

Friends of Merri Creek



NEWSLETTER

February–April
2005

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No news yet on the new Merri Creek Park Plan

This column space was held (in hopeful optimism) for any late breaking news from Parks Victoria about the release of the draft concept plan for the new major Park along Merri Creek north of the ring road.

So far, the release of the draft has been changed from March 2004, to June 2004, to October 2004, to November 2004 and there's still no sign of it. After almost twelve months, we hardly dare ask members to continue checking to see if it's been released yet on the Parks Victoria website at: www.parkweb.vic.gov.au.

When the plan is eventually released, we are asking Friends members to individually urge parks Victoria to extend the park or to otherwise ensure the protection of other significant areas as indicated on the Friends' website. See the 'proposal for a Merri Creek State Park,' prepared by FoMC and Victorian National Parks Association on the FoMc website, www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc. 🌱

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The 2005 Friends' Committee

The following members were elected at the Friends' Annual General Meeting on Saturday 13th November 2004

Office Bearers

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| President: | David Redfearn |
| Vice President: | Ann McGregor |
| Secretary: | Ray Radford |
| Treasurer: | Colin Abbott |
| Membership Secretary: | Julie Mason |
| Office Coordinator: | Jack Svendsen |
| General Committee Member: | Leslie Fraser |

The only change to the Friends' Committee from last year is that Louise Hayward has stepped down as the "New Member Welcomer" and her position (but not her role) has been taken by Leslie Fraser. Thank you to Louise for the important role she performed as the welcoming presence to the Friends' group. Also, welcome to Leslie, who is an active member of the Planting Group and has been a representative to MCMC, but this is her first time on the Friends' Committee.

Sub-Committee Coordinators

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Planting Group: | Ruth Shiel |
| Litter Group: | Paul Prentice |
| Streamteam: | Irene Baker |
| Newsletter (layout): | Dean Lombard |
| Walks, Talks & Tours: | Paul Prentice |

Representatives to MCMC

The following six members will represent the Friends on the Merri Creek Management Committee in 2005 (unchanged from last year): Trevor Hausler, Ann McGregor, Allie Dawe, Alan Brennan, Paul Prentice, Peter Mollison.

Substitute Reps to MCMC

The Substitute Representatives, David Redfearn, Julie Mason, Harold Mackrell and Colin Abbott will have plenty of chance to represent the Friends on the various MCMC Sub-Committees. The only change from last year is that Colin Abbott has replaced Clair Dougherty, who did not re-nominate.

Ray Radford (Secretary)

Help wanted

There are a number of ways that you could help the Friends operate more efficiently and to spread the workload more equitably.

Help in the Friends' office

Although Jack Svendsen, our office manager, has now got some help from Warren Cooper in the Friends Office, he could do with some more help. If you are interested, please ring Jack on 9354 5304, or at the office on Wednesdays on 9389 8633.

Help with Newsletter mailouts

After experimenting with scheduled mailout days in 2004, we have now decided to try folding our quarterly newsletters for mailing out over a few days, probably including a weekend. If you can help fold and insert about 100 newsletters into envelopes, over a couple of days, please ring Ray on 9380 8199 (w) or 0422 989 166.

Help monitor water quality

The Friends Streamteam needs more people who are interested in monitoring the water quality of the Creek. The Streamteam performs this very important function on the first Sunday of every month just upstream of St Georges Rd bridge at 2-3.30pm. If you're interested, please phone the Streamteam Coordinator on 9354 9885.

Stalls Coordinator wanted

The Friends Committee could do with the help of someone who is willing to ring and arrange for members to staff our various stalls. The main ones that we now have are the Yarra Community Day on 20 February, the Sydney Rd Street party on 27 February, the Return of the Sacred Kingfisher festival in November and perhaps the Darebin Festival also in November. There is also the chance of others but, without a designated coordinator, other offers for stalls are not being taken up. If you are interested, please ring Ray on 9380 8199 (w) or 0422 989 166.

New member welcomer wanted

Now that Louise Hayward has stepped down as the "New Member Welcomer" on the Friends' Committee, we need someone who is willing to contact new members and talk with them, giving information about the Friends and seeing if there's anything that they might like to do in the group. If you are interested, please ring Ray on 9380 8199 (w) or 0422 989 166. 🌸

Golden Sun Moth survey results

A number of Friends' members attended one or both of the Golden Sun Moth surveys at Craigieburn Grasslands in December 2004. The two surveys were organised by Merri Creek Management Committee, with FoMC, Parks Victoria and LaTrobe University, to assess the extent of the moth population.

The first survey, on Sunday 12th December 2004, involved 24 volunteers walking over 14k of the grasslands. It was a perfect day for the moth, being sunny and hot with no wind, resulting in more than 800 Golden Sun Moths being sighted. However, the second survey, on the following Sunday 19th December, was overcast and windy. The different weather conditions resulted in less than ten moths being sighted by 18 volunteers.

The moth was only rediscovered, by FoMC member and MCMC Technical Officer, Brian Bainbridge, at Craigieburn Grasslands in December 2003. Until last year, there were only five other known populations of the moth in Victoria. Brian, who coordinated the



Male Golden Sun Moth at Craigieburn Grasslands. Photo compliments of Pat & Mike Coupar.



Female Golden Sun Moth, showing her gold underwings, at Craigieburn Grasslands. Photo compliments of Pat & Mike Coupar.

surveys, said: "all the volunteers enjoyed participating in the surveys and they played a vital role in establishing baseline information on this newly discovered population. This information is essential for the long-term management of the moth's native grassland home."

In order to help map the distribution and habitat of these rare and amazing moths, the Friends want to make these surveys a regular activity on our calendar. This year we again plan to hold the surveys on the second and third Sundays in December. 🌸

New Life Members

The Annual General Meeting on 13th November unanimously agreed to award new Life Memberships to the following seven members, in recognition of their high level of service to the Friends over a number of years.

- **Trevor Hausler**, for his long involvement as a representative on the MCMC and as the current MCMC President;
- **Ruth Shiel, Nicole Lowe and Dick Harcourt**, for their long involvement in the Planting Group;
- **Judy Bush and Barb Miles**, for their intense involvement in MCMC for over ten years;
- **Brian Bainbridge**, for becoming the resident FoMC expert on fauna and flora, for his leadership on numerous tours and for his discovery of the Golden Sun Moths at Craigieburn.

There is now a total of sixteen Life Members, as these seven people join with the previously awarded Life Members: Tony Faithfull, Ann McGregor, Bruce McGregor, Harold Mackrell, Linda Parlane, Paul Prentice, Ray Radford, David Redfearn and Max Sargent.

Brief life histories of the nine previous Life Members have appeared in the newsletter since July 2002. Now, there will be seven more life histories that we can look forward to reading. 🌸

Friends' social event

Start the year off with a casual get-together at Trevor Hausler's home overlooking the Merri Creek

Date Friday 4th March

Time 6.30 pm

Venue 4 Butler Grove
East Coburg

RSVP by Wednesday 2nd March to
Ray Radford phone 0422 989 166
or email admin@mcmc.org.au



Photo provided by member Nancy Brooks, who believes it to have been taken about 1902 on the Merri Creek a little south of Bell Street. It shows, from left to right, the brothers Stanley (Nancy's father), Percy and Esca Booth. Their father, John Booth, started a harrow-making business around 1880 on Merri Creek near the Wallan railway station. After selling this business around 1889, the family moved to Bell Street Coburg, opposite McDonald Reserve.

President's report

The President, David Redfearn, presented the following report at the Annual General meeting on 13th November 2004

In many ways it has seemed a quieter year for FOMC but that really is on the surface. Much in fact has happened, even if it hasn't all become headline news. The last few years have seen considerable effort going into the Freeway issue stretching FOMC resources to the limit and, while the final outcome was disappointing, we can say that we were successful in forcing some improvements and the promise of the new Merri Park north of Mahoney's Road. We are yet to see the draft proposal from Parks Victoria, promised some months ago months ago, and we hope that we are not waiting much longer. Ensuring that this park is delivered will be one of our challenges over the next couple of years.



Plantings and clean ups

FOMC continued many of its usual activities such as community plantings, clean ups and Streamwatch activities. As usual, many people volunteered for these events and they exemplify very much the many quiet achievements of our members and those members of the community who join us in the plantings and other creekside activities.

Threatened Species

One most exciting event was the rediscovery of the Golden Sun Moth by member and MCMC Technical Officer, Brian Bainbridge. Many species have been irrevocably lost to us, but it is enormously gratifying to rediscover highly endangered species and it underscores the need to protect critical habitat. Subsequently, FOMC has been successful in obtaining a \$6,503 Threatened Species Grant for a project to restore and expand the habitats of the Golden Sun Moth at Craigieburn Grasslands.

Funding

We have received an enormous amount of funding from a number of sources, \$27,980.00 in all for a number of Creek projects (over the calendar year) and for this we must thank the indispensable help from Judy Bush and Barb Miles at MCMC.

Award to Max Sargent

One other significant event was the awarding of the Friends' Network "Best Friend" Award to my predecessor, Max Sargent. It was recognition for the selfless effort that Max put in for Friends and the community in extraordinarily challenging times. It would be impossible to quantify the amount of blood, sweat and tears that Max put into FOMC especially during the freeway campaign doing more than a full time job. A most meritorious award indeed.

FOMC also took the opportunity at the award ceremony to present Max with a framed David Tatnall photo in recognition of his service to FOMC and the Merri Creek.

Planning

We have been involved in the Green Wedge Coalition campaign to ensure that critical environmental issues are not ignored in the development and roll out of Melbourne 2030. Ray Radford, Ann McGregor and I attended community forums in the Hume Corridor and advocated strongly that the important principles of creek protection, buffer zones, wildlife corridors and threatened species protection were an integral part of any plans for development in the Hume Corridor. We hope that we are being heard on this.

With regard to Melbourne 2030, Ray Radford and I, along with representatives from the Friends of Darebin Creek, met with Mary Delahunty, Minister for Planning, regarding streamside controls along creeks in addition to the Yarra and the Maribyrnong. The Minister committed to setting up a process to consider this involving community groups such as FOMC and Friends of Darebin Creek and local government and Ray has subsequently attended a number of meetings with departmental officials.

Another issue that emerged in Moreland was an amendment to the Pentridge Development planning scheme permitting an alternative stormwater treatment and dropping a wetland proposal included in the previous permit. The Moreland Council adopted this with no consultation. FOMC became particularly concerned when the developer publicly stated that there was potential for further development on the site of the proposed wetland. After some press coverage and under threat of legal action, the Council met with FOMC and committed to working better with FOMC and MCMC to find other opportunities for land acquisition and wetland development along the Creek. FOMC agreed to drop the threatened legal action and, at the time of writing, we are awaiting the outcome of a meeting of Moreland Council where the matter will be further discussed.

Promotion

FOMC is exploring making a video to promote our activities. Whilst this has hastened slowly, contact has been made with Northcote High School and FOMC Committee member, Julie Mason, is following up a filmmaker of her acquaintance. The school is keen and we hope to develop a brief and get underway in 2005.

Liaison with other organisations

Following an approach from Environment Victoria, I attended a meeting of various groups along the Yarra to discuss a Riverkeepers project for the Yarra, various FOMC members have also provided advice. FOMC member Robin Merrick has been active in helping set this up and framing a draft constitution.

Continued opposite

Rejoicing garden habitats

When I was in High School, I did work experience on a major sheep station where I helped plant trees to aid water quality, reduce soil erosion and improve the general productivity of the land. This was my introduction to hands-on ecological sustainability and I was very excited to think that each tree would one day become a mini eco-system.

Late in June this year, I was flying back home to Melbourne after holidaying on the Hawkesbury River in NSW. From the air, it was easy to see why more farmers are taking the tree planting approach to land management. Before me was a seemingly endless bare expanse created by outdated practices that apparently included enforced clearing of native vegetation. This altered, uncompromising landscape made me think of eerie ghost towns with tales (and tails) forgotten by time. Except that the ghosts here aren't human; they're our unique wildlife.

Some wildlife, such as Kangaroos, Wallabies, Wombats and Calahs thrive in these farmland areas, but many others, like Koalas, Quolls, and Glider Possums, have not done so well. Such is the legacy of the unchecked clearing of nature's floral arrangements.

The next day, after my mile-high reality check, an unusual visitor came my way. It was an Eastern Spinebill, sipping nectar from the flowers of a Fuchsia in my garden. What a solace it was to see this wild vision in this new kind of habitat — our gardens!

About this time a year ago, I attended a planting at Central Creek Grasslands where conversations were largely of an avian nature. I happened to mention that I would like to see an Eastern Spinebill. Well ... fate must have played its part because, when I got home, there to meet me in the now fabled Fuchsia was



Fuchsia
Magellanica

www.dcreunion.fr

... (yes you guessed it) an Eastern Spinebill. Perhaps this was a male, because this little bird of the Honeyeater genera was particularly striking with a dazzling fusion of earthy and sunny tones.

Australian gardens can be an important extension to the recreated wildlife corridors throughout the country. My own garden is well patronised by birds, lizards, butterflies and other creatures. But I am mindful of those garden plants that can jump the fence and become environmental weeds. In Adam Muyt's book, *Bush Invaders of South East Australia*, he says, "...environmental weeds constitute the greatest of all environmental threats to biodiversity — the flora and fauna of this continent."

Fuchsias, for example, may not be much of a problem in suburban Melbourne, but the Chilean and Argentinian native Fuchsia, *Fuchsia Magellanica*, has gotten out of hand in areas with moist and disturbed bushland in Australia's southern States and in WA. Even native plants have become environmental weeds. For instance, the spectacular Cootamundra Wattle from NSW has escaped from Melbourne gardens and hybridised with the Silver Wattle of Melbourne's creeks and reserves.

I often hear that all plants can become weeds, but with some good advice on sustainable gardening, gardeners can choose plants to lessen environmental weed invasion and to extend habitat for some of our native fauna.

Anthony Szasz (Active Planting Group Member)

Eastern
Spinebill



www.dcreunion.fr

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Continued from page 4

Many thanks

Another year is ahead of us. I thank the diligent efforts of our highly committed executive, particularly FOMC Secretary Ray Radford who, once again, has put in beyond the call of duty and kept the wheels on, doing a lot of that fiddly organisational and admin work that we all love to avoid if we can. Also many thanks and welcome back to Colin Abbott who took on the role of Treasurer. Thanks also to those who contributed in so many other ways: membership, the Streamteam activities, community

stalls, the newsletter, MCMC Directorship (Trevor Hausler, Ann McGregor and Allie Dawe are also on the MCMC Executive) and clean ups (what would we do without Paul Prentice?). And what would we have done without Jack Svendsen, our volunteer office manager who handled our correspondence and emails? Thanks, Jack, for all those hours of work.

I look forward to a challenging 2005.

David Redfearn (President)

Waterside Town

Midway between Galada Tamboore and Dight's Falls, with Bell St and Sydney Rd as x- and y-axes and light and heavy rails to the CBD, and the Merlynston and Edgar's Creeks clasping the jewel of the Merri — that's Coburg. Its stately Town Hall now governs the City of Moreland, while the area's feistiest MP is commemorated in the Bob Hawke Community Centre: still bringing Australians together!

The drive-in cinema, combining two 20th century passions, dominates the north end, along with another hardy evergreen, the smart Melbourne Big Four caravan park. On a more serious note there is the imposing Coburg Cemetery, actually in Preston (City of Darebin); and a burden willingly shed was the grim 19th century Pentridge Prison, now demolished except for a few sections of historic value. For "location, location, location", the land freed up for housing would only have been rivalled by some sites on the Maribyrnong.

From other eras again, there are the art deco Red Robin building on Moreland Rd and the ornate red-brick school with Spanish Mission arches; behind the latter the spectacular Harding St suspension bridge soars above a sweeping bend in the creek and feels like a living thing as it reacts to the impact of one's footsteps... The sturdy bluestone bridge at Murray Rd retained its facings when widened, while the Newlands Rd one was simply bypassed and left for pedestrians to enjoy.

The large market garden south of Harding St became the Tate Reserve, but the one on the north side is still going strong. It's a rare commercial operation, the other half dozen farms by Melbourne's rivers and creeks (including the CERES acres) being community-based — as are the kindergarten, playgrounds, Scout hall, art and craft centre and sports facilities overlooking Coburg's waterways.

How grateful generations of Melburnians can be that the plans for a huge freeway network have only partly been realised, but that the idea of damming the Merri was such a success. The Coburg Lake has it all, with those picturesque rock formations at the upstream end, and cliff faces on the north side exposed in all their glory by weed removal; an island for the birds, picnic tables etc. for their admirers; a rocky islet below the dam wall and a channel beside it, enabling frustrated fish to get over it.

In some ways it has even more fame and renown than the Albert Park Lake: it's not only accessible by bus, train and tram, but also situated on a major bike route, like the Banyule billabong, Jells Park Lake on the Dandenong and Edgewater on the Maribyrnong. Other lakes are found from Werribee to Cairnlea to Lilydale to Edithvale; and do you remember the Niddrie quarry which was set to become a toxic waste dump? Well, they found a better use for it.

Let's give the Merri and its tributaries the once-over before we leave... The Merlynston has a charming secret section beside Convent Court, while on the Merri we see a bridge leading across to the No. 19 tram terminus, and old walkways leading down from the Parker Reserve; splendid smooth stepping-stones and the rugged rocks of the rapids. Beyond the lake some wide parklands, a little sandstone waterfall and a neat artificial loop grace the Edgar's as it hastens towards its clandestine rendezvous with the Merri in an Arcadian setting.

A lovely natural lake opposite Connolly Avenue, a floodplain below Bell St, the great Kendall St escarpment and the Strettle Wetland follow before the Merri finally says *Auf Wiedersehen* to Coburg and *Guten Tag* to Braunschweig!

Paul Prentice (Committee member)



Merlynston Creek (under bridge) joins the Merri Creek in Coburg

Northward by rail

It was in a UFO enthusiasts' magazine, of all places, that I read that if everyone lived the way they do in the UK, it would take two planet Earths to supply them. The World is Not Enough, indeed, Mr Bond!

The Brits aren't even the worst global-warmers: the Aussies, Yanks and Canucks are, with their gas-guzzlers, cheap fuel and sprawling suburbs. Our rainfall's declining, our water's at 47 per cent, and still they build motorways.

Well-used public transport can help achieve lower emissions per person, whereas more noise and air pollution, delays, frustration and road rage are some of the consequences of continued traffic growth. But warbling that my old man boards the evening tram won't attract customers: it's efficient service and a sense of security that will fill P.T. with kids going to school, adults to work, oldies to outings and everybody to the shops.

Then there's the "Freedom Machine": to me, a cyclist is a modern realisation of the mythical human/horse hybrid, the Centaur (brilliantly brought to the screen in some episodes of *Xena*). Bicycles are incredibly energy efficient, as well as being economical, simple, useful, healthy and friendly. Combine their flexibility and convenience with the speed and capacity of mass transit and you've got the best of both worlds. It's called "dual-modem" and there's no finer example of it than the folded bike tucked unobtrusively out of the way in a crowded train.

The magic steel cocoon appeals to people's laziness, impatience and vanity (as with Mr Toad), while the humble, sturdy travellers by pedal power, pavement pounding, wheeled boot and/or sociable conveyance are more into cooperation and protecting the environment.

So how's P.T. been doing on our side of town since tram 59 went shopping at Airport West, tram 86 to study at Bundoora RMIT and bus 546 to Melbourne Uni.? Well for a start there's the scenic meander to rustic Hurstbridge with some spectacular river crossings, it's fine as it is. On the other hand, two northern lines have recently had upgrades: Upfield, upheld by our own Wendy Moore among others, received a makeover during tollway construction, and St Albans gained 5 km. of electric rail and two new stations — Keilor Plains and Watergardens (Sydenham).

The wires could go on to Sunbury, but that's a long way down the track in more ways than one; however it would fit in with this Eden of a city where almost all the rail lines, several tram routes and the Warrandyte buses end up near a waterway, lake or beach. Similarly Whittlesea Council wants the trains to advance from Epping-on-Darebin to Mill Park, close to the wild torrent of the Hendersons Road Drain.

But meanwhile (drum roll, please), following the extensions to Cranbourne, Pakenham, Werribee and Sydenham, in 2006 there'll be electric traction from Blackburn, Auburn and Hawksburn to... Craigieburn! It will become the 64th Premium Station on the network, 9 km. on from Broadmeadows and 27 km. from Flinders Street, or about 45 minutes; the already existing double track will help with timekeeping.

Roxburgh Park Station will be built next to Somerton Rd, a grade separation here will make it 11 km. without road level crossings, from Craigieburn to Glenroy — quite a rarity in Melbourne. Feeder bus services will be vital, since many homes, especially in Greenvale, are scarcely within easy cycling distance of a station, let alone walking. A number of reserves and water features will adorn the western side of the line, culminating in the Aitken Creek, half a kilometre above its confluence with the Merri.

As with Geelong, the freeway got priority over rail improvements, despite the lobbying of the Public Transport Users' Association. At this rate the claimed goal of 20 per cent of trips to be done on P.T. sounds rather like pork pie in the sky; and it's even more hamstrung by the Feds' failure to bring home the bacon on trains. If we keep on living beyond our means and trashing our planet, it'll soon be crossed off the list of places to visit.

Paul Prentice (Committee member)



The Epping rail line bridge over the Merri Creek north of Rushall station

Earthy donation

Thankyou to Northcote Uniting Church and the Reverend Daryl Colless for donating \$33.00 to the Friends from donations received at the Church's "Earth Songs" concert as part of the Darebin Music Feast program in 2004. The concert included songs from our very own Growling Grass Frog, Wendy Moore, so thanks to Wendy too.

Friends of Merri Creek events calendar

FEBRUARY

Sunday 6 — Litter Clean-Up

Alister St East Brunswick, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 30 C9. 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 — Rail and River Ride

Departs from lower Coburg Lake bridge (Melway map 17 J10) at 2pm. Cycle to Queens Pde Fawkner, then to Queens Pde Clifton Hill via Upfield bike route and Capital City Trail; return by Merri path. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 20 — Handweeding

Merri Park Wetland Northcote, 10am-1pm, with MCMC. Light refreshments afterwards. Melway map 30 C9. Phone Leslie on 9481 7365.

Sunday 20 — Yarra Community Day

Edinburgh Gardens North Fitzroy, 11am-6pm. Melway map 30 B12. Look for the Friends' stall. . If you can help staff the stall, please ring Ray Radford 0422 989 166.

Sunday 27 — Moreland Council, Sydney Rd Street Party

Sydney Rd Brunswick, 12 noon-7pm. Melway map 29 G8. Look for the Friends' stall near the Brunswick Town Hall. If you can help staff the stall, please ring Ray Radford 0422 989 166.

MARCH

Friday 4 — Members' Social Get-Together & BBQ

Start the year off with a get-together at Trevor Hausler's home, looking over the Merri Creek at 4 Butler Grove East Coburg, 6.30pm. Please RSVP for catering purposes by Wed 23/2 to Ray Radford, phone 0422 989 166 or email admin@mcmc.org.au

Sunday 7 — Streamteam water quality testing

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

Sunday 13 — Litter Clean-Up

Normanby Ave Thornbury, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 30 B5. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 20 — Third Triple Treat!

Cycle from Maribyrnong Boathouse to Avondale Heights, walk to Edgewater Lake and /or canoe up the Maribyrnong. Meet at Maribyrnong Boathouse at 1.00pm. Melway map 28 D7. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Friday 25 — Deadline for articles for the next newsletter.

APRIL

Sunday 3 — Litter Clean-Up

Murray Rd Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 18 A11. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 3 — Streamteam water quality testing

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

Sunday 3 — Music in the Wetlands

Alphington Wetlands, View St Alphington. Buy tickets from the South Alphington & Fairfield Civic Association. See the website: www.musicfromthewetlands.com.au or phone Richard Brown on 9499 8117.

Sunday 17 — Flicks and Niblicks

Walk starts from lower bridge at Coburg Lake at 1.00pm. Twin creeks ramble from drive-in off the highway to drivin' down the fairway! Melway map 17 J 10. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

MAY

Sunday 1 — Woody Weed Removal

Craigieburn Grasslands, 10am-1pm, with MCMC and Friends of Craigieburn Grasslands (MCMC Regional Catchment Investment Plan grant). Enter off O'Herns Rd Somerton and follow the flags to the site (about 15 minutes walk) or car pool leaving outside the MCMC office at Lee St East Brunswick at 9.15am. Light refreshments afterwards. Melway map 180 F6. Phone Barb at MCMC 9380 8199 (w).

Sunday 1 — Litter Clean-Up

Walker St East, Northcote, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 30 F12. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 1 — Streamteam water quality testing

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

Sunday 8 — Planting & BBQ

Imaroo St Fawkner, 10am-1pm, with nearby residents and MCMC (MCMC Spicers sponsorship). Melway map 17 K6. Phone Barb at MCMC 9380 8199 (w).

Sunday 15 — Planting & BBQ

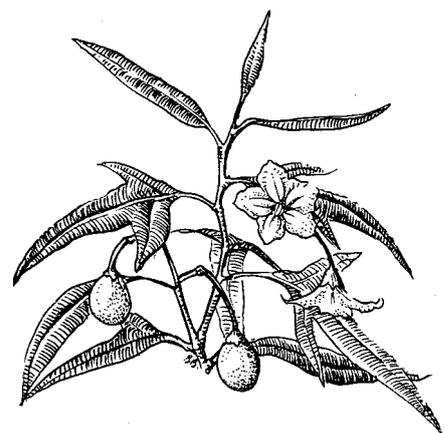
John Laffan Memorial Reserve, Donnybrook Rd Craigieburn, 10am-1pm with MCMC and Hume City Council. Melway map 367 F6. Phone Barb at MCMC 9380 8199 (w).

Sunday 22 — Planting & BBQ

Parker Reserve, Keady St Coburg, 10am-1pm, with MCMC (MCMC Regional Catchment Investment Plan grant). Melway map 17 J7. Phone Barb at MCMC 9380 8199 (w).

Wear your heart on your back! Friends of Merri Creek Long-sleeved T-Shirt

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



KANGAROO APPLE