

MERRI GROWLER

The Friends of Merri Creek Newsletter

November 2012–January 2013

Friends of Merri Creek is the proud winner of the 2011 Victorian Urban Landcare Award

2012 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 21 November, 7.15pm for 7.30pm

Van Raay Meeting Rooms 2 & 3, at CERES

Enter from car park at Stewart & Roberts St, East Brunswick

Walk left under the covered walkway and down the stairs

**Hear Associate Professor, Chris Walsh, talk on
*Forecasting the future condition of Merri Creek:
the likely bad news vs possible brighter future***

Chris Walsh is Principal Research Fellow, Dept of Resource Management & Geography, Melbourne University. He has published widely on the impacts of urbanisation on stream ecosystems, and the need for new approaches to stormwater management.

AGENDA

- 1. President's Report - David Redfearn**
- 2. Election of the 2013 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

Help celebrate another successful year by joining us for refreshments at 7.15pm before the AGM at 7.30pm. Hear Chris Walsh talk about ways to reduce the impacts of stormwater, have your say in running the Friends group and party afterwards.

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 5 meetings a year of about 2 hours, in even months before the AGM.

If you're interested in becoming a Committee member in the future, you can 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 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 14th 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 Wednesday 14th November can vote at the AGM or nominate for positions. Unfortunately, we are unable to approve memberships at the AGM.



Malcolm Creek, a tributary of the Merri, is very muddy at Hanson Rd Craigieburn.

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Secretary's Report: Friends Activities 2012

2012 Friends Committee

President: David Redfearn

Vice-President: Ann McGregor

Secretary: Ray Radford

Treasurer: Nicole Lowe

Membership Sec: Monica Williamson

Committee members: Nick Williams, Yasmin Kelsall.

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, which is the limit of this report.

Representation on MCMC

This year, Trevor Hausler resigned after 13 years as MCMC President in order to become the Waterwatch Coordinator at MCMC. Ann McGregor stepped up from being Secretary to take on the Presidential role, while Allie Dawe continued as Treasurer, Paul Prentice as Vice-President, and Committee members Nicole Lowe and Ruth Shiel; with Pascale Pitot stepping up from being a Substitute to fill the gap left by Trevor's resignation.

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

The Substitute Representatives, David Redfearn, Yasmin Kelsall and recently Louise Wright, all contributed.

Regeneration Group Activities

Our most active group continues to take on more maintenance activities, with 106 people who attended these events:

Handweeding at the Friends' site near Strettle Wetland on 16/10/11 & 22/4, at Merri Park Wetland Northcote on 30/10/11, and at CERES' Food & Fibre Garden on 4/12/11, 31/3 & 4/6; Collecting 10 bales of Kangaroo Grass seed at Ngarri-djarrang (Central Ck G'land) on 6/1; Gorse removal at Kalkallo Common on 12/2 and sweeping up a lot of Broom and mopping up some Gorse at Bababi Marning on 18/3 & 30/9.

Although it has been another fairly wet season, it rarely rained during these plantings, which 223 people attended: at Bababi Djinanang on a very wet and cold 13/5; at Moreland's World Environment Day planting with four groups on 3/6; at CERES' Food & Fibre Garden on 17/6; at Clara St East Brunswick on 24/6; at Emma St Fawkner, with the great sound of the Moreland City Band Jazz Combo on 15/7; at the Friends' site near Strettle Wetland Thornbury on 22/7, with young people from the group 'Stepping Out'; at 'Merri Island' in Northcote on 5/8; and at the rear of the Aboriginal Community Elders Service in Brunswick on 12/8.

A total of 5048 plants were planted, which is quite a bit less than 8417 in 2011, but we also did some tree-guarding, litter clean-ups and weeding at the plantings.

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 site near Strettle Wetland, Thornbury, which has now expanded to the other side of the path.

Coordinator: Nicole Lowe.

Litter Clean-ups

Attendance has more than doubled from 21 last year to 52 people who cleaned up lots of litter monthly, except January: at Edgars Creek Wetlands, Reservoir, on 1/10/11; at Harding St, East Coburg, on 6/11/11 & 11/3/12; at Moomba Park, Fawkner, on 4/12/11; at Ngarri-djarrang (Central Creek Grassland), Reservoir, on 5/2/12; at Walker St East, Northcote, on 1/4; near Rushall Station, Nth Fitzroy, on 6/5; near Edgars Ck confluence on 3/6; at Bell St Coburg, on 1/7; at 'Merri Island' Northcote on 5/8; at Aitken Creek, Craigieburn, on 2/9.

Coordinator: Paul Prentice.

Streamteam

The regular Streamteam monitors performed monthly WaterWatch tests and were often joined by passers-by. A total of 79 people attended from Oct. 2011 to Sept. 2012, with several monitors being part of the group for five years or more.

As was the case last year, the creek has had several significant high flow events and generally higher flows than prior to 2010. We found that the water had significant amounts of suspended particles (murk and mud) for all except two of the monitoring sessions. The macroinvertebrate indicators of stream health have also remained 'poor' for many of the sessions, and been generally less lively than during the lower water level flows of the drought years. The variations in the data are linked to seasonal temperature and water level changes. The team is using the new WaterWatch database and has been learning to identify macroinvertebrates in more detail, as the data will soon become publicly available.

Coordinator: Irene Baker.

Campaigns

We continued pressing for the best environmental outcome from the Urban Growth Boundary expansion, lobbying State and Federal Ministers and MPs.

Walks Talks and Tours

Brian Bainbridge led 6 people on the Wildflower Walk at Bababi Marning on 20/11/11; and David Redfearn led 30 people on the Yarra Riverkeepers' Very Merri Bike Ride on 27/5/12.



Newsletter

Four high-quality 8-page Merri Growler newsletters were printed and posted in February, May, August and November, with Dean Lombard's wonderful design. It includes a Friends of Edgars Creek column.

Layout: Dean Lombard.

Merri Birdwatch

Our quarterly bird surveys continued at ten sites along the Merri and at Edwardes Lake. Thanks again to our volunteer survey leaders. Estimated total attendance is 185. Reports on each Birdwatch survey have appeared in our newsletter.

We also produced a colour photo-guide to 62 of the most common birds of the Merri and northern suburbs.

Coordinator: Ann McGregor

Other Activities and News:

Thanks to MCMC's Conservation Program Manager, Katrina Roberg, we received grants from: Melbourne Water River Health Incentive Program, Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority and Australian Government Communities for Nature (2 x 4 year grants).

We participated in surveys, organised by the Victorian National Parks Association Nature Watch program, of Murnong at Kalkallo Common on 29/10/11 and Growling Grass Frogs in the former quarry hole at Cooper St, Epping on 14/12/11. This year, the only stall we held was at the Sydney Rd Street Party on 4/3.

We started recording people's oral histories of Merri Creek prior to 1970.

Submissions were made on Growth Area Planning and Growling Grass Frogs; plus we supported the campaign against a new Brunswick Electricity Terminal Station.

Overall, around 670 people attended 52 public events involving 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 our web master, Simon D'Alfonso; 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 looking after our Facebook page.

Ray Radford Secretary 2012

Merri Musings

Urban Growth Boundary Update: The final Biodiversity and Species Strategies for Melbourne's Growth corridors have still not been released by the State Government. This means that development proposals are subject to individual EPBC approvals, rather than the umbrella approval.

This information came from the Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke, in reply to our letter where we expressed concern about these issues – and thanks to those who also wrote to him about it. We also lobbied other MPs: Harry Jenkins (Federal MP for Scullin), Adam Bandt (Federal MP for Melbourne), Gavin Marshall (Vic. Senator) and Richard Di Natale (Vic. Senator).

FoMC President, David Redfearn, and Vice President, Ann McGregor met with Kelvin Thomson, MP for Wills, and visited sites in Wallan and the City of Hume that are under threat from the expanded UGB. Kelvin took the matter up with Minister Burke and sent us his (later) response.

Minister Burke's additional response referred to the Seasonal Herbaceous Freshwater Wetlands that were recently listed under the Environment Protection, Biodiversity & Conservation Act. He promised that an ecologist will do site visits to assess the newly-listed wetlands, and that he would ask the Victorian Government that the work they're preparing to do, as required under the Strategic Assessment, be done to a standard as though these wetlands had been listed initially.

Landcare award result: Unfortunately, we didn't win the National Urban Landcare Award, but we received a Special Commendation, which was equivalent to coming

Help plan our 2013 planting activities

Wednesday 5 December

6.30pm

MCMC office

2 Lee St East

Brunswick

All FoMC members are welcome to help plan our planting and maintenance activities for 2013.



second. This was actually an amazing effort, considering that the winner was Georges River Combined Councils' Committee in NSW. This Committee consists of nine Councils as well as agencies and community representatives within the catchment of Georges River, which runs into Botany Bay. It's like a supersized MCMC, so comparing them to us is like comparing oranges with peas.

Thanks to those who voted for us to win the People's Choice Award, but this went to Youngtown Primary School in Tasmania.

Marran Baba update: At long last, Parks Victoria has finalised the Management Plan for Marran Baba and it is with the land owners, DSE and the cities of Hume and Whittlesea for their approval by mid October. We hope to see the final plan in early November.

New representative to MCMC: Thanks to Pascale Pitot, who answered our call in the previous newsletter to be a FoMC Representative to MCMC. Pascale is the ideal replacement for Trevor Hausler, who resigned to become the acting MCMC Waterwatch Coordinator.

Brunswick Terminal Station Update: FoMC President, David Redfearn, spoke at a well attended public rally on 29 July and there is still much local opposition to the proposed new infrastructure. The Merri Creek Residents' group wants serious health, environmental and amenity issues to be addressed. Unfortunately, the Planning Minister, Matthew Guy, is refusing to discuss the issue with them. However, the group is still challenging the Australian Energy Regulator's finding that the Brunswick site was the cheapest option and the campaign is widening to include residents who live under the high voltage transmission lines as far as Thomastown.



Birds along the Merri in early spring

The Silver Wattles and Blackwoods were in full bloom and there were signs of spring among the birds, for our September surveys. Just-fledged White-browed Scrub-wrens were seen on the East Brunswick-Northcote circuit, and Grey Butcherbirds were nesting at Coburg Lake Reserve. Little Ravens were nesting at Galada Tamboore and in East Brunswick-Northcote.

Other birds were on the move: five female Flame Robins were at Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grasslands) in Fawkner later than usual, but probably moving towards the mountains for summer. A very unusual sighting on the Merri was a male Rose Robin at Galada Tamboore. These colourful birds live on the coastal side of the Great Dividing Range in wet forest gullies, dispersing to drier forests in cooler months. Presumably this bird was using the Merri valley as a movement corridor, or stepping stone between forests.

Cuckoos have arrived for the breeding season: Horsfields Bronze and Fantailed at Bababi Djinanang,



Male Rose Robin from Flickr – shared photos

Dick's Witticisms

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

(Dick participated in the Suntan Olympics, but ended up with only a bronze.)

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Bakers trade recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

three Horsfields Bronze and two Pallid at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands).

Golden Whistlers which are cool-weather visitors to the Merri, were seen at three sites. The male near the Creek at Northcote Golf Course seemed to be whistling loudly enough to establish a territory or attract a mate. Silvereyes, including the Tasmanian race that comes to the mainland for winter, were recorded at six sites but in much lower numbers than in the May surveys.

An impressive total of 83 species was seen across the ten survey sites. The most numerous species were Silver Gull (134), Rock Dove (129), Rainbow Lorikeet (112) and Common Starling (98). There were good numbers of Superb Fairy Wrens (70), especially at Galgi Ngarrk with an estimate of 30. Sites with the highest avian diversity were Galgi Ngarrk and East Brunswick (Blyth St-Moreland Rd), where 38 species were recorded.

Frogs were croaking at four or more sites, mostly Common Froglets. The mob of Eastern Grey Kangaroos at Galgi Ngarrk seems to be increasing, with 230 estimated by the surveyors.

Ann McGregor Birdwatch Coordinator

Fourth Merri Birdwatch survey for 2012

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

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

Surveys at the following nine sites are on 11 November 2012 & 17 February 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Surveys at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands) are on 18 November 2012 & 24 February 2013

Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper Street, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).

Why the Merri gets Muddy

To find out what causes Merri Creek to become muddy after heavy rain, you only have to look at some of the big development sites in the upper Merri catchment. That's what I did on 21 September, accompanied by Toby Prosser, from Melbourne Water, Luisa Macmillan, from Merri Creek Management Committee, and guided by Claudia James and Rob Eldridge, from Wallan Environment Group.

We saw vast areas of bare earth, tons of imported soil, much of which was allowed to wash down stormwater drains, and dysfunctional, badly designed rain gardens. It was obvious that, as we had long suspected, these developments were the cause of much of the mud in the Merri.

This was proven in July by MCMC's Waterwatch Coordinator, Trevor Hausler, in water quality tests upstream and downstream of a number of development sites. He found that the measures of turbidity (or



Imported soil washing away into Wallan Creek from Springridge Estate.

developments is making things even worse, making Merri Creek turbid (muddy) after rain.

This prospect isn't at all good with the expanded Urban Growth Boundary and the development of new estates as big as suburbs. Especially when the EPA has handballed the enforcement responsibility to Councils and they have not only been reluctant to prosecute, but they don't have the necessary resources anyway.

You can learn about ways to reduce the impacts of stormwater with Dr Chris Walsh at our AGM on 21/11 (see front page) and see some of these sites on our bus tour on 24/11 (see page 6).

Ray Radford Secretary



Acres of bare soil on a slope at Woodlands Edge, so soil easily washes away when it rains.

muddiness) were much higher in urbanising areas than at sites upstream of urban development. The measure he used is called NTU and the State Environment Protection Policy for Waters of Victoria regards anything over 30 NTU as degraded. However, Trevor found readings of **100-200 NTU** downstream of development sites. As terrible as this looks, it's actually far, far worse, because NTU is based on a logarithmic scale, so the increase is exponential.

Trevor concluded that although the water quality coming out of some of the rural areas is not great, the sediment load entering the creeks from urban



At Wallara Waters, a mound of imported soil washes straight down an open drain when it rains.

Vale Jack Svendsen

Jack Svendsen, who was a long term volunteer in the FoMC office, died on Friday 19 October, just a few days short of his 83rd birthday. Jack joined us at the time of our campaign against the F2 freeway and, besides being always cheerful, he was incredibly energetic, enthusiastic and dedicated. Since illness stopped him from volunteering in the office, we have not been able to replace him. Thanks to his family for kindly requesting donations to FoMC in lieu of flowers at his funeral.



Where it all begins!

Most rivers start from a modest spring, like the Murray in dense forest on the border it marks; the White Nile at Lake Victoria, whose major feeder the Kagera is regarded as the ultimate source; the Ganges from a glacier in the Himalayas.

The Merri rises within the farm of Gil Berry, at Heathcote Junction in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range: he has kindly agreed to let the Friends visit this special spot, as did Cinnamon Evans, Freya Matthews and Maya Ward who walked the whole length of the creek a decade ago. To the west there's the Deep Creek in the catchment of the Maribyrnong, to the east the Plenty River.

The waterway winds through woodland to the Wallan area, whose Environment Group is faced with the encroachment from Melbourne's **650,000-odd** increase 2001-2011, pushed by both sides in Canberra to placate business and social interests: the Urban Growth Boundary is pretty meaningless by now. Forget our heritage, sustainability, environmental impact, climate change and even the oil peak, it's all about money and influence in the immediate future...

It picks up four tributaries here: the Strathaird near the watershed along which runs the Old Sydney Road, an unpretentious dirt track offering panoramic views and at one spot a profusion of wildflowers, and the similarly scenic Taylors, Wallan and Mittagong; however Hernes Swamp is in great need of restoration. Further south, Melway Map 685 shows some bureaucrats' self-indulgent fantasy of a monstrous motorway interchange, leading beyond Werribee one way and to Bundoora the other.

At least there's a happier conclusion to the northern section just before the Merri reaches Craigieburn, with



Merri Creek in Merriang, not far from the source.

the Kalkallo Creek, the Common and its Murnong (Yam Daisies), the beautiful, wildflower-rich little cemetery, and the grand stony knoll behind them.

Hope to see many of you on this sentimental journey.

Paul Prentice

Bus tour to the source of the Merri

*Join us on a bus tour to the source of Merri Creek on **Saturday 24 November, 10am to 5pm**. We'll also visit some of the development sites in the upper catchment and a beautiful display of wildflowers.*

Hardly anyone has been to the source of the Merri, so make sure that you don't miss out. Seats will be allocated in order of bookings received, with a priority for FoMC members. We'll leave from Dennis Street Northcote, alongside All Nations Park. So book your seats now at \$15 each or \$10 concession/child. This price includes a lunch of spinach and cheese pides, fruit and tea/coffee (for special diets, please BYO lunch).

Copy the form below, fill it in and send to Friends of Merri Creek, PO Box 93, Moreland 3058, or scan and email to merricreek@bigpond.com by 14 November.

Booking for Upper Merri Bus Tour, Sunday 24 November, 10am-5pm

Full Name (as on membership) _____

Address _____

No. of seats:

Adult @ \$15 _____ Child/Concession @ \$10 _____ Total cost \$ _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

Payment method (please tick):

☐ Cheque

☐ Bankcard

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

Card No.

_____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiry: ____/____

Cardholder's name _____

Signature _____

Friends of Edgars Creek Focus

Water shapes the land



When I visit Edgars Creek, I like to be near water, to engage with its ever-changing moods. Dirt tracks hug the creekside, winding through the varied terrain sculpted by the flow of water: rapids, waterfalls, sheer cliffs, gentle slopes, rocky climbs, muddy flats. Recent heavy rain has added to the drama. Water pushes and shoves its way downstream, gouges away soil, scoops out crumbling banks, cuts into rock faces, clears ground cover in some places, deposits piles of debris elsewhere. Confronted with the expanse of the Silurian cliff, water turns one way, then the other, forming a tight loop, before gushing past the cliff base. Immediately, it must bend again to avoid a steep slope, then continues, twisting and swirling its way through the gooseneck meander.

Every so often, I leave the creekside, and climb the steep slope. Lately, I've been making the strenuous climb regularly, to experience the view before the new development intrudes. It is worth the effort. The windswept hill rises above the valley, where a panorama opens out: Kinglake mountaintops to the north, the

Dandenongs to the east, and to the south, lowlands in which the city of Melbourne nestles. In view as well is the creek's determined course of descent downstream, as bit by bit the many waterways merge together and release themselves into the bay.

Looking out across the landscape, it is easy to discern the folded earth, the lie of the land. Below the hill is the deep crease of the Edgars Creek valley. On the other side of the creek, land rises, dips into the small valley of Hidden Creek, before rising again to higher ground just past Gilbert Road. To the south, the ridges angle down towards the Edgars, meeting with the Merri and the green corridor that leads on to the Yarra. Travelling across this northern part of Melbourne, the land dips in and out of valleys, one creek after another, providing many green corridors, each carved into the land by the dynamic journey of water south. Many creeks still flow, but others have been swallowed up by housing. The valleys, though, are still evident, and with just a little imagination, the extensive system of waterways which once flowed can be perceived.

Edgars Creek is my valley. It is my water source. I seek nourishment from it frequently. In return, I give my care and attention, join in with planting days, and watch the indigenous vegetation flourish.

Recently, I looked at a map called "Wild Melbourne", indicating places where wildlife may be encountered. Of course the Yarra, Maribyrnong and Dandenong valleys were shown as large green bands. But I was delighted to see the green elongated fork of Merri and Edgars Creeks prominently bouncing out of the map. And I am very proud that I helped, in even a little way, to make that part of the map greener.



Edgars Creek ford and small falls in Coburg

Wattle happen?

An impressionist with a new tube of yellow paint would be ecstatic, setting up their easel beside Edgars Creek, on any of these late winter days. What a magnificent scene, the creek banks thick with wattle in bloom. Sight is not the only sense to receive rich stimuli, one breath and a heady rush of aroma intoxicates. However, with such profusion, where are the bees? They are late arriving. Cold weather has kept them away. Seed production could be affected. Will the wattles become laden with full and fertile seedpods?

Angie Pötsch



Friends of Edgars Creek Planting on 19 August

EVENTS

November

Saturday 3 MECCARG* Site maintenance – 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 – Reservoir

Broadhurst Ave Reservoir, 10am-12 noon. Melway 18 B3. 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.

Saturday 10 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 11 4th Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2012

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

Sunday 18 4th Merri Creek Bird survey for 2012 & Wildflower Walk at Bababi Marning

8.45-10.30am. Meet west of the the Istrian Club, Cooper St, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10). Afterwards (10.30-12noon), there will be a wildflower walk led by Brian Bainbridge, funded by the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country. Come along to one or both events.

Sunday 18 Friends of Edgars Creek Maintenance

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

Wednesday 21 Friends of Merri Creek Annual General Meeting

Van Raay Meeting Rooms 2 & 3, in CERES, enter from the car park at Stewart & Roberts Sts, East Brunswick (Melway 30 B7). Help celebrate another successful year by joining us for refreshments at 7.15pm before the AGM at 7.30pm. Hear Dr Chris Walsh talk about ways to reduce the impacts of stormwater, have your say in running the Friends group, and party afterwards. Drinks and nibbles supplied.

Saturday 24 Bus Tour to the Origin of Merri Creek

Join us on a bus tour to the source of Merri Creek 10am to 5pm. We'll also visit some of the development sites in the upper catchment and a beautiful display of wildflowers. Book by 14 November, using the form on Page 6.

December

Saturday 1 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 2 Litter Clean-Up – North Coburg

Murray Rd North Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway 18 A11. 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.

Wednesday 5 Planning Meeting for FoMC Regeneration Group Activities 2013

MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, 6.30pm. All members are welcome to help plan our 2013 planting & weeding activities.

December (continued)

Tuesday 11 Growling 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 Growling Grass Frogs, along with the survey and trapping techniques for frogs and other fauna. Light refreshments afterwards. Funded by Whittlesea City Council. Phone Ray on 0422 989 166.

Sunday 9 12 days to clearance of Broom & Gorse in block A at Bababi Marning

Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands), near Istrian Club, Cooper St Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K10. The first of 12 days to rid block A of Broom and Gorse bushes. Light refreshments provided. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Mid Dec: Golden Sun Moth Survey at Bababi Marning

Please register with Ben at MCMC on 9380 8199 or email: ben@mcmc.org.au by 9/11/12 and we will let you know ASAP as to which **weekday** will be most suitable. Funded by a Victorian Government Communities for Nature grant.

January 2013

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.

Early Jan. Kangaroo Grass Seed Harvest

Ngarri-djarrang (Central Creek grassland), Reservoir, 10am-1pm. Melway map 8 B11-12. Please register with Ben at MCMC on 9380 8199 or email: ben@mcmc.org.au by 20/12/12 and we will let you know ASAP as to which **weekday** will be most suitable. Funded by the City of Darebin. *(Please note that this activity may involve rigorous exercise in high temperatures and may not be suitable for people with a medical condition.)*

February 2013

Sunday 3 Litter Clean-Up - Coburg

Bell St Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 A1. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 3 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 17 1st Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2013

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

Sunday 24 1st Merri Creek Bird survey for 2013 at Bababi Marning

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



Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

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*MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group