

# MERRI GROWLER

The Friends of Merri Creek Newsletter

February – April 2012

Incorporating the newsletter of Friends of Edgars Creek

## We win the 2011 Victorian Urban Landcare Award

After winning the Community Group Caring for Public Land category in the 2010 Port Phillip & Westernport Landcare Awards, Friends of Merri Creek has gone on to win the 2011 Victorian Urban Landcare award.



This was presented to five members of the FoMC Committee (see photo) by the Governor of Victoria, Alex Chernov, at Government House on Wednesday 16 November 2011, the same day as our Annual General Meeting.

This fabulous honour is one that is shared by our members and all those who have helped out at any of our events. We now go on to represent Victoria in the Urban Landcare category at the National Landcare Awards to be held later this year.

Heather Campbell, CEO, Landcare Australia Limited; David Redfearn, Friends' President; Ray Radford, Secretary; Ruth Shiel, Committee member; Paul Prentice, Litter Clean-Up Coordinator; Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change; Alex Chernov AO QC, Governor of Victoria; Nicole Lowe, Friends' Treasurer and Regeneration Group Coordinator.

## The 2012 Friends' Committee

Eighteen members and two non-members attended the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16 November 2011. There we learnt all about planning in the Upper Merri including the latest news from Rosemary West, Joint Coordinator of the Green Wedges Coalition, and our own Vice-President and environmental planner, Ann McGregor. We also viewed the spectacular 12m x 2m Volcano Dreaming panorama depicting wildflower grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain.

The following members were elected to the Committee:

### Office Bearers

President: David Redfearn

Vice-President: Ann McGregor

Secretary: Ray Radford

Treasurer: Nicole Lowe

Membership Secretary: Monica Williamson

Committee Members: Yasmin Kelsall & Nick Williams

We welcome the new Committee members, Yasmin and Nick, who enable us to have a full Committee. However, if you're interested in becoming a Committee member in the future, you're welcome to see what we do by attending meetings and receiving Agendas (phone Ray on 0422 989 166 or email: merricreek@bigpond.com)

### Sub-Committee Coordinators

Regeneration Group: Nicole Lowe

Litter Group: Paul Prentice

Streamteam: Irene Baker

Newsletter (layout): Dean Lombard

These coordinators remain the same as in 2011.

### Representatives to MCMC

As in 2011, FoMC will be represented on the Merri Creek Management Committee by Trevor Hausler, Ann McGregor, Allie Dawe, Paul Prentice, Nicole Lowe and Ruth Shiel.

### Substitute Reps to MCMC

David Redfearn, Yasmin Kelsall, Pascale Pitot and Eli Court agreed to be Substitute Representatives to MCMC. Although Yasmin was a substitute last year, she was unable to attend any MCMC meetings, so she's eager to do more this year. Eli came on late last year and has attended one meeting. Both hope to be active representatives on two MCMC Sub-Committees.

**Ray Radford** Secretary

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# Merri Musings

## Urban Growth update

In December, FoMC prepared a detailed set of comments on the documents that will guide Melbourne's outward expansion, including the draft Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Growth Corridor Plans. We expressed concern about aspects of the biodiversity conservation proposals, data deficiencies, impacts of a proposed Principal Town Centre straddling the Merri, fragmentation of conservation areas and waterway corridors by a grid of major roads, and the need to fully protect high conservation value sites.

The rushed planning process will designate some sites for conservation, and allow the clearing of all other native vegetation (including areas with endangered species and ecological communities) in the path of urban development over the next 30+ years.

## Brunswick Terminal Station update

Moreland Council voted 4-3 to refuse a permit to build a new terminal power station, which was proposed to replace the current terminal station in King St East Brunswick. The narrow decision was applauded by the large public attendance at the planning meeting on 23 November. FoMC supports this decision, although the

proposal was a major improvement over the previous plans that Moreland Council rejected in 2010. The power companies are going to appeal the decision at the Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal.

**2012 events planned** The FoMC Regeneration Group planning meeting on 7 December 2011 has arranged a pretty full calendar of regeneration activities for this year. Besides a healthy number of planting and hand-weeding events, we can look forward to a Gorse Mop-up & Broom Sweep, and Food & Fibre Garden Workshops (together with CERES). Already on 6 January we've helped MCMC to harvest 10 bags of Kangaroo Grass.

**Successful Grants** \$19,998 Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grant for the project: *Stepping together to care for Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grassland)*, to enable restoration and management of Bababi Djinanang along with Wurundjeri.

\$20,000 Caring for our Country Community Action Grant to MECCARG for the project: *Restoring the Murnong fields and cultural landscape of the Wurundjeri*, which aims to address loss of biodiversity values and the disconnection of human communities with the natural environment.

## Interesting visitors to weeding

*There were two interesting visitors to the FoMC plot near the Strettle wetland in Thornbury for the weeding on 16 October 2011. One was a Tawny Frogmouth, which seemed to supervise the weeding from a dead tree branch, only metres above our heads. The second was Finina Matthews, nee Strettle, who is related to the person who gave his name to the street and consequently the wetland.*

*However, it's a mystery as to which Strettle the street was actually named after. It could be Finina's grandfather, Abraham Strettle, who migrated from England with his family in 1852 at the age of 7 on his father's ship and became a stock and station agent (or auctioneer). It is presumed that Strettle St in Kensington is named after him, because of the stock auction yards that used to be there. Or perhaps our Strettle St is named after Abraham's brother, William, who is believed to have owned land in Thornbury.*

*Finina saw the weeding advertised in the Leader newspaper and came to tell us how much she appreciates our work on the site with her family name.*

## Alligator Weed under control in Merri Creek

The Dept of Primary Industries (DPI) Alligator Weed strategy, of treating isolated sites and working downstream to the more heavily infested sites, has been successful in reducing the size of infestation sites. The method was used on a number of waterways during 2011, including Merri Creek.

Alligator Weed was removed from all sites north of Arthurton Rd Northcote to the uppermost extent of the weed in the Merri Creek system at Edwardes Park Lake, where the area requiring treatment was reduced by 50%. All these sites will continue to be monitored. There was also an increase in the number of research sites along Merri Creek and these investigations are aimed at improving efficiencies. All infestations requiring active management will be treated with herbicide and re-treated where necessary during 2012.

*This is the final update from Erin Cox, former DPI Weed Alert Incursion Controller.*

## Another great Murnong (Yam Daisy) Harvest



*The Jindi Worabak dancers perform at the third Murnong Harvest celebrations of the Merri and Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group (MECCARG) alongside Merri Creek near Murray Rd Coburg on Saturday 12th November 2011. MECCARG is committed to restoring the Murnong, which was a traditional staple food of Aboriginal people of South East Australia, but is now close to extinction.*

# Birds along the Merri in true spring

*There was a host of birds to see on the November surveys, perhaps reflecting good breeding conditions during a second wet year. Four new species were added to our survey list: Southern Whiteface at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands), Stubble Quail and Tree Martin at Bababi Marning (Cooper Street Grasslands), and an uncommon introduced species, Red-whiskered Bulbul in Northcote, opposite CERES. Our list of species recorded during surveys now totals a very respectable 126.*

Nicole Spillane reported 40 Little Black Cormorants flying in formation over the Merri at Galada Tamboore. Single Black-shouldered Kites were seen at the three grassland sites, Galgi Ngarrk, Galada Tamboore and Bababi Marning. A male Mistletoebird in a revegetated area of bush in Clifton Hill was the first one ever sighted in the area by Ruth and Des Shiel. Brian Bainbridge reported at Bababi Marning a very high level of activity by Golden-headed Cisticolas, including territorial and distraction displays.

Several warm-weather migrants were recorded: Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo, Sacred Kingfisher (3 sites), White-winged Triller, Reed Warbler (5 sites), Brown and Rufous Songlark. One of a pair of Kingfishers appeared to be burrowing a nest-hole in the soil-encrusted exposed roots of a fallen tree in Clifton Hill.

A record-breaking 40 species were recorded at Galgi Ngarrk by Euan and Bev Fothergill, along with almost 100 Eastern Grey Kangaroos. Other high species totals were at Galada Tamboore (38), Edwardes Lake (33) and Bababi Djinanang/Jukes Road Grasslands (33).

A total of 84 species was seen across the ten survey sites, considerably more than in November 2010 (76 species) and 2009 (77 species). Total bird numbers were estimated at 2347. The most numerous species were

Common Starling (167), Rainbow Lorikeet (163), Red Wattlebird (143), Common Myna (102) and Silver Gull (101). Recorded in all ten surveys were Rainbow Lorikeet, Red Wattlebird, Magpie, Little Raven, Common Blackbird, Common Starling and Common Myna. The fact that White-browed Scrubwren was recorded at eight sites is a good sign that plenty of dense understorey vegetation has been re-established along the Creek.

**Ann McGregor** Merri Birdwatch Coordinator



*Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo. Photo by Chris Tzaros.*

## First Merri Birdwatch survey for 2012

*Bird surveys will be held from 8.45–10.30am at ten 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.*

***Surveys at the following nine sites are on 19 February & 20 May***

**Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grasslands), Fawkner:** Meet on Merri Path at end of Jukes Road, Fawkner (Melway 18 A2).

**Egan Reserve – Harding Street – Strettle Reserve – Normanby Avenue:** 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 (Melway 17 H10).

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

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

**Merri Park – Phillips Reserve:** Meet at end of Victoria Street, 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 Road 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 26 February & 27 May***

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

# President's Report 2011

## Given at the AGM on 16 November 2011

*It has been another year with many successes and challenges and it again gives me great pleasure as President to report to our membership and our community.*

Our very diligent secretary Ray Radford has covered most of our activities in his Secretary's Report, so I will focus on some of the broader strategic issues. First of all, a big thank you to the many people who give so much to our group, to all of our members for their commitment during the year, to those who held office and to those who organised and carried out the many necessary tasks. Their efforts are all voluntary, a true labour of love, and any time given to Friends of Merri Creek (FoMC) is immensely appreciated. I must give special thanks to Ray as FoMC Secretary, as his efforts make the work of the committee so much easier, and to my fellow committee members for coming out to our bi-monthly meetings throughout the year.

Now to some of the issues that we faced throughout 2011:

### **Logical Inclusions (or Illogical Incursions?)**

In May 2011, the Liberal National State Government set up a review process, the Logical Inclusions Review, to consider additions to Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary, and it has just delivered its final report (in Nov. 2011). This represents yet another potential threat to our creek and its environs, and a challenge to us as a community organisation.

In 2009, the then Labor State Government had already recommended a significant expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) to cater for an eventual Melbourne population of 5 million people. This is definitely the most far-reaching issue that we have had to face in recent years. One investigation area covered 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. We sought protection for the natural and cultural values of the region and we envisaged a network of habitat links through urban and rural areas, to connect larger conservation reserves within and beyond the Merri catchment.

The controversial Growth Areas Infrastructure Contributions tax was eventually passed with some modification by the ALP and the Liberal and National Parties in the Victorian Parliament, allowing reconsideration of the legislation for the proposed expanded Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). The Victorian Greens opposed the proposal and remain so.



That was 2010 and, just as we thought that it couldn't get worse, we had a change of government in Victoria and the new Liberal National Coalition Government is considering additions to Melbourne's Urban Growth Boundary under its Logical Inclusions Review. The biggest change for the Merri is the proposal to bring headwater areas of the catchment – the rapidly urbanising Wallan township and environs – into the Urban Growth Boundary. The proposed area includes an extensive, low-lying flood-prone area, the former Hernes Swamp, which MCMC believes is not suitable for development. Before it was drained, the swamp formed a seasonally inundated wetland, rich with bird life.

FoMC is part of the Green Wedges Coalition and robustly supports the campaign to ensure that there is no compromise and destruction of our treasured Green Wedges. Along with other Melbourne environment groups, including the Victorian National Parks Association, FoMC has written to State and Commonwealth environment ministers pointing out the need to protect high conservation value grassland sites within the growth areas from imminent development under an over-hasty, back-to-front urban planning process.

We will need to continue to draw on every ounce of our knowledge, experience, energy and passion to ensure that the values of the catchment are safeguarded.

### **Merri Growler**

After well over a decade of using the title *Friends of Merri Creek Newsletter*, members provided a number of good suggestions for a new title and we decided on *Merri Growler*, the brainchild of Life Member Brian Bainbridge. Of course "Growler" refers to the Growling Grass Frog, one of the significant species in our catchment.

### **Dick's Witticisms**

Here are some more witty one-liners from FoMC Life Member, Dick Harcourt:

*Don't argue with a fool, people might not know the difference.*

*If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.*

*Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.*

*There is nothing wrong with having nothing to say, unless you insist on saying it.*

I should also acknowledge those involved in the production of the newsletter, which is both of a very high standard and highly informative; in fact, looking back on a few editions, I am struck by how much it really is a wonderful record of all that we do. Ray Radford, Paul Prentice and Dean Lombard deserve singular mention for their contributions to the writing, editing and layout, but there are sundry other contributors who should be thanked for helping to make this such a wonderful newsletter.

### Membership

We continued to get a steady stream of new members throughout the year, many joining after showing interest at our stalls at various events. This is most gratifying and we hope that these new people will become actively involved and be part of our future.

### Bird Surveys

FoMC continued the 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 2008 and has continued quarterly since then. The survey is most ably organised by Ann McGregor and is well supported by FoMC and community members. This will be an extraordinarily valuable exercise over the long term, as it will enrich our already extensive knowledge base of the catchment through increasing our understanding of bird population patterns along the creek. Over 90 species of birds have so far been spotted.

We are most grateful for the support and advice on running the survey offered to us by Stuart Dashper of Birds Australia and we also thank those members who organise the surveys at the various sites and the many participants.

### Challenges for 2012

This list is by no means exhaustive but I would see some of our key priorities for 2012 as being:

- Supporting campaigns to protect the Green Wedge and the upper creek environs;
- Continuing to campaign to ensure that the Merri Regional Park delivers real protection to the whole of the upper Merri corridor;
- Demanding that 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, particularly in the upper section, 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;
- 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 2011, and I hope that we all emerge from the holiday break ready for the challenges of 2012.

**David Redfearn** President, 2011



*Birdwatchers, including Ann and Bruce McGregor (centre), spot an uncommon introduced species, Red-whiskered Bulbul, in Northcote, opposite CERES at the survey on 13 November 2011.*

# The gift of hearing

*It's great that CDs have been produced with recordings of the calls that our animal friends make – as fascinating as their diverse appearance and movements.*

Birds are the most obvious subjects, but not the only ones. We can go right down to insects, with the screeching of cicadas and the hum of bees; or the mosquito, whose irritating whine and harmful effects match those of racing-cars. Bigger but much more vulnerable, reassuring to hear in chorus as a mark of a healthy environment, are the amphibians, such as the Pobblebonk frog – a marvellously whimsical name, it sounds like something from a fairy tale.

The shrill trumpeting of elephants are awe-inspiring, as are the throaty bellowings of elephant seals; from other marine mammals we get seals' barks, dolphin language and whale songs. Among reptiles there are the rattlesnakes, hissing cobras and grunting crocodiles; marsupials include koalas uttering guttural mutterings, and raucous Tasmanian Devils and possums.

Then there's the family of canines – hyenas' sinister laughter, the yipping of coyotes and foxes, the howling of wolves; and the equines, with donkeys' musical brays, and horses' whinnying, snorts and neighs. And let's hear it from those most spectacular beasts of burden, the camels, which offer the choice of one hump or two.

Out of Africa come the hoarse roars of lions, the placid "gronk gronk" of the quaint, innumerable wildebeest (more mild than wild beasts, really), and gorillas' talk – once, memorably, eavesdropped on by David Attenborough. What a special place the latter have in our hearts, representing the ultimate in primate size and beauty, as tigers do among the cats and giraffes among the ungulates... Crossing to South America, we can't help hearing the howler monkeys giving voice at 100 decibels, or being thrilled by the recent discovery of the *titi* monkey, whose couples serenade each other every morning.

Among domesticated creatures, one is soothed by the purring of cats, the soft plaintive clucking of hens, the contented grunting of pigs: all part of the rich aural tapestry, or rather, symphony. By the way, I once saw a Harley-Davidson (a "Hog") with the rego "OINK"!

The turkey deserves a mention, with its distinctive look and gobbling – just another case of onomatopoeia (there are more than a couple of dozen here), a word that echoes the thing it describes – and its prized, delicate flesh, and the bizarre use of its name as a symbol of failure. The tangy, healthy lemon which also gives us zest has suffered a similar put-down: people do funny things...

The cuckoo and peewit name themselves; but what do we do with the lyrebird and the parrot? Will we have the former imitating a dog, a chainsaw and a



ringing telephone, and the latter holding an extended conversation? What great noises we get from the booming bittern and the laughing kookaburra, the wattle-bird, the cockatoo and the raven; more subtle and mysterious is the "tink tink tink" of the bellbird, reminiscent of the beeps of supermarket cash-registers.

The lamentation of the majestic peacock, the mournful honks of Cape Barren and other wild geese; the haunting hooting of owls, the joyful trilling of skylarks; whistling kites and melodious blackbirds, the quacking of ducks and the twittering of swallows, they all enrich our lives in their own unique ways; but for absolute musical purity, nothing can equal the nightingale or the magpie. It's an infinitely varied, wonderful world of sound.

**Paul Prentice**

*Magpie photograph: Barbara Hardy Institute <http://www.unisa.edu.au/barbarahardy/> Photographer: John Hodgson.*

## Our Facebook page wants friends

*If you are on Facebook, you can now get automatic updates to group activities and news by searching for the Friends of Merri Creek page then clicking on 'Like.'*

# Friends of Edgars Creek Focus



## FoEC: The year that was and the year ahead

*2011 saw Friends of Edgars Creek (FoEC) embark on our fifth planting season. We welcomed a new secretarial partnership (Rob and Irene) to the committee and thanked Sylvia for her hard work. Over four FoEC-managed planting events for the year saw 1760 plants find new homes on the creek, funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants, which will hopefully play its part in further environmental improvements along the Edgars Creek Corridor.*

We were also involved in planting events for the *Circling the Lake* project at Edwardes Lake with the Darebin City Council's Bushland Management Crew, MCMC and Friends of Edwardes Lake, and also a combined planting with Moreland City Council providing in-fill planting for the area previously planted by the Department of Justice (near the old Kodak distribution centre). I'm not sure how many extra plants this entailed. Several FoEC members also kept themselves busy propagating tubestock. We were able to add over 1400 additional plants along the creek corridor – a major contribution to the natural environment along our creek corridor.

Planning for the FoEC 2012 calendar of events is well underway and we have existing funding through our current Melbourne Water Grants for two plantings in the first half of 2012. One of these excites me greatly as it will be the first planting at the 'Caravan Park' site and sees FoEC move upstream to work on a new site, hopefully along with new community members. I have submitted a Melbourne Water Grant application and hope we are successful in gaining further support to continue with extension plantings at some of our key sites, in-fill planting where it is required, maintenance activities and further development of our new 'Caravan Park' site. I will keep everyone informed of the outcome for our application.

Several critical issues have kept FoEC's Committee busy in 2011: the *Coburg Hill* development (old Kodak site) and the development of a Master Plan for the Edgars Creek Corridor. Some of this work has included several meetings with the Moreland City Council and Satterley (the developer of *Coburg Hill*). FoEC has advocated for outcomes that we perceive as consistent with maintaining the Edgars Creek Reserve in its current 'informal' status. This includes maintaining Edgars Creek as an open bush space with limited formal pathways and the necessity for substantial buffer plantings along the interface between Edgars Creek and *Coburg Hill* to preserve the secluded nature of the corridor. It is inevitable that *Coburg Hill* will bring changes to the area and the FoEC Committee is working from a perspective that to fight change is not profitable; rather our energy has been channelled to shaping the change to be in

a manner consistent with our vision for the Edgars Creek corridor.

Another exciting development for Edgars Creek is Moreland City Council's initiation of proceedings that will result in a formal Master Plan for the Edgars Creek Corridor from the confluence with the Merri Creek upstream to Edwardes Lake. Of course FoEC is a stakeholder in this process and Stephen Northey (our immediate past President) has volunteered to be involved in the early phase of project development. FoEC has also developed a 3-year plan to formalise our strategic priorities for the Reserve and we hope that this will be integrated into the Master Plan as it is developed. It is likely that one of our two annual walk and talk events that are held in the early months of the year will be centred on provision of information about the Satterley development, the Edgars Creek Corridor Master Plan, and FoEC's 3-year strategic plan. This will be included on our calendar of events that will hopefully circulate in the early new-year.

To all of our members, friends and anyone who has helped FoEC throughout 2011, I sincerely thank you for your efforts and hopefully "I'll see you on the creek!" this year.

**David Pavone** President, Friends of Edgars Creek



*The photo shows part of the geological feature at the 'Caravan Park' site. The latest FoEC Melbourne Water Grant proposal seeks to enhance the geological form and will include weed control to kill kikuyu which has overgrown parts of the rock face.*

# EVENTS

## FEBRUARY

### Saturday 4 MECCARG\* event – Coburg

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 5 Litter Clean-Up – Reservoir

Ngarrri-djarrang (Central Creek Grasslands) Davidson St Reservoir, 10am-12 noon. Melway 8 B12. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

### Sunday 5 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 12 Gorse removal and seed collection

Malcolm St, Kalkallo – next to the Cemetery – turn off the Hume Highway at Kalkallo Hotel, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 367 F2. Help remove Gorse from this significant botanical reserve (funded by Bush Guardians), then help pluck seed-heads of native wildflowers for a regeneration trial (funded by a Caring for Our Country Grant). Light refreshments provided.

Phone Ben at MCMC on 9380 8199 (BH). *Please note that this activity may involve working in high temperatures and may not be suitable for people with a medical condition. Wear clothing suitable for the weather. If it's very hot or raining heavily on the day, ring to confirm on 0421 683 926.* This event has been made possible with assistance from the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Bush Guardians Grants Program.

### Sunday 19 1st Merri Creek Bird Survey for 2012

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

### Sunday 19 Friends of Edgars Creek event

This event needs to be confirmed - phone David Pavone on 0428 130 268.

### Sunday 26 1st Bird Survey for 2012 at Bababi Marning

8.45-10.30am. Meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper St, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).

### Monday 27 Food & Fibre Garden Workshop 2

This is primarily for CERES Volunteers, but other interested people can register with Ben at MCMC, email [ben@mcmc.org.au](mailto:ben@mcmc.org.au) or phone 9380 8199. Funded by a Moreland City Council Community Grant to Friends of Merri Creek.

## MARCH

### Saturday 3 MECCARG\* event – Coburg

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 4 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.

### 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.

### Sunday 11 Litter Clean-Up – East Coburg

Harding St East Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 A2. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

### Sunday 18 FoMC Gorse Mop-up & Broom Sweep

Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands), near Istrian Club, Cooper St Campbellfield, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K10. Help to mop up the remaining Gorse and sweep up Broom on the way. Light refreshments provided. Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

### Sunday 18 Friends of Edgars Creek event

*Event to be confirmed.* Phone David Pavone on 0428 130 268.

### Saturday 31 Food & Fibre Garden Workshop 3

This will be held as part of the CERES Harvest Festival. Interested people can register with Ben at MCMC, email [ben@mcmc.org.au](mailto:ben@mcmc.org.au) or phone 9380 8199. Funded by a Moreland City Council Community Grant to Friends of Merri Creek.

## APRIL

### Sunday 1 Litter Clean-Up - Northcote

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

### Sunday 1 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

### Saturday 7 MECCARG\* Event – Coburg

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 15 Friends of Edgars Creek event

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. *Details of event to be confirmed.* Phone David 0428 130 268.

### Sunday 22 FoMC Hand Weeding - Strettle Wetland

Friends' site near 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. Phone Martin 0403 942 965.

### Sunday 29 Bike Ride at Galada Tamboore

Ride about 8km return from the City of Whittlesea Public Gardens through Galada Tamboore and along the new path alongside Merri Creek, 10am – 1pm. Melway 8 C4. Along the way, riders can test the water and discover creatures and landscapes. BYO lunch to this family friendly event. Booking is essential - with Jane on 9380 8199 or [jane@mcmc.org.au](mailto:jane@mcmc.org.au)

## MAY

### Saturday 5 MECCARG\* Planting – Coburg

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 6 Litter Clean-Up – North Fitzroy

Downstream from Rushall Station, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 D11. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

### Sunday 6 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

### Sunday 13 Mother's Day Planting & BBQ – Fawkner

Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd grassland), Fawkner, 10am-12.30pm. Melway 18 A1. Bring your mum along and help to do your bit for Mother Earth at this planting. Funded by Moreland City Council.

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



## Friends of Merri Creek Inc.

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The views expressed by named authors in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Friends of Merri Creek