

Results of 2017 Annual General Meeting

Twenty-four members and three guests attended the FoMC Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 14 November 2017, and heard Adrian Marshall talk about how to improve the design around urban grasslands.

Adrian gave a most interesting and informative talk about his seven principles of how to achieve this (from his publication *Start with the Grasslands*): (1) Get in ASAP; (2) Collaborate; (3) Integrate, protect and connect; (4) Design for maintenance; (5) Communicate; (6) Let people in; and (7) Provide cues to care. Read his guide at: <https://vnpa.org.au/publications/start-with-the-grasslands/>

The AGM also again featured the Exhibition: *Merri Creek - from wasteland to parklands*.

2018 Committee

The following members were elected to the 2018 Committee:

President: David Redfearn

Vice-President: Ann McGregor

Secretary: Ray Radford

Treasurer: Nicole Lowe

Membership Secretary: Monica Williamson

Committee Members: Nick Williams and Jane Miller

The Committee is unchanged from 2017. However, we would love to have new committee members, so if you're at all interested in becoming a Committee member, you're welcome to get a taste for it by attending meetings and receiving Agendas (phone Ray on 0422 989 166 or email: friendsofmerricreek@gmail.com)

Sub-Committee Coordinators:

Regeneration Group: Nicole Lowe

Litter Group: Paul Prentice

Streamteam: Irene Baker

Newsletter (layout): Dean Lombard

These coordinators are also unchanged from 2017.

Representatives to MCMC

FoMC will be represented on the Merri Creek Management Committee by Nicole Lowe, Ann McGregor, Jane Miller, Pascale Pitot, Ann Sanson, and new Representative, Lisa Lawrence, who is an active member of the Regeneration Group. Lisa is filling a vacancy left originally by Jane Farmer and then later by Laziza Hawkins, who both moved into new employed positions that made it difficult for them to continue as Representatives.

Substitute Reps to MCMC

David Redfearn, Suzi Shaw, and John Parham remain as Substitute Representatives from 2017, with David Gifford and Melissa Laing also volunteering. Both David and Melissa are active members of the Regeneration Group, while Melissa is also very involved with our sub-group MECCARG.



Adrian Marshall addresses members at our 2017 AGM, with FoMC President, David Redfearn second from right.

NEWSFLASH: Our new website is now up

Check out our new-look website, designed by Pixelstorm, featuring an online management system which will allow you to join or renew memberships online.

See for yourself at
friendsofmerricreek.org.au

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2017 President's Report

The 2017 President, David Redfearn presented his report (as below) and it was circulated at the meeting:

Another year passes and, as usual, lots has happened along the creek. Our people do us proud in their range of endeavours, whether it be hands-on activities such as planting, weeding and litter collection, building an evidence base of our successes such as the bird surveys and stream watch, or the advocacy and promotion of our creek to the community and government. There remains however much to do to protect and restore our beloved creek, as the challenges and threats are never far away.

Telling our story:

Our magnificent exhibition continued to feature around the catchment, although at a vastly slower pace after doing the rounds of all the municipalities in the catchment and many libraries in 2016. It was on view at the EPA in February and at the Whittlesea Community Festival, while a partial display appeared at a presentation to the City of Yarra. The City of Moreland will be hosting it in the Coburg Civic Centre later this month and, of course, here it is at our very own AGM! This is a top class product that so colourfully and so eloquently tells the amazing story of our creek and its people; it is a resource that should be used widely, so we urge anyone who knows of an opportunity to use it, to please let us know.

Looking ahead:

Continuing urban growth and development pressure, the campaign for a Greater Wallan-Merri State/Regional Park, planning issues, government policies and climate change among other things mean that our work is far from done. We continue to need solid community action as well as robust and well-resourced institutions to do this. That is why we set up the Merri Creek Management Committee just over 25 years ago and why our very own community based organisation was created.

Communication:

As part of our communication strategy, we have a strong social media presence with our Facebook and Instagram pages, and we are looking forward to our new website, thanks to our diligent volunteers who keep them fresh and relevant. If you have a great photo or story about the creek, please share them with us.

Acknowledgements:

Our gratitude must go to all members for their commitment during the year, to those who held office and to those who organised and carried out the many tasks that befall an organisation such as ours. Our efforts are all voluntary, a true labour of love, and the time given to ensure the success of the FoMC mission no matter how great or how small is immensely appreciated. I must again give special thanks to our Secretary, Ray Radford, whose hard work makes the job of the committee so much easier; and to my fellow committee members for their active and constructive participation in our meetings throughout the year, and to our representatives on the Merri Creek Management Committee for their dedication and their willingness to face the challenges that arise. It is good to see our new members actively challenging us to think about who we are and what we do.



Towards 2018:

This list is by no means exhaustive but I would see some of our key priorities for 2018 continuing to be:

- Working with other groups, the community and government to ensure appropriate development along the whole of the Merri, but particularly in the upper Merri, and to secure the protection of sites of environmental significance;
- Continuing to campaign for the Greater Wallan-Merri State/Regional Park;
- A continued commitment to the good governance and the operations of the MCMC;
- Exploring opportunities to further educate and engage our community in the values of the creek and its environs;
- Engaging and building the capacity of our membership, the next generation and succession planning, to ensure that we continue to be a relevant and cutting edge environmental organisation;
- Celebrating our successes.

Finally, I give my thanks to all of you for your fantastic support and hard work during 2017 and I wish you all the best for the Festive Season and hope that we all emerge refreshed and ready for the challenges of 2018.

(David later said that he wanted 2018 to be his last year as President and he hoped that someone else would take over.)

David Redfearn President 2018

Merri Musings

VCAT appeal: FoMC has lodged an appeal with VCAT over a decision to grant a planning permit at 67 & 115 Trawalla Avenue, Thomastown, and membership fees will be used to fund the appeal. The permit is for removal of drainage and sewerage reserve and easements on land owned by Melbourne Water, along the Merri just north of the Ring Road. This is a step towards legitimising the illegal fill and occupation of part of the Melbourne Water land by an adjoining industrial landowner. Melbourne Water issued a licence to the adjoining landowner after the land (floodplain) had been filled. The current landowner then built a warehouse on the fill, without a building or planning permit (which were issued retrospectively by Whittlesea Council). Now Melbourne Water is prepared to sell the occupied land to the adjoining landowner, and the permit to remove the reserve status is one step in this process. Subdivision and sale would reduce the width of the public land along the Merri corridor to 13.8m at the northern and south-eastern ends. This is much less than we seek as public open space along the Creek, and inadequate for revegetation that would screen the fill and buildings.

Many thanks to our Vice-President Ann McGregor for all her work on this important issue.

No GSM Survey or Kangaroo Grass Harvest: In case you didn't notice, in 2017 FoMC didn't hold our normal Golden Sun Moth Survey or Kangaroo Grass Seed Harvest. This is because there was no funding for a GSM Survey and we've basically achieved the aims of the original surveys; while the presence of South African Weed Orchids at Ngarri-djarrang meant the Kangaroo Grass Seed Harvest couldn't continue there. It has also become safer, cheaper and more efficient, to purchase the seed from a commercial harvester, as these businesses have developed as reliable sources of seed.

Successful grants: \$23,242 from Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority Community Grants for the project Weed Orchid Terminators Strike Again, to support our Special Weed Orchid Terminators in controlling the recent explosion of the invasive South African Weed Orchid at Ngarri-djarrang Grassland in Reservoir. Three community events are scheduled in October.

\$19,987 from Melbourne Water Community Grants for the project Aitken Creek's Living Pathways to establish pollination pathways for remnant Matted Flax Lily at Aitken Creek in Craigieburn (a tributary of the Merri) by fencing, weed control and plantings.

Sign on for events notices

If you would like to be notified about events along Merri Creek, sign up at: <http://www.mcmc.org.au/get-involved/subscribe>

You can sign up to receive email notices for all events, for events in a specific area, or for certain types of events. Please note that such notices are only sent to people who have requested them - so they do not automatically go to FoMC members.

Ninth Murnong Gathering: The Merri and Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group's Murnong Gathering on 11 November 2017 was bigger than the event in 2016, which we thought was pretty big then! With easily 200 people attending, perhaps they're building up to an even bigger tenth event in 2018. Once again the day included a warm Wurundjeri Welcome to Country from Auntie Di Kerr, fabulous dancing from the Djirri Djirri dancers (joined once again by many in the audience - as in the photo), fun weaving, and of course the harvest and cook-up of the endangered Murnong, along with other bush tucker. However, this time there was even a mobile compost toilet on site! Thanks to Moreland Council for funding and to MCMC for providing marquees, equipment and assistance for the BBQ.



Birds along the Merri in True Spring

Another productive round of bird surveys, at nine sites on 19 and 26 November, recorded a total of 76 bird species.

Among the highlights were a White-winged Triller in wattles at Galada Tamboore, a Sacred Kingfisher sitting on the high-voltage power line crossing the Merri near Brunswick Velodrome, another Sacred Kingfisher at Galgi Ngarrk, and Straw-necked Ibis at Coburg Lake and between Merri and Kirkdale Parks. Interesting fauna sightings included a native Water Rat (Rakali) near the Edwardes Lake spillway, an Eastern Blue-tongue Lizard in East Brunswick, and two Golden Sun Moths at Galgi Ngarrk.

At Galgi Ngarrk, both Merri and Curly Sedge Creeks were flowing strongly and there was plenty of bird breeding activity. Juvenile Australian Reed-Warblers, Chestnut Teal, White-fronted Chats and Australian Hobbies were spotted. A pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles soared overhead.

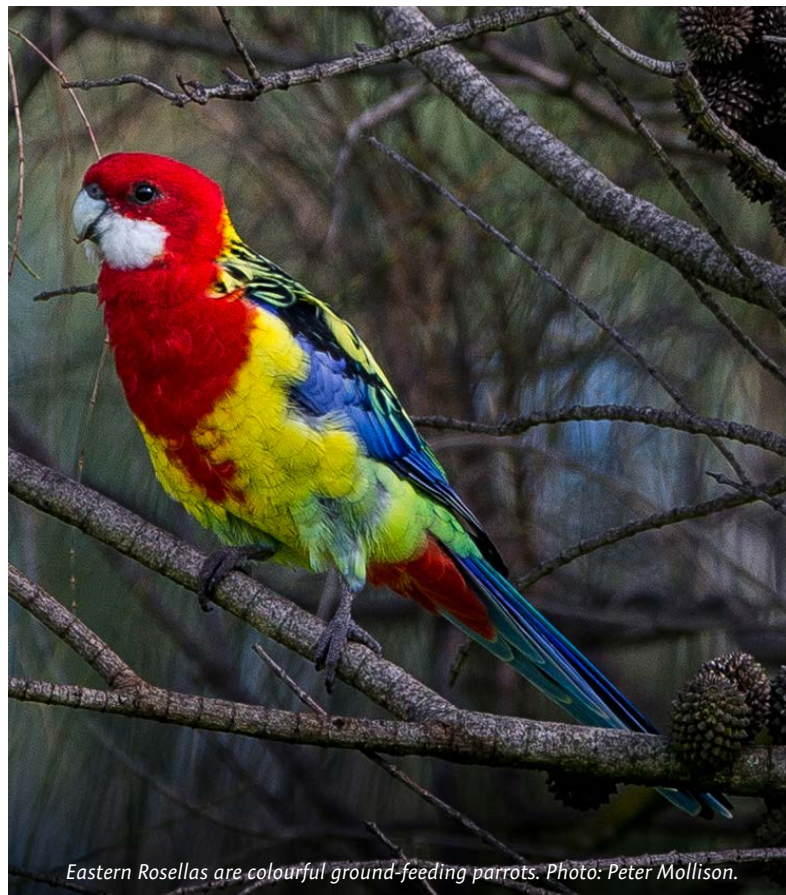
It was unusual to see only two cormorants at Edwardes Lake, but the algal bloom might explain this. Little Pied or Little Black Cormorants were recorded at five Merri Creek sites. The Hardhead ducks have been slowly increasing in number at the Lake, and now outnumber the Pacific Black Ducks.

Popular favourites the Tawny Frogmouths were seen at two sites, East Coburg-West Preston, and Merri Park. In Clifton Hill, Frogmouths produced one youngster after being on the nest for about three months, and left the nest about two weeks before the survey.

Colourful Eastern Rosellas were recorded in East Brunswick and Clifton Hill, but they always seem to be in low numbers along the Merri. Like many native birds, they are no match for aggressive Common (Indian) Mynas when competing for a nest hollow.

Several species were recorded at all nine sites: Pacific Black Duck, Spotted (Turtle) Dove, Red Wattlebird, Little Raven, and Magpie-lark. The most numerous species was the Rainbow Lorikeet, with an estimated total of 189 individuals across eight sites.

Ann McGregor BirdWatch Coordinator



Eastern Rosellas are colourful ground-feeding parrots. Photo: Peter Mollison.

First Merri Birdwatch survey for 2018

Bird surveys will be held from 8.45–10.30 am 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 18 February

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 25 February

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

Bababi Marning: Meet near the St George Chaldean Catholic Centre (ex Istrian Club), Cooper Street, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).

The Wildlife Garden in High Summer – the Summer Wattle

The Lightwood (Acacia implexa) flowers at the height of 'High Summer' in our local seasons

As we wrap up for the holiday break in late December 2017, the little copse of Lightwoods bordering MCMC's depot in Lee St East Brunswick, are flowering abundantly.



The creamy blossoms spangling the canopy are an attractive feature for a few weeks each year. Sickie-shaped leaves (actually flattened leaf-stems called 'phyllodes') give this small tree the appearance of a small Eucalypt. The light green foliage and weathered looking trunk (that develops early in this little tree's life) make this a valuable landscaping tree in a small garden.

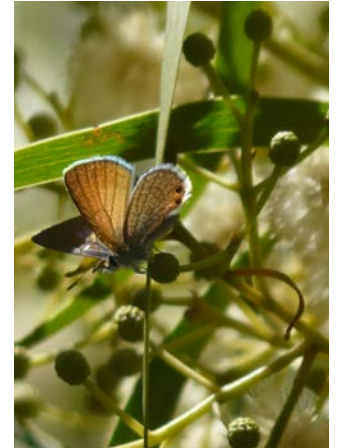
A curious feature of the tree is the nearly simultaneous maturation of seed pods arising from last summer's flowers during the current season's blossoming. These pods cease growth at an early stage and remain tiny, until November when they rapidly grow to full size. This is probably an adaptation to summer drought, allowing the plant to flower when insect pollinators are



abundant, but putting off growing the pods until growing conditions are optimal. The rapid pod growth reduces the time the seeds are soft and green, and so most vulnerable to seed-eating insects.

Seeding in High Summer also means the seeds will be spread by birds and ants, safe in the soil and ready to grow in the aftermath of any bushfires in Late Summer.

The buds of Lightwood are a favourite food of the caterpillars of the beautiful Two-spotted Line-blue. This tiny butterfly, the size of a little finger's nail, is common



along the Merri and can sometimes be found in large numbers, fluttering below flowering Lightwoods.

Be sure to take a closer look at this beautiful tree this summer!

Brian Bainbridge MCMC
Ecological Restoration Planner



Flower Power

How does staring at a bunch of flowers help endangered biodiversity?

Nine volunteers and MCMC staff spent a morning counting insects pollinating flowers on Sunday 19 November 2017 at [Moomba Park in Fawkner](#). The participants conducted 26 pollinator counts, each of ten minutes duration. In just under an hour, 4.3 hours of detailed pollinator observation was gathered on nine selected wildflowers with 108 insects were recorded feeding at flowers.

The most frequently recorded insects were smaller native bees, including Miner Bees. Miner bees were witnessed shaking the anthers of Matted Flax-lily to loosen pollen in a less energetic version of the 'buzz' pollination performed by their larger Blue-banded cousins. A single Blue-banded Bee was recorded, visiting a Black-anther Flax-lily.

On this day, the most insect-attracting plant was a flourishing patch of the native Groundsel Fireweed, a robust native daisy that survives at a few damp sites along the Merri. The hundreds of golden flowers attracted many native bees, butterflies and flies.

Most exciting for this project was the observation of native bees using five plant species in the habitat of Matted Flax

lilies. Flax-lilies only provide pollen to bees, so the bees need to collect nectar from elsewhere to make food for their young. The confirmation that these wildflowers are used as nectar sources gives us confidence to continue designing plantings that will enhance the habitat for native bees. Check our website later in the year for a future pollinator count, perhaps using a different survey method.



The Convent and the Farm

What a wonderful experience it is to walk along the Boulevard in Kew between the Collins (Gipps St) and Johnston St Bridges, and view the steep wooded slopes, the grand arc of the Yarra, and the Abbotsford Convent and the Collingwood Children's Farm...

These must be among the most loved institutions in Victoria; I was delighted to learn from the website that *"Recognised as a place of outstanding historic value to Australia and the Commonwealth, because of the site's strong capacity to demonstrate the course and pattern of welfare provision in Australia, the Convent was added to the National Heritage List on 31 August 2017."*

What didn't get mentioned was the narrow escape it had about a decade ago, when there were plans to fill up and desecrate the site with apartment blocks – not unlike the present cruel scheme of packing private towers into public housing estates, for a huge decrease in the amenity of the latter's residents and hardly any extra accommodation for them. Robin Hood in reverse, indeed.

I was among those who stood by the Farm's entrance and solicited signatures from passing cyclists to protest to the government; and thankfully, to put it mildly, Steve Bracks listened to us and paid Australand an incredibly modest \$1.8 million to walk away from the project. A crucial detail was that the threat of buildings along the Johnston St frontage was averted, and the entire car park, essential to the Farm and the Convent businesses, was saved.

But how much greed and contempt some persons have: I believe there was a plan for a car park beside Studley Park Rd, accessed by a footway under the Johnston St Bridge. Patrick White's words in 1972 remain eternally true, *"there will be other attempts during your lifetime to steal or spoil your parks... you must always be on the alert."*

Less dramatically, about thirty years ago the Farm people were worried that the Yarra Trail might cut it off from the river bank, however we were able to persuade local MP Barry Pullen to arrange for its present much more satisfactory route. A marvellous addition was the beaut

country-style wood and corrugated-iron pedestrian overpass above the shared path, at the Farm's entrance.

Another great memory, in October 2016 I was at the Ride To Work breakfast for cyclists at the Convent (what a combination of perfections), and was fortunate enough to have a chat with its new CEO, Collette Brennan: I was very relieved to be told by her that there were not as I'd feared a large number of empty spaces, the place was pretty well fully occupied.

There are, we read, "artisans, cultural events and institutions, classical music radio 3MBS, the Sophia Mundi Steiner school, live music performances, a gallery, theatre, markets, bakery, bar, café and an organic pay-as-you-feel restaurant" (*Lentil As Anything*). Also, most appropriately, the office of the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council.

Over a century and a half of history here: the Convent was founded by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in 1863, when Melbourne was not yet thirty years old, and provided accommodation for orphans and other girls needing protection, though in rather "austere" conditions. *"There were vegetable and fruit gardens, dairy and poultry farms and a piggery", while other income was derived from "lace-making and commercial laundry services."*

And thus it is that *"The entire site is unique in that it is the only example of a working inner-city convent farm in a major city, anywhere in the world"*, giving urban children (and adults) a valuable insight into the realities and the natural charm of rural life. We are blessed to have such a place, which has moved from being a religious to a community and cultural institution, and is now safeguarded as well as it is possible to be.

Paul Prentice



Photo: From Abbotsford Convent Foundation

Friends of Edgars Creek Focus



Hello 2018!

Greetings for another new year – 2018. Well before we know it, we'll be saying that for 2020 and won't everyone have great vision that year...

I am going to start with a disclaimer: I am biased! And let me tell you that the Friends of Edgars Creek (FoEC) “machine” just keeps on rolling on. If we were an adolescent boy, we'd have a deepening voice and would probably need to think about shaving some time soon. We are now well advanced in preparation for our 12th season of planting and as usual, I can't wait.

FoEC's committee have continued with our bigger picture thinking (thanks in no small part to our strategy man Stephen Northey) and we have a clear set of objectives that will take us into 2020 and beyond. There are also a number of additional “side projects” in planning for our creek in 2018 that FoEC (namely me actually) has played a pivotal role in facilitating. These have come about through local business groups reaching out to us, keen to engage their staff in environmental activities along the creek. It has been a great pleasure to be a part of

these projects; it is not often that you see large groups of people being paid to come to work and that their work day is spent in the outdoors, undertaking a revegetation project.

I would like to utilise the space of the *Focus* to draw attention to FoEC membership. The best part of our package is that it is free! Though on a more serious note, we are drawing people's attention to memberships as it is a clear indication of a commitment to FoEC and our mission. It also entitles the bearer of the membership to stand for election for our committee and to vote at our AGM's.

Finally, we have a full calendar of events lined up for the year ahead. Please visit the FoEC website to view our latest calendar, and for those on Facebook, search out Edgars Creek to “friend” us and get regular reminders of our events throughout the year.

“See ya on the creek!”

David Pavone

President, Friends of Edgars Creek



Part of the Livingstone Street escarpment where Melbourne Water smashed the boxthorn (and a big Radiata pine too from this picture). This section is only about a quarter of the total area that had woody weeds removed and revegetation plantings undertaken. This is mountain goat terrain – harness work through here!



Befriend our Facebook page

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

And we're on Instagram too

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

Dick's Witticisms

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

I wondered why the cricket ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop anytime.

F E B R U A R Y

Thursday 1: Wetland Walk and Talk in Darebin

Edwardes Lake Park Reservoir, 10:30 am–12:30 pm. Celebrate World Wetland Day with an easy walk and talk on the wonders of wetlands. Registration is essential – see: www.mcmc.org.au

Sunday 4: Litter Clean Up – North Fitzroy

Downstream from Rushall Station, 10 am–12 noon. Melway 30 D11. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 4: Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 18: 1st Merri Creek Bird survey for 2018

At 7 Merri sites, 8.45–10.30 am. See page 4 for details.

Sunday 25: 1st Merri Creek Bird survey for 2018 (continued)

Bababi Marning & Coburg Lake, 8.45–10.30 am. See page 4 for details.

M A R C H

Saturday 3: Friends of Merri Park Litter Clean-up

Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, 10.00 am –12.00 noon. Melway 30C9. Contact: Irena 0415 722 653.

Sunday 4: Sydney Road Street Party

Sydney Road Brunswick, 12–7 pm. Look for the Friends of Merri Creek/MCMC stall – usually near Brunswick Town Hall.

Sunday 4: Clean Up Australia Day

Check the CUA website for Merri Creek locations closer to the date: <http://www.cleanup.org.au/au/CleanUpEvents/get-involved-in-clean-up-events.html>

Sunday 4: Water Quality Testing and Waterbug census

Merri Edgars wetland, Lot 1 Outlook Rd, Coburg North, 9–10:30am. Come see the diversity of life living in the Merri Edgars wetland. Further details by emailing thauslermerri@gmail.com. Phone: 9354 9885.

Sunday 4: Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Sunday 11: Litter Clean Up – Northcote

Arthurton Rd Northcote, Melway 30 B7. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Thursday 15: What frogs live in Moreland?

Glenroy Library, 7:30–8:30 pm. Learn about our local frogs. Registration is essential – see: www.mcmc.org.au

Sunday 18: 1st Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning

Help to rid these native grasslands of Broom, Gorse and Briar Rose bushes. Commemorating Harmony Day on 21/3. Light refreshments provided. Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit Campbellfield, 10 am–12.30 pm. Melway 180 J12. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 25: Waterwatch stall at the Darebin Community & Kite Festival

11 am–4 pm, Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir. Look for the Waterwatch display with skin art painting, waterbugs, frog census and crafty activities for kids.

Sunday 25: Friends of Merri Park Hand Weeding

Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, 10.00 am–12.00 noon. Melway 30C9. Help look after this wonderful site. Supported by the City of Darebin. Contact: Irena 0415 722 653.

A P R I L

Sunday 1: Easter Litter Clean Up – Coburg

Harding St, 10 am–12 noon. Melway 30 A2. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 1: Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

Saturday 7: Friends of Merri Park Litter Clean-up

Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, 10.00 am –12.00 noon. Melway 30C9. Contact: Irena 0415 722 653.

Sunday 8: Weeding at Strettle Wetland

Friends of Merri Creek site near Strettle Wetland Thornbury, 10 am–12.30 pm. Melway 30 B3. Help look after the site managed by the Friends with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Phone Lisa 0427 685 708.

Sunday 8: Wetland to wetland Bike ride

Starts near CERES East Brunswick, 10 am –1 pm and includes snacks. Registration is essential – see: www.mcmc.org.au

Friday 13: A little nature play

Whittlesea Public Gardens, Thomastown, 10:30–11:30 am. Fun nature play for kids. Registration is essential – see: www.mcmc.org.au

Sunday 22: Friends of Edgars Creek Silurian Cliff site Planting

Stream bank revegetation at the Livingstone St escarpment extension of the Silurian cliff site. Meet at the site – access from Livingstone St, North Coburg. 1–3 pm. Melway 18 B7. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 29: 2nd Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning

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

M A Y

Saturday 5: Friends of Merri Park Litter Clean-up

Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, 10.00 am –12.00 noon. Melway 30C9. Contact: Irena 0415 722 653.

Sunday 6: 2nd Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2018

7 sites along the Merri, 8.45–10.30 am. See our website for details.

Sunday 6: MECCARG* Weed and Eat

Meet at the Murnong Patch, Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1–3 pm. Melway 18 A11. Celebration of 'Play Outside Day,' 'Volunteers Week' and 'International Respect for Chickens Month.' Games suitable for kids, parents and owners of chickens or rabbits, focusing on harvesting edible weeds. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873 or www.facebook.com/meccarg

Sunday 6: Litter Clean Up – Coburg North

Merlynston Creek confluence, 10 am–12 noon. 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, 2–3.30 pm. Melway 30 C10. Phone: 9354 9885.

Sunday 13: 2nd Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2018 (continued)

Bababi Djinanang & Coburg Lake, 8.45–10.30 am. See: www.friendsofmerriecreek.org.au

Sunday 13: Mother's Day Planting & BBQ at Merri Park

Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, 10.00 am –12.00 noon. Melway 30C9. Bring your mum and help Mother Earth by adding to this wonderful area. Funded by Melbourne Water.

Check the FoMC website for any new events or changes to the above details. If no contact details given above, phone Ray or Monica at MCMC on 9380 8199.

*MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group

Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

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Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to friendsofmerriecreek@gmail.com by Friday 9 March 2018

