

Friends of Merri Creek



NEWSLETTER

August – October
2006

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Update on the proposed new Merri Creek Park

The Friends of Merri Creek (FoMC) has now made its submission to the Draft Concept Plan for the proposed new Merri Creek Park. The submission included: important sites that need to be protected outside of the proposed park boundary; the need for buffer zones and widening of the creek corridor; constructive suggestions for realignment of the shared path; and the need for adequate resources to properly manage the park. You can see our final submission on the FoMC website.

FoMC alerted a number of other groups to the new park proposal and to the need to protect important sites outside the proposed park boundary. Articles on the subject were published in the newsletters and/or email bulletins of the Victorian National Parks Association, Environment Victoria, Friends of the Earth and the Victorian Greens. Indeed, the only publicity articles that we've seen about the proposed Park were initiated by FoMC.

Between 13 April and 7 June, the FoMC website received 2763 hits, which is more than double the average hits that would be received over a whole year! However, not all of these hits can be attributed to our lobbying on the proposed Merri Creek Park. Many hits could have been generated by the fuss in the media about the discovery of Golden Sun Moths at Melton and how that was holding up development. (The FoMC website featured early in any searches on the subject.)

At the time of writing, Parks Victoria was still assessing the submissions on the Draft Concept Plan for the Park.

Parks Victoria says that they received over 50 submissions and that many of them were quite long and contained an array of issues. However, we believe that the total would be much higher than that from FoMC members and supporters alone. Thank you to all those who sent in a submission.

The next steps in the process are for Parks Victoria to revise the Plan as appropriate, to gain Ministerial approval of the final plan, to publicly exhibit the Planning Scheme amendment and then to gain Ministerial approval of those amendments. After that, the new park will be progressively gazetted under appropriate legislation as land becomes available.

In the recent State Budget, \$2.8 million dollars was approved for grassland protection works and visitor facilities in the Merri Creek Park over the next four years.

See the FoMC submission to the Draft Concept Plan for the proposed new Merri Creek Park on our website, which has been wonderfully revamped by our webmaster, Simon D'Alfonso: www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc

Grasslands group changes name and claims record

The Friends of Craigieburn Grasslands has changed the name of the group to Friends of Merri Grasslands. The reason for this was to reflect the fact that the group regularly works on grassland sites other than Craigieburn, in particular the nearby Cooper St Grasslands. The group is a local area sub-group of Friends of Merri Creek.

The name change was commemorated at Craigieburn Grasslands by a massive Gorse removal on Saturday 3 June – an extra event that was not scheduled in the calendar. Those who attended this event were dubbed the "Gorse Removal & Stack Experts" or GORSE.

Shortly afterwards, on Sunday 18 June, 1540 grasses were planted by only six volunteers (plus two MCMC staff and a Parks Victoria Field Officer). This planting was funded by Parks Victoria to aid habitat for the Golden Sun Moth. As all the volunteers at the planting were members of Friends of Merri Grasslands, the group is claiming a Friends of Merri Creek record for the most plants planted by the least number of people. We hope this record remains unbroken – because there are more volunteers at future events!

Remember that the survival of native grasslands depends on our generation continuing the thousands of years of ongoing management. Please consider helping to share this responsibility by joining the Friends of Merri Grasslands. Membership is free, just contact Ray Radford on 0422 989 166 or email: admin@mcmc.org.au and say 'count me in'.

Join the group at creek join

The Friends of Merri Creek Committee welcomes the newly formed sub-group, 'Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group' or 'MECCARG' for short. The group hopes to involve the local community in the ecological restoration of the confluence area of the Merri and Edgars creeks in Coburg.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Nic or Dave on 9354 9664.



Nic and Dave of the new MECCARG group at the lovely escarpment that they want to augment with wildflowers.



Members of the newly-named Friends of Merri Grasslands removing Gorse at an unscheduled event on Saturday 3 June.

Help protect northern sites

The completion of our submission to the Draft Concept Plan for the proposed new Merri Creek Park is only the first step in our campaign to protect a number of important sites north of the ring road. This somewhat daunting task is being undertaken by members of FoMC and other groups, under the banner of The Upper Merri Campaign.

It is probably our last chance to protect important northern sites before they are forever lost to development and a few more hands would certainly be appreciated. The Upper Merri Campaign group currently meets on the first Thursday of each month at the MCMC office, 2 Lee Street East Brunswick at 7.30pm. Please ring Ray Radford on 0422 989 166 if you're at all interested (perhaps you'd just like to be on the group's email list).

New sewers to help the creek

Yarra Valley Water is undertaking two significant sewerage projects to help protect and improve the health of the Merri Creek.

The Northern Sewerage Project (NSP)

This project involves the construction of approximately 13 kilometres of sewer from Essendon through to Reservoir and it is being jointly delivered with Melbourne Water. One of its major aims is to virtually eliminate the sewerage spills, which can occur during heavy rainfall, into the Merri and Moonee Ponds creeks. The new sewer will be built by tunnelling at depths of up to 60 metres beneath the ground.

Melbourne Water has established three Community Liaison Committees (CLCs) for interested local residents at key worksites in its section of the project while Yarra Valley Water will be establishing CLCs for its section later in the year.

Planning for the NSP is nearing completion. Construction of a section of the project along the Merri Creek between Coburg and Fawkner is due to start during 2007, with construction of the entire project scheduled to finish in 2011.

The Epping Craigieburn Sewerage Project

This will involve extending new sewers from near Somerset Road in Campbellfield to service the rapidly growing areas of Epping and Craigieburn. The project is in its early planning stage, and assessment of alignment options is underway. Construction is planned to commence in 2008.

Along with a range of other groups and organisations, the Friends of Merri Creek have been represented in the planning of both of these important projects, through the involvement of Ray Radford in the Yarra Valley Water Community Reference Groups.

If you would like more information on these projects, please contact Ray on 0422 989 166, or visit the following websites: www.yvw.com.au and www.melbournewater.com.au

Yarra Valley Water

Merri Creek Trail Review

Darebin, Moreland and Yarra Councils are conducting a review of the Merri Creek trail that extends downstream from Mahoneys Road Reservoir for 21km to the Yarra River just above Dights Falls at Abbotsford. The review will consider how much the trail is used and identify various issues or problems with the trail.

Many sections of the trail require upgrading to meet contemporary standards and the length of the trail and the costs of these works means that this process may take many years.

The Friends of Merri Creek site on the Merri trail near Strettle Wetland Thornbury

The Friends of Merri Creek are involved in the review, along with Merri Creek Management Committee, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and bicycle user groups.

If you have any issues that you would like to raise regarding the trail, please contact Ray Radford on 0422 989 166.



Trail walking map coming soon

A long-term wish of the Friends' group is about to be granted with the imminent completion of a map of the Merri Creek trail. The genie responsible for this is Helen Matters, the Walking Projects Coordinator at Darebin, who organised funding from a number of sources to promote walking. Moreland and Yarra Councils are also involved, along with Merri Creek Management Committee. Look for the Merri trail walking map – out soon at a Council near the creek!

History of the Kodak site

These historic photos and information were provided by Cassandra Twomey (nee McKay).

In 1887, Cassandra Twomey's great grandfather, John McKay (1855-1944) bought what is now the Kodak site on Newlands Road Coburg for a dairy farm. It was then known as 'Newlands Farm' or 'Hillcroft Farm' and it was bought around 1927 by one of his sons, Alan (1906-1996) who continued to milk cows until the property was sold to Kodak in 1977. Some of the older residents in the area still refer to the site as "McKay's farm."

Before Alan bought the property, his brother, Andrew McKay (1902-1985) had left the family farm to start his own milk delivering round. Andrew, who became Cassandra Twomey's grandfather, operated the milk round from his new home on the corner of Sutherland and Geake Streets Coburg. This was the site of McKay's Dairies for years, until it was sold in the late 1980's and demolished. A retirement village was built on the site.



Incidentally, another one of John McKay's sons, William McKay, owned a separate property north of the dairy farm called 'The Plantation' or 'Hillcroft Estate.' This was between Edgars Creek, Henty Street, Hillcroft Street and Gilbert Road in Reservoir. According to oral history, William planted native trees along Edgars Creek in the period before 1917, when he was tragically drowned in a boating accident at Inverloch aged 28. After William's death, the property was subdivided around 1927.

If anyone has other information or contacts about the McKay family, please contact Cassandra Twomey, phone: 9331 7746 or email: cassyt@bigpond.com



The group photo shows Andrew McKay (son of John, brother to Alan and grandfather to Cassandra), third from the right at the Merri Creek in Coburg (unsure of exact location) with unknown others around the 1920's.

The cottage photo is of Hillcroft Farm, which was on the site where the Kodak factory is now, but it was pulled down in December 1977, along with the barn, milking sheds, cowsheds and dairy. However, there are still a few ruins of the farmhouse on the Newlands Road hill next to the Kodak Distribution centre.

This hand-coloured postcard of Murray Rd bridge is dated 1908



Wendy's Nature Notes

Scrofa Hawk Moth

During the FoMC Significant Species Monitoring activity in March 2004 at Jukes Rd Grassland, Fawkner, Brian Bainbridge (MCMC Technical Officer and FoMC Member) found a most stunning Hawk Moth.

It was large, having a wingspan of 6cm or so. Its body was large, brown and cigar shaped. The wings were brown, with red underwings, which it showed when disturbed. He took photos and later checked references to identify the moth, which turned out to be *Hippotion scrofa*, Scrofa Hawk Moth.

Just over a year later I was unloading some weeds that the MCMC crew had just removed from Jukes Rd Grassland. Amongst the weeds I found a large, smooth skinned caterpillar. It was brown with off-white dotted lines and dark oblong patches along its body. It tapers abruptly at both ends, and had a small 'tail'. A quite spectacular caterpillar!

The caterpillar feeds on a strange variety of (non-native) plants including Mirror Bush, Busy Lizzy, and Fuchsias. Considering the diet and plants found at the site, we guessed the caterpillar had been feeding on a native, Hairy Willow-herb, *Epilobium birtigerum*. This is an often unloved and unlovely native that is frequently disregarded for its habitat potential in moist soils. It rarely needs encouragement and may need reducing, in the early stages of revegetation, to



Photo of Scrofa Hawk Moth at Jukes Rd Grasslands, Fawkner, by Brian Bainbridge.

allow the more permanent, 'desirable' plants to establish. Perhaps revegetators could leave an out-of-the-way corner for these plants to flourish - with, hopefully, *H. scrofa* too.

This moth occurs all over Australia plus New Caledonia, the New Hebrides and Norfolk Island (or worldwide - references differ). It has been celebrated on postage stamps and as a Yowie confectionery item (series 4)!

Nocturnal Visitor

Recently I was devastated when my neighbour had most of his garden clear-felled. While few of the trees and shrubs were natives it was loss for local wildlife. One tree in particular, a Jacaranda, was a sad loss for me. Though not major habitat, I liked this tree.

It grew in the narrow space between our houses, adjacent to my front door. While it had kept me busy every month or so, up on the roof removing its debris, which was VERY effective at blocking roof plumbing, I mourned its loss.

Soon afterwards, I noticed one positive outcome of the Jacaranda's demise. Outside my front door is a portico with obscure glass in its top third. Now, without shading from the Jacaranda, light from yonder street light breaks through, forming a glowing orb on this glass.

Every evening I delight to find a marbled gecko - I have a resident, breeding population of these and Weasel Skinks, in my yard - on the glass, presumably hunting the moths attracted by the light.

I never turn on the porch or outside light now, as it disturbs my little friend. Nocturnal, human visitors just have to watch their step as they negotiate the junk on my path!

Wendy Moore (Friends of Merri Grasslands)

FOMC BENEFIT GIG

Thursday 3rd August at 7pm

featuring:

**SKELETON SOUP • GOLD GULL
CONTRAPTION • WRONG ANGLES
Funk and soul tunes by dj Mike**

\$7 entry (\$5 concession)

*All Money raised goes to
Friends of Merri Creek*

\$2 pots between 7 & 9

*Barbukka
279 Smith St Fitzroy*

Edwardes' mates!

It's one of the pleasures of travelling through Reservoir to enter the last stretch of Gilbert Rd and catch sight of the sparkling waters of the Edwardes Lake, formed by the damming of Edgars Creek, the major tributary of the Merri. Surrounding parklands contain plenty of trees and native shrubs, and facilities for Scouts and Guides, athletes and tennis and bowls enthusiasts, playgrounds and barbecues, and a steam locomotive with access to the cabin to delight kids of all ages. One activity that unfortunately had to be stopped was sailing, the water isn't as clean as it looks: chemical pollution from industries upstream exceeds the capacity of the lake and the associated Leamington St wetlands to cope with it.

The dam wall was renewed a couple of years ago, but the toxic mud had to be pretty well left where it was. However the hardy wildlife can handle the situation, and there is an abundance of ducks, swans, dusky moorhens, coots, rails and stilts, the aggressive geese, though, had to be removed in the interests of public safety.

Another way in which this lake suffers by comparison with the Coburg one is that it would be useless to install a fish ladder here: they will not swim in enclosed spaces like the large barrel drains that carry the creek under Edwardes St. What a pity that the authorities chose this cheap, crude way of doing the job, rather than erecting another fine bridge like the ancient and modern Newlands Rd ones.



Edwardes Lake duck area looking north (Photo by Angela Foley)

To balance the scales, there's plenty of boating in Albert Park, while in the new Lillydale Lake, on the pristine Olinda Creek, people can even go swimming! The Aura Vale off the Cardinia Reservoir, the big Lysterfield in the south-east and the Emerald Lake beside the Puffing Billy line are others where boating is permitted – only muscle- or wind-powered, naturally.

There are in fact more than fifty lakes around Melbourne, taking Coburg's two hectares as the minimum and going up to giants like the Cherry in Altona with about 85 hectares.

Some are old favourites, such as those at Blackburn and the Caribbean and Botanic Gardens, but the majority have appeared more recently, either as selling points for real estate

or to enhance environmental areas. The largest in the former category, in Point Cook, is horribly cluttered with artificial islands encroaching into it on all sides like so many kidney dishes, to maximise the number of waterfront properties. There isn't even access to Skeleton Creek and the Bay, which is probably a good thing. Much tidier is Edgewater, carved out beside the Maribyrnong, from which one can reach the sea, and which would double as a retarding basin to help absorb floodwaters. One hopes it will be needed...

By contrast, from Williamstown around to Seaford via Newport, Cairnlea, Broadmeadows – on our Merlynston Creek! - , Wheelers Hill, Heatherton, Braeside and Edithvale, there's a whole series of lakes created to promote our well-being and wildlife's welfare, complementing our wealth of waterways and grand Port Phillip Bay.

Meanwhile what a relief that the Edwardes Lake was retained, even with its water-quality problems, which meant among other things that the Leamington St wetlands had to be reduced to a simple though attractive pond, now protected to some extent by a litter-trap. We can only trust that the EPA is allowed to clamp down hard on despoilers, and that the proposed housing in Epping North is as planet-friendly as claimed.

Paul Prentice

Ace in Oz!

*Aitken Creek: bushland, and a bikepath to ride,
Brunswick's got CERES, ecological guide;
Coburg Lake, birdlife and family fun,
Dight's Falls where Merri and Yarra are one.
Eucalypts, best-known Australian trees,
Fish ladders make climbing rivers a breeze;
Golden Sun Moths with their nuptials so quick,
Herbicides used when naught else does the trick.
Ibis innumerable insects ingest,
Jukes Road has grasslands, and a station out west;
Kingfishers typify birds coming back,
Landcare has rural folk on the right track.
Management Committee with know-how and heart,
Newsletter calendar for those who take part;
Oldis, such elegance, such grandeur below,
Platypus happily go with the flow.
Quarries Park playground, activity reigns,
Rushall – a garden, a village, and trains;
Sumner Estate where we came on the scene,
Tessellated pavement just north of De Chene.
Understorey, modest but vital small plants,
VINC, native flora the place to enhance;
Wetlands for creatures that swim and/or fly,
Xerophytes thrive where conditions are dry.
Yabbies show the Merri's not too badly stressed –
Zebra finch zigzags with zip, zeal and zest!*

Paul Prentice

Friends' Life Members: – Nicole Lowe

This is the twelfth in a resumed series of short histories of the Friends' Life Members

Compared to our other Life members, Nicole Lowe's first awareness of environmental issues occurred relatively recently in the early 1990's and it was only shortly afterwards that she joined the Friends of Merri Creek (FoMC).

Nicole's awareness was sparked by a campaign to have the Native Flora and Fauna guarantee Act legislated. The campaign came to her attention through a group concerned about a flora corridor in Croydon North near rapidly spreading housing developments, including the estate of Croydon Hills where she had built a house.

Prior to moving to Croydon in the 1980's, Nicole had lived in Moe where, in the late 1970's, she became only the second woman Councillor to serve on Moe Council. The Council was not used to dealing with a woman and she received a number of invitations addressed to her "and wife." She remembers that the Moe Council meetings were the first time that she had seen adult men shout at each other. However, that didn't deter her from joining the ALP in the 1980's and becoming an active member.

Nicole trained as a Primary School Teacher and taught at Wales Street Thornbury and at Spensley Street Clifton Hill during the 1970's. In Moe, she coordinated the Disadvantaged Schools Program. Back in Melbourne she was Executive Officer to the Transition Education Scheme (from school to work), then from Croydon Hills she drove a travelling library to small schools in the Healesville and Lilydale areas for ten years. Later, she had a stint of unemployment when the Kennett government offered packages.

She found out about FoMC after she moved to Coburg in 1993 and became acquainted with the late George Smith, one of the group's founders and then the Treasurer. She tentatively went to some activities and slowly began to know the other volunteers before joining up two years later. Since then, she has become one of the most active members of the Planting Group and has coordinated a number of the group's activities. In recognition of her contribution to



FoMC, Nicole was awarded honorary Life Membership at the AGM in 2004.

Nicole has now been involved in planting native trees and grasses and removing weeds and rubbish at various sites along the Creek for over 14 years. This has given her an appreciation of the unique value of a green corridor in this part of Melbourne and a sense of achievement by going back to sites and seeing the changes.

She recalls spending a hot February Sunday morning about four years ago, at Merri Park wetlands, rolling knot weed down the slope where now you can see grown trees and thick Poa grass. Then she laughs about slipping and sliding in the rain, along with some other keen FoMC members, when removing black plastic from the levee bank adjacent to Anderson Road Thornbury.

For Nicole, the best things about FoMC volunteer work are: being outdoors and active; being away from the desk, computer and telephone; and being with such diverse people that she has been able to discuss schools, politics, activism and relationships.

Through FoMC, she has been pleased to be able to meet celebrities like Olympic Gold Medallist, Cathy Freeman, and AFL footballer, Mark McGough (then at Collingwood, now at St Kilda) as well as the Chair of Melbourne Water, Cheryl Batagol, and Green corps workers. She has also enjoyed singing with the Growling Grass Frogs and participating in the Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival parade as "the Merri Creek."

Nicole is also a Friend of Woodlands Historic Park, where planting and weed removal are the main outdoor activities and every plant has to be tree-guarded against rabbits and kangaroos. Her administrative skills have led her to be Secretary, Treasurer and Executive member for the ALP, for the Friends of Woodlands and for bushwalking clubs. She now works mainly as a primary school Library Technician, regularly goes bushwalking with the Essendon Bushwalking Club and is learning to play the clarinet.

Ray Radford (Secretary)



Swans with cygnets at Coburg Lake (photo by Irene Baker)

Friends of Merri Creek events calendar

JULY

Sunday 30 — Planting & Weeding

Friends' site, near Strettle wetlands Thornbury, 10am-1pm, with Darebin Bush Crew. Melway map 30 B3.
Phone Nicole Lowe 9354 5045.

AUGUST

Thursday 3 — Merri Creek Benefit Gig

Barbukka, 279 Smith St Fitzroy, 7pm onwards. Entry: \$7/5.
Hear the bands: Skeleton Soup, Gold Gull, Contraption, Wrong Angles, with funk and soul tunes by dj Mike. \$2 pots between 7-9. All Money raised goes to Friends of Merri Creek.

Sunday 6 — Litter Clean-Up

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

Sunday 6 — 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 13 — Planting & BBQ

Robinson Reserve, Preston, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 B2. Come along to plant lots of habitat to compensate for tree-clearing due to the high voltage powerlines. Funded by SPI Ausnet.
Contact Brian at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 13 — Friends of Wallan Creek Working Bee & BBQ

Wallan Community Park, (behind Scout Hall) Watson Street, Wallan, 10am-1pm. Melways 249 F8.
Contact John Robinson 5789 1411.

Sunday 20 — Planting & BBQ

Alongside Merri Creek just before its confluence with Kalkallo Creek, at John Laffan Memorial Reserve, Kalkallo, 10am-1pm, with MCMC. Funded by Hume City Council. Melway map 367 F6.
Phone Ruth Shiel 9489 5259.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 3 — Litter Clean-Up

Edwardes Lake, Edwardes St Reservoir opposite the hotel, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 18 D5.
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.

Saturday 9 — Planting & BBQ

Jukes Rd Grasslands, 10am-1pm. Funded by Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority grant to MCMC. Come and help foster a local Friends of the Grasslands group. Melway map 18 A2. Note this is on Saturday.
Contact Brian at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 10 — Friends of Wallan Creek Working Bee & BBQ

Wallan Community Park, (behind Scout Hall) Watson Street, Wallan, 10am-1pm. Melways 249 F8.
Contact John Robinson 5789 1411.

Sunday 24 — Planting & BBQ

Galada Tamboore, enter from Somerset Rd Campbellfield 10am-1pm. Melway map 7 J7. Help plant up Yellow Box gully for stormwater health and habitat. Funded by EPA alternative sentencing payment to MCMC.
Contact Brian at MCMC 9380 8199.

Friday 29 — Deadline for articles for the next newsletter.

OCTOBER

Sunday 1 — Litter Clean-Up

Near Rushall railway station, North Fitzroy, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 30 D11.
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 15 — Handweeding

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

Sunday 15 — Friends of Wallan Creek Working Bee & BBQ

Wallan Community Park, (behind Scout Hall) Watson Street, Wallan, 10am-1pm. Melways 249 F8.
Contact John Robinson 5789 1411.

NOVEMBER

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.

Saturday 11 — Friends' Annual General Meeting

CERES Environment Room, Lee St East Brunswick, 2.00pm. Vote for your 2007 Committee, have your say on activities. Features the premier screening of a video/DVD about the Friends' group by filmmaker David Wardell.

Sunday 12 — Planting & BBQ

Downstream from Rushall Station North Fitzroy, 10am-1pm. Help plant more sedges along the edges! Bring gumboots if you have them. Melway map 30 D12.
Contact Brian at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 12 — Friends of Wallan Creek Working Bee & BBQ

Wallan Community Park, (behind Scout Hall) Watson Street, Wallan, 10am-1pm. Melways 249 F8.
Contact John Robinson 5789 1411.

Sunday 19 — Wild Discoveries — Flora and Fauna Walk

Cooper St Grasslands, Campbellfield. Either meet outside the MCMC office at Lee St East Brunswick at 10am or outside the Istrian Australian Social Club, Cooper St Campbellfield at 10.30am. Melway map 180 K11. The walk will be led by Brian Bainbridge, MCMC Technical Officer, and it will include wildflowers, birdwatching and possible early Golden Sun Moth sightings. Participants can also assist with accurate recording and reporting of flora and fauna.

Another Grant success

FoMC has received \$6000 from the Melbourne Water Community Grant to provide fencing at Craigieburn Grasslands to prevent sheep from damaging the banks of Curly Sedge Creek. The fencing is the first step in a program to limit the damage that the sheep cause to the grasslands, while still reducing the spread of weeds.

See all the Friends' activities on our website, which has been wonderfully revamped by our webmaster, Simon D'Alfonso: www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc.