

## 2016 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 22 November, 6.30pm for 7.30pm

CERES Lower Merri Room, Roberts St East Brunswick

Below the Merri Table & Bar - enter through the mosaic gate in Roberts St

*Brian Bainbridge, FoMC Life member and MCMC Ecological Restoration Planner, will tell us about the Blue-banded Bee Pollination Pathway project, which was funded by the very successful crowd-funding campaign.*

*Also featuring the Exhibition: Merri Creek – from wasteland to parklands and a playlist of local music curated by Dean Lombard*

### AGENDA

1. **President's Report – David Redfearn**
2. **Election of the 2017 Committee**  
(Nominations invited – see below)
3. **Election of six Friends' Representatives to MCMC**
4. **Proposed change to Annual Subscription Fees**  
*It is proposed to increase the membership fees in 2017 to: \$25 Individual, \$15 Concession, \$35 Household or Sub-Group, and \$100 Corporate.*
5. **Discussion of possible activities for 2017**
6. **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 6.30pm before the AGM at 7.30pm. Hear Brian Bainbridge talk about the *Blue-banded Bee Pollination Pathway* project, listen to some great music, check out the fabulous Merri Creek exhibition, have your say in running the Friends group, and party afterwards. A special welcome to all our new members who came to us through the *Help the Blue-banded Bee* crowd-funding campaign.

### How about joining the FoMC Committee?

All committee positions become vacant at the AGM and it's always good to have some new people on the Committee. 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 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 at [friendsofmerriecreek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmerriecreek@gmail.com) or by phone on 0422 989 166. Also contact Ray for a Nomination Form, or download it from our website under *Membership*. The forms must be received before 18th 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 15th November can vote at the AGM or nominate for positions. Unfortunately, we are unable to approve memberships at the AGM.*

*Participants at Strettle Wetland after the planting in August 2016.*



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## SECRETARY'S REPORT

# Friends Activities 2016

*This is my 20th year as Secretary, so would anyone else like a turn?*

### 2016 Friends Committee:

There was no change from 2015:

**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.

### Friends Representation on MCMC:

Our representatives on the Merri Creek Management Committee were Ann McGregor as President, Ann Sanson as Treasurer, Nicole Lowe as Vice-President, and Committee members Pascale Pitot, Jane Farmer, and Jane Miller. Our long-term representative, Allie Dawe, was replaced as Treasurer by Ann Sanson; while Nick Williams was replaced by Jane Miller. Our representatives remain the most consistent members at MCMC meetings, with some also attending Sub-Committee meetings.

Rebecca Mayo, David Redfearn, Suzi Shaw, and Joÿ Parham remain as Substitute Representatives from 2015, while Yasmin Kelsall and Louise Wright both stepped down.

### Regeneration Group Activities:

Although we had another fairly wet year, we were once again lucky enough to avoid the worst of the rain at our events.

Our **maintenance** activities continue to grow with 140 people attending these events (up from 86 in 2015):

Handweeding at the Friends' site near Strettle Wetland on 18/10/15 & 10/4 and at the *Summer Loving* events in Merri Park Northcote on 10/10/15 and 7/11/15, plus the new Friends of Merri Park event on 11/9. Our Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning with its big mob of Eastern Grey Kangaroos on 15/11/15, 20/3, 17/4, 19/6, 20/8 and 17/9 almost finished off the second block.

However, this year our **planting** events were a lot fewer than in the recent years, due to the end of our four multi-year Communities for Nature projects and only limited new funding being available.

112 people attended these planting events: at Lorne St Fawkner on Mother's Day 8/5; near CERES on Blyth St East Brunswick on 15/5; at Strettle Wetland Thornbury on 7/8; and at Lorne St Fawkner on 14/8.

We planted a total of 2,500 plants, which was just over a quarter of the 9380 we

planted in 2015. As usual, these events often involved tree-guarding, litter clean-ups and handweeding.

We also helped out at Moreland's World Environment Day on 5/6, and Yarra's National Tree Day on 31/7.

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 expanding site near Strettle Wetland, Thornbury.

*Coordinator: Nicole Lowe.*

### Litter Clean-ups:

58 people cleaned up lots of litter monthly, except January: at Edgars Creek Wetland Reservoir on 4/10/15; at Merlynston Creek Nth Coburg on 1/11/15; at Walker St East, Northcote on 6/12/15; near Rushall Station Nth Fitzroy on 7/2; at Bell St Coburg on 13/3; at Ngarrri-djarrang, Reservoir on 3/4; at Edgars Creek below Edwardes Lake Reservoir on 1/5; at two special extra clean-ups with the Sacred Heart Mission on 17/5 and 20/9; at Moreland's World Environment Day, Edgars Creek Coburg on 5/6; at Harding St Coburg on 3/7; and at Strettle Wetland Thornbury on 7/8. Plus another 110 people for *The Great Merri Spring Clean-up* at 13 Merri Creek sites on 25/9, organised by Christian Marsden.

*Coordinator: Paul Prentice.*

### Merri Birdwatch

There were 36 bird surveys and 188 registrations on our quarterly bird surveys at ten sites along the Merri and at Edwardes Lake. The results are uploaded to the global bird database eBird (thanks to Trevor Hausler). Thanks also to our survey leaders, especially Brian Bainbridge who led surveys at two sites from November 2008 until moving out of Melbourne in late 2015.

*Coordinator: Ann McGregor.*

### Streamteam:

Monthly Waterwatch tests were done on Merri Creek at St Georges Rd and on Edgars Creek at the waterfall. A total of 64 people attended at the Merri Creek site and 44 at the Edgars Creek site. The variations in the water quality and macroinvertebrate abundance that we see are linked to seasonal temperature and water level changes: the wet winter and start to spring has led to elevated flows, cloudy water in the Merri Creek especially and low nutrients concentrations. The stick caddisfly larvae have been the most common macroinvertebrate on many testing days, but we have also spotted several tiny pea-shell muscles at both sites and recently *Ceratopogonidae*, commonly known as swimming eyelashes. We saw a yabby for the first time at the Edgars Creek site in the July monitoring session.

*Coordinator: Irene Baker*



### Walks Talks and Tours:

52 people gathered at the *Merri Magical Morning* in Merri Park on 21/2, and 10 people came to Ken Harris' talk *Shining a light on Lacewings* on 24/2.

### Newsletter:

Dean Lombard continues to do great layouts and produce high-quality *Merri Growler* newsletters. This year, 8-page newsletters were printed and sent in February, May, August, and November.

*Layout: Dean Lombard.*

### Campaigns:

We helped save the land alongside the former Lakeside College in Reservoir (see *Merri Musings*); and we continued pressing for the best environmental outcome from the Urban Growth Boundary expansion. Thanks to Ann McGregor and Yasmin Kelsall for their submissions.

### Other Activities and News:

Some of our members, particularly Glenyys Romanes, helped the exhibition, *Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands*, to tour around the catchment; we were represented on the Melbourne Strategic Assessment Stakeholder Group and the Yarra River Community Committee (re: proposed Yarra River Act). A dedicated group organised the very successful Blue-banded Bee crowd-funding campaign. Grants were received from: Community Volunteer Action Grants (x2), Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, Darebin City Council, and Moreland City Council (x2). 8 people helped with surveys of Golden Sun Moths in late 2015. We held stalls at the Sydney Rd Street Party on 6/3 and Hume's Great Green Get-together on 25/8. Altogether, about 740 people attended around 50 events involving FoMC, and this doesn't include any of our sub-groups. Thanks again to Monica Williamson for looking after the memberships; 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 managing our Facebook page.

**Ray Radford** Secretary 2016

**People really got the buzz:** Our *Help the Blue-banded Bee* crowd-funding campaign has been amazingly successful, raising \$25,073, which is over 66% more than the original target of \$15,000. A big welcome to all the people who supported the campaign, as they now have a 2016 membership of FoMC. We will receive \$15,000 matching funds from the Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, making a total of \$40, 073 to fund a project, designed by Merri Creek Management Committee, to establish pollination 'stepping-stones' between endangered Matted Flax-lily populations along the Merri Creek in Fawkner and Reservoir.

A huge thank-you to the working group who made this campaign so appealing: Suzi Shaw, Rebecca Mayo, Jen Cloher, Michael Longmore, Gabriel Aleksandrs, Katrina Roberg, Trevor Hausler and Mercedes Ramirez.



A Blue-banded Bee approaches a critically endangered Matted Flax-lily (*Dianella amoena*).

Also more thanks: to the musicians who generously agreed to donate their time for the concert in December, Courtney Barnett, Jen Cloher, *The Orbweavers* (Marita Dyson and Stuart Flanagan), Steph Hughes (Dick Diver), and Fraser A. Gorman; to Libby Chow for the Bee Video; to Jacinta Parsons for voiceover on the video; to Erica Siegel and Brian Bainbridge for photos; to *Lady Scout Studio* for the T-shirt design; to Callin Switzer for the Blue-banded Bee footage; to *Recon* for public relations; and to the following organisations: *Bee Sustainable*, and *Northcote Social Club* (venue for concert); also for donations from artists Sarah Tomasetti, Rebecca Mayo and Martin King.

You can find out more about the fascinating Blue-banded Bee project at our Annual General Meeting on 22 November (details on front page).

**New email address, but old postal address:** FoMC now has a new email address: [friendsofmerricreek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmerricreek@gmail.com) to which we are slowly changing over, so please amend your records. However, after previously advising that our postal address had changed, we are remaining with PO Box 93 Moreland 3058. Apologies for any inconvenience. We have also established online banking.



Handweeding at Merri Park Wetland on 11-9-16

**New Friends of Merri Park group:** We have received \$3,380 from Darebin City Council to support the newly-formed Friends of Merri Park group, which includes a planting and another *Merri Magical Morning* in 2017. Congratulations to Irena Cassettari who initiated the group, and organised their very successful first event, with 27 people turning up to the weeding at Merri Park Wetland on 11 September.

**More funding:** Our sub-group Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group has received \$5,000 from Moreland City Council Celebration Place Grants for their wonderful and unique Murnong Gathering. Don't miss this fabulous event on Saturday 12 November, 11am-2pm, south of Murray Rd Coburg.

We have also received \$5,250 (of a requested \$19,750) from Threatened Species Community Volunteer Action Grants for the project: *Bringing our native grassland, Bababi Morning, to life*. We hope that the lesser grant amount will still fund a Golden Sun Moth Survey.

**The Merri Creek Exhibition :** The outstanding exhibition, *Merri Creek - from Wasteland to parklands*, has now toured the catchment celebrating the community-led transformation of Merri Creek from a weed-smothered drain to a much-loved waterway, appearing in Brunswick, Coburg, CERES, Fitzroy, Richmond, Craigieburn, Northcote, Preston, Thomastown, Lalor, Mill Park, Whittlesea, Docklands, Wallan and Fawkner. However, you may still be able to see it - check out our website events calendar for further locations.

**Darebin Council to buy Lakeside College land:** Thanks to the Darebin City Council for voting on 5 September to purchase approximately 1.8ha of creek frontage, abutting the former Lakeside College, from the Education Department for \$270,000 plus GST. This is a great win for the environment, as now the land, which includes Critically Endangered indigenous vegetation as well as the shared path, will continue to be cared for by Darebin Council, rather than being left to be taken over by weeds, as is usually the case with private developers. The Council also offered \$6.9 million for the former Ruthven Primary School site, to be used as open space. The unfortunate side to these great outcomes is that the public has to pay twice for the land; still, thanks to our members and supporters who lobbied for this win.

See More Merri musings on page 6

# Birds along the Merri in early spring

*Despite the cold wind and wet forecast, 39 people joined in our eight bird surveys on two Sunday mornings in September plus one in August (Edwardes Lake, Reservoir). A total of 67 species was seen.*

Being spring, many of the birds were nesting. The survey groups reported seeing nests of Tawny Frogmouths, Pied Currawongs, Little Ravens, Butcher Birds, Magpie Larks and Red Wattlebirds. The nest of a large wading bird (possibly Egret or Heron) was also seen at Coburg Lake.

The wet spring has also brought out the frogs with Common Froglets being seen spawning at Galada Tamboore and Pobblebonks heard calling at Strettle Wetland.

Native Noisy Miners were recorded at four sites: Edwardes Lake (12), Egan Reserve Coburg (3), East Brunswick (11) and Hall Reserve Clifton Hill (19), but their numbers were lower than on the previous survey.

The most widespread species (occurring at all eight sites) were natives: Magpie, Willie Wagtail, Red Wattlebird and Little Raven. Not far behind were Magpie Larks, Pacific Black Ducks, Silver Gulls, Rainbow Lorikeets and the non-native Blackbirds, which were all recorded at seven sites. On the other hand, 20 species were each recorded at only one site. The most numerous species were Rainbow Lorikeet (148), Rock Dove (110), and Red Wattlebird (107).

The sites with the most diversity were Blyth Street-Moreland Road East Brunswick (with 32 species), plus Bababi Marning and Kirkdale St to Merri Park in East Brunswick (each with 31 species). Coburg Lake Reserve again had the most individual birds, an estimate of 333.

**Trevor Hausler** Coburg BirdWatch leader

*Keith Patford photographed this Nankeen Kestrel on the survey at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands). It was eating a large centipede (about 10-12 cm long).*



## Help plan our 2017 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 2017. Pizza and wine supplied.*

## Fourth Merri Birdwatch survey for 2016

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

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

### **Surveys at the following seven sites are on 20 November**

**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 27 November**

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

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

# A great array of treasures

*Across Melbourne's north they converge on Port Phillip – the Maribyrnong, the Merri and the Yarra; they've got floodplains, escarpments, and woodlands and grasslands, vital habitat to conserve and enjoy.*

The Yarra's the base for the city grid, and the centre for railways and shipping; it's famed for its muddy consistency, so different from the clear tea-colour of the Gordon in south-west Tasmania. But silt is natural, pollution isn't, nor is taking too much of the streamflow; thank goodness for those loyal defenders, the Riverkeepers.

And now the Government's committed to protecting the River (Indigenous name the Birrarung), with "stronger planning controls and a trust or similar entity": a Reference Group, on which the MCMC is naturally represented, will help to advise the process. How good it'll be to have integrated care for this grand ecological asset.

Just wide enough for cruise boats or rowing, it's bordered with paths and promenades, and traversed by bridges that are elegant or plain or bizarre. Flinders Street Station, the Arts Centre and Melbourne High, the Eureka and Rialto are standouts; most precious of all are the King's Domain and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Herring Island with its outdoor artworks, the Abbotsford Convent and the Collingwood Children's Farm.

The Convent escaped being ruined by greedy developers; Richmond Council once vetoed a convention centre on the Island. Against those who would "pave paradise and put up a parking lot" we have to be eternally vigilant, as Nobel laureate Patrick White eloquently reminded us; more recently we've had a good outcome with another piece of our heritage – the Edinburgh Gardens in North Fitzroy, saved from a library building.

Around Victoria Harbour, in the booming Docklands precinct, there are offices and restaurants, shops and flats, a weatherproof stadium, the convention centre (on Southbank), film studios and marinas; the tree-lined Harbour Esplanade and the multi-faceted park, stylish trams on the Circle and cyclists on footways are typical Melbourne features.

The busy Webb, Swanson and Appleton Docks and the Bolte and Westgate Bridges lead to the estuary; to the east, Garden City and Beacon Cove are the best of the old and the new, while light rail meets ferries and liners at Station Pier. Southward lies picturesque Williamstown, steeped in maritime history.

Equally historic is the focal point of Dights Falls, where the Yarra and Merri meet, along with their paths and the Capital City Trail; the weir which used to supply the mill has recently been refurbished, and the adjacent fish ladder considerably improved. The serene Koori Garden honours the original inhabitants; near by are the towering cliffs where a famous dive took place, retaining-walls of bluestone, and the settlers' memorial cairn.

Colourful sedimentary rocks form a splendid backdrop to the rapids; Yarra Bend Park has a nursery for indigenous plants, and picnic and sporting facilities; and two boathouses, each with a grand old bridge, offering fun afloat and fine food ashore, like the Moonee Ponds one on the Maribyrnong.

Several billabongs accompany the River to the city limits. Near Banksia St, the painters of the Heidelberg School are remembered with the Artists' Trail and the Heide Museum; an islet-studded stretch can be viewed from a footbridge at Templestowe; green Eltham has a miniature railway, Edendale and Lenister Farms, and the arts colony of Montsalvat; rustic Warrandyte's the terminus for buses and many a bike ride.

The path has now gone as far as the Mullum Mullum, with connections to other streams, train lines and highways, the Warburton track and the Bay; the Valley is known for its wineries and guest houses, Healesville's Sanctuary and tourist railway, and reservoirs such as the Sugarloaf.

The Maribyrnong, Plenty, Watts and O'Shannassy Rivers are major contributors, as are the Merri, Darebin, Diamond, Steels and Paul and Woori Yallock; the last-named, fed by the Emerald, Menzies, Cockatoo, Sheep Station, Boggy and Stoney and Wandin Yallock, struggles across the plains with intricate meanders.

Towns with evocative names adjoin the River – Yarra Glen, Launching Place, Millgrove, Warburton, Reefton; a National Park contains its dam, and 100 k's east of its end, near Toorongo, its origin.

What a boundless provider the Yarra has seemed until now; what desperate measures – population control, using grey or recycled water, desal that costs both wallet and planet when nature does it for free – we will have to adopt to ensure our city's survival.

**Paul Prentice**



*A beautiful place for reflection: the Yarra River at Dights Falls Abbotsford.*

# Interesting historical article

This article appeared in *The Advertiser* (Hurstbridge, Vic.) on Friday 24 June 1927

## WHY NOT A NATIONAL PARK IN PRESTON?

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—The Brunswick Council have under consideration the establishing of a National Park somewhere, and I think the Preston Council might well advise them of a most suitable location which lies along the bank of the Merri Creek, along the whole of the western boundary of the municipality. There is a reserve of some kind now running up that part of the creek which lies within the Merrilands subdivision territory. This is particularly rough country for the most part, but there are small areas of creek flats interspersed through it. The Merri is a permanent watercourse over the whole of this distance, and the rocks, scrub and fern which cover its banks for well over 100 yards back from the creek in parts give the country an attractively picturesque appearance. A few views of the beauty spots of this part were printed in the "Preston Beauty Spots" booklet published in 1922, and they are the same to-day. These rough areas would make splendid cover for wallaby, and with the upland country further back

would make an ideal spot for all kinds of native birds, and any other that might be placed in the National Park area. A park at this part would be a strong inducement to link up the tramway system of Preston with that of Brunswick and Coburg at Fawkner, which is a short distance from the Merri Creek at the southern part of Preston's Merri Creek boundary.

The extension of the Regent street tram to the Edwardes Lake is a work of the near future now, and so is that of the Brunswick electric extension to Fawkner, so now is the time to get the National Park proposition moving. If taken immediate advantage of, it is quite possible to turn this exceedingly rough area of country into a most attractive park, and bring all this northern part of the municipality under public notice. If this is done the business part of Preston must benefit greatly. It seems indeed a most opportune time to follow up the opening that Brunswick has made for us, and I trust that every citizen of Preston who is interested in its future welfare will personally ask our councillors to take full advantage of this without any delay.—Yours, etc.,

J. S. McFADZEAN.

Reservoir, 13/6/27.

## More Merri Musings

*Continued from page 3*



**Mystery plinth:** Historian Fred Bruton thinks this plinth might be the base of the lost statue commemorating the Batman treaty. It is close to the site where the Wurundjeri Elder Ian Hunter says the commemorative statue stood, and to a base which could also belong to the statue (but also to a few other things). Mr Bruton has asked Darebin Council to investigate.

**Brunswick Terminal Station update:** As the Brunswick Terminal Station (BTS) is in its final stages of building, the NoBTS66 campaign against its redevelopment has called it a day with a celebratory planting at Ida St North Fitzroy on National Tree Day, 31 July. We have lots to thank this campaign for, as it was successful in ensuring more consultation with residents, a greatly improved design, and a façade more sympathetic with the Merri Creek environment.

**Great Green Get-together:** Jane Miller, one of our representatives to Merri Creek Management Committee, enjoyed staffing an information stall at *The Great Green Get-together* held at Hume Global Learning Centre in Craigieburn on 25 August. Hume City Council runs the program to encourage and support community-based environmental initiatives - from bee hotels, to community gardens; restoring grasslands, to cargo bikes; food swaps to climate change initiatives, and children joining in gardening and cooking projects. After mingling, participants spoke to the group of their projects, and Jane found it to be a great night of inclusion and inspiration.

# Friends of Edgars Creek Focus



*There are so many good things happening along Edgars Creek and with Friends of Edgars Creek (FoEC) that I don't have enough space to cover everything. In a nutshell, planting has ended for 2016 and almost 5000 plants have new homes amongst the revegetation sites on Edgars Creek. Thank you so much to our wonderful volunteers who have astounded us with their continued dedication to the cause: we can now claim to have created a significant legacy for our kids and the community – take a walk along our little piece of the creek and be amazed!*

I would like to dedicate this article to a brief description of a recently announced major project that has left FoEC feeling both very excited and also validated, for its proceeding has been in part due to our work and advocacy! Melbourne Water has advised that funding has been approved to undertake removal of all of the boxthorn and woody weeds on the steep creek slope around Livingstone St (from around Tilley St to Arthur St). The plan is to groom/mulch all of the boxthorn/weeds, with the material to be left in situ. This will have a major impact on the amount of harbour for pest species such as rabbits, so its removal will be of major benefit to the entire creek corridor (not to mention the marked reduction in the boxthorn seed bank!). The boxthorn control will utilise a new technology, the “spider excavator,” which significantly reduces the ground impact when compared to a normal excavator. It has large wheels rather than the tracks associated with traditional excavators, and stabilisers which grip into the ground to enable steeper slopes to be tackled.



*The spider-style machine that will be undertaking grooming works.*

A total of 2400 shrubs/trees and 2200 grasses/rushes are planned for revegetation, the bulk of which (1800) will be placed on the steep slope via a rope-supported planting. We will also install some groundcovers – focusing on a few planted beds and some feature planting into rocky outcrops around the slope. 1000 plants will be planted shortly, with funding for maintenance and watering as well! The grooming works should be almost complete by the time you read this and then planting will be undertaken.

*“See ya on the creek, perhaps at the site of the above project!”*

**David Pavone** President, Friends of Edgars Creek

*Map showing the area of woody weed removal.*



## Befriend our Facebook page

Join over 1000 others and ‘like’ our wonderful Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/FriendsofMerriCreek](http://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 #merricreek #merricreektrail hashtags at Instagram @friendsofmerricreek

## Dick's Witticisms

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

Time flies like the wind, but fruit flies like bananas.

What does a clock do when it gets hungry? It goes back four seconds.

# NOVEMBER

**Saturday 5: MECCARG\* Preparation for Murnong Gathering**  
Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm.  
Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Contact:  
Melissa 0417 255 873 or [www.facebook.com/meccarg](http://www.facebook.com/meccarg)

**Sunday 6: Litter Clean Up - North Coburg**  
Merlynston Creek confluence North Coburg, 10am-12noon. Melway 17 H9. 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.

**Friday 11: A little nature play**  
Waterdale Village Park, cnr Lakewood Drive and Brookwood Avenue, Doreen, 10:30-11.30am. Melway G7. Open your child to the wonder and learning local nature provides, with a free program for two-to-five year-olds (carer or parent must attend). We even meet a local frog. Bookings essential to Julia on 9380-8199 or [JuliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au](mailto:JuliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au)

**Saturday 12: MECCARG\* Murnong Gathering**  
Don't miss this unique cultural event. Meet at the old quarry, near the footbridge on the Merri Creek trail between Murray Rd and Bell St Coburg, 11am-2pm. Melway 18 A11. Phone Melissa 0417 255 873. Funded by the City of Moreland.

**Sunday 13: Flax Lily & Blue-banded Bee Wild Pollinator Count**  
Meet at the east end of Jukes Rd Fawkner, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 18 A2. Visit the Lily and Blue Banded Bee project sites, place a Bee Hotel and count our wild pollinators! Refreshments provided. Phone Ray or Monica at MCMC 9380 8199. Funded by Victorian Government's Threatened Species Grant and the many generous donors to our crowdfunding campaign!

**Saturday 19: Last of 6 Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning:**  
Help to rid these native grasslands of woody weeds. Light refreshments provided. Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 J12. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

**Sunday 20: Merri Creek Bird Survey 4 for 2016**  
7 sites along the Merri, 8.45-10.30am. See page 4 for details.

**Sunday 20: Friends of Edgars Creek Site Maintenance**  
Meet at the Silurian Cliff site - access from the corner of Spectrum Way and Snapshot Drive, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A8. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

**Tuesday 22: Friends of Merri Creek Annual General Meeting**  
CERES Lower Merri Room, Roberts St, East Brunswick. Help celebrate another successful year by joining us for refreshments at 6.30pm before the AGM at 7.30pm and party afterwards. Details on page 1. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

**Thursday 24: A little nature play**  
Hall Reserve Clifton Hill, 10:30-11:30am. Melway 2D E1. Details as per Friday 11 November. Bookings essential to Julia on 9380-8199 or [JuliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au](mailto:JuliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au)

**Sunday 27: Merri Creek Bird Survey 4 for 2016 (continued)**  
Bababi Djinanang & Coburg Lake, 8.45-10.30am. See page 4 for details.

**Late November to December: Golden Sun Moth Survey**  
Please register with Ray or Monica at MCMC on 9380 8199 or email: [admin@mcmc.org.au](mailto:admin@mcmc.org.au) by 18/11/16 and we will let you know ASAP as to which weekday will be most suitable. Funded by a Threatened Species Community Volunteer Action Grant.

# EVENTS

# DECEMBER

**Saturday 3: MECCARG\* End of Year Celebration**  
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 4: Litter Clean Up - Northcote**  
Walker St East, Northcote, 10am-12noon. Melway 30 F12. 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: Help plan our 2017 regeneration activities**  
MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, 6.30pm. All FoMC members are welcome to help plan our planting and maintenance activities for 2017. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

**Mid December: Kangaroo Grass Seed Harvest**  
Please register with Ray or Monica at MCMC on 9380 8199 or email: [admin@mcmc.org.au](mailto:admin@mcmc.org.au) by 18/11/16 and we will let you know the site and which weekday will be most suitable.

# JANUARY 2017

**Sunday 8: 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.

# FEBRUARY 2017

**Saturday 4: 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 5: Litter Clean Up - Nth Fitzroy**  
Downstream from Rushall Station, 10am-12noon. Melway 30 D11. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

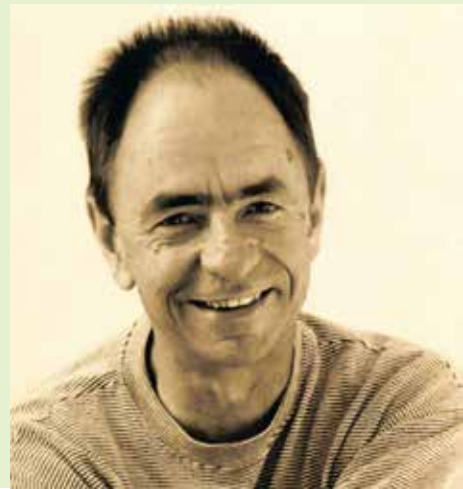
**Sunday 5: Streamteam Water Quality Testing**  
Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

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

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

## Vale Mike Hill OAM

On 26 July the environment movement lost one of its champions, Mike Hill, who was a genuine leader in sustainability. Mike was the first Mayor of Moreland and a founding member of the Victorian Local Government Association; he served on the board of Sustainability Victoria as well as its predecessors, he was a member of EPA's Environment Protection Board, he chaired the Keep Australia Beautiful Community Advisory Committee, and he was pivotal in the establishment of the Moreland Energy Foundation. Mike and his partner, Lorna Pitt, also developed the Westwyck ecovillage on the site of the former West Brunswick Primary School, which became a model for sustainable design. He will be sadly missed by a huge number of people, as shown by his packed-out memorial at Coburg Town Hall on 2 August, attended by several FoMC members.



## Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

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Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to [friendsofmerriecreek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmerriecreek@gmail.com) by Friday 9 December, 2016

