

The Merri Creek exhibition keeps on rolling

The fabulous exhibition Merri Creek – from wasteland to parklands is continuing to be displayed around the Merri catchment, including at Docklands in August.

OUR WONDERFUL EXHIBITION, which celebrates community achievements since 1975 in transforming the Creek from a weed-smothered drain to the much-loved centrepiece of a bushland corridor, is still doing the rounds. Since starting at Brunswick Library in October 2015, it has been to Coburg Library, CERES Visitor Centre, and the libraries at Richmond, Craigieburn, Northcote, Thomastown, Lalor and Mill Park.

There have also been very successful launches held in Moreland, Yarra, Darebin and Whittlesea, plus a number of informative tours of the exhibition. However, there is still more to come!



Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Ron Jones gave a wonderful Welcome to Country at the Darebin launch of the exhibition on 2 May.



FoMC President David Redfearn addresses people at the Darebin launch.

Part of the Wurundjeri panel at the exhibition.



Exhibition Calendar August–October

ALL August: Melbourne Water HQ Foyer
990 La Trobe St, Docklands (Melway 2E G3).

2 September: Mitchell Launch of Exhibition
Wallan Library, Wellington Square
Shopping Centre, 9/81-99 High St, Wallan
(Melway 646 A10), 10.30-11.30am.

2–30 September: Wallan Library
9/81-99 High St, Wallan (Melway 646 A10).

3–28 October: Fawcner Library
77 Jukes Road, Fawcner (Melway 17 J2).

For further exhibition dates or more details, check our website www.friendsofmerriecreek.org.au under "What's On."

Inside

Merri Musings	2
Birds along the Merri in early winter	3
Third birdwatch survey	3
My Merri Creek	4
A grand conclusion	5
Friends' Life Members: Dean Lombard	6
Friends of Edgars Creek focus • Dick's witticisms	7
Events calendar	8

Merri Musings

Happenstance Festival: FoMC is the auspice organisation for a \$5,000 Celebrating Place Grant from Moreland Council for this innovative series of art happenings that will occur along the Merri Creek trail in Fawkner on one afternoon in summer 2017. There will be interactive non-verbal performances that aim to increase appreciation of the natural environment and encourage audiences to look at their area as a place full of wonder and beauty.

A Stroll Along the Merri: Abigail Belfrage has written about a walk along Merri Creek through Northcote and Brunswick, using historic material from Victoria's Public Record Office and her own photos. She aims to provide material which evokes a cultural landscape and enable a greater understanding of the local history. See the article at: http://prov.vic.gov.au/publications/provenance/provenance2007/stroll-along-the-merri#_ednref14

Submissions: Our members, Ann McGregor and Yasmin Kelsall, have been constantly busy making submissions to Precinct Structure Plans on behalf of FoMC. The latest submission was to proposed Amendment GC28, Whittlesea & Mitchell Planning Schemes Donnybrook-Woodstock Precinct Structure Plan. Ann has also commented on the re-zoning of an industrial site next to Merri Creek on Moreland Rd, where multi-storey apartments are proposed.

Woody Weeds get Whacked: Amazingly, the Woody Weed Whackers (or 'Impossible Mission' Force) has now removed the Gorse, Broom, and Briar Rose bushes from about three-quarters of Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands) and we're now moving into the last stretch.

This group has expanded lately as more people have begun to appreciate the immediate rewards of liberating the grassland from woody weeds. Parks Victoria has helped our work, mainly on the Merri Creek escarpment, by supplying us with \$400 worth of tools and the employment of contractors who removed the heaviest infestations from the flat areas. But we could do with some more help – and you could also enjoy the big mob of kangaroos that always show up. Our next activities are on Saturdays: 20 August and 17 September – see back page.

Changes along Merri path: Users of the Merri path will see a number of changes besides Moreland's new wetland near the Edgars Creek confluence in Coburg, that we mentioned in the previous newsletter. Construction is progressing well on the new bridge south of Murray Rd, near Connolly Ave Coburg; and the playground upgrade at Kirkdale Reserve East Brunswick is complete. This includes a bird hide and cubby house, which have been very popular.

Upcoming FoMC changes: We are in the process of changing our address to c/o 2 Lee St Brunswick East, the same as Merri Creek Management Committee, to make it more efficient to collect the mail. Also, we are looking at providing on-line membership, thanks to our webmaster, Simon D'Alfonso, and our Membership Secretary, Monica Williamson, with valuable input from Yasmin Kelsall. We are considering a new email address as well.

Lakeside College land issue update: FoMC has been part of a community campaign where we've written letters, made submissions and participated in meetings to argue for the creek frontage of the former Lakeside Secondary College at Radford Rd Reservoir staying in public ownership. We are encouraged by Darebin Council's recent decision to offer to buy the creek frontage land, although taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for the land twice.

The 'Woody Weed Whackers' at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grassland) on 17 April.



Birds along the Merri in early winter

Fifty-nine people joined in our nine bird surveys on two Sunday mornings in May. A total of 75 species was seen.

A SEASONAL HIGHLIGHT is the Flame Robins which have retreated from the highlands to the plains for winter to feed in open grassy areas. Eight were seen at Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grassland) and five at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands). Zebra Finches (right) were again recorded at Galgi Ngarrk.

Native Noisy Miners were recorded at three sites: Edwardes Lake (28), East Brunswick (23) and Hall Reserve Clifton Hill (28). They are becoming more obvious in parts of the East Brunswick circuit, and may be reducing the numbers of small and medium sized birds. In Clifton Hill, the surveyors witnessed Noisy Miners driving off currawongs, Crested Pigeons, Willie Wagtails, and doves. They are blamed for the absence of New Holland Honeyeaters there over the past two years. Noisy Miners prefer areas with trees and grass or bare ground, rather than a shrubby understorey.

The most widespread species (occurring at every site) were natives: Magpie, Rainbow Lorikeet, Red Wattlebird, and Little Raven. Not far behind were two non-natives: Spotted Dove and Common Myna, recorded at eight sites. On the other hand, 18 species were each recorded at only one site. The most numerous species were Rock Dove and Rainbow Lorikeet (both 205), followed by Red Wattlebird (202) then Eurasian Coot (154) and Silver Gull (105).

Galgi Ngarrk has a big kangaroo population, with an estimated 340 recorded. Another 23 were seen at Galada Tamboore, as well as a cat.

The sites with the most diversity were Edwardes Lake, Galgi Ngarrk and Blyth St-Moreland Rd East Brunswick (each with 36 species). Coburg Lake Reserve again had the most individual birds, an estimate of 558.

Ann McGregor BirdWatch coordinator

Zebra Finch (Source: wikimedia commons)



Third Merri Birdwatch survey for 2016

Bird surveys will be held from 8.45–10.30am at nine sites along Merri Creek as listed below. Beginners welcome, BYO binoculars if possible, but no dogs please, as they reduce the number and variety of birds to be seen. The contact for all Birdwatch events is Ann McGregor 0429 386 102.

Free leaflets on Merri Birds (normally \$2) are available for all participants

The survey at Edwardes Lake is on 21 August

Meet at the playground adjacent to Griffiths Street, Reservoir (Melway 18 E5).

Surveys at the following six sites are on 18 September

Egan Reserve – Harding Street – Strettle Reserve – Normanby Avenue: Meet at the bluestone steps at the end of The Grove, East Coburg (Melway 30 A3).

CERES – Moreland Road: Meet at the seats on the Merri Path at rear of CERES, East Brunswick (Melway 30 B7).

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

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

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

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

Surveys at the following two sites are on 25 September

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

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

My Merri Creek

Playwright Patricia Cornelius gave this entertaining talk at the Darebin launch of the Merri Creek exhibition.

I KNOW THE CREEK PRETTY WELL but the part I know the best, I call The Loop. I know it because I've walked it hundreds and hundreds of times, over a period of more than 20 years, alone, with friends, and for a while there with a dog. The Loop is from CERES and over the footbridge and back again. One side of The Loop is unpaved, and I hope it stays that way. It's a length of the creek where you can truly imagine yourself to be in the bush, though I must admit that there was a need for an Edna Walling touch when a small forest of native trees was planted in very regimented rows. Along this stretch there are no bikes to battle with, since whatever the share signs say, bikers and walkers are not friends.

I walk the Loop habitually. Sometimes I walk it and don't recollect I have when I come to the end. The end is at CERES coffee shop – a reward as such. I walk to escape work, to think about work, to work things out about work – it truly amazes me how many problems I have solved walking the Merri – not world problems so much, but I have been known to talk the lines of a play I'm working on as they have come to me while walking along, in fear that they may later escape me. And I walk to get fit, to have the winter sun on my back, to chat with friends, to contemplate. Merri Creek is a haven of sorts, a slither of delight which is stretching it a bit, for I've seen Merri Creek in misery at times. I've seen it overgrown with blackberries and sucked dry by Weeping willows and other trees considered crap. I've seen them cleared and plants stitched in, painfully it seemed, to a kind of carpet underlay which harnessed its banks.

I've seen its waters milk-cloudy, and most unnaturally paint-blue. I've smelt it fuming chemical and foul. I've seen it trickle along desperately, seen it stagnant it seemed and brackish and sometimes black. I've seen it after storms, the trees flanking it, threaded through with shredded plastic bags and thought, the first time, a rather nice decorative touch. I've seen the creek bulging and racing, hauling enormous broken boughs of gums. In

2003 I visited the Merri the morning after the December flood and the creek had disappeared. I stood on the far edge of what had been a footy-oval the day before and watched this enormous swollen river which had swamped the oval to make a glorious lake. It was beautiful and the many that had come down to witness this magnificent transformation stood in awe and excitement.

There are times when I've walked the Loop and sighted no-one. Other times there are regulars and we nod or puff out a greeting and there are those I assiduously ignore. There are times when bikes flash past and when in good humour, I marvel at their speed but mostly I mull over murderous thoughts of them hurtling into the creek and being swept away. It amazes me how prioritorial they can be, how irritable they are with our presence, us walkers, us who get in their way, how they too feel murderous thoughts when they snarl and rush past.

I have seen people weep pitifully as they walk, hurting, grieving maybe who knows, but their sad cries make the walk of the Loop a sobering start to a day. I've seen people talking to no-one it seems – perhaps they're a writer like me and the muse has suddenly come. People with dogs walk the Merri and they are so keen for you who are dog-less and on your own to appreciate their prize, they are almost insistent sometimes that you smile at their dog, say ludicrous and treacly things to it, admire it. I'm so mean, I won't look, I won't smile, I certainly will not give it compliments. Just mean, I am. Can't help myself.

I have witnessed amazing wild things on the creek. I have stood transfixed at things that I can barely believe are happening in the middle of this huge city. I've been pulled up at a commotion on the water. It's a flurry of agitated movement. Frantic. A battle of sorts. A fight of life and death. A cormorant and an enormous eel are battling it out. For a mad moment I wonder if I should intervene but instead I watch, enthralled, astounded at the ferocity of the fight. Initially it's difficult to discern who is attacking who. The eel wraps itself around the cormorant's neck, around its body, around its head and it seems it is the aggressor, it has the upper hand but the cormorant has a deadly hold and its beak never loses grip. Finally and quickly the battle ends and the cormorant extends its neck long and wide and spends some time swallowing the still writhing eel down its throat. How is one expected to go home to work after that!? How can one continue on as if something extraordinary hasn't occurred?

A less dramatic example was in the curve of the creek near the old velodrome and there again I'm stopped to watch agog. It seems the creek is alive, the water moves to the thrashing of hundreds, perhaps thousands of enormous fat carp. They slap the surface of the water, they flip and flap as if they're feeding, as if they're at some stormy meeting, as if they're celebrating: we're the kings of this world. Mesmerising and repugnant at the same time. But amazing.

Merri Creek is a slither of delight. It feels like a hidden secret in our crowded and suburban streets with too many cars and trucks and beeping sounds. That's it. A slither of delight.



Patricia Cornelius at the Darebin launch on 2 May.

A grand conclusion

The Moonee Ponds, Koonung and Gardiners Creeks have been marred by motorways; but the Merri has escaped relatively unscathed, with the Fawcner to Clifton Hill scheme blocked in the 1970s and the Craigieburn Bypass's impact minimised a decade ago.

HOW STRONGLY IT FINISHES, in its run from the noble Arch of the bluestone Heidelberg Rd Bridge to the Yarra; starting with the steep pathway gradient, which couldn't have been avoided without spoiling the area. Here begins the Hall Reserve – hard to believe that 30 years ago it was almost treeless.

Continuing the bluestone theme, there's the old quarry in Yarra Bend Park; and a charming relic of the grim Depression, the little shed near Spensley St, which was marked for mindless, heritage-ignoring demolition until Cr Steve Jolly and locals rallied to save it.

The Park, extending along the east bank to the big river, with imposing escarpments and a lookout, has sports and recreational and indigenous-vegetation spaces, a technical college and a mental hospital; one of its best and least-known features is the secluded glade in the north-west corner.

In the Hall Reserve one soon comes to the delightful Rotunda and its wetland, then the Walker St raingarden. Hewson's Hollow contains the magnificent "Labyrinth" of concentric bluestone (obviously!) circles, now cleared of weeds by enthusiastic volunteers.

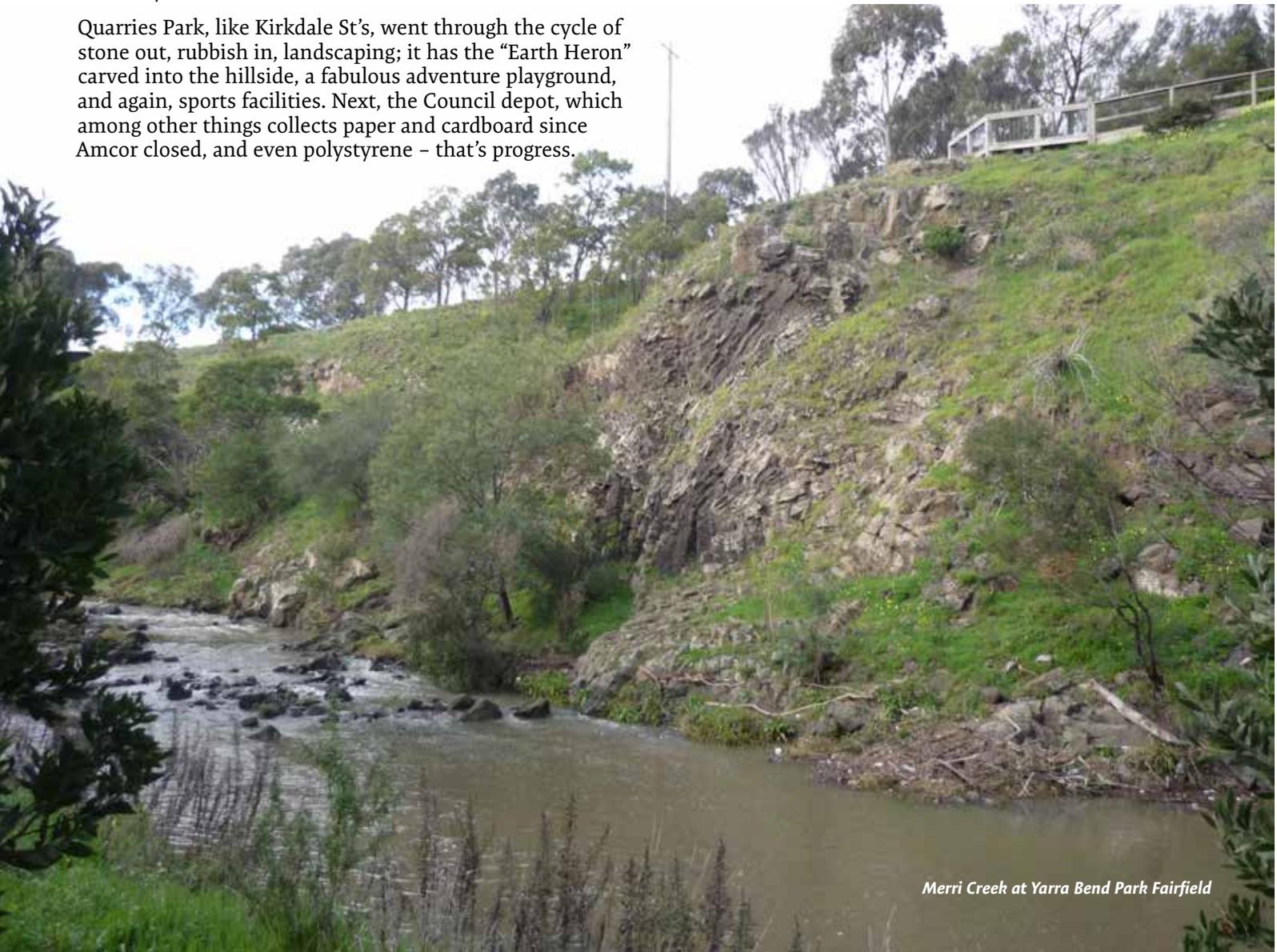
Quarries Park, like Kirkdale St's, went through the cycle of stone out, rubbish in, landscaping; it has the "Earth Heron" carved into the hillside, a fabulous adventure playground, and again, sports facilities. Next, the Council depot, which among other things collects paper and cardboard since Amcor closed, and even polystyrene – that's progress.

The shared path beneath the freeway very much needs widening and a safer 1.5 m. fence – it's ridiculous to expect cyclists to cross to the east bank and back, or wheel their machines... And so we arrive at the splendid Dights Falls precinct, with the tranquil, respectful Koori Garden on the east and the remains of the nineteenth-century flourmill on the west.

Both of these and much else was in danger of being trashed by the ill-conceived heavy-rail plan, for it would have had to cross the Merri below the freeway, and also wipe out the Maugie St Reserve and Victoria Park station. And it wouldn't even have reached the commercial and civic centre, let alone Blackburn Rd. *Trams* up Doncaster Rd from the present North Balwyn terminus, with an express run along Kilby Rd, the freeway and Alexandra Parade to Nicholson St, are the proper solution.

Finally the historic weir, dominated by the colourful sedimentary rocks on the Kew side, with rapids for kayakers' enjoyment and a state-of-the-art stairway for our finny friends, as the Yarra welcomes one of its major tributaries.

Paul Prentice



Merri Creek at Yarra Bend Park Fairfield

Friends' Life Members – Dean Lombard

This is the 20th short history and the last of our current Honorary Friends' Life Members.

DEAN LOMBARD has been doing the layout for the Friends of Merri Creek newsletters since August 2003, producing 54 issues (including this one), improving the layout a couple of times and never missing a deadline.

Dean was introduced to environmental issues through alternative lifestyle people whom he met after dropping out of a primary teacher's course at university to busk playing guitar in the city.

He then worked as a bicycle courier for a few years – even though at first he didn't own a bike! (He was filling in for a friend and used her bike.) He busked partway around Australia with the same friend in 1989, ending up in Sydney, where he shared a house with some people who were very environmentally conscious and active. This helped him to understand the earth as an organism to be taken care of. He also studied meditation, which helped him to understand the parity between humankind and other living things.

He returned to Melbourne in 1990, married, and had two children: a boy, Joe, and a girl, Tanjil. He also started a Bachelor of Social Work course at Uni, but he had to defer it after two years to become a stay-at-home parent and part-time busker. During this time, he grew much of the household's food (he's a vegetarian), made furniture, beer, and bread, and learned to fix his own car. He also played in the folk-rock band *Wild Honey*.

He moved to Northcote in 1998, where his marriage ended and he finished the Social Work course. In 1999 he started a new powerpop band *The Phosphenes*, which is still active today. In 2000, he worked at *Borderlands Cooperative*, a non-profit organisation involved in community, social and international development, ecological sustainability and social justice. There he ran workshops teaching people about environmental issues, managed their computer network, and produced their newsletter and website. He had always been interested in art and design, and picked up the desktop publishing

and web design skills on the job – helped along by good computer skills he'd learned from his mother, who taught computing in the 1980s and '90s.

Dean left *Borderlands* in 2001 and worked as Manager of the *Northcote Community Information and Support Service* for a few years. Having been in Northcote for a while now, he became aware of the restoration work along Merri Creek – which impressed him as “amazing.” After his band played for free at an event at Coburg Lake to raise funds for our campaign against the F2 Freeway or Craigieburn Bypass in June 2003, he joined Friends of Merri Creek. Soon afterwards, he volunteered to do the newsletter layout.

In 2004 he started at the *Victorian Council of Social Service* running a housing policy advocacy project. He ended up working at VCOSS for 12.5 years, mostly working as an energy policy advocate, but also running a three-year capacity-building project helping community service organisations to better manage their information technology systems. In May this year he left VCOSS to work for the *Alternative Technology Association* as Senior Energy Analyst.

He moved to Footscray two years ago, and lost quite a bit of contact with the creek and the northern suburbs, but he is still connected by doing the newsletter and continuing as the co-convenor of the *Darebin Songwriters' Guild*.

Dean likes seeing how FoMC liaises with other groups and he appreciates that the group is held in high regard. When he's not doing our newsletter, he plays with *The Phosphenes* and a few other bands, and records his own songs playing guitar, bass, harmonica, piano accordion, melodica, piano, synthesiser, mandolin and ukulele! He also runs *Darebin Songwriters' Guild* events in Northcote and Reservoir, manages the Open Mic night at the *Dancing Dog* café in Albert St Footscray every Wednesday night, and is a volunteer fixer for the *Melbourne Repair Café*.

Ray Radford Secretary



Friends of Edgars Creek Focus



Time to Start Planting

The long dry summer mellows into beautiful autumn days. As the sun subdues, the urge to start planting in the garden intensifies. Many months of dry weather have taken their toll. Amongst the casualties, quite a few indigenous plants, pink bells and mint bush are lost during hot spells. Then there are the ones that thrived: lomandra, dianella, bidgee-widgee, rock correa and potted juncus sitting in a shallow dish of water. Potted rock isotome, originally obtained from Keel Bundoora, provided a continual flush of blue star-shaped flowers throughout summer. Not a common plant, and I was unable to acquire some more; cuttings made in spring were successful, but those from early summer wilted. I tried to collect some of the abundant seeds, however every time I looked, they had flown, leaving behind empty seed pods. To my surprise, after flowering, numerous self-seeded shoots appeared in neighbouring pots.

All in all, I've managed to create a little green oasis outside the windows of my flat, but it's a difficult spot for a garden: located on the south side of a fence, under large trees, most of it is in shade. Some areas receive intense midday summer sun, nothing in winter. Being on a windy hill of clay and rock only adds to the difficulties. Plants potted in well-draining soil and placed against the sunny north wall fared better. Generally though, the indigenous plants have struggled. Yet I'm eager to try more of the sturdier varieties, as soon as I return from a camping holiday.

The day before I leave happens to be the Friends of Edgars Creek first planting day for the year, a chance to see the new season in, turn earth and satiate my longing. Gloves on I'm ready, the soft soil slips through my fingers as I plant gums, grasses, bushes and flowering plants. Various aromas intoxicate my nostrils, moist soil, crushed dry eucalypt leaves. With senses stimulated, I immerse myself in the task of planting, clear the hole with a small trowel, remove emerging roots from the bottom of the tube, tap

the seedling out of the tube, place it in the hole level with the ground, fill in the soil around the roots, press gently forming a slight depression to assist water collection, ease the delicate foliage through slits in the mat. I'm in my kind of heaven. Working soil with my hands brings me down to earth, connects me to the ground under my feet, and to distant ancestral roots of cultivating land as a way of life. I perceive belonging and feel at peace, surrounded by an orchestration of tapping and hammering, for I'm not alone. Others also contribute, on this gorgeous autumn day. In whatever way they can, each person finds something to do, a combined effort towards ongoing restoration of the creek parkland, which will be experienced and cherished for seasons to come. Enjoyment and satisfaction amongst the participants is palpable.

After a concerted effort, I rest for afternoon tea, content. I look forward to planting again next month, and meanwhile, some gardening at home.

Angie Potsch Friends of Edgars Creek member

The Friends of Edgars Creek community focused on the job at hand.



Befriend our Facebook page

Join over 1000 others and 'like' our wonderful Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/FriendsofMerriCreek then click on 'Like' to get automatic updates to group activities and news.

And we're on Instagram too

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



Dick's Witticisms

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

Two silk worms had a race.
They ended up in a tie.

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

EVENTS

AUGUST

ALL August: Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands
Melbourne Water HQ, Docklands, see front page for details.

Saturday 6: MECCARG* Planting indigenous species
Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 7: Planting & Litter Clean Up at Strettle Wetland
Strettle Wetland Thornbury, 10am-1 pm. Melway 30 B3. Help look after the site managed by the Friends with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Contact Martin 0403 942 965.

Sunday 7: 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 14: Planting up the Gap & BBQ
Lorne St Fawkner, Melway 18 A5. This great project was kick-started by community donations in 2014 and it continued in 2015. Let's keep up the momentum and continue to plant up the habitat gap. Funded by Merri Creek Environment Fund.

Saturday 20: 4th of 6 Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning
Help to rid these native grasslands of Broom, Gorse and Briar Rose bushes. Light refreshments provided. Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 J12. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 21: Merri Creek Bird Survey 3 for 2016 at Edwardes Lake
8.45-10.30am. See page 3 for details.

Sunday 21: Friends of Edgars Creek Stream Bank Planting
Meet at the Silurian Cliff site – access from the corner of Spectrum Way and Snapshot Drive, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A8. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grant. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

SEPTEMBER

Friday 2: Mitchell Launch of Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands
Wallan Library, 10.30-11.30am, see front page for details.

2 to 30 September: Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands
Wallan Library, see front page for details.

Saturday 3: MECCARG* Site Maintenance
Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 4: Litter Clean Up – Craigieburn
Aitken Creek at Hexham Ct Craigieburn, 10am-12noon. Melway 387 C12. 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. Phone: 9354 9885.

Wednesday 7: National Threatened Species Day on the Merri
An opportunity to visit special sites along the Merri and learn about some of our local threatened flora and fauna, 10am-12 noon. Bookings essential to JuliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au. Funded by Whittlesea City Council.

Saturday 17: 5th of 6 Woody Weed Whacking at Bababi Marning
Help to rid these native grasslands of woody weeds. Light refreshments provided. Meet at gate opposite 111 Metrolink Circuit Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 J12. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 18: Merri Creek Bird Survey 3 for 2016
6 sites along the Merri, 8.45-10.30am. See page 3 for details.

Sunday 18: Friends of Edgars Creek Planting & "Christmas Party"
Meet at the Gooseneck Meander near Kodak bridge, access via Danthonia St, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Shrub and grassland revegetation on the Kodak bridge batter. Funded by Satterley, Christmas celebrations funded by FoEC. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Sunday 25: Merri Creek Bird Survey 3 for 2016 (continued)
Bababi Marning and Coburg Lake, 8.45-10.30am. See page 3 for details.

OCTOBER

3 to 28 October: Exhibition: Merri Creek: from wasteland to parklands
Fawkner Library, 77 Jukes Road, see front page for details.

Saturday 1: MECCARG* Site Maintenance
Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 2: Litter Clean Up – East Brunswick
Clara St East Brunswick, 10am-12noon. Melway 30 A5. 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. Phone: 9354 9885.

Sunday 16: Weeding at Strettle Wetland
Strettle Wetland Thornbury, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 30 B3. Help look after the site managed by the Friends with the support of the Darebin Bush Crew. Light refreshments afterwards. Phone Suzi 0403 595 466.

Sunday 16: Friends of Edgars Creek Site Maintenance
Meet behind the Big 4 caravan park (at the end of Elizabeth St), North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 B-C7. Mulching, weeding and general site maintenance activities. Phone David on 0428 130 268.

Saturday 22: Celebrating Place at Fawkner
Outside Fawkner Library, 77 Jukes Rd, 11am-1pm. In collaboration with the exhibition, *Merri Creek From Wasteland to Parkland*, this family friendly event features some of our flora and fauna, as well as interactive activities to celebrate all of the amazing work undertaken over the decades. Funded by Moreland City Council.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 5: MECCARG* Preparation for Murnong Gathering
Meet at Connolly Ave Coburg, south of Murray Rd bridge, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Contact: Melissa 0417 255 873.

Sunday 6: Litter Clean Up- North Coburg
Merlynston Creek confluence North Coburg, 10am-12noon. Melway 17 H9. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

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

Saturday 12: MECCARG* Murnong Gathering
Don't miss this unique cultural event. Meet at the old quarry, near the footbridge on the Merri Creek trail between Murray Rd and Bell St Coburg, 11am-2pm. Melway 18 A11. Phone Melissa 0417 255 873. Funded by the City of Moreland.

If no contact details given above, phone Ray or Monica at MCMC on 9380 8199.

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



Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

ASSOC. NO. A00246451

c/o 2 Lee Street, Brunswick East 3057

Email: merricreek@bigpond.com

Web: www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au

Editor: Ray Radford

Assistant Editors: Paul Prentice, David Redfearn

Layout & Design: Dean Lombard

Members' contributions are most welcome; please send to admin@mcmc.org.au by Friday 16 September, 2016