

Friends of Merri Creek



NEWSLETTER
August – October
2009

Biggest threat to Merri Creek and native grasslands

The Brumby Government's proposed large-scale expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is the biggest threat that we have faced in our efforts to protect Merri Creek. If the expansion went ahead as proposed, it would destroy significant areas of endangered native grasslands, gobble up some of Melbourne's green wedges and reduce the wildlife corridor along Merri Creek.



Golden Sun Moth (Brian Bainbridge)

This Government is acting in a most high-handed manner, favouring development and disregarding public opinion and the environment, very much like the Kennett Government.

In this case it has rushed through consultation on the proposal, allowing only 28 days before the deadline of 17 July (even though it took at least ten days for them to send out technical reports). This whole process happened between newsletters, so we were only able to notify members and

supporters who provided an email address. We trust that many of you were able to make a submission on the EPBC Impact Assessment, as this offers our best chance of protecting our environment. However, it's still not too late to write to the Federal Minister for Environment, Peter Garrett, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600. Please do so if you can..

We asked people to use the Top Ten Biodiversity Issues below as a reference for their submissions.

Top ten Biodiversity Issues in the Merri catchment

Expansion is not needed

The proposal to expand the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is completely unnecessary. The State Govt says that expansion is required in order to house our growing population. However, at 15 lots per hectare, there would be enough development land within the current UGB to last for over 15 years; while at 20 lots/ha there could be enough for 25 years. Increasing the housing density would also make homes more affordable.

Extensive on-the-ground surveys needed

Extensive on the ground surveys for native vegetation and targeted fauna are needed over much of the upper Merri. Even the ecological consultants for the Strategic Assessment report acknowledged that their own surveys were inadequate so these limitations need to be addressed.

No Native Grassland or Red Gum Grassy Woodland should be destroyed

Absolutely no native Grassland or red Gum Grassy Woodland should be destroyed. These precious areas are so rare that we need to protect the remaining last remnants. However, the current proposal designates the following important areas for destruction:

- ☞ All grassland areas within the UGB, except areas identified as 'significantly constrained,' or which are deemed to be needed for habitat for certain endangered species; and
- ☞ 924 ha of grassy woodland (River Red Gums), representing 42% of the grassy woodland area identified in the original Investigation Area.

Continued overleaf

2 Four great tours 3 Paul Prentice wins award 4 Birdwatch report / Newest FoMC member
5 Birds on Edgar's Creek / Craigieburn Sewage Treatment Plant flows 6 Marran baba update
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Biggest threat to Merri Creek...

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There should be no trade-off of Merri grasslands

Native grasslands cannot be traded off. While we support the proposed reserves, they are mostly species-poor and a slightly different grassland type than the ones to be sacrificed. The north-south link and the Kilmore gap provide a crucial fauna corridor and can't be traded.

Any offsets should be in the Merri Catchment

Although no native grassland should be destroyed in the first place, if there are to be any offsets as a result of destruction in the Merri catchment, they should certainly be located locally, not over 60km away as proposed.

Important areas need protection and connection

The following important biodiversity areas and habitat corridor connections between these areas need to be protected, but instead they are designated for development. They include:

- ☞ Camoola Swamp Biosite (State significance);
- ☞ A large area of Grassland between the Hume Freeway and the Kalkallo Retarding Basin;
- ☞ At least half of Bald Hill Biosite (nationally significant);
- ☞ Grasslands in Woodstock area;
- ☞ Red Gum grassy woodlands in southern Wollert area;
- ☞ Remnant grassland immediately to the north and contiguous with the Kalkallo Common;
- ☞ North-south link to the east of Merri Creek between Craigieburn East Grassland/Grassy Woodland, the Summerhill Rd Woodlands, and the Grassland/Woodland areas north of Donnybrook; and
- ☞ An east-west link from the Kalkallo Retarding basin: west to remnant vegetation on the Old Sydney Rd ridge line, and east along Kalkallo Creek to Merri Creek, and to the woodlands at Woollert.

(See map on website: www.vicnet.net.org.au/~fomc – link on front page.)

Need commitment to maintain connectivity

To avoid fragmentation, we need an upfront commitment to provide significant 'greenways', bridges, tunnels, and so on for fauna to use. Unfortunately, however, the report doesn't even discuss how connectivity between biodiversity areas will be maintained once major new transport corridors and urban development are in place.

'RECLAIMING THE MERRI IN BRUNSWICK'

Thursday 17 September. 7.30pm
Meeting Room, Coburg Library,
Cnr Victoria and Louisa Sts

Don't miss Bruce McGregor's talk about 30 years of community action along Merri Creek, including the background to the formation of FoMC and MCMC.

New parks needed

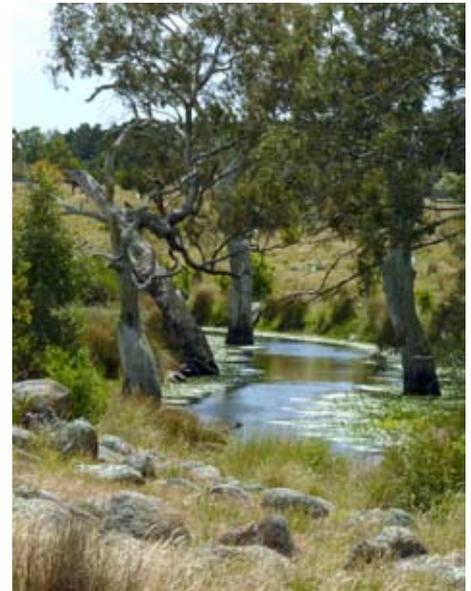
The upper Merri needs new parks or conservation reserves similar to what is proposed in the FoMC vision: Nature on Melbourne's Northern Doorstep on our website under "News." The Government's proposal only vaguely mentions areas of biodiversity that are excluded from development, but no new park is proposed as suggested by FoMC.

Need to protect at least 400m width along the Merri corridor

There needs to be an unambiguous minimum 200m 'buffer' on each side along the entire Merri Creek, irrespective of current biodiversity values within this buffer, making a total corridor a *minimum* width of 400m.

The audit and review process needs more detail

There should be an explanation as to how new ecological information will be dealt with, including any new EPBC listings of threatened species and communities; plus mention of the public input to such processes.



Merri Creek in a farm property in Merriang, currently designated for development

FOUR GREAT TOURS

FOUR CREEKS RAMBLE

Saturday 22 August, 1pm

Meet at the central bridge, Coburg Lake, Melway 17 H10.

Off path hike of about 8km or 3 hours.

Phone Paul 9489 5062.

NORTHERN TREASURES RIDE

Sunday 13 September, 11am

Meet at Gowrie station, Fawkner,

Melway 17 G1. Visit Jack

Roper, Moomba, Central Creek,

Edwardes Lake, back to Batman

station; about 20km or 3 hours.

Phone Paul 9489 5062.



Growling Grass Frog (Brian Bainbridge)

TRIPLE TREAT

Sunday 27 September, 1pm

Meet at CERES entrance, Lee St, East Brunswick, 1pm,

Melway map 30 B7; or at Studley Park Boathouse, 1.45pm,

Melway map 2D E8. Cycle and/or walk to Galatea Point

and/or go boating. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

TOUR TO 'THE HOLIEST SITES OF THE MERRI CATCHMENT'

Saturday 24 October, 1pm.

Meet at the Russian Orthodox Church, Albion St Brunswick.

After visiting this fabulous gold-domed church, Bruce

McGregor will lead you to a variety of other recently-built

places of worship in the Merri Catchment, including a Muslim

mosque and a Buddhist Temple.

Paul Prentice wins Victoria's sustainable cities award

Hearty congratulations to FoMC's Litter Group Coordinator, Paul Prentice, upon winning the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria (KABV) 2009 Dame Phyllis Frost Award for outstanding individual commitment to his community and environment. The award was presented by the Hon. Gavin Jennings, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, at the Sustainable Cities Awards, held on Friday 29th May at the RACV Club, Melbourne.

Paul's acceptance speech was without a doubt the highlight of the evening and he had the 250 guests in tears and laughter as he detailed his 50 year commitment to protecting the environment by usually taking a plastic bag with him when he leaves the house to collect any litter or recyclables that he comes across. He also created some media interest when he told of his refusal to participate in Clean Up Australia Day because it was sponsored by McDonald's, causing KABV to state that "the views of Paul Prentice are his own."



Paul Prentice cleans up at Bababi morning (Cooper St grasslands)

Paul's history of cleaning up litter began as a teenager as far back as 1959. When FoMC was formed 20 years ago, he joined up and continues litter clean-ups each first Sunday of the month, when he goes to various sites along the creek, on his own or with a small

team. However, Paul does not limit himself to just these days but also collects on many other days, and in addition he assists schools or community groups which wish to do a clean-up along the creek. Litter is placed in large plastic bags which Paul either takes to various disposal points or arranges for the local Council to collect. He washes any dirty bottles or cans he finds before placing them in recycling bins.

KABV Judge Ron Williamson commented that "Paul's tireless efforts have made a great difference to the quality of the water, reduced the risk to wildlife of the creek and ensured its natural beauty is able to be enjoyed by the wider community."

KABV Chairman Max Spedding also congratulated Paul Prentice on his outstanding result, saying: "Paul Prentice has demonstrated his commitment and leadership in engaging the



The Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Gavin Jennings, presents Paul Prentice with the 2009 Dame Phyllis Frost Award.

community and working towards a cleaner city and improved waterways. We congratulate him on winning the 2009 Dame Phyllis Frost Award."

(Adapted from a KABV Press Release)

If you're offended by litter and you like the sight of a tidy creek or street, why not join some kindred spirits at one or more of our litter clean-ups, maybe near your home or at a favourite scenic spot (SEE CALENDAR).

WINNERS ALL ROUND

A quarter of a century ago, a path was put in beside High St Clifton Hill, much steeper than it needed to be; it has now been replaced with a wheelchair-usable link to the Merri trail. Half a century ago, easy access to the east was cut off by the cars-only overpass; with the steps to the Coulson Reserve, it has been restored! There'll be revegetation in this spot and the new mini-park in Westgarth: we wouldn't have had all these extras if the viaduct duplication had been done a century ago.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR FoMC OFFICE

Can you help out at the FoMC office in Brunswick Town Hall? Unfortunately, Jack Svendsen, our Office Coordinator since at least 2004, is unable to continue due to health reasons and one of our regular volunteers, Warren Cooper, also can't continue due to gaining full-time employment. Thankfully, our Membership Secretary, Monica Williamson, has still been able to keep the office ticking over... just. This role involves a couple of hours once a fortnight to check the mail and do the banking. It would suit someone who wants to do more for the group, but is unable to participate in our events. If you're interested, Monica would be very happy to show you the ropes. Please email Monica at: merricreek@bigpond.com or phone Ray on 0422 989 166.

Birds of early Winter along the Merri



The weather was cloudy, windy and cool for our bird surveys at nine sites on 24 May. We set out to document who are the 'stayers' – the species that remain along the Creek through the colder time of year rather than migrating north to milder climes, or following the flowering eucalypts.

We found a good diversity and comparable numbers comparable to the last surveys: a total of 69 species and almost 2000 birds were seen, compared with 75 species and 2140 birds in February.

The most common species were Rock Dove and Rainbow Lorikeet, followed by Pacific Black Duck and Common Myna. Red Wattlebirds and Australian Magpies were seen at all nine sites. The site with the largest tally of species (36) was again Blyth Street-Moreland Road, East Brunswick, while the highest numbers of birds were seen at Edwardes Lake (over 460) and Coburg Lake (over 420).

Golden Whistlers were highlights of the Blyth St-Moreland Rd, and Galada Tamboore surveys – a single bird at Galada, and

a pair opposite CERES. A Grey Shrike-Thrush was another uncommon sighting in East Brunswick, and a King Parrot was seen in Clifton Hill just before the survey starting time. The presence of these melodious forest and woodland dwellers indicates the effectiveness of revegetation projects at re-creating habitat along the Merri – Silver Wattles for the Whistlers, and leaf-litter strewn woodland understorey for the Thrushes.

A Flame Robin (left), a seasonal migrant that lives in the high country and Tasmania in summer, was recorded at Bababi djinanang (Jukes Road grassland, Fawkner). A Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater was heard calling from a River Sheoke street tree nearby.

Come along to one of the surveys in August, and check out the avian action along the Merri!

Ann McGregor (Merri Birdwatch Convenor)

Our newest FoMC member

Congratulations to Gail Brammar, who was the previous Regeneration Group Coordinator, and husband Alan Brennan, who represented us on the MCMC, on the birth of another new member on 24 May: Patrick, a brother to 18 months old Sean.



MORE MERRI BIRDWATCH SURVEYS

There are two more bird surveys this year at ten sites along Merri Creek. All surveys will be from 8.45-10.30am as below. 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.

The following eight sites will have surveys on 9 August and 8 November:

Jukes Rd, Fawkner Meet on Merri Path at end of Jukes Rd, Fawkner (Melway 18 A2).

Egan Reserve-Harding St-Strettle Reserve-Normanby Ave Meet at bluestone steps at end of The Grove, East Coburg (Melway 30 A3).

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

Edwardes Lake Meet at the playground adjacent to Griffiths St, Reservoir (Melway 18 E5).

CERES to Moreland Rd Meet at the seats on the path at rear of CERES, East Brunswick (Melway 30 B7).

Merri Park, Phillips Reserve Meet at the end of Victoria St, East Brunswick, at BBQ shelter (Melway 30 B8).

Hall Reserve- Yarra Bend Park Meet at the Rotunda, Hall Reserve, Clifton Hill (Melway 2D D1).

Galgi ngaark (Craigieburn Grasslands) Meet at the O'Herns Rd gate off Hume Highway (Melway 180 E6).*

Surveys at Galada Tamboore will be on 30 August and 8 November.*

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

Surveys at Bababi marning (Cooper St Grasslands) will be on 30 August, and 22 November.*

Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper St, Epping (Melway 180 K10).

** FOR SITES WITH AN ASTERISK, CAR POOL OUTSIDE THE MCMC OFFICE, 2 LEE ST EAST BRUNSWICK, LEAVING AT 8.15AM.*

Interesting birds on Edgars Creek

Staff members of MCMC have registered some interesting bird sightings in the parklands around the confluence of the Merri and Edgars Creeks.

The **Eastern Great Egret** (*Egretta modesta*) has been sighted in the Merri Creek both up and downstream of the Edgars Creek confluence over several years. It is a listed *Migratory and Marine* species under the Federal Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act, and is also listed as *Threatened* in the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

Flame Robins (*Petroica phoenicea*) have also been sighted over a number of years in the land owned by VicRoads that the community hopes will be transferred to Moreland Council as public open space.

In winter, the robins feed mainly in extensive open areas such as pasture, using orchards and remnant native vegetation for shelter and roosting. This appears to be the case at Edgars Creek with birds observed feeding in open parkland and seeking shelter in the remnant shrubland.

While this species is currently listed as 'secure' in Australian federal lists, these lists date from 2000. Because this species has experienced a moderately rapid population decline, it is classified as *Near Threatened* in the 2009 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Red List as assessed by Birdlife International. While still numerous, a strong decline in reporting rate has occurred over the last 25 years combined with a contraction from the fringes of its



Eastern Great Egret
(*Egretta modesta*)

winter range. Degradation of non-breeding wintering habitat in lowlands is listed as one of the factors in its continuing decline.

If the open space in the reserve is developed, it would further reduce habitat for this species.

Brian Bainbridge (MCMC Technical Officer and FoMC Life Member)

Flows from Craigieburn Sewage Treatment Plant

Yarra Valley Water (YVW) has commissioned a study to determine the environmental flow requirements for Merri Creek in the reach of the creek from immediately downstream of the Craigieburn Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) to the Cooper St overpass in Epping. The study was completed using the FLOWS method which uses survey data, flow data and an assessment of environmental values to determine the recommended environmental flows for the waterway.

The study recommends that if the STP's discharge to Merri Creek ceased and the creek had a period of 14 days with less than 1 mega litre (ML) of flow per day (as measured by Melbourne Water's stream gauge at Cooper St), it would be beneficial for the STP to release a discharge into the creek for a period of seven days. Such flows would help to ensure that there is always habitat available for the fauna in the creek including the Growling Grass Frog. If this recommended criterion had been followed since 1976 and the STP had not been discharging to the creek, the criterion for release would have occurred on 89 occasions.

The study also concluded that discharges from the STP would not be able to meet the velocity or volume to act as "freshes" (short flushes of water), but this should happen anyway as a result of run-off from rain events.

STP discharges to the creek have been suspended since October 2008 in order to upgrade plant equipment, and sewage flows to the STP site have been diverted to the Melbourne Metropolitan Sewerage System. The creek has nevertheless continued to experience good flows and has not dropped below 4ML a day, which is in excess of the recommended level, so the creek habitat has remained protected. YVW expects to resume discharges around August.

Discharge from the STP only makes up a small proportion of the total annual creek flow (~ 10%), however it does provide a higher base flow during months of low flow, which should mean that there is always sufficient water in the creek during dry periods.

YVW is not intending to significantly reduce flows out of the plant in the short term, but some of the inflow to the Craigieburn STP site will be diverted to the new Aurora STP in Epping for recycling to Class A standard for domestic and commercial use in the Craigieburn area.

YVW is now working with EPA to determine appropriate long term water quality targets for the STP effluent (although this may not meet State Environment Planning Policy objectives).

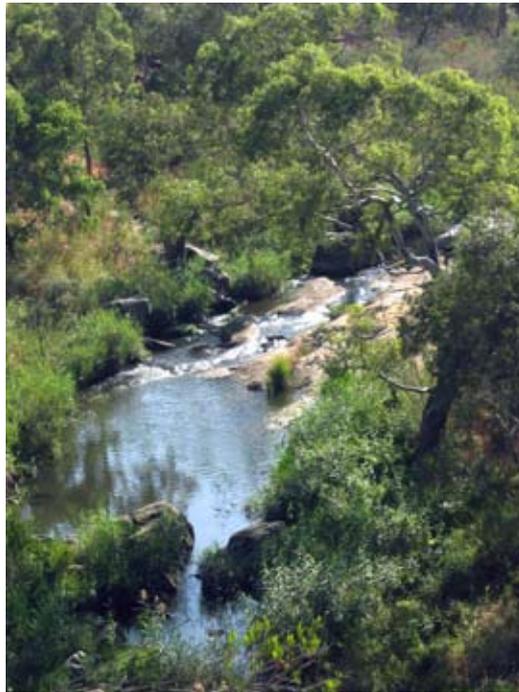
Update No. 4 on the new Merri Creek Parklands (Marran baba)*

Latest update of the proposed new park north of the Western Ring Rd, from Andrew Shannon, Team Leader Community Engagement and Communications, Urban Parks, Parks Victoria.

Draft Master Plan for Galada Tamboore: As the first major component of caring for the Merri Creek Parklands (Marran baba), Parks Victoria is focusing on developing a draft master plan for Galada Tamboore in conjunction with Melbourne Water and the Cities of Hume and Whittlesea.

A key feature of the draft master plan is the extension of the Merri Creek Trail from the Metropolitan Ring Road along the western (Campbellfield) side of the park to a new footbridge to be constructed over Merri Creek just north of Barry Rd. The shared trail will meet the "Ned Kelly" bridge over the Hume Freeway, which leads into the Whittlesea Public Gardens in Thomastown. An unsealed walking track on the eastern side of the creek will link to the shared trail, via a smaller southern footbridge, forming a loop track for a 5km walk. An unsealed walking track will lead from the shared trail to the magnificent gorge near Barry Rd.

In the longer term, a small picnic and barbecue area is proposed for the western side of the shared trail, in between Somerset Rd and Hatty Court. This area has been chosen



because it is close to public transport links, provides a stunning vista over the park and has a much lower level of botanical importance.

Community consultation has confirmed that one of the major challenges will be controlling unwanted vehicle and motor bike access, which is degrading habitats and is acting to alienate other visitors to the area. Working with Merri Creek Management Committee's Nearby Nature Program to raise local community awareness of the significance of Galada Tamboore and the Barry Rd Grasslands is an important action in protecting the site.

The first stage of implementing the master plan will be the construction of the shared trail between Horne St and Hatty Court, planned to commence in late 2009.

For further information or a copy of the plan, see www.parkweb.vic.gov.au, click on the Urban Parks button and follow the links to Merri Creek. Or call 13 19 63.

**Naming: Marran baba, which means "body of mother" in the Wurundjeri language, has been proposed for the whole of the new parklands.*

CELEBRATE MCMC'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Exhibition: "Galada Tamboore – Merri Creek Gorge"
(photographs by David Tatnall)

Synergy Gallery, 253 High St Northcote

Opening: Tuesday 11 August, 6-8pm. All FoMC members and supporters are invited.

Opening times: Wednesday to Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, from 12 to 30 August.

David Tatnall, renowned for his luminous images of the Australian landscape, presents photos of the spectacular Galada Tamboore gorge area in Campbellfield/Thomastown.

Helpers needed: Volunteers are needed to help staff the gallery. If you can spare three hours or so, please register with Monica at MCMC on 9380 8199 or monica@mcmc.org.au

MCMC 20th Anniversary Planting & BBQ

Sunday 16 August

Near Rushall Station North Fitzroy, 10am-1pm. Melway 30 D12. Help celebrate MCMC's 20th Anniversary by joining in this BIG planting. Funded by an Australian Govt 'Caring for our Country' grant. Phone Brian at MCMC 9380 8199.



Phil 'n' Westy

Across the Pacific Ocean there are splendid havens: Pago Pago in American Samoa, Hong Kong and Auckland, Seattle and Tokyo, and Sydney and San Francisco with their famous bridges. Victoria's got Port Phillip, more of an inland sea; and Western Port with its French and Phillip Islands – the Governor certainly left his name on the map!

Western Port's the "wild" one, with mudflats and mangroves, and shallows and dangerous currents. French Island has land and sea National Parks, and lots of koalas but only a few lucky people; the well-named Perseverance Primary School, the McLeod Eco Farm and the former prison, and Mt Wellington, 76 metres, somewhat lower than Hobart's.

No access by bridge, unlike Phillip Island with its Seal Rocks and Penguin Parade, and Churchill Island first settled in



Penguin Parade, Phillip Island (www.worldisround.com/articles/329994/)

1801. But both can be reached by the old-fashioned way of the Stony Point train, then a ferry.

The Navy has a presence with its Gunnery School at Flinders, and the HMAS Cerberus base; and industry, with deep-water jetties at Crib Point and Hastings. Somers has the Coolart Wetlands and Homestead; there's surfing at Point Leo and camping at Shoreham; a walking trail goes from Cape Schanck to Main Ridge and then on to Arthurs Seat.

The mangroves here are the southernmost in the world; Yaringa Marine National Park, Quail Island and Warneet Reserve look after the wildlife; Tooradin caters for boating and various sports. (The name's from the mythical Tooroodun – like a Bunyip, only much fiercer!) On the east side there's 284-metre Bass Hill, and a rail trail leads to Wonthaggi, of desalinator notoriety.

Port Phillip's beautiful coastline soon attracted a growing population, and public transport to serve it: railways to Werribee and Williamstown, Sandringham and Frankston, six tram lines and numerous bus routes. The newest of these is the orbital 903, Mordialloc to Altona via Heidelberg and Essendon, the best innovation in ages.

Paths run from Point Cook to the Spotswood ferry, then Port Melbourne to Mordialloc and Seaford; all round the bay there are boat launching ramps and marinas. Car ferries link

the Bellarine and Mornington Peninsulas; one can fly from Moorabbin Airport to Avalon or Geelong.

There's such a diversity of neighbourhoods: pretty Altona, historic Williamstown, trendy Port Melbourne, bohemian St Kilda; elegant Elwood, opulent Brighton, classy Beaumaris, bustling Frankston; a succession of charming villages, smart Sorrento and exclusive Portsea, and finally the grand Point Nepean National Park where people power stopped the sale of our wonderful heritage.

Better still, it saved Point Lillias from a chemicals depot – that's a Ramsar-listed wetland for migrating birds. A dozen Marine Sanctuaries and National Parks, in Bass Strait and the bays (see the Melway), are essential to biodiversity; conservation reserves in Williamstown and Edithvale are other key habitat areas. Port Phillip has seals at the South Channel Fort, and St Kilda's colony of penguins; and completing the picture, those birds with attitude, the seagulls.

There are beach and water activities, and the "Round the Bay in a Day" bike ride; one can watch the big ships going past, including the Spirit of Tasmania, with the hazardous passage of The Rip. But the obstinate deepening of the channel exemplifies the fantasy that trade can expand indefinitely, since the Earth's resources are infinite...

At least tourists can enjoy tranquil Queenscliff's stately hotels, its restaurants and galleries and other places of interest; and the Bellarine Peninsula Railway of "colonial" gauge – 3 feet 6 inches or 1067 mm, as used in Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. Geelong's waterfront has parks and playgrounds, amusements and cafes; there are excellent bikepaths, especially along the Barwon.

Melbourne's got the Royal Botanic Gardens, an aquarium and two zoos; one can sail on the Yarra or the Maribyrnong, hire rowing-boats or canoes; have lunch beside sea, lake or river, even go on a dinner cruise.

The Australian mainland's southern coast has very few sheltered inlets: we are privileged to have these two, which moderate the area's climate, and offer us natural beauty and all sorts of healthy recreation.

Paul Prentice

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR BUSHFIRE REVEGETATION

In the May newsletter, it was noted that FoMC has pledged to lend a hand at future revegetation projects in the areas affected by the devastating bushfires in February. If you would like to help do something useful for the survivors of this tragedy, please provide your name and contact details, so that we can add you to a list of potential volunteers. This would not mean a firm commitment, but only an indication of your willingness to help out if you can when the time comes – which would probably be sometime in next year's planting season. Please email Ray Radford at admin@mcmc.org.au or phone 0422 989 166.

Saturday 1 MECCARG* Planting
Just south of Murray Rd bridge, Coburg, 1pm-3pm.
Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a digging tool and a bucket. Email: meccarg@hotmail.com

Sunday 2 Litter Clean-Up
Aitken Creek Craigieburn at Axminster Drive, 10am-12 noon.
Melway 386 J 10. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

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

Sunday 2 Yarra City Council National Tree Day Planting
Quarries Park Clifton Hill, 10am-1pm. Melway 2D C3.

Sunday 2 Friends of Edwardes Lake National Tree Day Planting
Scout Hall Car Park (off Leamington St) Reservoir, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 18 E4. Phone Kate 0419 352 004.

Saturday 8 Planting & BBQ
Imaroo St, Fawkner, 10am-1pm. Melway 17 K6. Funded by Landcare Australia/Spicers Paper. Phone Brian 9380 8199.

Sunday 9 Third Bird Survey (most sites)
8.45-10.30am at eight sites. See p. 4 for details.
Phone Ann 0429 386 102.

Tuesday 11 MCMC's 20th Anniversary Exhibition Opening
"Galada Tamboore – Merri Creek Gorge (photographs by David Tatnall)" All FoMC members and supporters are invited to the opening at Synergy Gallery, 253 High St Northcote, 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Wed 12 to Sun 30 "Galada Tamboore – Merri Creek Gorge"
Synergy Gallery, 253 High Street, Northcote. Opening times: Wednesday to Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. See David Tatnall's photos of the spectacular Galada Tamboore.

Sunday 16 MCMC 20th Anniversary Planting & BBQ
Near Rushall Station North Fitzroy, 10am-1pm. Melway 30 D12. Help celebrate MCMC's 20th Anniversary by joining in this BIG planting. Funded by an Australian Govt 'Caring for our Country' grant. Phone Brian at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 16 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting Riparian habitat restoration along 'goose-neck' meander.
Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, Nth Coburg 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Phone Stephen 042 563 4212.

Saturday 22 Four Creeks Ramble
Meet at the central bridge, Coburg Lake, 1pm. Melway 17 H10. Off path hike of about 8km or 3 hours.
Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 23 FoMC Planting
FoMC site near Strettle wetland, Thornbury, 10am-1pm. Melway 30 B3. Help to expand the site managed by the Friends with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Funded by the City of Darebin.
Phone Martin 9025 9394.

Sunday 30 Third Bird survey at Galada Tamboore & Bababi marning (Cooper St Grasslands)
8.45-10.30am. See page 4 for details.
Phone Ann 0429 386 102.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 5 Planting, tour & BBQ at Galada Tamboore
Hatty Court Campbellfield, 10am-1pm. Melway 7 K6. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Grant and an EPA alternative penalties payment to MCMC. Phone Brian at MCMC 9380 8199.

Saturday 5 MECCARG* Planting
Just south of Murray Rd bridge, Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a digging tool and a bucket. Email: meccarg@hotmail.com

Sunday 6 Litter Clean-Up
Central Creek, Davidson St Reservoir, 10am-12 noon.
Melway 8 B12. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 6 Streamteam Water Quality Testing
Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway 30 C10.
Phone 9354 9885.

Sunday 6 Friends of Edwardes Lake Weeding at Ephemeral Wetland
Scout Hall Car Park (off Leamington St) Reservoir, 2.30-4.00pm. Melway 18 E4. Phone Kate 0419 352 004.

Sunday 13 Northern Treasures Ride
Meet at Gowrie station, Fawkner, 11am. Melway 17 G1. Visit Jack Roper, Moomba, Central Creek, Edwardes Lake, back to Batman station; about 20km or 3 hours.
Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Thursday 17 Don't miss this History Talk: 'Reclaiming the Merri in Brunswick'
Meeting Room Coburg Library, Cnr Victoria and Louisa Sts, 7.30pm. Melway 29 H11. Bruce McGregor has plenty of surprises when he tells about 30 years of community action pursuing the dream of a forest in the inner city.

Sunday 20 Handweeding at FoMC site
FoMC site near Strettle wetland, Thornbury, 10am-1pm. Melway 30 B3. Help look after the site managed by the Friends with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Funded by the City of Darebin.
Phone Martin 9025 9394.

Sunday 20 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting:
Riparian habitat restoration along 'goose-neck' meander. Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, Nth Coburg 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Phone Stephen 042 563 4212.

Friday 25 FoMC newsletter deadline
Please send articles to admin@mcmc.org.au.

Sunday 27 Triple Treat
Meet at CERES entrance, Lee St, East Brunswick, 1pm, Melway 30 B7; or at Studley Park Boathouse, 1.45pm, Melway 2D E8. Cycle and/or walk to Galatea Point and/or go boating. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 4 Litter Clean-Up
Walker St East, Northcote, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 F12.
Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 4 Streamteam Water Quality Testing
Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway 30 C10. Ph. 9354 9885.

Sunday 18 Wetland Weeding Workshop
Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Sumner Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-1pm. Melway 30 C8. Funded by Landcare Australia/Citipower. Phone Brian 9380 8199.

Sunday 18 Friends of Edgars Creek Weeding Remnant Silurian escarpment scrubland habitat. Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, Nth Coburg 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Phone Stephen 042 563 4212.

Saturday 24 Tour to 'The Holiest Sites of the Merri Catchment'
Meet at the Russian Orthodox Church, Albion St Brunswick, 1pm. Melway 30 A6. Car pool to visit a variety of interesting recently-built places of worship in the Merri Catchment, led by Bruce McGregor.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1 Litter Clean-Up
Alister St East Brunswick, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 C9.
Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 1 Streamteam Water Quality Testing
Upstream of St Georges Rd bridge, enter from Miller St, Nth Fitzroy, 2-3.30pm. Melway 30 C10.
Phone 9354 9885.

Wednesday 4 Wetland Weeding Workshop
Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Sumner Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-1pm. Melway 30 C8. Funded by Landcare Australia/Citipower. Phone Brian 9380 8199.

Saturday 7 MECCARG* Murnong Harvest
Just south of Murray Rd bridge, Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway map 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring food and drink to share. Email: meccarg@hotmail.com

Sunday 8 Fourth Bird Survey (most sites)
8.45-10.30am at nine sites along the creek. See page 4 for details. Phone Ann 0429 386 102.

Sunday 15 Friends of Edgars Creek Weeding Aquatic weeds around gooseneck meander. Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, Nth Coburg 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Phone Stephen 0425 634 212.

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