

# MERRI GROWLER

The Friends of Merri Creek Newsletter

November 2011–January 2012

Incorporating the newsletter of Friends of Edgars Creek

## 2011 Annual General Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 16th November

CERES Environment Room, Lee Street East Brunswick

*Find out about upper Merri planning and see the amazing Volcano Dreaming display*

Rosemary West, Joint Coordinator of the Green Wedges Coalition, and our own Vice-President and environmental planner, Ann McGregor, will tell us all about planning in the Upper Merri Green Wedge (what is left of it). And there will be a special viewing of the wonderful 12m long x 2m high panorama of Native Grasslands.

### AGENDA

1. President's Report - David Redfearn
2. Election of the 2012 Committee  
(Nominations invited – see below)
3. Election of six Friends' Representatives to MCMC
4. End of year celebrations

*Drinks and nibbles provided.*

### All members are invited to attend the AGM

Do come along and find out about planning in the upper Merri, which our President, David Redfearn, says is *"the greatest long-term challenge that we have ever faced."* Don't miss this chance to admire the fabulous *Volcano Dreaming* panorama, composed from more than 3000 images, showing the wildflower grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain. Plus of course you get to elect our new Committee and help celebrate another successful year.

### How about joining the FoMC Committee?

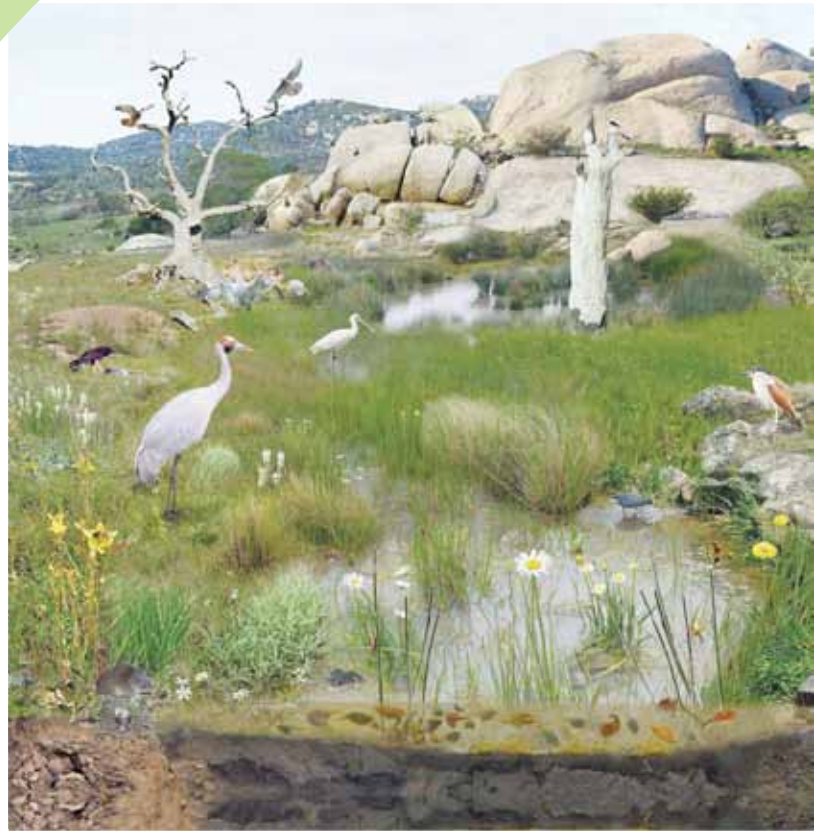
All committee positions become vacant at the AGM and it's always good to have some new people. A role on the Committee would suit someone who would like to do more in the group but perhaps isn't able to attend activities. Currently the Committee holds five meetings a year of about two hours, in even months before this AGM.

We also encourage any member interested in becoming a Committee member in the future to see what we do by attending meetings and receiving Agendas. Or you could become a Substitute Representative to Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) in preparation to becoming a full Representative.

If you are even slightly interested in any of the above roles, please contact Ray Radford by email: [merricreek@bigpond.com](mailto:merricreek@bigpond.com) or by phone: 0422 989 166. Also contact Ray for a Nomination Form, or download it from our website under *Membership*. The forms must be received before 8th November, although nominations for any vacancy will also be welcome at the AGM. It is absolutely okay to nominate yourself and leave it open to be seconded. An election will only be held if there are more nominations than vacancies.

### Check Your Membership

Please note that only financial members as at Tuesday 8th November can vote at the AGM or nominate for positions. Unfortunately, memberships cannot be approved at the AGM.



*Detail showing panels 9 and 10 of the 12 panel (full-colour) Volcano Dreaming panorama, created by Inherit Earth for Iramoo at Victoria University. Image photography courtesy Brian Bainbridge, Trevor Pescott and Inherit Earth.*

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# Secretary's Report: Friends Activities 2011

## 2011 Friends Committee

**President** David Redfearn

**Vice-President** Ann McGregor

**Secretary** Ray Radford

**Treasurer** Simon O'Connor, Nicole Lowe

**Membership Sec** Monica Williamson

**Committee member** Ruth Shiel

Also on the Committee were these representatives of Sub-Committees:

**Regeneration Group** Nicole Lowe;

**Litter Group** Paul Prentice;

**Streamteam** Irene Baker;

**Newsletter** Dean Lombard.

The Committee met bi-monthly until 30 September, the limit of this report.

## Friends Representation on MCMC

Trevor Hausler continued in his thirteenth year as MCMC President, Ann McGregor as Secretary, Allie Dawe as Treasurer, Paul Prentice as Vice-President with Committee members, Nicole Lowe, Sandra Simpson (briefly), and Ruth Shiel (who replaced Sandra).

The Friends representatives remain the most consistent members at MCMC meetings, with many also attending some of the Sub-Committee meetings.

The Substitute Representatives, Pascale Pitot, David Redfearn and recently Eli Court, all made various contributions.

## Regeneration Group Activities

Our most active group continues to take on more maintenance activities. However, after an uncommonly high number of 112 people doing maintenance activities in 2010, numbers fell to a more usual 89 people – who attended these activities:

Handweeding at Merri Park Wetland Northcote on 17/10/10, 27/3/11 & 28/8; and at the Friends' site near Strettle Wetland on 10/4; Collecting 13 bales of Kangaroo Grass seed at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grassland) on 6/1; Gorse removal at Kalkallo Common on 13/2 & 11/9, at Bababi Marning on 20/3, & on 15/7 an un-listed 'Gorse Force' event.

Planting days have resumed their normal frequency after a large decrease in 2010, with attendance at plantings, in another fairly wet season, rising from 114 in 2010 to 228 people at these events: at Bababi Marning on 15/5 & 10/7; at Clara St East Brunswick on 29/5; at Rushall Reserve Nth Fitzroy on 5/6 & 7/8, with members of Fitzroy Football Club; at Galada Tamboore Campbellfield on a windy 19/6; at the Friends' site near Strettle Wetland Thornbury on 17/7, with much weeding afterwards; at Imaroo St Fawkner on 24/7; and at Parkview Ave East Brunswick, on a glorious 21/8, with staff from Fedex.



A total of 8417 plants were planted, which is a huge increase over the lowly 2665 in 2010, and we also did some tree-guarding and weeding.

Thanks again to the MCMC Parkland Management Team for supporting most of the plantings and also supplying barbecues later. Thanks also to the Darebin Bush Crew for resourcing our steadily expanding site near Strettle Wetland, Thornbury.

**Coordinator:** Nicole Lowe.

## Litter Clean-ups

Attendance continues to decline, but a total of 21 people still cleaned up heaps of litter monthly, except January: at Arthurton Rd Northcote on 3/10/10; at Walker St East, Northcote on 7/11/10 & 7/8/11; at Rushwood Dve Craigieburn on 5/12/10; at Alister St East Brunswick on 6/2/11; at Bell St East Coburg on 13/3; at Aitken Creek Craigieburn on 3/4; at Murray Rd Coburg on 1/5; near Rushall Railway Station Nth Fitzroy on 5/6; at Ngarr-djarrang (Central Creek Grassland) on 3/7; at Clara St East Brunswick on 4/9; plus an extra clean-up later on 4/9 near Arthurton Rd Northcote.

**Coordinator:** Paul Prentice.

## Streamteam

The regular Streamteam monitors performed monthly WaterWatch tests and were again frequently joined by enthusiasts and passers-by. A total of 70 people attended from Oct. 2010 to Sept. 2011.

This year the group experienced several significant high flow events - in February, the flow was so high that macroinvertebrate sampling was not possible due to safety risks. Although flows during the second half of the year have been more average, turbidity levels have peaked higher than in the previous 3 to 4 years.

The macroinvertebrate indicator of stream health has also remained 'poor' for more consecutive months over the autumn and winter than in previous years. However, the changes in the data remain predominantly linked to seasonal temperature and water level variations, along with the pollution that they bring.

**Coordinator:** Irene Baker.

## Campaigns

We continued to press for the best environmental outcome from the Urban Growth Boundary expansion, including lobbying Ministers and local MPs.

## Walks Talks and Tours

Brian Bainbridge led 8 people on the Wildflower Walk at Bababi Marning on 21/11/10.

## Newsletter

Four high-quality newsletters, now called *Merri Growler*, were printed and posted in February, May, August and November, with a smart new layout by Dean Lombard. Each had 8 pages, except for the February issue, which had 12 pages. It now includes a page from the Friends of Edgars Creek.

**Layout:** Dean Lombard.

## Merri Birdwatch

Our quarterly surveys of birds continued at ten sites along the Merri and at Edwardes Lake. We are grateful for the reliable services of the volunteer survey leaders, who have introduced many participants to the growing diversity of Merri birds. Estimated total attendance is 190. Reports on each Birdwatch survey have appeared in our newsletter.

**Coordinator:** Ann McGregor.

## Other Activities and News

Funds came from: Melbourne Water Community Grants, Moreland City Council Community Grants, Victorian Volunteer Small Grants, plus an EPA Alternative Sentencing Payment. Thanks to Katrina Roberg, MCMC's Conservation Program Manager, for her great support.

Stalls were held at the Sydney Rd Street Party on 6/3 and at the very well attended Darebin 'High Noon' Festival in High St Northcote on 18/9.

We made submissions to the Victorian Environment Assessment Council Metro Melbourne investigation; to the Victorian Planning System Review; to the Logical Inclusions Review Panel; and we objected to the proposal to build a new Brunswick Electricity Terminal Station.

Once again, Birdwatch boosted overall attendances to around 606 people at 53 public events organised by FoMC, and this doesn't include any of our sub-groups like MECCARG or Friends of Edgars Creek.

Particular thanks to Monica Williamson for regularly staffing the office; to Simon D'Alfonso for looking after our website; to Ruth Shiel for updating our only sign near Roseneath St Clifton Hill; to Julie Mason for welcoming new members; and to Suzi Shaw for establishing our Facebook page.

**Ray Radford** Secretary 2011



# Merri Musings

**Brunswick Terminal Station update** A planning application to build the new 66KV Electricity Terminal Station has been lodged with Moreland City Council. Although it is referred to as an “upgrade” of the existing 22KV Terminal Station, the new plant is proposed to be built next to it and is would cater for up to 4 times more capacity.

Local residents oppose the application because they have concerns about the amenity impacts of the new Terminal Station and the effects of the additional current along the high voltage overhead power lines between Brunswick and Thomastown. This current would increase Electro-Magnetic Radiation by about 20 times – which would surprise those residents who live under the high voltage power line (which is not even supposed to go over houses), as they have not been notified.

In the event of a large fire at the terminal station or a large scale equipment failure, emergency vehicles may not be able to access neighbouring streets; evacuation too could be difficult. Given all this, it doesn't say much about the power companies' attitude to the surrounding residents to find that the terminal station is seen as a possible terrorist target!

FoMC has objected to the proposal, supporting the residents' concerns and adding further concerns about landscaping.

**Another successful grant** Moreland City Council Community Grants has provided \$5000 for the project: *Establishing and Maintaining Food and Fibre revegetation together* to establish, maintain and interpret an indigenous food and fibre garden along with CERES.

## **Fitzroy Football Club kicks more goals**

Thanks to a number of Fitzroy Football Club players and members (shown in photo, along with others) who helped plant 1374 plants near Rushall Railway Station on 7 August.



**Urban Growth update** At the time of writing we are still awaiting the release of the Northern Growth Corridor Plan. This Plan is expected to be released simultaneously with the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the Integrated Open Space Strategy, both of which should have been available beforehand in order to inform the Growth Corridor Plan. The State Government has set up a Logical Inclusions Review Panel (more correctly called “Illogical Incursions” into the Green Wedges) which has invited submissions from landowners and councils regarding land that might be incorporated within the Urban Growth Boundary. FoMC, MCMC and Green Wedges Coalition have also made submissions. The Growth Areas Authority preliminary assessment does not support most of the landowners' proposals, with the main exceptions being the Camoola area and the Mt Ridley area.

FoMC will continue to press for the best possible environmental outcome.

**Marran Baba Update** The latest news on the proposed Merri Creek Parklands north of the Western Ring Rd was supplied by Carina Watson, Manager Urban Planning at Parks Victoria.

The Draft Strategic Management Plan for the park (which was expected to be released before the end of 2010) has been delayed by, among other things, the tragic death from a heart condition of David Simondson, who was in charge of the project. (FoMC extends our condolences to his family, friends and work colleagues.) Anne Van De Meene, an experienced planner, is to pick up where David Simondson left off, and it is hoped that a draft Strategic Management Plan might be released for consultation before the end of 2011.

**We've changed banks** FoMC has changed our bank account from the Commonwealth Bank in Coburg, where it's been since the group was formed in 1988, to the Bendigo Community Bank in Clifton Hill. This was because the Bendigo Bank not only better suits our community ethics, it also offers sponsorship opportunities.

# Birds in early spring along the Merri

*Fifty-one people joined in the nine bird surveys on 4 September. Several fathers were brought along as a Fathers' Day treat, and they were rewarded with sightings of a good range of species despite the windy weather. The tenth site was surveyed on 11 September.*

Nankeen Night Herons were a feature: they were seen at five sites, with a total of eleven birds. These herons are classified as 'Near Threatened' in Victoria by the Department of Sustainability and Environment. They generally feed at night, and are found around well-vegetated wetlands and beside waterways. Young birds are heavily spotted and streaked white, brown and orange-brown. As they mature, the black cap of the adult develops first, with the body plumage remaining streaked for some time until the upper parts turn to rufous or nankeen (the name of a Chinese cotton fabric of this colour).

Ducks have returned to the Creek in numbers, after dispersing inland with the floods. Five species were seen, with a total of 168 individuals. Ten other species of waterbird were recorded.

A seasonal 'changing of the guard' was observed at Bababi Marning, where a Rufous Whistler (a spring-summer visitor) was hunting for insects close to a Golden Whistler, which is usually seen along the Merri in winter. Another winter visitor, the Eastern Spinebill, was only recorded once at one site (compared with four sites and 16 birds in May).

Tawny Frogmouths were nesting in West Preston, and there was another pair in Clifton Hill.

A total of 76 species was seen in the September surveys. The site with the greatest species diversity was Bababi Djinanang in Fawkner, with 34 species. Thanks to Neil Macumber who came from Pomonal in western Victoria to lead this survey. Coburg Lake had the highest number of birds (319).



*Nankeen Night Heron on Merri Creek near Broadhurst Ave Reservoir, by Kelly Borg.*

The most numerous species was Common Starling, with an estimated total of 140 birds recorded. Other common birds (over 100 recorded) were Rainbow Lorikeet, Common Myna, Silver Gull, and Rock Dove.

**Ann McGregor** Merri Birdwatch Coordinator

## Fourth Merri Birdwatch survey for 2011

*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 13 November 2011 & 19 February 2012**

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

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

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

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

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

**Merri Park – Phillips Reserve:** Meet at 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 20 November 2011 & 26 February 2012**  
Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper Street, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).



# Dealing with the Common Myna

*The Common (Indian) Myna is an invasive introduced bird species that is territorially aggressive. Mynas take over nesting hollows after harassing and evicting native birds and animals.*

The World Conservation Union rated it as one of the world's 100 most invasive species and it has been rated an *Extreme Threat* in Australia, receiving the Pest of Australia award in the Wild Watch Quest for Pests 2005 – even above the cane toad and feral cat! (Note that the brown Common Myna is not related to the native grey Noisy Miner, which is another aggressive species found along the Merri.)

Live-trapping and euthanasing of Mynas can be



an effective control strategy as demonstrated by the Yarra Indian Myna Action Group Inc. ([www.indianmynaaction.org.au](http://www.indianmynaaction.org.au)). In the 4 years since the group began, Mynas went from the 3rd to the 14th most common bird in Canberra. In Melbourne, the Yarra Indian Myna Action Group hopes to repeat that success and is selling traps for \$55, as well as providing advice on trapping. If you'd like to help control these pests, contact them at [www.yimag.org.au](http://www.yimag.org.au) or email: [info@yimag.org.au](mailto:info@yimag.org.au)

## Dick's Witticisms

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

*When an actress saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.*

*Living in the past has one thing in its favour – it's cheap.*

*The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.*

*Did you hear about the lonely old age pensioner who joined a carbon dating club?*

## Join in a survey for Threatened Species

**Yam Daisy Survey at Kalkallo Common**  
**Saturday 29 October, 10am**

Malcolm St, Kalkallo (Melway 367 F2).

**Growling Grass Frog Summer Survey**  
**Wednesday 14 December, 7pm**

480 Cooper Street, Epping (Melway 181 A10).

*For more details, see the calendar on back page.*



## New directions for new member

New FoMC member and Richmond resident, Eli Court, has taken a number of new directions in his life. After just joining FoMC, Eli (pronounced as "alley") has become a Substitute Representative to MCMC and is also representing FoMC on two MCMC Sub-Committees: Planning & Issues, and Merri Creek & Environs Strategy Implementation. As if that wasn't enough he's recently married, moved into the sustainability sector as Energy Policy Advocate for Moreland Energy Foundation and started a leadership course through the Centre for Sustainability Leadership.



*New FoMC member, Eli Court and his wife Jo*

## Help plan our 2012 planting activities

**Wednesday 7 December, 6.30PM**

**MCMC office**  
**2 Lee St**  
**East Brunswick**

*All FoMC members are welcome to help plan our planting and maintenance activities for 2012.*



# A worrying situation

*Four degrees Celsius of warming – that's what is threatening the wonderful, complex biosphere of the only planet we'll ever have: weather patterns irreversibly altered, ecosystems destroyed, extinctions of species on a meteorite-impact scale.*

Human beings' age-old use of fire really took off with the Industrial Revolution, as steam became the mighty new power source for machinery and transport. Life was more efficient and comfortable with the transformation of agriculture and food supply, manufacturing, construction and travel – but also more carbon-intensive.

Petrol and diesel engines for trains and ships, cars and trucks and planes, along with coal-fired electricity generators and the use of gas, continued the exponential growth; people's feeling of technological and social progress only had the occasional reality check of smog, acid rain or deaths in mines.

But now a couple of centuries later, soaring carbon dioxide levels are turning our cottage into a greenhouse. "Drought and flooding rains" will intensify in Australia and elsewhere, as climate change threatens living things from coral polyps to polar bears. Greenland's ice is melting – will Antarctica's shelves be next? How much will sea levels rise, threatening coastal cities and drowning low-lying islands?

The warming is due to surging population and/or high per-capita emissions, as arrogant humankind thinks it has the right to multiply and consume without limit — like Australia, which grows at 1.5 per cent per annum (among the world's highest) thanks to procreation incentives and massive immigration, and burning or exporting huge amounts of coal, oil and gas. Our heavy footprint, which newcomers from less prodigal countries naturally adopt, includes motorways, SUV's, much air travel, super-sized houses and an obesity epidemic; air-conditioners form a vicious circle in conjunction with planetary overheating, as will desalinators.

However Population Minister Tony Burke in "Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities" insists on a continued boost from migration, and presumably from the Baby Bonus and paid parental leave which he doesn't even mention (oddly, he does admit child endowment may influence choice of family size). He suggests that we could avoid increased overall consumption by reducing the per-capita rate: so the 35 per cent more people expected in 2020 than in 2000 would be rationed to  $(35/135) \times 100 = 26$  per cent less of everything?

Coalition spokesman Scott Morrison, equally intent on growth, goes further by ignoring such trivia as climate change, water and food supply: he certainly doesn't propose we should all have to cut back. The Greens on the other hand are aware that overpopulation is a global problem and keen to combat it both here and elsewhere, with family-planning facilities, empowerment of women, and the development of more responsible attitudes in men.



*Female Golden Sun Moth by Wendy Moore. This endangered moth is threatened by development in the upper Merri, which the Government says is needed by our expanding population.*

Meanwhile "the elephant in the room" continues to trample human quality of life, whether in cities where there's barely room to move, or in villages where there's scarcely enough to eat; and also the environment, where natural vegetation is being destroyed, and our fellow-creatures are driven to the wall by theft of their habitat, as if they have no intrinsic right to exist. All over the world it's happening, here in our Merri valley, in old-growth forests, in south-east Asia, in the Amazon basin, in Africa.

At least the Federal Government is tackling the easier one, climate change, with renewable-energy projects funded by the carbon tax; but hydro and geothermal are only marginal, and using the discontinuous wind and sun will call for ingenuity. Solar power, the more regular, must take over baseload electricity supply from coal: arrays of giant flywheels could run generators overnight. Both could also store energy by electrolysing water to obtain hydrogen, and charging batteries for domestic and commercial needs, especially in remote areas (no more expensive, dangerous powerlines), and road and rail vehicles.

It would all add up to a clean, low-carbon, nuclear-free future... even better if we can export the technologies. But let us not forget – or fail to hammer home to our politicians "asleep at the wheel" – that without population control there will be no future worth having for Australia or the planet.

**Paul Prentice**

## Our Facebook page wants friends

If you are on Facebook, you can now get automatic updates to group activities and news by searching for the *Friends of Merri Creek* page then clicking on 'Like.'



# Friends of Edgars Creek Focus

## With so much rain, a greener Edgars Creek

What a glorious morning, an absolutely clear blue sky, not a single cloud to be seen. Beside the creek, the track is muddy and slippery due to recent rain. The lush green grass curves gracefully, weighted by a heavy load of dew. Steam swirls upwards where the sun's warmth makes contact. From the trees, the incessant chatter of rainbow lorikeets, feasting from flowers that have just come into bloom. The brilliant colour of their plumage glows in the sunlight. Yes, it's a lovely mild day in early winter, no wind, no rain. Of course, soon enough, the rain will return.

Throughout this last year, a year of rain, I have grown to love the slush of mud under my gumboots. On a regular basis, wearing appropriate clothes and umbrella in hand, I have ventured out for walks along the creek, which at times has burst over its banks. I have relished the vigorous green growth, the saturated colour of wet vegetation, the freshness of cleansed air. After the debilitating drought, the trees have quenched their thirst, I imagine, with a sigh of relief.

For some trees, it was too late. Their bare branches breach the greenness, here and there. Wattles in particular have experienced an extensive die out, their dark frames still standing resolute. Eventually they will fall, providing food and shelter for wildlife. But overall, Edgars Creek has fared well. With continuous rainfall,



*Planting by the Silurian cliff at Edgars Creek Coburg, with some "good water" from some of the first drought breaking rains in late 2009.*

have come alive with the sound of frogs and buzzing insects. Most of the planting from the past few years has survived and is now flourishing, thick corridors of green edging the creek and sneaking up the slopes.

And to my delight, where careless truck tyres obliterated a baby gum, another has emerged, with a spray of determined branches. I find the resilience of nature magnificently uplifting, and it's been a real joy to observe my local creek's regeneration. Its ever-changing life inspires. Today the sun shines, but whatever the weather, I must come down for a walk. Along with the mud, I have also grown to love the Edgars Creek.

**Angie Pötsch** Friends of Edgars Creek member

### Litterarty at large

*'Litterarty' is a group of artists who have been creating sculptures out of litter found along Merri Creek, particularly at a site they call "Galaxia Billabong" (opposite the lookout at Kirkdale St Park, East Brunswick). Their activities offer a creative outlet while bringing attention to litter. Before the large sculpture (below) was moved on 12/9, it was visible from the lookout for a month and would have possibly been seen by hundreds of people, raising awareness of the litter issue.*

See more on their website [www.bagsrevolt.com](http://www.bagsrevolt.com)



### Pole planting – at Malcolm Creek

*Another FoMC sub-group, Friends of Malcolm Creek, had a very successful planting day on Sunday 25 September, when 20 people finished off the planting around the Community Art Poles near Hurlingham Way Craigieburn. Photo by Ann Jessop.*



the recovery has been remarkable. Juvenile gums and wattles, precociously jostling for space, are too many to count. Ephemeral wetlands, framed by aquatic plants,

# EVENTS

## OCTOBER

### Saturday 29 Yam Daisy Survey at Kalkallo Common

Malcolm St, Kalkallo across from the old cemetery - turn off the Hume Highway at Kalkallo Hotel, 10am-12 noon. Melway 367 F2. Together with the VNPA *NatureWatch* volunteers, we will search for Plains Yam Daisy in recently burnt areas of Kalkallo grassland. Led by Brian Bainbridge.

### Sunday 30 Wetland Weeding & BBQ – Merri Park

Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Sumner Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-12.30pm. Followed by a barbecue with vegetarian options. Melway 30 C8. Funded by Darebin City Council. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

## NOVEMBER

### Saturday 5 MECCARG\* Site maintenance & Weeding – 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 – East Coburg

Harding St East Coburg, 10am-12 noon. 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.

### Saturday 12 MECCARG\* Murnong (Yam Daisy) Harvest & Cook-up

Merri path just south of Murray Rd bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Don't miss this wonderful cultural ceremony featuring traditional dancers and activities. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

### Sunday 13 4th Bird Survey for 2011

8.45-10.30am at nine sites along the creek. See page 4 for details.

### Wednesday 16 Friends of Merri Creek Annual General Meeting

CERES Learning Centre, Lee St East Brunswick, 7.30pm. See the fantastic *Volcano Dreaming* display, find out about planning in the upper Merri, have your say in running the Friends group, and party afterwards. Drinks and nibbles supplied.

### Sunday 20 4th Bird survey for 2011 & Wildflower Walk at Bababi Marning

8.45-10.30am. Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper St, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10). Afterwards (10.30-12noon), there will be a wildflower walk led by Brian Bainbridge. Come along to one or both activities.

### Sunday 20 Friends of Edgars Creek Weeding

Meet at the notice board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Maintenance at the Gooseneck meander planting site. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

## DECEMBER

### Saturday 3 MECCARG\* Weeding – 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 4 Litter Clean-Up – Fawkner

Moomba Park Fawkner, near footbridge, 10am-12 noon. Melway 8 A11. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

### Sunday 4 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

### Wednesday 7 Planning Meeting for FoMC Regeneration Group Activities 2012

MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, 6.30pm. All FoMC members are welcome to help plan our planting and weeding activities for 2012.

### Wednesday 14 Growing Grass Frog Summer Survey on the Merri

Meet at main entrance gate of the waste recycling facility at 480 Cooper St, Epping (Melway 181 A10) by 7pm. Join field naturalist, Peter Homan (RMIT), and be amazed at the range of frogs and native animals to be found in and around this former quarry hole. Come and see and hear Growing Grass Frogs, along with the survey and trapping techniques for frogs and other fauna. Light refreshments afterwards. Funded by the City of Whittlesea. Phone Ray on 0422 989 166.

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

## JANUARY 2012

### 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.

### Early January Kangaroo Grass Seed Harvest

*Bababi Djinanang* (Jukes Rd grassland), Fawkner, 10am-1pm. Melway 18 A1. Please register with Ray at MCMC on 9380 8199 or email: [admin@mcmc.org.au](mailto:admin@mcmc.org.au) and we will let you know ASAP as to which day will be most suitable. (Note that this activity may involve rigorous exercise in high temperatures and may not be suitable for people with a medical condition.)

## FEBRUARY 2012

### Sunday 5 Litter Clean-Up – Reservoir

Ngarri-djarrang (Central Creek Grasslands) Davidson St Reservoir, 10am-12 noon. Melway 8 B12. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

### Sunday 5 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

### Sunday 19 1st Bird Survey for 2012

8.45-10.30am at nine sites along the creek. See page 4 for details.

### Sunday 26 1st Bird Survey for 2012 at Bababi Marning

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



**Friends of Merri Creek Inc.**

ASSOC. NO. A00246451

PO Box 93, Moreland, Victoria 3058

**Phone:** (03) 9389 8633

**Email:** [merricreek@bigpond.com](mailto:merricreek@bigpond.com)

**Web:** [www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc)

**Editor:** Ray Radford

**Assistant Editors:** Paul Prentice, David Redfearn

**Layout & Design:** Dean Lombard

*Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to [admin@mcmc.org.au](mailto:admin@mcmc.org.au) by Friday 16 December 2011*

*The views expressed in this newsletter by named authors do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Friends of Merri Creek.*