

Friends of Merri Creek



NEWSLETTER

August–September
2004

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Friends' news</i>	2
<i>Flying foxes saved</i>	2
<i>Making Northcote gorgeous!</i>	3
<i>A fellow friend</i>	3
<i>Native garden minibeasts</i>	4
<i>"Best Friends" awards</i>	5
<i>Creek eye-spies</i>	5
<i>Life members: Ray Radford</i>	6
<i>Frogwatching reports</i>	7
<i>Events calendar</i>	8

New Merri Creek Park plan delayed

The draft concept plan, for the new major park along Merri Creek north of the ring road, is now not expected to be released for public comment by Parks Victoria until October. This is a significant delay as it was originally thought that the plan would be ready in March and then that was amended to June. Now it has blown out to October and there is nothing to say that it won't be delayed even further.

However, with the June release time in mind, the Friends organised a workshop on Wednesday July 28 to discuss the plan. At the time, this date was considered to be conservative, but now the workshop will precede the plan by about three months!

Nevertheless, the workshop will go ahead at 7.30pm, Jika Jika Community Centre, 1A Plant St Northcote. It will be most informative, so come along and find out about the sites of conservation significance that should be included in the park or that should be protected by associated planning. Our understanding is that these important sites are unlikely to be considered in the current plan. So, let's ensure that they are!

For more information: See the 'Proposal for a Merri Creek State Park', prepared by FoMC and Victorian National Parks Association on the FoMC website: www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc

WANTED Water Quality Testers

The Friends' Streamteam needs more people to help test the water quality of the Merri. If interested, please ring the Streamteam Coordinator on 9354 9885.

More Funding!

Since the May Newsletter, FoMC has received two more grants. We now have \$1,928 from the Department of Family & Community Services for a small equipment grant which we have used to purchase a folding table, 2 wheelbarrows, 2 mechanical hands for litter collection, 50 PVC dipped planting gloves and our own marquee. We also have a \$2,170 Community Grant from Melbourne Water, to do some planting with CERES upstream of Blyth Street. This planting has been slotted in to our busy planting schedule on Sunday 15 August.

Additionally, we've been notified that \$1250 will come to us in 2005 from Landcare Australia/ SPI Powernet to help replace removal of trees that were planted too close to the high transmission power lines.

Not one to rest on our laurels, we have submitted two applications for grants in 2005. One is for a Threatened Species grant of \$6,503 to improve habitat for the endangered Golden Sun Moth in Craigieburn Grasslands. The other is for an Envirofund grant of \$16,606 for plantings at three sites: Central Creek Grassland Reservoir, Imaroo St Fawkner, and near Rushall Station North Fitzroy.

Thanks again to Judy Bush and Barb Miles at Merri Creek Management Committee for their indispensable assistance with all of our submissions.

Friends' News

Woody weed removal with Friends of the Organ Pipes



Seven FoMC members, and Wendy Moore, from the Friends of Craigieburn Grasslands, turned up to the Craigieburn Grasslands on a very sunny Saturday 22 May to remove woody weeds with the Friends of the Organ Pipes. Although we outnumbered them 8-5, they were hardier, continuing to work until well after our normal knock-off time of 1pm. The 13 of us, plus Rod Hill, the Craigieburn Grasslands Ranger, lopped Sweet Briar for about 100 metres along the Curly Sedge Creek. Great day, great people, great work! We'll have to do it again.

Friends of Darebin Creek invite on 19th September

It was great to see some of our neighbours from the Friends of Darebin Creek at Merri Park wetland for the planting, tour and barbecue on Sunday 30th May (along with a huge contingent of staff from Citipower, which sponsored the planting through Landcare). Now, the Darebin Friends' group has invited us to attend a reciprocal planting, tour and barbecue at Darebin Parklands, Separation Street Fairfield on Sunday 19 September, 10am-1pm (Melway map 31 C9).

Friends meet with Mary Delahunty

Friends representatives, David Redfearn (President) and Ray Radford (Secretary), together with two members of the Friends of Darebin Creek, met with the Minister for Planning, Mary Delahunty, at her Northcote electoral office on Friday 25 June. The delegation presented our concerns about development along waterways and requested her to strengthen planning controls along the Merri, Darebin and Moonee Ponds Creeks.

The Minister was quite receptive and offered to address the issues we raised by convening a meeting "fairly quickly" with a number of Councils in the three catchments. We will be following her up on this offer.

Friends meet Cathy Freeman



MCMC Parkland team members, Megan Jericho at left and Deb Lawson at right, along with Friends' members, Leslie Fraser, Ben North, Ruth Shiel, Jack Svendsen and Ray Radford, with Olympic gold medallist Cathy Freeman at Hall Reserve Clifton Hill on Monday 17 May. Cathy was present for a promotional video to staff of Mitre 10, a sponsor of plantings through Landcare Australia.

WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR BACK!

Friends of Merri Creek

LONG-SLEEVED T-SHIRT

Show your support for the Friends of Merri Creek by wearing a forest green long-sleeved T-shirt with the Friends' logo in white on the back. Just the thing for winter planting days — and onlookers will know just where your heart is! The shirts are \$20 and can be purchased from Ray Radford at the Merri Creek Management Committee office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, phone 9380 8199. Limited numbers and sizes only, so be quick!

Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

Association No. A0024645L

PO Box 93, Moreland 3058 • Email admin@mcmc.org.au

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Threatened animals find a home in Kew

The colony of Grey-headed Flying Foxes, that was moved from the Royal Botanic Gardens, has now been successfully relocated to Yarra Bend Park. These animals are listed as threatened at both a National and State level, so the State Government wants to ensure their survival, at a site other than the Botanic Gardens. Yarra Bend is the perfect site and a 26 hectare area, north of Bellbird picnic area, has been reserved for them (Melway map 2D, K6). Parks Victoria plans to revegetate that section of the river corridor and to construct wetlands, paths and viewing platforms.



Making Northcote Gorgeous!

A lot of people have empty, boring lives; others are passionate believers for whom there aren't enough hours in the day for all the things they'd like to do. The Friends and other environmentalists and social campaigners are mostly in the second group, one would think.

Just between Arthurton and Heidelberg Rds, a section unofficially known as the Northcote Gorges and centred on St Georges Rd, there's been such a variety of useful goings-on in recent times, or shall we say excuses to get some fresh air and exercise, and enjoy and enhance our beautiful creek. Anyone from four to fourscore years old can get involved!

Actually some tasks are for the professionals, notably the sawing and/or poisoning of exotic intruders, as has been done on the East Brunswick bank below Blyth St, and beside Rushall Station where the elms and poplars have been wiped out and indigenous vegetation will take over.

Another specialised job is water quality testing, at St Georges Rd North Fitzroy on the first Sunday of each month. These ecologists check the acidity, turbidity, salinity and water-bug numbers within the vicinity.

Planting at the Merri Park wetlands in Northcote on Sunday 30 May.



The bike ride from CERES to the Fairfield Boathouse passed this way; the walk up the Yarra to the Chandler Highway bridge also took place, but no nautical excursion, as the press-gang couldn't find enough bodies to make up a crew. However, we're going to try again on Sunday 17 October, this time to Studley Park for a change, with a walk to the magical Galatea Point and/or a spot of Ratty's "messaging about in boats" beneath Kane's Bridge.

Rubbish collection and recycling have continued apace, even though we have no hope of keeping up with the vast amounts deposited. Some of the bigger blitzes have been in January near Arthurton Rd, organised by Julia Gutbrod; in March (Clean Up Australia Day), at Rushall with the A.L.P.'s Fitzroy branch and some folk from St Hilary's Kew, and also beside Creek Parade with its local group; May – Rushall yet again with children from the North Fitzroy Primary School in Fergie St; and August last year near Heidelberg Rd, with students from Princes Hill High School. We're like Sisyphus, pushing the rock to the top of the hill, only to see it tumble back to the bottom where the job starts again! Thank goodness for litter-traps, at least.

But what activity is like cutting the plaster cast off a mended limb or unbolting the trainer wheels from the kid's bike? Weedmat removal! Unfortunately it's had to be suspended, the baddies still need to be suppressed: the last occasion was in February 2003 beside Merri Pde, Northcote, near the grand rail and foot bridge.

There doesn't seem to be as much weeding to do as in the past, and of course spraying by the MCMC staff takes care of a great deal of it; on the other hand there was a big mulch-spreading beside Merri Park. Plantings have taken place at the Merri Wetland (a lot more weed-free than it used to be), also slightly upstream near Winifred St, and at Holden St North Fitzroy; and just up the hill from there, the "Choppers of Rushall Reserve" have established a community garden.

Oh, and one more activity, perhaps rather a passivity: I found myself doing some bird-watching! As I eagerly collected bottles by the High St bridge, I saw a fine pair of kookaburras perched on nearby trees, quite confident and unafraid. It was about as Australian and satisfying a sight as one could hope for, a great unexpected bonus.

Paul Prentice (Litter Group coordinator)

A Fellow Friend

Active Friends' member, Dr Leslie Fraser, is one of ten recipients of this year's State Library of Victoria Creative Fellowships. Leslie was featured in an article in *The Age* on Monday 5 July, where she related how she was inspired by the Merri Creek and by the efforts to restore it. She will use the three months Creative Fellowship to write a journal article on the social and natural history of the Merri Creek, using State Library collections.

Her article will focus on the colonial period and consider the environmental degradation and evidence of the survival of both plant and animal species. It will also cover the recreational uses of the Creek in colonial times and the ways that people enjoyed its natural environment. Leslie hopes that the article will eventually form part of a larger book about the Creek.

Leslie thanked the Manager of Merri Creek Management Committee, Luisa Macmillan, and other MCMC staff for their support with the grant application.

Just poking around on the Merri



Veteran Litter Group member, Harold Mackrell, with his long pole specially made for collecting hard-to-reach litter.

Native garden minibeasts

One of the many joys for me of our Native (wildflower etc.) Grasslands is the amazing array of minibeasts they contain. A grassland garden like MCMC's native garden in Lee Street, East Brunswick can contain many such treasures. Winter is not a good time to see lots of minibeasts but if you look hard there are always some about.

In the MCMC garden, both by day and night, you can often hear the cricket-like 'crik crik crik crik crik' call of Common Froglets – *Crinia signifera*. They have been much more active since the recent rains. The call of these tiny ground-dwelling frogs (would fit on a 10 cent coin) is amazingly strong. It is very hard to find them due to their excellent camouflage and ability to hide in tiny spaces.

On a small Lightwood, *Acacia implexa*, are Wattle Snout Moth caterpillars. The name refers to a long snout-like projection on the head of their stout, hairy, red-brown adult. These caterpillars are masters of camouflage. Despite growing up to 60mm long they can be very hard to spot, even on a tiny plant. They feed at night on the wattle leaves. By day they sit, motionless, along a stem, their flattened, curved, elongate body, colour and markings blending in perfectly. Their body is covered with downy hairs which also help to break their outline. They sit posterior end up and have a small wedge-shaped 'tail' that perfectly mimics the stump of a broken wattle twig. (The 'tail' on their gumtree-living cousins is more rounded and wrinkled like a gumtree twig stump!)

This tree also contains a caterpillar from the *Limnantiidae* family (Tussock Moths). It is a very distinctive-looking dark caterpillar. On its back are 4 distinct black tufts of hairs, rather like a toothbrush. Protruding frontwards from its head are 2 tufts of hairs with dark tips that look rather like horns. On its tail is a large tuft of long hairs. The rest of its body has tufts of shorter black hairs.

I have not yet been able to identify this caterpillar but it is very similar in appearance to the Painted Apple Moth and probably shares many of its characteristics. The main apparent difference is that PAM has a pale coloured 'toothbrush' on its back.

The Painted Apple Moth (*Teia artoides*) feeds on a wide variety of garden plants and trees, including some serious environmental weeds such as Willow, Lantana and Radiata pine. Native food plants include Coral Peas, Wattles, Bottlebrush, Ferns and Grevilleas. The caterpillars grow up to 3 cm long before pupating in a sparse cocoon decorated with hairs from its body. The male moth has

brown wings (2cm wingspan) with fine pale markings and some darker patches. The underwings are gold and brown. The adult female is dull brown, fat and flightless. She emits a pheromone (special scent) to attract a mate. Once fertilized she lays her eggs on and around her cocoon. The newly hatched caterpillars disperse by spinning threads of silk which are caught by the wind – called "ballooning".

A note of caution if you meet this type of hairy caterpillar. The body hairs on the caterpillar and incorporated into the cocoon can cause skin irritation, called urticaria, in sensitive people. It is best to look, enjoy, but not touch.

Hanging on the front porch is a Saunders Case Moth (*Metura elongates*) case. These caterpillars live and pupate in a protective silken bag on to which they sparsely attach short sticks. The case can be up to 12cm long. The caterpillar has bright orange

and brown stripes. Food plants include a wide variety of native and exotic shrubs and trees. After pupation the wingless female remains, mating and laying her eggs within the case. The male is a striking creature with black wings, a long (~3cm) black and yellow banded abdomen and yellow head.

I grew up in Geelong and never met one of these delightful case-moths until we started visiting an elderly aunt in Essendon regularly to care for her garden. We took a one home as a pet. 'Big George' lived for years (I think) on the kitchen bench, eating vegetables, pumpkin was a favorite, and sewing silk ladders in the slippery surface to move about.

If you would like to learn more about these and other Australian moths and butterflies <http://linus.socs.uts.edu.au/~don/larvae/larvae.html> is a very helpful website.

There are not many spiders about at this time of the year. I do see the sweet little Jumping Spiders hunting about in the plants. These tiny spiders, often only a few mm long, come in a wide variety of colours from dull grey to spectacular reds, green, orange etc. – like tiny jewels. They don't build webs but actively stalk prey which they spot with their large eyes. I enjoy watching them carefully sneak up on a selected victim – maybe a



Tussock moth
photo by Wendy Moore

(late June)



Common froglet photo by Wendy Moore

small fly, then at the last minute leap and 'rugby-tackle' it. They move about on all surfaces with ease and can jump distances of several centimetres. As they leap about looking for, or pouncing on prey, they spin a safety line in case they miss their footing, which can happen even if you have eight!!

Sadly there are also quite a few European Wasps active in the garden. Most of the publicity, when this dreadful pest arrived, centred around the risks of serious (fatal) stings if humans inadvertently disturbed a nest or got a wasp into their mouth from a soft drink can or food.

There is also a serious environmental cost to these dreadful creatures. While they enjoy stealing food from us or our pets, much of their food is other minibeasts. The wasps hover about plants looking all around for creatures to murder and take back to their nest. It's rather like when the police helicopter is hovering over your home and circling about.

There was a time when some minibeast, that I'd been enjoying watch grow up, would suddenly disappear and I would hope a wattlebird or magpie had made a meal of it. Nowadays if one of my small friends disappears, the culprit is far more likely to be a rotten European Wasp.

Happy Minibeast watching.

Wendy Moore (Friends of Craigieburn Grasslands)

Ex-President among noteworthy "Best Friends"

The April Newsletter carried a newsflash that Max Sargent had won the Friends Network "Best Friend" Award for 2004. However, there were also two other noteworthy winners of the award.

Geoff Durham has been a Friend of Wyperfeld National Park since 1976 and has written the much-praised book *Wyperfeld: Australia's First Mallee National Park*. Geoff also regularly leads walks with the Victorian National Parks Association, including some along the Merri Creek in Brunswick and at Galada Tamboore. The other winner was Marion Taylor who has a long association with Coolart Wetlands and Homestead and has been involved in a large array of tasks that are vital to its operations.

The three were presented with their awards by Don Saunders, the former Director of National Parks, in front of over eighty participants at the Friends Network Forum in South Yarra on Saturday 17 April. The current president of Friends of Merri Creek, David Redfearn, also presented Max with a framed David Tatnall photograph of the Merri Creek as a tribute for his work, on behalf of our group.

Max said that he was honoured to be among such noteworthy people to receive the Best Friend award and he also much appreciated the photo from the Friends. Congratulations again to Max and to the other winners of the Best Friend Award 2004.



Max Sargent, then President of Friends of Merri Creek, with Peter Garrett, then President of the Australian Conservation Foundation, at Quarries Park, Clifton Hill, in July 2002.

Wanted: Creek eye-spies

*Be alert (but not too alarmed!)
as together we CAN do something!*

As a community organisation we value the diverse range of skills that our members bring, from putting plants in the ground, organising clean-ups, writing for newsletters, joining in campaigns or being meeting junkies, like yours truly. All this makes our group the success it deservedly is. But there is something else we can all do. This is best shown by the success that we had when Moreland Council alerted the Friends to a proposed rock wall south of Normanby Avenue. After negotiations with Melbourne Water, we were able to stop the wall altogether and we now have a more consultative relationship with Melbourne Water.

In short, we simply ask you all also to be the eyes and ears of the Merri. If something seems amiss or attracts your attention please let us know, be it a path in need of repair or, as in my case recently, noticing the sudden removal of a lot of vegetation near Rushall Station. I contacted MCMC and fortunately there was an acceptable explanation in this case, being the planned removal of various woody weeds.

The message is: if, in your use of the creek environs, you notice something amiss, please ring MCMC on 9380 8199, as often something can be done about it. Your vigilance ensures the continued protection of our precious creek.

David Redfearn (President)

See something amiss on the Merri Creek?

Call MCMC 9380 8199

Friends' Life Members: Ray Radford

The eighth in a series of short histories of the Friends Life members.

As I've written or summarised all except one of the short histories of the current Friends' life members, I am down to my own - the hardest of all to write. However, as with the other life histories, I will focus on the influences that led me to join the Friends and my achievements in the group.

Unlike many of the other Friends' life members, I have no early defining memories of an environmental nature, except for my family's annual Christmas holiday trip to Rye on the Mornington Peninsula. There I enjoyed running about the white cliffs north of Rye pier (since fenced off for regeneration).

My earliest real environmental awareness occurred in my early twenties when I read the book, *How to survive on spaceship Earth* by Paul Erlich. This book compared Earth with a giant spaceship and convinced me that we needed to think a lot more about sustaining ourselves. I suppose it also complemented whatever I assimilated from my parents' experiences of surviving on a low income and living through the depression and World War II.

Immediately I began recycling everything that I could and trying not to purchase any products in packaging that could not be recycled. At the time, I lived in Hawthorn and I remember taking much of my recycling to a local church that paid for the restoration of its steeple by recycling glass and aluminium cans. All of my newspapers and scrap paper was stacked away in the shed until there was enough to fill up the car and then it would go to the Australian Paper Mills plant at Fairfield, when I needed to travel that way.

In the mid 1970's I joined the local Hawthorn Friends of the Earth group, which became the last of the suburban FOE groups to fold. Later I did some voluntary work for FOE, including laying out its Citizens' Response to the government's case for uranium mining. I then worked and studied part-time, before completing a BA and a Social Work degree and finding myself unemployed. For about a year, I coordinated a unique milk bar cooperative in Carlton and also edited the community newspaper, *City Alternative News*. I then became quite involved in the political movement "Rainbow Alliance," particularly as the Newsletter editor and as coordinator of "Wastebusters," a group of community organisations working to limit waste.

I was introduced to the Friends through David Taylor, who was then the Friends' Secretary, when we worked together on the conservation advisory committee for Northcote City Council. At the time, I was also on the Council's waste management advisory committee, where I'm pleased to have played a major part in the Council's forward-thinking waste management program and in preventing the introduction of big 240 litre wheelie bins.

I was attracted by the Friends' local focus after trying unsuccessfully to deal with global issues at Rainbow Alliance. So I joined the group in 1990 and became Treasurer in 1995, taking over the role from the legendary George Smith. The very next year there was a tragic split and four Committee members

resigned from the group, including David Taylor. Although this was a terrible time, the Committee was strengthened by the recruitment of some keen new members. I took over the role of Secretary, and together we set about developing the Friends into the group that you know today.

My major single achievement at the Friends was in

coordinating the long running campaign against some heavy-handed tree-clearing by PowerNet along the Merri Creek in late 1995 and early 1996. 123 people complained to the Electricity ombudsman, Fiona McLeod—the most complaints that the Ombudsman's office had ever received on any one issue. It led, in May 1998, to PowerNet agreeing to a planting and management regime, to the removal of an area of fill at CERES and to a much more consultative approach for future works along the Creek.

Most of my other achievements came as part of my role as Secretary. For instance, my detailed annual activity reports supplied vital evidence for the Friends' successful legal action against the Federal Government in 2002, when the Friends were recognised as an "aggrieved person" in relation to the Merri Creek freeway. I was also pleased that the Wurundjeri people responded to my request to name the gorge in Campbellfield/Thomastown with the beautiful name, "Galada Tamboore" meaning stream waterhole.

Besides the general secretarial work of the Friends, I have remained closely involved with the Planting Group, the Newsletter and staffing information stalls. I was made an honorary life member in 2000. I am employed as administration and information officer at Merri Creek Management Committee, where I've worked for the past nine years. Recently, I was endorsed by the Greens Party as the candidate for the Darebin Council ward of Rucker, for the elections in November. 🌿



Friends of Merri Creek Newsletter **August – October 2004**

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Editorial team: Ray Radford, Paul Prentice
& David Redfearn

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Endangered Frog survey - two views

View 1: Michael Hobbs, authenticated Frogwatch surveyor

Friends of Merri Creek participated in the Melbourne Water Endangered Frog Census Survey on Saturday 1st May. The survey involved a car rally to five sites in an arc around Craigieburn in the Merri catchment. The nominated sites hold historical records of the autumn calls of *Pseudophryne bibroni* (Bibron's Toadlet) and *Pseudophryne semimarmorata* (Southern Toadlet).

Both species are being considered for listing as threatened with extinction. Further research will reveal their actual distribution and hopefully explain the causes of their apparent decline in numbers. The optimistic frog lays its eggs in burrows on the flood plain in damp hollows amongst tussock grasses and agricultural pasture. When the flooding autumn and winter rains occur, the waters of adjacent creeks rise and the tadpoles are able to hatch and quickly complete development to the adult form.

Unfortunately our almost seven year old drought has not provided those floods and concern has been raised that this has interrupted the reproductive cycle for these frogs. Combined with other threats such as altered stream flow, agricultural runoff, urban development, contaminated stormwater, and the chytrid fungus; the frogs fight a daily uphill battle for survival.

View 2: Ruth Shiel, enthusiastic new Frogwatcher

On a very cold afternoon of 1 May, Friends' members Michael Hobbs, Susan Doyle, Ray Radford and myself set off to check on the presence of *Pseudophryne bibroni*, or in common parlance, Bibron's Toadlet. The toadlet was previously common throughout forests, heathlands and grasslands, but there is now a serious decline in populations.



Bibron's Toadlet
Photo: Amphibian Research Centre

The male constructs small burrows in the ground under leaf litter or rocks; the female lays between 100 and 230 eggs, depositing them within the different burrows of calling males over several nights. Tadpoles develop within the egg capsules and with autumn and winter rains, the eggs are either inundated or washed into small wet areas.

Reproduction rates are influenced by drought or low autumn and winter rains. The severity of these conditions can result in the loss of the temporary pools essential for the tadpoles to develop.

Melbourne Waterwatch had already identified a number of sites around the outskirts of Melbourne where the toadlet had been noted. We revisited these spots, and Michael played a tape

The basalt plains served up a wintry day as we drove towards a thunderstorm downloading around Wallan. With no sound at the first two sites (apart from motor vehicles, aeroplanes and squeaky boots), the group were getting cold and thinking of videos and gas heaters. At site three, the historical records delivered and the



Southern toadlet
Photo: Peter Robertson/
Amphibian Research Centre

reply to our taped call of *P. bibroni* received a competitive reply from about five individuals. The wind dropped and the sun set over the Merri. We reflected about the importance of maintaining habitat for all the critters of the creek and were glad that *P. bibroni* can still find a niche, tenuous as it is.

More information is available from www.melbournewater.com.au and following the links to the Frog Census. 🌿

recording of the harsh "cre-eek" call of the toadlet. We awaited answering calls.

At Mickleham and Mt. Ridley there was silence. At a waterway off Donnybrook Road, after some exploration and discussion, it was decided the toadlet was in residence. Further along the road, on the Merri Creek, toadlets strongly answered the taped call. Our final stop by the Merri at Craigieburn grasslands again yielded nothing.

We can only hope that climatic and management conditions improve to assist in the survival of this small and secretive frog. 🌿

More frogwatchers wanted

It is preferable to hold Frogwatch expeditions soon after rain, as this is the time that Frogs are more likely to call. However, this means that Frogwatch events cannot be scheduled in the events calendar. If you would like the opportunity to come on a Frogwatch, please register your interest with Pascale Pitot, by phone on 9484 5752 or by email: pascale@mc2.vicnet.net.au

Friends of Merri Creek events calendar

JULY

Wednesday 28 — Merri Creek Regional Park workshop

Jika Jika Community Centre, 1A Plant St Northcote, 7.30pm.
Come along and find out about the new major park proposed along the Merri Creek north of the ring road, and see what you can do to improve the proposal.

AUGUST

Sunday 1 — Planting & BBQ

St Georges Rd & Bundara St, North Fitzroy, 10am-1pm, with MCMC. Melway map 30 C10. Phone Dick 9853 3162.

Sunday 1 — Planting

Friends' site, near Strettle wetlands Thornbury, 10am-1pm, with Darebin Bush Crew. Melway map 30 B3. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 1 — Litter Clean-Up

St Georges Rd North Fitzroy, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 30 C10. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 1 — Streamteam water quality testing

Upstream side of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller Street North Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway map 30 C10. Phone 9354 9885.

Sunday 8 — Planting & BBQ

Central Creek Grassland, Davidson St Reservoir, 10am-1pm, with MCMC (Envirofund Grant). Melway map 8B12. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Wednesday 11 — Friends' Committee Meeting

MCMC Office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, 7.30-9.30pm. All members welcome. See how your Committee operates.

Sunday 15 — Planting & BBQ

Just north of Blyth St Brunswick, near CERES, 10am-1pm with MCMC & CERES (Melbourne Water grant). Melway map 30 B7. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 22 — Planting, BBQ & boomerang throwing

Jukes Rd Grassland Fawkner, 10am-1pm, with MCMC (MCMC Envirofund Grant). Melway map 18 B1. Ian Hunter, a Wurundjeri man, will be demonstrating how to make and throw boomerangs. Phone Pascale 9484 5752.

Sunday 29 — Woody Weed Removal

Cooper St Grassland Campbellfield, 10am-1pm, with MCMC (CMA grant). Enter by the gate next to Istra Social Club at 1 Cooper St Campbellfield. Melway map 180 K11. Phone Barb at MCMC 9380 8199 (w).

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 5 — Litter Clean-Up

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

Sunday 5 — Streamteam water quality testing

Upstream side of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller Street North Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway map 30 C10. Phone 9354 9885.

Wednesday 8 — Friends' Committee Meeting

MCMC Office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, 7.30-9.30pm. All members welcome. See how your Committee operates.

Sunday 12 — Planting & BBQ

Rotunda Wetland, The Esplanade Clifton Hill, 10am-1pm, with MCMC (MCMC Envirofund Grant). Melway map 44 H1. Phone Ruth 9489 5259.

Saturday 18 — MCMC/Hume Planting & BBQ on Aitken Creek

Farnborough Ave Craigieburn, 10am-1pm. Melway map 386 J10. Phone Barb at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 19 — Planting, tour & BBQ with Friends of Darebin Ck

Darebin Parklands, Separation Street, Alphington. 10am-1pm. Melway map 31 D9. The Friends of Darebin Creek have especially invited all FoMC members to come along to this event.

Sunday 26 — Planting & BBQ

Jukes Rd Grassland Fawkner, 10am-1pm with MCMC (CMA grant). Melway map 18 B1. Phone Gail 9484 1703.

Friday 30 — Deadline for articles for the next newsletter.

OCTOBER

Sunday 3 — Weeding

Friends' site, near Strettle wetlands Thornbury, 10am-11.30am. Melway map 30 B3. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 3 — Litter Clean-Up

Murray Rd Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 18 A10. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 3 — Streamteam water quality testing

Upstream side of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller Street North Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway map 30 C10. Phone 9354 9885.

Sunday 10 — Monitoring significant species

Jukes Rd Grassland Fawkner, 10am-1pm, with MCMC. Melway map 18 B1. Phone Barb at MCMC 9380 8199 (w).

Sunday 10 — Hume City Council's Multicultural Planting Festival 'Blue Wrens, Bells and Devils'

Broadmeadows Valley Park, Meadow Heights, enter from Barry Road towards football oval. Melways Map 6 G5.

Wednesday 13 — Friends' Committee Meeting

MCMC Office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, 7.30-9.30pm. All members welcome. See how your Committee operates.

Sunday 17 — Triple Treat!

Cycle from CERES Café, Brunswick, to the Studley Park Boathouse and either walk from the Boathouse to Galatea Point and return, or row up the Yarra, or do both! Meet at CERES Café at 2.00pm or at the Studley Park Boathouse at 2.45pm. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Friday 22 — Newsletter Mail out

Friends' office, Brunswick Town Hall, Cnr Sydney Rd & Dawson St Brunswick. From 11am onwards. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 24 — Woody weed removal

Rushwood Drive Campbellfield, 10am-1pm, with MCMC. Melway map 180 D1. Phone Barb at MCMC 9380 8199 (w).

NOVEMBER

Sunday 7 — Litter Clean-Up

Keady St North Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 17 J7. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 7 — Streamteam water quality testing

Upstream side of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller Street North Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway map 30 C10. Ph. 9354 9885.



Planting at Merri Park wetlands in Northcote on 30th May