

MERRI CROWLER

The Friends of Merri Creek Newsletter

February – April 2019

Results of 2018 Annual General Meeting

Twenty-six members and three guests attended the FoMC Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 20 November 2018, and heard Mark Bachmann talk about how wetlands can be restored.

Mark gave an inspiring talk with impressive examples of amazingly successful wetland restorations in five different sites after quite short time periods. He also included some brief research he had done on Hernes Swamp. Kimjan Achilles, from Yarra Valley Water, also spoke briefly about their plans to decommission the Wallan Sewage Treatment Plant (sited in Hernes Swamp) and rehabilitate the site.

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

The following members were elected to the 2019 Committee:

Office Bearers:

President: Nick Williams

Vice-President: Ann McGregor

Secretary: Ray Radford

Treasurer: Nicole Lowe

Membership Secretary: Monica Williamson

Committee Members:

Jane Miller

Anne Frost

David Gifford

Thespina Marziano

Committee changes

David Redfearn stepped down after 15 years as President, and was given a hearty round of applause for his outstanding service. Nick Williams was warmly welcomed as the new President and Anne Frost, David Gifford and Thespina Marziano have joined Jane Miller as Committee members.

Sub-Committee Coordinators:

Regeneration Group: Nicole Lowe

Litter Group: Paul Prentice

Streamteam: Trevor Hausler

Newsletter (layout): Dean Lombard

The only change to these coordinators is that Trevor Hausler has replaced Irene Baker as Streamteam Coordinator, as Irene will be overseas for a year.

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 Lisa Lawrence – the same as last year.

Substitute Reps to MCMC

David Gifford, Suzi Shaw, and Thespina Marziano offered to be Substitute Representatives. David and Suzi remain from last year, but Melissa Laing, John Parham and David Redfearn stepped down.



Interested in joining the FOMC committee?

If you're at all interested in becoming a Committee member, you can get a taste for it by attending meetings and receiving agendas (phone Ray on 0422 989 166 or email: friendsofmerriecreek@gmail.com)

Mark Bachmann (at right) receives applause after his presentation at the 2018 AGM, with the 2018 FoMC President, David Redfearn, also standing.

Inside

President's report • Dick's Witticisms	2	3	Hello from the incoming FoMC President
Ten years of BirdWatch	4	5	First BirdWatch Survey for 2019
Merri Musings	6	7	New wetland for Growling Grass Frogs
Friends of Edgars Creek Focus	7	8	Events calendar

FoMC President's Report 2018

David Redfearn, the 2018 President, presents his last report

I write this with some sadness as, after 15 years, I will be stepping down from the role as President of FoMC. It has been a wonderful journey with many highs and of course, the inevitable lows; but it has been a joy to have worked with the real champions of our beloved waterway be it doing hands on activities such as planting, weeding and litter collection, building our knowledge and a critical evidence base through our bird surveys and stream watch, or the advocacy and promotion of our creek to our community and government. Our work is never complete though and we must always apply our energies to face challenges from forces that sometimes can seem enormous. We must however be encouraged by our significant wins and let these embolden us to meet whatever the future throws at us.

Our challenges:

Urban growth and development pressure are issues that never go away so vigilance around planning, government policies, biodiversity and climate change is essential. We need to keep on campaigning for a Greater Wallan-Merri State/Regional Park to offer greater protection for our corridor. We also need solid and continued community action as well as robust and well-resourced institutions to do this. That is why we set up the Merri Creek Management Committee over 25 years ago and why our very own community based organisation was created.

Our successes:

But wins there have been! Our very latest was convincing Moreland Council to agree to purchase land to head off inappropriate development and preserve parkland along the creek corridor in Fawkner and Coburg. Working closely with our community and local groups such as the Fawkner Progress Association in this instance, really shows how we can put a very powerful and coherent voice to government and authorities to get good outcomes for our community.

Telling our story:

Another great achievement is our magnificent exhibition, *From wastelands to parklands*, which has been quite a local hit in the last two years and really is unsurpassed in how it tells the story of the people and places that are so much a part of our catchment. It is a first class product that so colourfully and so eloquently tells our amazing story; it is a resource that should be used widely so if you know of an opportunity to use it, please contact FOMC.

Communicating with our community:

Another terrific achievement is FoMC's strong and growing social media presence with active Facebook and Instagram pages along with a refreshed web site all thanks to the diligent volunteers who invest time and effort to keep them fresh and relevant. If you have a great pic or story about the creek we would love you to share them with us. Our quarterly newsletter, the *Merri Growler*, continues to maintain a very high standard and is also a key part of keeping the community informed of the many events and activities of FoMC.

Acknowledgements:

Lastly, I really must thank all those fabulous people I have worked or engaged with over the years, to those who have held office and to those who have organised and carried out the many tasks that befall an organisation such as ours. Their efforts, great and small, are all given voluntarily and generously and help deliver our mission. I must again give special thanks to our long serving Secretary, Ray Radford, whose hard work has made the job of our committee so much easier. I give special thanks 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 also wonderful to see the energy of new members who actively challenge us to think about who we are and what we do. FoMC's future is in good hands.

Continued opposite

Dick's Witticisms

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

*Cartoonist found dead in home.
Details are sketchy.*

*All the toilets in Melbourne police
stations have been stolen. Police say
they have nothing to go on.*



Hello from the incoming FoMC President

Nick Williams has a background in urban ecology and green infrastructure as well as being a long-standing friend of Merri Creek.

I was very honoured to be elected President of FoMC for 2019 at the AGM in November last year, and would like to thank David Redfearn for his decades of service to the community including his latest 15 years as President of FoMC. I've lived close to Merri Creek at various locations in the inner north for the past 20 years and now reside in Northcote with my partner and two young daughters. I've been a member of Friends of Merri Creek since 2007 and have served on the committee since 2012. I've also acted as a FoMC rep to MCMC between 2013-2015 and have represented the Friends at Planning Panel Hearings for Precinct plans and East-West Link. As well as FoMC, I have spent 25 years on the committee of management of a coastal foreshore reserve on Western Port Bay, many as President or Vice-President.

During the day (and a good number of evenings) I work as an Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne, teaching and researching urban ecology and green infrastructure to adapt Australian cities to climate change. In this role I have conducted ecological research along the Merri Creek since 2000. This has included quantifying the road effect zone of the various options for the Hume freeway, assessment of restoration practices and numerous flora surveys in the native grasslands along the creek valley. Many of these were during my PhD which compared the ecology of native grasslands in urban and rural landscapes. Its results helped to list western Victoria's native grasslands as critically endangered under the EPBC Act and improve how they are incorporated into urban developments. Since then I have conducted research on weeds, developed green roofs suitable for Australian conditions and quantified their many benefits, worked to understand how to increase the biodiversity of urban landscapes and more recently collaborated with environmental psychologists to better understand the well-being benefits of urban nature.



Friends of Merri Creek has a list of remarkable achievements and is a shining example of how the community can transform an unloved urban wasteland into an incredibly valuable environmental and social asset. I look forward to working with everyone in continuing to protect and restore the creek and its surrounds. We need to give some thought as to the best ways to do this, but given the rapid population growth in the north of the catchment, it's imperative to engage with these new communities, as well as the councils and developers creating them.

Nick Williams FoMC President

FoMC President's Report 2018

Looking forward:

This list is by no means exhaustive but I would see some of the key priorities for 2019 being:

- 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;
- Deepening our relationship with our local indigenous community;
- Continuing to campaign for the Greater Wallan-Merri State/Regional Park;
- A continued commitment to the good governance and the operations of the MCMC;

Continued from previous page

- 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 effective environmental organisation;
- Celebrating our successes.

Finally, I would like to give my thanks to all of you for your fantastic support and hard work during 2018 and over the years. I wish my successor and the new members of our committee all the very best in their roles and promise any support I can give - without getting in the way. See you all on the creek (with my trusty camera in hand)!

David Redfearn FOMC President 2004 - 2018

Ten years of Merri BirdWatch

FoMC has undertaken bird surveys at nine sites along the Merri Creek between Craigieburn and Clifton Hill, and at Edwardes Lake on Edgars Creek, four times a year since October 2008. Ann McGregor, FoMC BirdWatch Coordinator, reports on the results.

Bird surveys – why, how and where?

The aims of the *Merri BirdWatch* are to encourage community awareness and involvement in bird observing, and to collect meaningful seasonal monitoring data on the birds along the Merri Creek. Participants with all levels of experience are welcome to help with the surveys and expand their knowledge of local birds.

We are indebted to our volunteer bird survey leaders for their commitment, reliability and willingness to share their enthusiasm as well as observation and identification skills with beginner-birders. Some of our leaders have been with the *Merri Birdwatch* since 2008 – remarkable dedication!

Each survey runs from 9.00–10.30 AM (except at Galgi Ngarrk, which takes longer) and follows the same walking route each time. The bird species are noted and the number of birds seen or heard is estimated for each

species. The records have been stored on, and can be accessed from, the global eBird website (<https://ebird.org/australia/home>). Survey site names (hotspots) used on eBird are listed at the end of this article.

The sites surveyed include urban parkland with extensive indigenous revegetation plots up to 35 years old, two lakes in parkland, a natural rocky gorge with open grassland above, and native grasslands near the (current) northern edge of the suburbs, as well as the Merri Creek itself. The wide variety of habitat types brings a corresponding diversity of bird species, whether resident, regular migrants or just passing through.

To help with identification, we have produced a colour brochure illustrating 62 relatively common species of the Merri and northern Melbourne. This is available to participants in our surveys, and is for sale at CERES Nursery in East Brunswick.

Birds we've seen

After the first year of surveys, a combined total of 100 species had been recorded. Since then, a further 37 have been added, making a total of 137 species. The full list is available on the FoMC website.*

Total species recorded in FoMC surveys at each site: October 2008 to October 2018

Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands), Somerton	94 species	36 surveys
Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands), Somerton	91	35
Galada Tamboore, Campbellfield	82	37
Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grasslands), Fawkner	84	33
Edwardes Lake, Reservoir	76	37
Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg	70	38
Harding St - Moreland Rd, East Coburg	66	38
Blyth St-Moreland Rd, Brunswick East	75	39
Kirkdale St Park, Brunswick East – Merri Park, Northcote	74	39
Hall Reserve – Quarries Park, Clifton Hill	65	39
Overall totals	137 species	371 surveys

Data from <https://ebird.org/australia/hotspots> 15 December 2018



Tawny Frogmouth by Peter Mollison

Citizen science and urban birds

Susanna Bryceson analysed the data from 199 surveys (the first five years) as part of her Biological Sciences studies at La Trobe University. The analyses explored bird diversity along the Merri's rural to inner-urban corridor, relationship to habitat types and to rainfall, and aspects of seasonal migration. The ten FoMC survey sites extend from the rural-urban fringe in the north (near Craigieburn) to inner-urban Clifton Hill. A number of researchers elsewhere have reported a gradient of declining bird diversity from a rural edge to the central city, with exotic species increasing towards the city centre. Sue found that this does not occur along the Merri. The average species diversity showed no clear trend from urban fringe to inner urban sites. Indeed, the most diverse site was in East Brunswick (31.8 average species), and the Clifton Hill

site scored slightly higher than the outer urban Bababi Marning. There was no consistent trend of increasing exotic species towards the inner city; in fact the inner areas recorded a lower proportion of exotic species (22.3%) compared with the outer areas (31.2%). On the other hand, carnivores (birds of prey) were mostly found in the remnant vegetation (outer) sites and were almost absent from the inner urban sites.

Revegetation sites had the highest species diversity. In the grassland sites, many species were only there at particular times of year, reflecting habitat fluctuations over the seasons. The shrub-tree plantings at revegetation sites provide more stable habitat and the range of ecological niches created in the revegetation sites may attract a broader range of species that have few other local alternatives.

* See <http://friendsofmerriecreek.org.au/activities/#birdwatch>

According to Sue Bryceson: “Researchers are increasingly acknowledging the value of ‘citizen-collected’ bird data and this has enabled analyses that, like this study, would otherwise have been too expensive to fund as formal research projects... The duration and extent of the Merri Creek corridor bird surveys has created a valuable scientific resource...” She concluded that “For community groups to record 30 species at a site in 90 minutes is surprisingly high given the surrounding urban matrix, and is comparable to numbers attained in healthy natural areas. This study results suggest that bird migration patterns can penetrate and persist across urban areas given suitable habitat, and that the Merri Creek corridor forms part of the broader network of habitats beyond the cities – a substantial achievement of sustained community effort.”

Returning to a restored wildlife corridor

A comparison of birds recorded by consultants in 1993 with the data in the FoMC surveys, was made by Brian Bainbridge, Ecological Restoration Planner at Merri Creek Management Committee, in 2015. He found that of 114 species recorded by the FOMC surveys, 61 were not recorded in the middle reach (St Georges Rd to Mahoneys Rd) of the Merri in 1993. Of these ‘new’ species, 11 appear to have responded to improvements in water quality and riparian vegetation, five due to improvements in grassland remnant quality. Nine appear to have responded to an increase in shrubland extent and connectivity along the



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Join over 3,500 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

creek. And 26 birds characteristic of woodlands appear to have returned or become more common due to the extent and connectivity of woodland habitat.

The two analyses above indicate the value of long-term datasets like the FoMC bird surveys, which could be further investigated to improve our understanding of bird populations over time, along an urban waterway undergoing ecological rehabilitation.

Merri Creek Site names (‘hotspots’) on eBird database (<https://ebird.org/australia/hotspots>)

Craigieburn Grassland Nature Conservation Reserve

Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grassland Nature Conservation Reserve), Somerton

Galada Tamboore/Merri Creek

Bababi Djinanang (Fawkner)

Edwardes Lake, Reservoir

Coburg Lake Reserve

Merri Creek — Harding St to Moreland Rd, E Coburg

Merri Creek — Blyth St to Moreland Rd, E Brunswick

Merri Creek — Kirkdale St Park to Merri Park

Merri Creek — Hall Res to Quarries Pk, Clifton Hill

First Merri BirdWatch survey for 2019

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 17 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).

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

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

Note this survey may not be completed until around 12 noon. Please contact the group leader to register beforehand, and receive important information about Galgi Ngarrk and any last-minute changes: Bridget Gardner: 0417 519 251.

Surveys at the following two sites are on 24 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).

Merri Musings

FoMC Member doubly honoured: Congratulations to FoMC member, Alison Harcourt, for being named 2019 Victorian Senior Australian of the Year. Alison was honoured for her seminal work in integer linear programming and other contributions to the mathematical and statistical sciences. In addition, she was also awarded an honorary Doctor of Science by the University of Melbourne. (Alison has a Household membership with FoMC Life Member, and author of *Dick's Witticisms*, Dick Harcourt.)

First bequest to FoMC: A big thank you to Geoff Richards for making the first bequest to FoMC. Geoff made the bequest, which he anticipates to be around \$100,000, in memory of his partner Harry Nash. The details haven't been finalised, (Geoff intends to live "for quite a while yet,") but the aim is for the money to be invested with the interest available to spend on FoMC projects and activities.



Talking rubbish at the table: In November 2018, FoMC Litter Coordinator, Paul Prentice, participated in an excellent round table meeting about litter issues, organised by MCMC, along with representatives from Melbourne Water, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Whittlesea and Yarra Councils. This was for the FoMC three year project, 'Rapid Response to Litter Clean ups After High Rainfall,' funded with the support of the Victorian Government, which aims to establish an effective response network to remove litter from waterways after high flow events.

As part of the project the [community litter collections page](#) on the FoMC website now provides information on litter clean up equipment, FAQs, safety procedures and insurance cover. In addition, we also have a reporting mechanism to capture community participation and the types of litter removed.

For further information on this project contact JuliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au



Brian Bainbridge leaves MCMC: After 21 years at MCMC, most recently as Ecological Restoration Planner, FoMC Life member, Brian Bainbridge has left to work closer to his home in Taradale. Brian said in his farewell: *"On the Merri, I have witnessed and rejoiced in signs of healing. I have had many joyous experiences of the Merri's positive ecological trajectory such as reporting the survival of the golden sun moth, western holden-tip, swamp tigertail dragonfly, amethyst hairstreak and rare white-spot butterflies. I have seen the return of many woodland birds and worked on teams to protect the plains yam daisy, matted flax lily and white elderberry and many others."*

Besides his excellent flora and fauna identification skills, Brian is also an accomplished artist, and he has provided illustrations for *Plants of the Merri Merri*, all the illustrations in *Creeklife*, and designed a number of information signs along the creek and elsewhere.



Fawknor land purchase celebrated: On 13 December, Moreland City Council celebrated the purchase of the VicRoads land along the Merri Creek in Fawknor, to the east of 104 McBryde St and to the south of Hood Crescent. This followed a long campaign to bring the land into Council ownership. This land affords a fine view to the north and south along the Merri and across the creek to the east. The Moreland Mayor, the past Mayor, the CEO and the federal Member for Wills spoke briefly and acknowledged the efforts of the community, FoMC and MCMC. Despite light rain and heavy storm clouds swirling, people enjoyed brewed coffee, delicious cakes, and for the younger set some face painting. A great outcome for the restoration of Merri Creek.

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.

New wetland for Growling Grass Frogs

The Growling Grass Frog Trust, which has representatives from FoMC, recently funded the creation of a wetland habitat for frogs in Craigieburn. **Angela Ganley**, Senior Sustainable Environment Officer, Hume City Council, reports on the project.

Hume City Council partnered with the Growling Grass Frog Trust, Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water to make significant improvements to the wetland at the aptly named Frog Court, Craigieburn. The Frog Court wetland treats an industrial catchment in Craigieburn, before discharging to Merri Creek. Previous investigations found that the wetland was not functioning correctly, leading to untreated stormwater being discharged to Merri Creek and the wetland being choked by reeds and rushes.

The wetland was known to provide habitat for the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)* listed Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*). Research had indicated that breeding of the Growling Grass Frog within the Frog Court wetland had been declining over a number of years. A report commissioned by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) recommended resetting and desilting the Frog Court wetland to support the viability of the Merri Creek Growling Grass Frog metapopulation.

The wetland remediation was designed to achieve stormwater capacity, stormwater pollutant reduction and public safety requirements under Melbourne Water Corporation's *Wetland Design Manual (2016)*. In addition, the project was the first to incorporate DELWP's *Growling Grass Frog Habitat Design Standards (2017)*. The design includes:

- A series of deep water ponds, up to 1.5m deep, to support submergent and floating vegetation and to prevent the wetland from being choked by reeds and rushes
- Rock beaching to reduce chytrid fungus
- Additional instream vegetation suited to the Growling Grass Frog
- Improved water quality
- A height adjustable weir on the outlet structure to help control Eastern Gambusia (*Gambusia holbrooki*) and assist with wetland maintenance

Frog Court wetland is an innovative case study in regard to meeting separate wetland objectives and will provide ongoing learnings for the stormwater industry and for threatened frog conservation. DELWP and Melbourne Water visited the site during construction to inform the delivery of further frog ponds planned for the Merri Creek corridor.

Hume City Council would like to thank the Growling Grass Frog Trust, Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water for their contributions to the project. The Council is planning a tour of the wetland and will invite the Friends of Merri Creek to attend. Look out for further details.



Friends of Edgars Creek Focus

We are looking forward to another full calendar of events around Edgars Creek in 2019 particularly if we are successful with our latest grant application.

We are funded for an early season planting at the caravan park site on Sunday 14 April (see events for details) thanks to a Melbourne Water Community Grant, and as part of our continued partnership with Moreland City Council we will have a National Tree Day event in late July. We have submitted our 2019-20 Community Grant application and hopefully by the time this article is in print we will have our 2019 calendar up on the FoEC website, full of Melbourne water sponsored events.

FoEC has done amazing work along the Edgars Creek reserve in partnership with Melbourne Water and Moreland City Council, our volunteers are a hard-working, dedicated group and they are always good for a laugh. Taking a walk along the creek reserve

is inspiring given the area that is now revegetated and continues to grow - I won't stop planting trees and caring for country until I am no longer for this world.

I hope that you can join us on the creek in 2019 and if you can't join us, at least get on down and have a walk around and enjoy the reserve, 'soak up' the natural environment and let the greenery refresh you!

"See ya on the creek!"

David Pavone President, Friends of Edgars Creek



Scenes from the FoEC 2018 "Christmas in September" event and end of season celebration. In the right-hand photo, David Pavone thinks that he was placing an order for a sausage.

F E B R U A R Y

Sunday 3: Litter Clean Up – Nth Fitzroy

10am-12noon. Downstream from Rushall Station. Melway 30 D11, or see [Google map](#). Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 3: Streamteam Water Quality Testing – Nth Fitzroy

2-3.30pm. Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth Fitzroy. Melway 30 C10, or see [Google map](#). Phone Trevor: 0458 257 611.

Sunday 17: Merri Bird Survey 2019 #1 – Various locations

8.45-10.30am. At 7 Merri sites. See page 5 for details.

Sunday 24: Merri Bird Survey 2019 #1 (continued) – 2 locations

8.45-10.30am. Bababi Marning & Coburg Lake. See page 5 for details.

Wednesday 27: Wednesday volunteers

See our website calendar (friendsofmerricreek.org.au/events-news/).

M A R C H

Saturday 2: Friends of Merri Park Litter Clean-up – Northcote

10am -12noon. Help look after this wonderful site. Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Winifred St. Melway 30C8 or see [Google map](#). Supported by MCMC. Contact: Irena 0415 722 653.

Sunday 3: Streamteam Water Quality Testing – Nth Fitzroy

Same details as for Sunday 3 February.

Sunday 10: Litter Clean Up – Coburg

10am-12noon. Harding St East Coburg, Melway 30 A2 or see [Google map](#). Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 17: Woody Weed Whacking – Galada Tamboore, Lalor

10am-12noon. Help free ecologically significant Stony Knoll vegetation from invasive weeds. Light refreshments provided. Meet in Whittlesea Public Gardens carpark, Barry Rd, Lalor. Melway 8 C4 or see [Google map](#).

Sunday 17: Waterwatch water quality workshop – CERES

10am-3:30pm. Free training session to become a volunteer Waterwatch monitor. No previous experience necessary. Van Raay Centre Room 3 CERES, Brunswick East. **Bookings essential** – see www.mcmc.org.au

Wednesday 27: Wednesday volunteers

See our website calendar (friendsofmerricreek.org.au/events-news/).

Sunday 31: Waterwatch Waterbug community sampling – Donnybrook

10am-1pm. Some previous experience with macroinvertebrate identification is ideal. The session will cover sampling and collecting of live macroinvertebrates and identifying them to family level. Donnybrook (site to be confirmed). Lunch is provided. Bookings essential – see www.mcmc.org.au

A P R I L

Saturday 6: Friends of Merri Park Litter Clean-up – Northcote

10am -12noon. Help the Friends of Merri Park to look after this wonderful site. Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Winifred St. Melway 30C8, or see [Google map](#). Supported by MCMC. Contact: Irena 0415 722 653.

Sunday 7: Litter Clean Up – Coburg

10am-12noon. Merri Creek at Bell St East Coburg. Melway 30 A1 or see [Google map](#). Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 7: Streamteam Water Quality Testing – Nth Fitzroy

Same details as for Sunday 3 February.

Sunday 7: Weeding at Strettle Wetland – Thornbury

10am-12.30pm. FoMC site near Strettle Wetland Thornbury. Help look after the site we manage with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Melway 30 B3 or see [Google map](#). Phone Suzi 0403 595 466.

Thursday 11: A little nature play – Lalor

10:30-11:30am. Fun nature play for kids. Whittlesea Public Gardens, Barry Rd, Lalor. Melway 8 C4 or see [Google map](#). **Bookings essential** – see www.mcmc.org.au

Friday 12: Discovering the frogs of Darebin & Merri Creeks – Fairfield

10:30-11:30am. Learn about our local frogs and how you can help them (suitable for ages 4-12 years). Fairfield Library, 121 Station St Fairfield or see [Google map](#). Bookings essential – see www.mcmc.org.au

Sunday 14: Friends of Edgars Creek Planting – North Coburg

1-3pm. Caravan Park site stream bank revegetation expansion and in-fill planting. Access is via Norfolk Court, North Coburg, or see [Google map](#). Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David 0428 130 268.

Wednesday 24: Wednesday volunteers

See website calendar (friendsofmerricreek.org.au/events-news/).

Tuesday 30: What frogs live in Lalor?

6:30-7:30pm. Learn about our local frogs and why they are important. This is for beginners! Families welcome. Lalor Library, 2A May Rd, Lalor, or see [Google map](#). Bookings essential – see www.mcmc.org.au

Sunday 28: Woody Weed Whacking, Bababi Marning #1 in 2019

10am-12.30pm. Help to rid these native grasslands of Broom, Gorse and Briar Rose bushes. Light refreshments provided. Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit Campbellfield, Melway 180 J12, or see [Google map](#). Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

M A Y

Saturday 4: Friends of Merri Park Litter Clean-up – Northcote

Same details as for Saturday 6 April.

Sunday 5: Merri Bird Survey #2 in 2019 – Various locations

8.45-10.30am. 7 sites along the Merri. See: www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au

Sunday 5: Litter Clean Up – Reservoir

10am-12noon. Davidson St Reservoir. Melway 8 B12, or see [Google map](#). Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 5: Streamteam Water Quality Testing – Northcote

Same details as for Sunday 3 February.

Saturday 11: Friends of Malcolm Creek Planting

For details see www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au

Sunday 12: Friends of Merri Park Mother's Day Planting – Northcote

10am -12noon. Help plant indigenous plants that are adapted to climate change in the wetland. Merri Park Northcote, Sumner Ave near Winifred St. Melway 30C9, or see [Google map](#). Funded by Darebin City Council.

Sunday 12: Merri Bird Survey 2019 #2 (continued) – 2 locations

8.45-10.30am Bababi Djinanang & Coburg Lake. See: www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au

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.



Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

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