is a small falcon that "flies down birds like starlings, swallows, pipits, with lashing wingbeats; soars at dusk for flying insects" (*The Graham Pizzey & Frank Knight Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*, 1997). It was heralded by alarm calls from several species as it flew swiftly over CERES and disappeared from sight.

An overall total of 72 bird species was recorded in our February surveys at nine sites, with 53 observers: the most common species were Silver Gull, Rock Dove, Red Wattlebird and Common Myna. Australian Magpie, Little Raven and Magpie-lark were recorded at every site. Those with the highest diversity were Edwardes Lake (37 species), Galgi Ngarrk (33), Coburg Lake (32) and Blyth St-Moreland Rd E Brunswick (31). Coburg Lake Reserve again had the most individual birds, an estimate of 520.

It's good to have families joining our surveys, and children can be very sharp-eyed observers. Moreland Council is

encouraging youngsters to identify the birds they can see in bushland along the Merri with photos of common species seen from the hide in the new children's bush playground in Kirkdale Park, East Brunswick (see photo).

Grateful thanks are due to our volunteer survey leaders, including those who have been with us since we started surveys in 2008, and those who have taken on leadership roles more recently. We are still short of one leader, so only survey nine of ten sites each round; and it would be good to have an 'emergency' leader who can fill in when one of the regulars is unavailable. Please contact me if you know anyone willing and able to help us as a bird survey leader.

Ann McGregor Merri BirdWatch Coordinator



Second Merri Birdwatch survey for 2017

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

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

Surveys at the following seven sites are on 7 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 playground adjacent to Griffiths Street, Reservoir (Melway 18 E5).

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

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

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

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

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

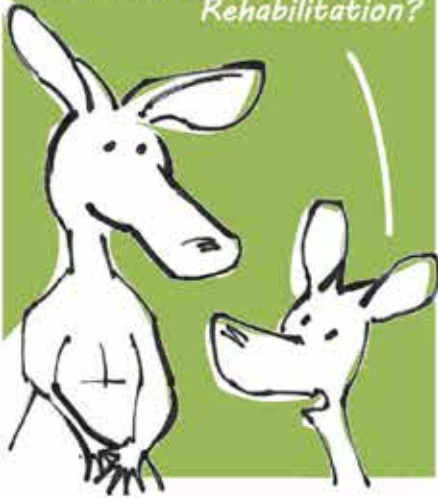
Surveys at the following two sites are on 21 May

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 Road, Fawkner (Melway 18 A2).

MERLE & MERRI discuss Restoration & Rehabilitation

What is the difference between Restoration and Rehabilitation?



Restoration aims to recover the ecology of a place to as close as possible to the original

Eg. The painstaking work of re-establishing processes like burning at precious remnants like Ngarri-djarrang Reservoir

Rehabilitation tries to recover some aspects of the original ecosystem - but aims for less than full restoration

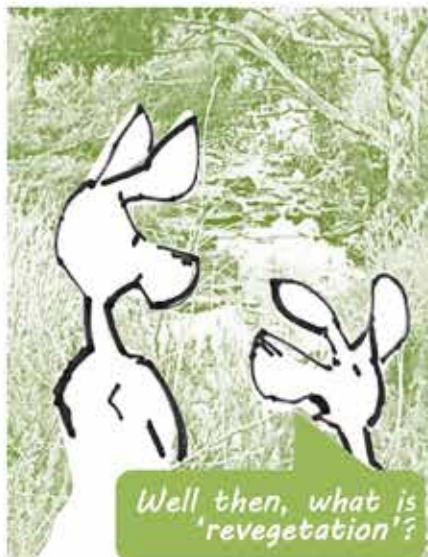


At many sites, plantings of trees, shrubs and grasses don't aim for a complete ecosystem but to achieve a 'natural' landscape that supports wildlife.



Either way, a reference site is used as to guide works and assess progress. A reference site is the best local example of the ecosystem.

One Merri reference site is Rushwood Drive in Craigieburn



Well then, what is 'revegetation'?

'Revegetation' is the same as Rehabilitation, the term now used in most of Australia & in the new Ecological principles for restoration in Australia*



*<http://www.seraustralasia.com>

/standards/contents.html

Is it really important what word we use?

YES!



A common language is needed for being clear about our goals, sharing knowledge and for costing different kinds of work.

Many areas require a mosaic of approaches, - sometimes the intent evolves as we learn more about a site



Hmm...it all tastes the same to me!



Early encounters

It must be extremely satisfying to the many guardians of Australia's natural environment that the people to whom it means the most are still very much around, their rights and needs and ancient culture beginning to be recognised and respected.

There's the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council, with an office at the Abbotsford Convent; their participation in the *Murnong Harvest* and *Magical Merri Morning* events, with a Welcome To Country and the traditional food plant and dancers and music; sometimes a Smoking Ceremony of spiritual cleansing, or joining in the continuation of the long-established practice of ecological burns of the grasslands; the dramatic, moving celebration at the MCG in the AFL's Indigenous Round - their success in Australian Rules football is well-known, in fact the game was predated by their own "Marngrook." And relations between these original inhabitants and the British invaders seem to have got off to a better start in the Melbourne area than elsewhere, judging by *People of the Merri Merri* by Isabel Ellender and Peter Christiansen, published by the MCMC in 2001.

Important ethnological/linguistic information about the local clans is provided, and a map of their territories. There were the Woiworung, Bunurong, Taungorong and Ngurai-illam-wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Language group, and the Wathaurung of the Western, with whom the escaped convict William Buckley lived for more than thirty years. Most of the land first occupied, with the Merri Creek more or less at its centre, was Woiworung, including the Wurundjeri-willam, of whom a ngurungaeta or headman was named Billibellary.

It was leaders like him, of strength and intelligence and good will, and similar British officials, notably Assistant Protector William Thomas and Commandant of the Native Police Henry Dana, who made friendly, constructive contacts possible. Others of note were Beruke, a Corporal in the Police, who "cut a striking figure" in the village of Melbourne in the "fine English shooting-coat" received as payment for his services, and Simon Wonga, a son of Billibellary: both were given medical help by Thomas. And the latter wrote of one Windberry, brutally killed by British troops, that he was "one of the noblest minded Blacks I ever met"...

Sadly, not enough was done to prevent the many deaths in 1839 from the diseases and unhealthy foods the British had brought, and a bout of cold weather: Thomas was furious with the administration for failing to supply blankets, and indeed it was not very supportive of his efforts to look after the people. By 1844, with colonisers taking over the best land, the Indigenous folk were in danger of starvation: the Protector, who wrote that he had "never observed a finer or more wholesome race of children", was afraid they might die out.

On a happier note, with the help of leaders he was able to minimise the damage from inter-tribal conflicts, including one sparked by the refusal of a young woman "Elizabeth" (tribal name not known) to accept marriage with a certain Yabbee. It ended well, the fighting was limited - nothing like the Trojan War!: the lady was allowed to marry Beruke, and the disappointed man was compensated. Another sort of diplomatic success: when the whites feared the

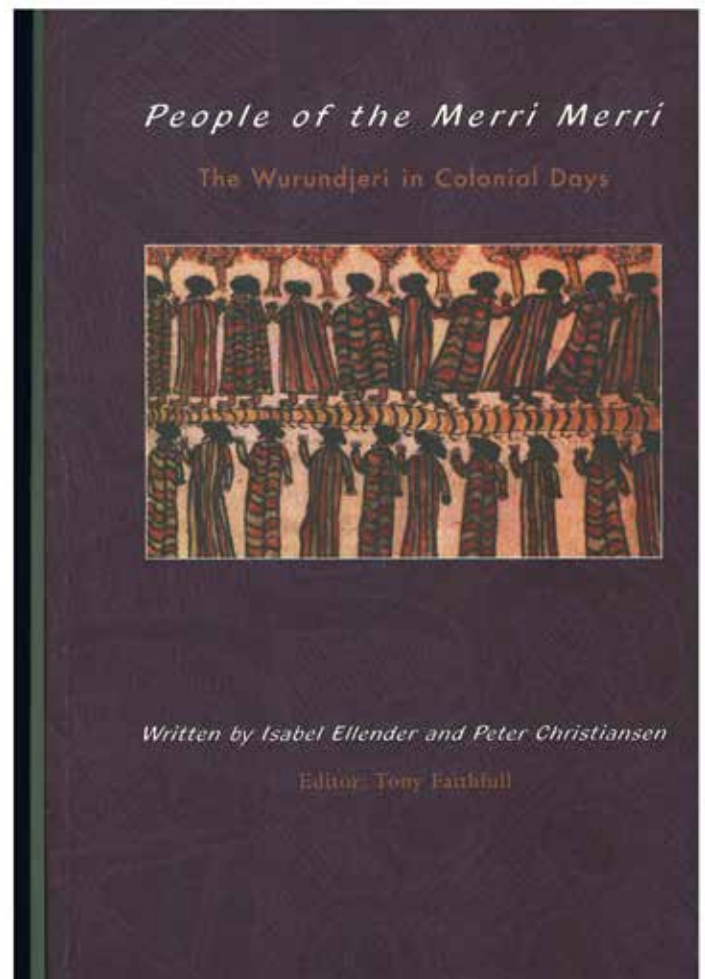
Aborigines had too many firearms, Thomas searched their encampment and didn't find any... for some reason he'd announced the inspection the previous day.

The beliefs, myths and legends, especially concerning supernatural beings from the kindly Creator Bunjil to the evil Myndie, social and day-to-day practices of the Indigenous peoples, are described in detail: it was a rich and well-ordered society, with a connection to and respect for the natural world which is all too rare today, but enabled them to enjoy a prosperous, healthy, sustainable lifestyle.

They were able to feed, clothe and house themselves without undue effort; they managed the grasslands to maintain their food supply; they preserved their genetic diversity with the rule of marrying outside the clan; not having learnt to write, they orally transmitted their heritage down the generations, while also leaving artworks for posterity. We are privileged to have these Earth-connected folk still with us and flourishing.

Paul Prentice

The book People of the Merri Merri costs \$19.80 and is available at the Merri Creek Management Committee office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick during office hours, and at CERES Nursery.



Friends of Edgars Creek Focus

Hello from the Friends of Edgars Creek. The planting season is on again!

First an update from our AGM held on 5 March: our committee has returned unchanged, I have retained the President role, Stephen Northey retains the Treasurer role (and Immediate Past President status), and our Secretaries are again Rob Urquhart and Irene Baker. Rob Burnett continues in his appointed position as our Works Manager; Linda Davis continues with our website and media development and maintenance role; and Jules will continue with her wonderful event catering.

2017 sees FoEC embarking upon our eleventh year of planting and we have been successful with our 2016 Melbourne Water Community Grant application – thanks MW for the many years of support that has enabled us to create a lasting legacy along our little creek. We are in a healthy financial position, have full grant funding through 2017 and are now funded for a number of events in early

2018 – our mission continues!

Our 2017 calendar is now available on our website, and for those connected with Edgars Creek on Facebook, keep an eye out for our regular planting and events updates. However we are still hoping to include two educational activities with guest presenters.

In summary, 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 legacy even stronger. Go FoEC!

"See ya on the creek!"

David Pavone President, Friends of Edgars Creek



Friends of Merri Creek T-Shirts

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



Befriend our Facebook page

Join almost 3,000 others and 'like' our wonderful Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/FriendsofMerriCreek then click on 'Like' to get automatic updates to group activities and news.

And we're on Instagram too

Smartphone users with the Instagram app can share photos with #merriecreek #merriecreektrail hashtags at Instagram @friendsofmerriecreek



Dick's Witticisms

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

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

They told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.

MAY

Friday 5: Friends of Malcolm Creek - creek makeover
Malcolm Creek, Elsternwick Way (near Westfolds Loop)
Craigieburn, 10am-1.30pm. Melway 387 B6. Free lunch provided.

Saturday 6: MECCARG* Site Maintenance
Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd
bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear
and gloves. Phone Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 7: Second Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2017
7 sites along the Merri, 8.45-10.30am. See page 4 for details.

Sunday 7: Litter Clean Up – Fawkner
Moomba Park, 10am-12noon. Melway 8 A12. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 7: Friends of Malcolm Creek – Greening Crossdale Green
End of Crossdale Green, Craigieburn, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 387
B6. Help re-establish pretty wildflowers. Free lunch provided.

Sunday 7: Streamteam Water Quality Testing
Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth
Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

Sunday 14: Mother's Day Picking Pockets Planting & BBQ
East end of Jukes Rd Fawkner, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 18 A2.
Help to fill in the gaps between previous plantings. Funded
by Melbourne Water and [Merri Creek Environment Fund](#).

Thursday 18: Waterwatch water quality workshop
10am-3:30pm Darebin Parklands Environment Centre, end of
Separation St, Alphington. Free training session to become a volunteer
Waterwatch monitor. Bookings essential – see www.mcmc.org.au

Sunday 21: Second Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2017 (continued)
Bababi Djinanang & Coburg Lake, 8.45-10.30am. See page 4 for details.

Sunday 21: Friends of Edgars Creek Planting
Caravan Park site extension and in-fill planting. 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.

Sunday 28: Direct Seeding & Weeding Coburg
Meet at the Merri /Edgars confluence for a weed workshop and
direct seeding of indigenous grasses to complement years of ongoing
works, 10am-12.30pm. Parking off Outlook Rd, Coburg North (Jackson
Reserve). Melway 18 A10. Funded by Merri Creek Environment Fund.

Sunday 28: Hand Weeding at Merri Park Wetland
Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St ,
10.00am -12.00noon. Melway 30C9. Help the Friends
of Merri Park to look after this wonderful site.

JUNE

Saturday 3: MECCARG* Mabo Day 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.

Sunday 4: World Environment Day Planting & Litter Clean-up
Adjacent to the newly constructed Merri/Edgars Wetland.
Enter via Nola St Coburg Nth 10am-12.30pm. Melway 17
K10. Celebrate World Environment Day (5 June) with other
local Friends groups. Funded by Moreland City Council.

Sunday 4: 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 11: 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 18: Buzz Planting & BBQ
Meet at the car park at McBryde St Fawkner, 10am-12.30pm.
Melway 8 A12. Help plant indigenous pollinator-attracting
wildflower species around remnant patches of the endangered
Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*). Funded by Victorian
Government and donations to Help the Blue-banded Bee.

Sunday 25: Hand Weeding at Merri Park Wetland
Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St ,
10.00am -12.00noon. Melway 30C9. Help the Friends
of Merri Park to look after this wonderful site.

EVENTS

JULY

Saturday 1: 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.

Sunday 2: Litter Clean Up – Craigieburn
Commemorating National NAIDOC Week 2-9 July. Rushwood Drive
Craigieburn, 10am-12noon. Melway 180 D1. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

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

Sunday 16: BBB Planting & BBQ Reservoir
Meet at Preston Lions Soccer Club Car park Melway 18 B3 OR Cr
Glasgow Ave & Radford Rd Reservoir, 10am-12.30pm. Melway
18 B3. Come help plant complementary indigenous wildflower
species to support remnant patches of the endangered Matted
Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*). Funded by Melbourne Water.

Sunday 16: Friends of Edgars Creek Planting:
Meet at the footbridge area, Ronald St, North Coburg 1-3pm.
Melway 18 A9. Shrub and grassland extension along the M9
easement area (west side of the creek). Funded by Melbourne
Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 30: Planting at Merri Park Wetland
Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, 10.00am
-12.00noon. Melway 30C9. Help the Friends of Merri Park to
look after this wonderful site. Funded by the City of Darebin.

Sunday 30: Yarra City Council National Tree Day Planting & BBQ
Kevin Bartlett Reserve, Burnley, 10am-12.30pm.
Melway 59 1B. Funded by Yarra City Council.

Sunday 30: Friends of Edgars Creek National Tree Day Planting
Meet at the Gooseneck escarpment area - access from the old
Kodak bridge, Spectrum Way, North Coburg, 10.00am-12.30pm.
Melway 18 A9. Funded by the Moreland City Council. Contact
Council's Natural Resource Management Officer on 0403 603 540.

AUGUST

Saturday 5: MECCARG* Planting indigenous species
Commemorating National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Children's Day on 4/8. Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south
of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy
footwear and gloves. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 6: Litter Clean Up – Coburg
Bell St Coburg, 10am-12noon. Melway 30 A1. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 6: Streamteam Water Quality Testing
Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth
Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

Sunday 13: Planting at Strettle Wetland
10am-12.30pm. 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.

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

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



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Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to
friendsofmerricreek@gmail.com by Friday 16 June, 2017