



## The 2010 Friends' Committee

Sixteen members attended the FoMC Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 25 November 2009, plus another eight non-members for an excellent presentation by Geoff Heard on the Growling Grass Frog. We hope to feature a summary of Geoff's talk in a future newsletter.

The following members were elected for 2010:

### Office Bearers

- ☞ **President:** David Redfearn
- ☞ **Vice President:** Ann McGregor
- ☞ **Secretary:** Ray Radford
- ☞ **Treasurer:** Colin Abbott
- ☞ **Membership Secretary:** Monica Williamson
- ☞ **Committee Member:** Simon O'Connor
- ☞ **Committee Member:** Ruth Shiel

### Sub-Committee Coordinators

- ☞ **Regeneration Group:** Christabel McCarthy
- ☞ **Litter Group:** Paul Prentice
- ☞ **Streamteam:** Irene Baker
- ☞ **Newsletter (layout):** Dean Lombard

These coordinators remain the same except for the Regeneration Group, where Christabel McCarthy has replaced Ruth Shiel after five years in the position.

### Representatives to MCMC

FoMC will be represented on the Merri Creek Management Committee by Trevor Hausler, Ann McGregor, Allie Dawe, Paul Prentice and Christabel McCarthy. Christabel is new to this role while Louise Grgat and Ruth Shiel have stepped down, leaving the sixth position vacant.

### New MCMC Representative wanted

If you are interested in helping to maintain our strong representation on the MCMC, please contact Ray Radford on 0422 989 166 or email at [merricreek@bigpond.com](mailto:merricreek@bigpond.com). The MCMC meets four times a year on the third Thursday of February, May, August and November at 6.30pm alternatively in Whittlesea (for which you can join a car pool from the MCMC office) and Moreland; meals are served at 6pm).

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## ANOTHER AGM

### PLUS A TALK ON INTERESTING BIRDS

### Frogmouths, Hardheads and Butterbums: A medley of Merri birds

**Wednesday 17 March, 7.30pm**

**CERES Multicultural Classroom, Lee Street East Brunswick**  
(Head toward multicultural village — on hill behind café)

*This second AGM is necessary in order to present a financial statement which the FoMC Treasurer, Colin Abbott, was unable to present at the AGM held on 25 November last year. This is the only item on the Agenda, so it will be a lightning fast meeting.*

*Afterwards we'll have an illustrated talk by experienced birders, Brian Bainbridge and Stuart Dashper, about a few interesting bird species that we have recorded, such as Tawny Frogmouth family life, Flame Robin and its migrations, or why there are sometimes so many Red Wattlebirds.*

# The Murnong Harvest

It was a marvellous spiritual, cultural and environmental occasion when on Saturday 7 November, near Murray Rd in Coburg, the Wurundjeri heritage was commemorated and honoured by their representatives and the members of MECCARG (Merri and Edgars Creek Confluence Area Regeneration Group).



On a warm sunny afternoon Auntie Diane Kerr welcomed us to her people's land, from the tops of the trees to the bottom of the roots; we were then treated to a number of dances by folk in the traditional decorations, accompanied by the sound of striking sticks and the soft, booming didgeridoo. There were stories of the Dreamtime, the jealously guarded fire, the acts of the spirit Bunjil; a stylised version of a hunt, and the initiation of a young girl by her mother into the tribal lore. Mr Bill Nicholson junior led the group and explained to the audience what was going on.

Some of the murnong or yam daisies that had been planted a few months earlier were then dug up with pointed sticks (the men merely watched – this was women's business) and carried away on sort of shield-shaped trays, to have the tubers cut off and washed and either roasted or steamed: they were like very small parsnips. The tops were planted in potting mix as can be done with carrots, to grow again: sustainability is a key

principle here. Similarly, only about half the plants had been taken, and the rest were given a good watering.

We were most grateful to the dancers who put on a riveting performance, keeping alive their incredibly ancient culture which probably pre-dates even the Egyptian and Chinese civilisations, with their own comic or dramatic or poignant legends of the creation of the natural world, its animals and its geographical features. The indigenous people's strong affinity with the land makes us feel all the more privileged and thrilled to be involved in its protection and restoration.

Thanks also to Dave and Nic who as usual made us welcome in their home, and provided the cooking facilities. MECCARG have done wonders in this already very scenic spot, and will no doubt expand further, as with the small former quarry on the west bank. And one starts to think about what other kinds of bush tucker may be next: bulbines have been mentioned.

Paul Prentice

## Creek clippings

**Bakers Rd to Queens Pde works stalled:** Melbourne Water has postponed its proposed woody weed removal and revegetation project from Bakers Rd Coburg to Queens Pde Fawkner for the 2009-10 financial year. Unfortunately, the cost estimate for the project has made it unviable, but it is hoped that the project can be delivered in the next few years.

**Wetlands update:** Moreland City Council will be doing cultural heritage assessments and geotechnical surveys in order to create wetlands, for which \$100,000 was allocated in this budget. However, unfortunately Darebin City Council has failed to follow through with an undertaking to fund a re-design of Strettle wetland to treat stormwater. The future of this proposal is now uncertain.

**New pipe bridge:** In December 2009, Melbourne Water completed 550 metres of water main pipe in Holden St, North Fitzroy. The new bridge and new cycle path should be completed by the time you read this.

**FoMC mentioned in White paper:** Friends of Merri Creek receives a favourable mention in the Victorian Government's "Securing our natural future: A white paper for land and biodiversity at a time of climate change." The paper states: "You don't have to live in the country to be an environmental volunteer; many great works are taking place in urban areas around Victoria." FoMC is then cited as an example.

## URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY UPDATE

*The bill to expand the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is expected to be defeated in February by the Liberals and Greens in the upper house, with the Liberals concerned about an unfair development tax. Planning Minister Justin Madden said the bill's defeat is "likely to put redrawing of the boundary on the backburner." But there's lots of pressure from the property industry to pass the bill.*

*Meanwhile, late last year the Federal Minister for Environment Peter Garrett gave the okay for the proposed location of the UGB. Nevertheless, he told the Victorian Government that a number of "modifications" were needed to give better environmental protection within the new UGB.*

# Birds along the Merri in true spring

The November round of bird surveys recorded a good range of species (a total of 77 species across the 10 sites), with the return of the spring-summer migrants since the August surveys.

However the diversity and numbers of birds were lower than for the October-November surveys in 2008, when 83 species were seen. Perhaps the weather had something to do with it – it was unusually hot for the surveys on 8 November, while heavy rain reduced bird activity at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands) on 22 November.

The most common species were Red Wattlebird, Rock Dove, Common (formerly Indian) Myna, Common Starling and Pacific Black Duck.

The 'highlight' sighting was a Black-tailed Native-hen at Edwardes Lake. These birds are similar to the Dusky Moorhen, but with an erect tail, white streaks on the flank and a green bill with red lower mandible. They mostly live inland of the Dividing Range, but after flooding rains can arrive almost anywhere, breed then depart. Large numbers appeared in western Victoria in spring 2009.



Black-tailed Native-hen at Edwardes Lake (Photo by Chris Neeson)

Spring-summer migrants include White-winged Triller at Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd), Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands) and Bababi Marning; Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo at Bababi Djinanang; Sacred Kingfisher near CERES in East Brunswick; Reed Warbler at six sites; Little Grassbird at Edwardes Lake; Brown and Rufous Songlarks at Galgi Ngarrk.

Coburg Lake Reserve had the largest number of species (34) while the highest estimated number of birds was at the Kirkdale Street-Merri Park site, where there were huge numbers of Red and Little Wattlebirds. Nests of Welcome Swallow, Sacred Kingfisher, Willie Wagtail and Red-browed Finch were spotted in East Brunswick between Blyth Street and Moreland Road.

The next surveys are in February – come and join us; beginners are welcome!

Ann McGregor (Merri Birdwatch Coordinator)

## 2010 Friends' Committee

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### Substitute Representatives to MCMC

David Redfearn, Pascale Pitot, Simon O'Connor and Ruth Shiel agreed to be Substitute Representatives to MCMC. Ruth was previously a full representative while the others are as 2009.

Harold Mackrell has also stepped down after being either a Representative or a very conscientious Substitute since at least 1996. Now aged 85, he has long been a regular participant in MCMC meetings and litter clean-ups: well done and warmest thanks, Harold.

Ray Radford (Secretary)

## FIRST MERRI BIRDWATCH SURVEY FOR 2010

After last year's success the Merri Creek Birdwatch surveys are continuing, with four bird surveys at ten sites along Merri Creek. Plus we've added an extra survey at Kalkallo Common near Kalkallo Creek, a Merri tributary. 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 first two surveys are listed below.

### Surveys at the following nine sites on 14 February & 16 May

- ☞ **Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grasslands), 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 – 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, Somerton (Melway 180 E6).
- ☞ **Galada Tamboore\*:** Meet at the end of Hatty Court, Campbellfield (Melway 7 K6).

Surveys at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands)\* are on 28 February & 23 May.

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

Surveys at Kalkallo Common\* are on 7 March & 23 May.

Malcolm St Kalkallo, turn off the Hume Highway at the Kalkallo Hotel (Melway 367 F2).

\* For sites with an asterisk, car pool outside the MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, leaving at 8.15am.

# President's Report

AS GIVEN AT THE AGM ON 25 NOVEMBER 2009

2009 has been another year of achievement and celebration but also one of great challenges as well. Last year FoMC celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and this year we were delighted to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC).



This was one of the real upsides of the year but, as ever, there are downsides too. The Victorian Government has rushed through a process to investigate and propose new areas for development beyond the existing Urban Growth Boundary which will seriously threaten the fragile grasslands in the creek catchment.

Our ever hardworking secretary Ray Radford has covered most of our activities quite comprehensively in his Secretary's Report so, as usual, I will seek to focus on some of the broader strategic issues but first the well deserved thankyou.

I would like to thank all members for their commitment during the year, those who held office and those who organised and carried out the many tasks that befall an organisation such as ours. Our efforts are all voluntary, a true labour of love and the time given to ensure the success of our mission no matter how great or small is immensely appreciated. I must give special thanks to Ray as Secretary (and Monica Williamson in Ray's recent absence) - his efforts make the job of the committee so much easier. I would also give special thanks to my fellow committee members for coming out to our bi-monthly meetings throughout the year and to all those members who gave valuable time and energy in so many different ways.

Now to some of the issues that we faced throughout 2009:

## 20 Years of the MCMC

2009 saw the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Merri Creek Management Committee. From its humble beginnings in 1989, MCMC has become an established and highly respected institution enjoying the support of our local councils, FoMC and the creekside community. It has been an amazing journey and MCMC does not just carry out works and plantings along the creek, but it has also become an important strategic planning body rigorously building up a knowledge base allowing it to become a credible voice for the Merri's protection and restoration. It has also played a major role in community education and the skilling of the sector.

We celebrated this milestone at the exhibition of David Tatnall's sublime photos of Galada Tamboore at the Synergy Gallery in Northcote and later at a community planting day at the Rushall Reserve in North Fitzroy.

Congratulations to all those who have been part of this wonderful journey and have contributed to MCMC's success.

## Urban Growth Boundary expansion

In December 2008, the State Government announced investigations for a significant expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) beyond that established under Melbourne 2030 to cater for an eventual Melbourne population of 5 million people. This is by far the most important and far reaching issue that we have had to face in recent years. One investigation area covers most of the Merri Creek catchment from north of Craigieburn to Wallan. In response, FoMC presented our vision of parklands, habitat links and rural and urban landscapes that sustain natural ecosystems and provide spaces for recreation:- *A Melbourne of 5 million people without sacrificing the plants and animals that have made the Merri home for millennia.*

FoMC seeks protection for creeks, wetlands, significant native vegetation, volcanic cones, Aboriginal and historic heritage. We envisage a network of habitat links through urban and rural areas, to connect larger conservation reserves within and beyond the Merri catchment. Green wedges would be retained between growth corridors, and rural communities and landscapes sustained, both for their own sake and as breathing spaces for the metropolis, complementing the habitat in conservation areas. These measures will help to maintain Melbourne's liveability for people, and maintain the diversity of life on our northern doorstep.

Legislation to expand the UGB which is now before State Parliament poses a grave threat to the grasslands and species of National and State significance to the north of Melbourne as well as other areas on the urban fringe. The whole process was carried out with undue haste allowing almost no time for adequate for community consultation or proper assessment of the environmental values of the area, the government showing a complete disregard for its own processes and policies in respect of planning and environmental assessment. The Opposition and the Greens in the Legislative Council have opposed the legislation and its future is uncertain. We believe that no development should even be considered in this area without regard to the significance and the fragility of the area, nor without proper investigation of potential alternative development opportunities within the current boundaries.

We have made vigorous representations to politicians and government agencies and will continue to do so in the hope of a sensible outcome.

### Merri Creek Parklands (Marran Baba)

Planning continues for the new parklands, the plan for which was eventually released by the State Government in March 2006 after considerable lobbying by FoMC and the community. Parks Victoria is currently developing a draft master plan for Galada Tamboore in conjunction with councils and other government agencies and MCMC. The first stage of the plan to be implemented is a shared trail, for which construction is underway.

### Merri Creek Wetlands

The City of Moreland has allocated funding for the exploration of wetlands along the creek in Moreland. We pressured the council for some years regarding this and we look forward to working with them to create new wetlands soon.

### Membership

We continued to get a steady stream of new members throughout the year including at the various events where we set up stalls. This is most gratifying and we hope that these new people will become actively involved and be part of our future.

### Paul Prentice Sustainable Cities Award

Hearty congratulations to our 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 has been absolutely tireless in his efforts to clean up the creek, a 50 year commitment, and we also enjoy his regular witty and erudite articles in our newsletter on people, places and the history of the creek.

### Bird Surveys

Another exciting new initiative by the FoMC was the organisation of bird surveys along various parts of the creek from the Hall Reserve to *Galgi Ngarrk* (Craigieburn Grasslands) in conjunction with Birds Australia. This began in October



Nankeen  
Night Heron at  
CERES Dam

2008 and has continued quarterly though 2009. The survey, most ably organised by Ann McGregor, was extremely well supported. This will be an extraordinarily valuable exercise over the long term as it will enrich our already extensive knowledge base of the catchment through an increased understanding of bird populations along the creek. 98 species of birds have been spotted so far.

We are most grateful for the support and advice offered to us by Stuart Dashper of Birds Australia and a Brunswick resident in helping us establish the survey, and we also thank those many local residents who have come out to take part.

### Challenges for 2010:

This list is by no means exhaustive but I would see some of our key priorities for 2009 as being:

- ☞ Continuing to campaign to ensure that the Merri Regional Park delivers real protection to the **whole** of the upper Merri corridor.
- ☞ Demanding that all development proposals not proceed in areas of high environmental significance nor without rigorous assessment in those areas yet to be comprehensively studied.
- ☞ Working with other groups, the community and government to ensure appropriate development along the whole of the Merri but particularly in the upper Merri and to secure the protection of sites of significance.
- ☞ Working with the City of Moreland and community partners on wetland creation along the creek.
- ☞ A continued commitment to the good governance and the operations of the MCMC.
- ☞ Exploring opportunities to further educate and engage our community in the values of the creek and its environs.
- ☞ Promotion and implementation of the recommendations of the research into the protection and improvement of the Growling Grass Frog habitat.
- ☞ Continuing the quarterly bird surveys
- ☞ Membership, the next generation and succession planning.

Finally I would like to give my thanks to all of you for your fantastic support and hard work during 2009 and I wish you all the best for the festive season and hope that we all emerge refreshed and ready for the challenges of 2010.

David Redfeam (President)

## SUCCESSFUL GRANTS

*We assisted our sub-group the Friends of Edgars Creek to obtain \$3,350 from Australian Government Volunteer Grants for purchase of a Trailer to carry tools and equipment to events.*

*We received an Australian Government 'Caring for our Country' grant of \$19,990 (+ GST) for the project "Drop kicks to Dianellas" for increasing the resilience of EPBC listed grassland at Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grassland) Fawkner.*

*We also helped another sub-group, the Friends of Edwardes Lake to obtain \$1,257 from the City of Darebin for necessary materials for their calendar of events.*

# Update No. 6 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.

The focus on Galada Tamboore continues as Parks Victoria, working with the Heart Foundation, is planning a playground that will address the needs of various age groups but specifically target children in the 8 to 14 year old group, who are most “at risk” of dropping out of active play for more sedentary pursuits such as computer games. Landscape Architect Ric McConaghy is developing a plan using the configuration of the creek in Galada Tamboore as the basis for layout of the playground’s paths. The playground will be located near the Somerset Road entrance.

The first section of the shared walking and cycling trail has been constructed by Hume City Council from Somerset Road to just beyond Hatty Court Campbellfield. Tenders for construction of the next major stage of the park have closed

and work is expected to commence on site in February. This stage will focus on linking the trail through to the bridge across the Hume Freeway into Whittlesea Public Gardens, giving access to the parklands for people from the Thomastown and Lalor side of the freeway.



For Further information: Parks Victoria 13 1963

*\*Naming: Marran Baba, which means “body of mother” in the Wurundjeri language, has been proposed for the whole of the new parklands*

## TOO WINDY FOR GOLDEN SUN MOTHS



Unfortunately we only saw a couple of Golden Sun Moths at Bababi Marning (Cooper St grassland) at our survey held on 16/12/09. We believe that this is because, although it was a hot and sunny day, it was much too windy. Nine people participated in the survey, which was funded by FoMC and organised by Brian Bainbridge from Merri Creek Management Committee. A week later on a similar day, a second hastily organised survey by MCMC staff and a handful of volunteers fared no better. However, at least this shows how difficult it is to observe these fussy little Critically Endangered moths.

## ALLIGATOR WEED TREATMENT UPDATE

The State prohibited weed, alligator weed, is currently receiving treatment as part of an eradication program by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). Over the coming months all of Victoria’s infestations (over 800 sites) will be treated. DPI will continue its strategy of treating the uppermost infestation and working downstream, reducing the likelihood of re-infestation.

Works within the Darebin Catchment began in November at Edwardes Park Lake, with scattered plants being treated across the lake. The program will progress into the Merri Creek and build on the successful hand removal program last season. Several research sites have also been established on Merri Creek to assess treatment effectiveness, with the aim of continually improving our treatment of this robust weed.



DPI is keen to learn of any new infestations on waterways or any backyard infestations. If you have any reports, or would like more information regarding treatments, infestations or identification, please phone DPI on 136 186.

**Erin Cox** (Weed Alert Incursion Control Officer, DPI)

## GROWLERS RETURN TO FORMER QUARRY HOLE

In the November 2009 newsletter we reported that Melbourne Water recently allowed water to be pumped from Merri Creek to a former quarry hole north of Cooper St, adjacent to the creek. The hole previously held water to suppress dust from quarry activities but it also provided good breeding habitat for Growling Grass Frogs. When the quarry closed, pumping ceased, the water dried

up and the frogs disappeared. However, now that pumping has resumed, the frogs have already recolonised the quarry hole. Geoff Heard (who spoke about the frogs at our AGM) and a few others, including some FoMC members, held a small celebration to mark their return on 16 December. “Was that a frog calling or did someone open the champagne?”

# Holiest sites tour of the Merri catchment

A cultural tour of a different order visited 10 places of worship in the Merri catchment on 24 October 2009. Our group of 18 visited new and old churches, temples, a monastery, a mosque and a cathedral.

Father Nicholas Karipoff provided a humorous and informative welcome at the Holy Protection Cathedral, Russian Orthodox Church, Brunswick. His knowledge of the artistic and architectural traditions influencing the Russian Orthodox Church generally, and of this Cathedral underlined



the wonderful diversity of cultural tradition in our region. Many questions flowed regarding the gold mosaics, internal decorations, paintings and construction of the Cathedral.

Father Karipoff's own story also stimulated many questions. We easily could have stayed much longer. The Russian Orthodox community donated the land for construction of the Merri Path between the Cathedral and the Creek.

Our stop to inspect the mosaics at the gates of St. Marks Coptic Orthodox Church, Preston provided a surprise unplanned visit inside when the priest arrived to ready the Church for a service. He provided plenty of history regarding Egyptian Christianity interspersed with plenty of humour. Look out for Archangel Gabriel slaying the dragon next time you drive along Gilbert Road.

The Friends were unable to visit inside the Omar Bin El-Khattab Mosque in Preston, but enjoyed seeing the minaret



and dome of this modern and important local mosque. Domes are a feature of modern mosques as Islamic architects

perfected this building style centuries before Western builders developed the knowledge and skills required for such demanding structures.

A short stop outside the Linh Son Buddhist Temple proved that dragons are present in the Merri valley alongside a giant Buddha statue.

A highlight of the tour was our 2 hour cultural visit to the Gurdwara (Sikh Temple) Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Craigieburn. We were welcomed by the Committee and others of the Sikh community, removed our shoes and donned head-scarves. We

visited their kitchen and dining area where all visitors can eat together, a stark contrast with traditional Hindu caste practice. We learnt about the teachings and values of Sikh philosophy and what the 10 Gurus taught. We enjoyed local flavour with some typical food and drink.

The Sikh temple and FoMC have much in common, with a commitment to community service and a common foundation date of 1989.

The oldest church in the region is the bluestone Scots Uniting Church, Campbellfield, built in 1855. An earlier church was built on the site in 1842. The present building is classified by the National Trust and is one of Victoria's oldest churches. We discovered that the Samoan community uses it for services and no doubt the beautiful singing of the Samoan worshippers would be a wonderful experience in the solid building. This would be a stark contrast to the first minister

who spoke Gaelic to his Scottish Presbyterian congregation during the gold rushes. We noted the indigenous plants growing in the churchyard and cemetery.



The small weatherboard Ekalesia Perepereane Samoa Meleponi, Samoan Presbyterian Church, Fawkner was a contrast in building size to the other places of worship we visited. The church grounds contain magnificent indigenous River Red Gums. Across Sydney Road was the Fawkner Crematorium and Gardens, also an important site for remnant vegetation and the place of interment of George Smith, FoMC Life Member. Nearby is St. Nektarios, Greek Orthodox Church, which displays cultural traditions of the eastern Christian churches.

Our tour finished outside Tu Vien Quang Duc Buddhist Monastery, Fawkner, which was formerly a primary school. More dragons and other church architecture emphasised the divergent traditions that have come to the Merri catchment in recent years.

There were many requests for further visits and FoMC have been invited to revisit several of the communities. A tour during the week would allow visits to several places of worship that were unavailable on the weekend. We thank all those who provided their time and knowledge for a most stimulating afternoon.

Bruce McGregor (Tour Leader)

## Saturday 6 MECCARG\* Site Preparation.

Meet at the Merri path just south of Murray Rd Bridge Coburg, 1-3pm. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a bucket and digging tool if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

## Sunday 7 Litter Clean-Up - Reservoir

Central Creek, Davidson St Reservoir, 10am-12 noon. Melway 8 B12. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

## 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 First Bird Survey for 2010

8.45-10.30am at most sites along the creek. See page 3 for details.

## Thursday 18 Friends of Edgars Creek Evening Walk & Talk with wine

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, North Coburg, 6-8pm. Melway 18 A9. Learn about local remnant vegetation with MCMC. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Development Grant. Phone Stephen 9350 4212.

## Sunday 21 Woody Weed Removal - Bababi Marning

Bababi Marning (Cooper St grasslands), near Istrian Club, 10am-1pm. Melway 180 K10, or car pool outside the MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick before 9.15am. Join us for this first time that we'll use the "search and destroy" method for woody weeds. Light refreshments will be provided. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

## Sunday 28 First Bird survey at Bababi Marning

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

## Sunday 28 Moreland Council, Sydney Rd Street Party

Sydney Rd Brunswick, 12 noon-7pm. Melway 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

## Saturday 6 MECCARG\* Site Preparation

Just south of Murray Rd bridge, Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a digging tool and a bucket if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

## Sunday 7 First Bird survey at Kalkallo Common

Malcolm St Kalkallo, turn off Hume Highway at Kalkallo Hotel (Melway 367 F2).

## Sunday 7 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 14 Wetland Weeding & Litter Clean-Up—Northcote

Merri Park Wetlands, near cnr of Summer Ave & Winifred St Northcote, 10am-1pm. Melway 30 C8. Funded by Darebin City Council. Light refreshments will be provided. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

## Wednesday 17 2nd FoMC Annual General Meeting & Bird talk

CERES Multicultural Classroom, 7.30-9.30pm (*head toward multicultural village on hill behind café*). After a brief AGM to present the financial statement, we'll have an interesting illustrated talk by experienced birders.

## Sunday 21 FoMC Woody Weed Removal—Galgi Ngarrk

Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands), 10am-1 pm. Meet at the end of O'Herns Rd Somerton (Melway 180 F6) at 10am or car pool outside the MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick before 9.15am. Join us in using the new "search and destroy" method. Light refreshments will be provided. Phone Heidi 0417 544 412.

## Sunday 21 Friends of Edgars Creek Weeding & Site Preparation

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Help eliminate aquatic weeds beneath a regionally significant Silurian cliff. Hosted by MCMC and funded by a Melbourne Water Community Development Grant. Phone Stephen 9350 4212.

# APRIL

## Saturday 3 MECCARG\* Easter 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 if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

## Sunday 4 Easter Litter Clean-Up—Craigieburn

Aitken Creek, Axminster Dve Craigieburn, 10am-12 noon. Melway 386 J10. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

## Sunday 11 Weeding—Strettle Wetland

Friends' site near Strettle wetland Thornbury, 10am-1 pm. Melway 30 B3. Help keep our little site looking great. Light refreshments afterwards. Phone Martin 9025 9394.

## Sunday 11 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 Woody Weed Removal—Wallan

Along the Beveridge to Wallan rail line, 10am-1pm. Meet at the Wallan Railway Station. Melway 646 G11. Car pool outside the MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick before 8.45am. Light refreshments will be provided. Funded by DSE. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

## Sunday 18 Friends of Edwardes Lake—Weeding and Maintenance of National Tree Day site

Meet at old Boathouse on western side of the lake, 10.00-11.30am. Melway 18 D4. Phone Kate 0419 352 004.

## Sunday 18 Friends of Edgars Creek Evening Walk & Talk with wine

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, North Coburg, 6-8pm. Melway 18 A9. Learn about bushfoods indigenous to Edgars Creek with MCMC. Funded by a Melbourne Water Community Development Grant. Phone Stephen 9350 4212.

# MAY

## 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 if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

## Sunday 2 Litter Clean-Up—East Coburg

Bell St East Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 A1. 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 16 Second Bird Survey at most sites for 2010

8.45-10.30am at ten sites along the creek. See page 3 for details.

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