

Friends of Merri Creek



NEWSLETTER

May–July
2006

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Response to the Draft Concept Plan for Merri Creek Park

Submissions wanted from all Friends members

Parks Victoria has finally released the Draft Concept Plan for the proposed Merri Creek Park between the Western Ring Road and Craigieburn Road East.

Planning for the park began over four years ago. After many requests from the Friends, the draft concept plan was posted on the Parks Victoria website (www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) without fanfare on 17 March. Public comments and suggestions are invited by 31 May 2006. We ask all Friends members to please send in your submissions.

The park is based largely on areas of existing public land, including the Craigieburn and Cooper Street Grassland Reserves, and the Melbourne Water property at Galada Tamboore. Additional parkland is to be added from VicRoads land surplus to the Craigieburn Bypass, and land swaps of VicRoads for private land, as well as negotiated transfers, access agreements and open space contributions from future industrial subdivisions. The main land swaps have been negotiated already, prior to the plan's release.

Overall, the park concept, covering a total area of 840 hectares (2100 acres) is welcomed by the Friends as a major step towards protecting significant areas south of Craigieburn Road East. However the draft plan does not go far enough to realise the 'now or never' opportunity to establish a genuine conservation corridor. Values at risk include wildlife migration routes, endangered plant and animal communities, as well as historic, landscape, archaeological and geological treasures.

Outlined below are some of the issues we have with the draft Concept Plan. More details will be posted on the Friends of Merri Creek website (www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc)

Protecting significant sites further north

The major concern of the Friends with the park proposal is that it stops at Craigieburn Road East. It therefore leaves unprotected the areas of very high conservation significance further north, including the Craigieburn East and Bald Hill grasslands. Such areas, and the Creek corridor, are under imminent threat from urban development and extractive industry. The park Concept Plan objective of 'enhancing strategic habitat links' will not be achieved if habitat to the north is diminished and fragmented.

Cooper Street grasslands

Part of the Cooper Street grasslands has already been protected in a conservation reserve. As part of the park planning process, much of the remainder will be protected through a land swap of surplus VicRoads land for the privately-owned grassland. But some remnants including stony knolls and potentially Golden Sun Moth habitat will disappear under factories and roads. This Plains Basalt Grassland ecosystem is one of the most depleted and endangered

Continued overleaf

in Victoria, and none of the contiguous remnants should be sacrificed in an effort to achieve a 'cost-free' land swap in preference to an ecologically rational park boundary. Government funds should be made available to purchase a limited area of land to add to the Cooper Street reserve and protect the endangered communities. (These funds must be additional to the very small budget that Parks Victoria has for land acquisition around the State.)

Red Gum woodlands

Ancient River Red Gums in the upper Central Creek catchment east of Craigieburn Grassland reserve are currently part of the fauna habitat corridor and need permanent protection, ideally as parkland.

Creek corridor

Already, the Merri Creek and its valley is being hemmed in by vast factory and warehouse buildings along parts of the western bank. This development along the western bank is continuing rapidly, and will begin soon on parts of the eastern bank. The Friends consider that an adequate conservation corridor requires at least 200 metres each side of the Creek, to cater for wildlife habitat and movement, maintenance access, a pedestrian/cycle path, and firebreak/buffer to adjoining industrial land. This open space corridor must be set aside urgently before more development occurs, particularly between Barry and O'Herns Roads. A Public Acquisition Overlay in the Hume and Whittlesea Planning

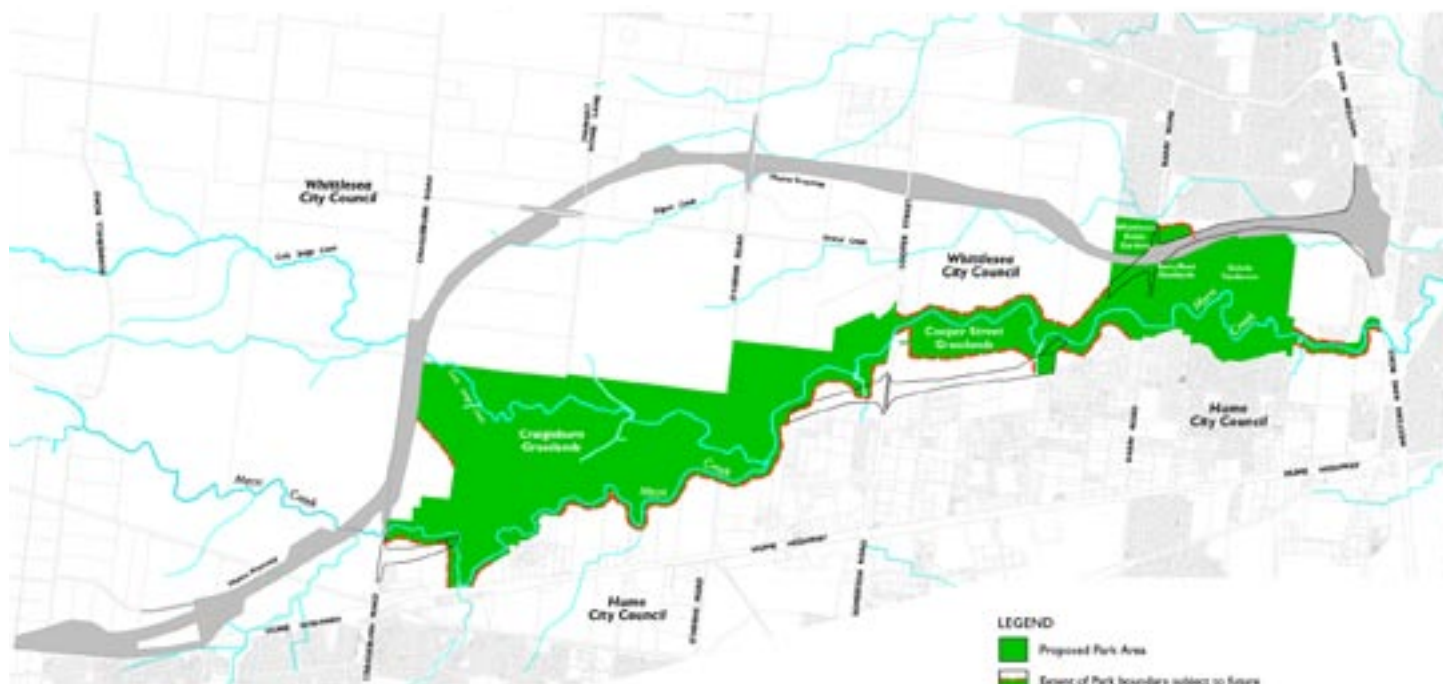
Schemes is necessary to formally flag the intention for this land to become parkland. The park Concept Plan (Map 2) shows a continuous strip of parkland along the Creek, but is not explicit about the width, nor about overlay protection.

Resources for park management

Existing resources allocated by Parks Victoria for management of the Craigieburn and Cooper Street Grasslands reserves are not adequate, particularly to control the invasive weeds that threaten native flora and fauna. It is crucial for the maintenance of conservation values that personnel and operational funding be increased immediately to manage land identified for the park. This cannot wait until the plan is eventually approved, and the various parcels of land assembled. Resources for operational management, especially weed control, are considered by the Friends to be a higher priority than funding for construction of visitor facilities.

We need as many submissions as possible. Please send your submission by Wednesday 31st May to: Parks Victoria, Level 10, 535 Bourke St Melbourne 3000 or email: merricreek@parks.vic.gov.au

*You can see a sample submission on the Friends website: www.vicnet.net.au/~fomc
Ann McGregor (Vice President)*



LEGEND
■ Proposed Park Area
 Extent of Park boundary subject to future land acquisition, transfer or planning control outcomes.

This map describes the proposed park's boundary. Where private land is included, its formal designation as park will only take effect by agreement with the private landowner, or upon acquisition or transfer of land into public ownership.

Healthy Parks
Healthy People



The proposed new Merri Creek Park

Merri Park Wetland, Northcote

FoMC has played a major role in the development of this lovely and functional habitat. This year there are four weeding events before the final scheduled planting is to occur on 4th June.

Merri Park Wetland is about 5km north of Melbourne between the eastern end of Sumner Avenue and the Merri Creek, in Northcote (Melways Map 30 C8). The fenced wetland and surrounding plantings occupy 1.1 hectares. The area is part of Kulin land for which the Wurundjeri, the traditional owners have been custodians for many centuries. Their living culture and unique role in the life of this region is acknowledged.

History

40,000 yrs ago to the early 1800s, this area's original occupants were the Wurundjeri-willam who are its traditional custodians. The Merri Creek meandered through the floodplain which intermittently held peak flows during floods and provided the people with abundant foods such as edible plant roots, eels, fish and ducks.

In 1852, Mr Theo Sumner purchased the land from the Crown and seventy years later, the land was subdivided into quarter acre residential lots that became the Sumner Estate. The land west of Winifred St was purchased by Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) for a depot and store yards.

During the 1970s, the Country Roads Board and MMBW proposed converting Merri Creek into a concrete-lined channel and running a freeway down the valley south of Bell St. Then in 1974, major flooding of Sumner Estate from Merri Creek led to the initiation of planning for flood mitigation measures.

In 1976 the MMBW pushed for a 3-5m high concrete levy wall to be constructed next to Merri Creek, with the land behind the wall to be probably sold as industrial land. A decade later, after intensive lobbying from the community, it was agreed that an earthen levee bank should be constructed and that the MMBW depot should be turned over to parkland.

Works, to create a more 'natural' landscape within the parkland, started along the Winifred St section of the parkland in 1988 and initial planting of the retarding basin began in 1990, predominantly with trees and shrubs. Then, in 2000, construction of the wetland in the floor of the retarding basin began. The wetland has a local catchment of approximately seven hectares or 129 houses, approximately on third of the Sumner Estate. Since then, over 16,000 plants have been planted by community which has also actively participated in handweeding, mulching and monitoring of flora and fauna.

Ecological Communities

The Merri Park Wetland plantings are modelled on the following ecological communities: Grassy Wetland, that is often dry during summer months; Floodplain Grassland, that

naturally occurs in low-lying areas; and Riparian Scrub, a dense shrubby community naturally occurring along Merri Creek.

Significant Fauna

A Western Gerygone, an uncommon migratory bird of regional significance, was observed feeding in 2002. Birds of Local Significance include: Sacred Kingfisher, White-browed Scrubwren and Common Bronze-wing Pigeons.

Other interesting species of fauna at Merri Park wetland include Spotted Pardalotes and Superb Blue Wrens (breeding residents). Crested Pigeons and Red-browed Firetails finches are regular visitors, attracted by seeds of grasses and groundcovers. Spotted Marsh Frogs and Pobblebonk frogs have colonised the pools.

Significant species planted

The wetland plantings include one plant of State Significance, *Xerochrysum palustre* (*Bracteantha palustris*) and twelve plants of Regional Significance, plus over 40 other plant species, many of which are rare in the local area. Plants have been propagated from those found at the few remaining natural wetlands that have not been drained or filled for agricultural and urban developments. One aim of the plantings at Merri Park is to reduce pressure on remnant sites by providing an alternative source of propagating material for further wetland plantings.

Wetland Function

Melbourne Water has constructed two flood protection measures in Merri Park to protect Sumner Estate, after substantial flood damage in 1974. A levy bank, which winds through Merri Park from Arthurton Rd beside Winifred St and along Sumner Ave, to St Georges Rd, prevents floodwaters from Merri Creek flowing into Sumner Estate.

The retarding basin also acts as a flood protection measure. During high rainfall, if the creek rises above the level of the stormwater pipe outlet that drains the Sumner Estate area, a valve automatically closes in the drain to prevent the creek water flowing back up the drain. Stormwater from the Sumner Estate then flows directly into the retarding basin. The water is held in the retarding basin while the creek is in flood. As the creek level drops, the valve in the drain opens and water quickly flows out of the retarding basin and into the creek.

The *ephemeral* wetland has been constructed in the floor of the retarding basin. Shallow depressions carry water after rainfall but are not permanent water bodies, the cycle of wetting and drying being important for the ecological

Continued on back page

Living with the Merri Merri

Over the years, on my regular rides and walks along the Merri Creek between East Coburg and the Yarra, I've seen radical changes. I've seen the spring-flowering banks colonised by honeyeaters, Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos tearing grubs from old wattles and, in a lucky encounter, an Azure Kingfisher. On days of heavy rain, the usually trickling stream can turn into torrents of impassable floodwaters, and the riparian vegetation drips with plastic debris in the aftermath.

The Merri Creek watercourse is some 70 km long, rising near Wallan north of Melbourne and flowing south past natural grasslands, wetlands, basalt escarpments, industrial estates, private farmland and suburban reserves to the Yarra at Dights Falls. Long important to Aboriginal people, the Merri valley has seen turbulent change in the past 170 years through pastoral occupation, industrial pollution, urban encroachment and modern environmental activism.

In her inspiring book *Journey to the Source of the Merri*, philosophy lecturer Freya Mathews takes a spiritual and philosophical pilgrimage north with two friends along the length of the creek to find its source. On their seven-day journey they discovered its hidden aspects, its history and its meaning to those who live and work around it.

Starting during the spring Sacred Kingfisher ceremony at CERES, they passed market gardens, temples, insect ecosystems, natural waterholes, flora reserves, family farms and forests. They found bushranger ruins and walked in the footsteps of explorers. There are stories of yabbing, swimming holes and bullock trains. There were also fences, drains, junkyards, freeways, factories, weeds and livestock.

An important cultural heritage

The Merri Creek story hinges on the relationship between the ecological and cultural heritage of the region.

Merri Merri is thought to be an indigenous term meaning 'very rocky' from the Woiworing language of the original inhabitants of the area, the Wurundjeri-Willam people. The name is recorded on an 1839 map of the Yarra River and its tributaries.

Renewed interest in the creek's cultural heritage uncovered significant evidence of Aboriginal habitation, such as scar trees, campfire 'scatters' and native grasslands thought to be maintained through 'firestick' burning over thousands of years. These broad flat grasslands were perfect for the first pastoralists but became degraded and weed-infested.

Among post-contact cultural places are the sites of the Merri Creek Native School near the Yarra, the Protector's Hut, and the Native Police Corps Encampment.

There are still remnants of early colonial use of the creek, like Coburg Lake that was built in a 19th century quarry from which basalt was obtained to build nearby Pentridge Prison.

Community concern

In 1977, after 100 years of abuse and neglect, the Merri Creek Co-ordination Committee grew out of community and council concerns about flood control, creek degradation and a push for more green recreational space in the northern suburbs. The government vision then was to concrete-line the creek banks and build a freeway over the watercourse from Craigieburn to Clifton Hill – very different from today's thriving plantings of indigenous vegetation!

The MCCC pushed for the formation of a continuous walking pathway from the Yarra at Dights Falls to Mahoneys Road in Fawkner. This project required acquisition of private land abutting the creek in return for flood control levee banks. In 1985 MCCC became the first organisation in Australia to propose a study of the effects of litter on a suburban creek.

The Merri Creek Management Committee was formed out of the MCCC in 1989, as an incorporated environmental management agency with the aim of preserving, rehabilitating and managing the natural and cultural heritage of the Creek and its tributaries. MCMC now has representative members from six local municipalities and the Friends of Merri Creek. Funding

comes from local and state government, Federal and state grants, sponsorship and competitive tenders.

Today, MCMC is strengthening its relationship with Melbourne Water, which supports major projects for the MCMC Catchment Program like the upgrading of stormwater outlets and stormwater quality. The Committee also conducts community events like plantings, seed collection, weed removal and fauna surveys with the Friends



Bartrop Escarpment

Native trees in danger at Kodak site



Native trees are in danger of being cleared from the Kodak site in North Coburg, in order to remediate the site. However, the FoMC Committee has objected to the proposal as we don't believe that it is necessary to remove such a large number of trees.

of Merri Creek, and informs business and industry about strategies for reducing litter and pollutants in the creek.

The active Friends of Merri Creek group conducts regular weeding and planting programs and litter blitzes. *Streamteam*, one of the Friends' sub-groups, monitors water quality and the presence of macroinvertebrates in the creek, with guidance from MCMC. This program is part of *Waterwatch*, a national public education program encouraging community monitoring of waterways.

A future Regional Park

In 2000, MCMC and the VNPA proposed a linear park along the entire length of the Merri to Wallan which would link a network of significant sites. In the mid-90s, VNPA had nominated the remnant Craigieburn to Cooper Street Grasslands for the Register of the National Estate. The heritage listing was successful. VNPA grasslands campaigner James Ross carried out much of the groundwork.

Merri Creek Parklands is one of the proposed new parks in the State government's Melbourne 2030 Planning Strategy, the idea being to create a metropolitan park extending to Craigieburn. This proposal leaves out the upper reaches, primary habitat areas for the rare Growling Grass Frog, but it is a positive step forward for the Merri region.

Of critical importance now is the preservation of the endangered Golden Sun Moth and vulnerable Striped Legless lizard which have both been found in the Craigieburn Grasslands. This project is part of a conservation program funded through the Threatened Species Network, in which the Friends of Merri Creek, the VNPA and the MCMC are all involved.

Lisa Sulinski

(Originally written for the Victorian National Parks Association magazine Parkwatch.)

The Commonsense Games

Recently, much hype and fanfare was given to a number of people in Melbourne who were straining hard to do completely useless, meaningless activities like throwing plates or heavy iron balls, running or cycling around in circles, and swimming backwards. The only participants that seemed to enjoy themselves were the few winners, after their events.

Meanwhile, there was a small number of people engaged in activities that were personally enjoyable, meaningful, and useful, not only for people, but for wildlife as well. Yet all of their efforts went largely unnoticed. Of course, it's the FoMC Planting and Hands-on Activities group!

If, instead we had a Commonsense Games, we would have seen awards for quite different types of performances. Our 'Golden Girls' would have been Leslie Fraser and Ruth Shiel, for organising well-attended Merri-thon hand-weeding events at Merri Park wetlands on 19/2 and 19/3 respectively; plus Nicole Lowe for organising the long-distance cut, stack and tamp of Gorse at Craigieburn Grasslands on 26/3. (Actually, all participants in that difficult event deserved Gold for cutting a huge swathe in the Gorse on a very hot and windy day.)

Lots of Golds would have been won by those who participated in the triathlon of above events: Pascale Pitot, Des Shiel, Paul Prentice and new member Damir Dosen.

But, then again, participants in FoMC events receive their own personal rewards – and all are winners!

Ray Radford (Secretary)



Participants beside one of the three piles of Gorse that they cut and stacked at Craigieburn Grasslands on 26 March

Buzzing around the Merri valley

It's not entirely fair to rail at the Government for not providing public transport in the outer suburbs: there's also the most basic form of it, the bus, giving untrammelled freedom to untrained persons!

Bussing is, by definition, a very friendly activity, and a lot of it goes on in the Merri valley, often forming the "rim" to connect the "spokes" of the radial rail lines. Thus we have the 504 from Clifton Hill, the 506 from Westgarth and the 508 from Alphington, all going to the major transport interchange at Moonee Ponds Junction – twelve bus and two tram routes. Then there are 503 from the East Brunswick terminus (No. 96, near CERES and the MCMC) and 510 from Ivanhoe, to Essendon station; and 512 from Rennie St East Coburg, on the No. 1 line, to Strathmore. For a real monster, how about route 513 from Eltham to Glenroy, linking four rail and five tram lines: now that's synergy.

Some buses continue on from tram or train termini: from North Coburg (No. 19), 530 enjoys a laid-back amble through Fawkner to Campbellfield, while 531 dashes straight up Sydney Rd to Upfield. Over by the Darebin and Plenty, 564 connects Epping with No. 86 at Bundoora; meanwhile 553 has a curious upside-down J-shaped run, from West Preston (No. 112) to within cooee of the Merri, then across to Reservoir station and down to Dundas St for another rendezvous with No. 86. This is one of the buses that pass by a lake, the Edwardes; 525 and 526 visit the Coburg Lake, and 560, in Camp Rd Broadmeadows, sees the one on the Merlynston.

Finally, way upstream, we have Craigieburn already serviced by V-Line and electric trains soon to come: 532 loops around the area to bring people in, and then heads down to Broadmeadows via Upfield. The new station beside Somerton Rd, Roxburgh Park, will no doubt have feeder buses too, and hopefully some bike lockers for the more energetic and impatient commuters. The personal power/P.T. combination is called dual-moding, whether you immobilise your treading at the whistle-stop or haul it aboard, or maybe scurry to the ferry on in-line skates or rush to the bus on an aluminium scooter.

Folding bikes are the champions here, they take up less space on trains and are the only sort allowed on buses and trams. They've got such a diversity of mechanisms, from a simple hinge in the middle to a complex Transformer-type contraction into quite a compact package, and some are as fast as a standard bicycle, despite the small wheels. And their versatility and convenience - ! Into a cupboard, a country train luggage space, a car boot; easy to hop on or off, or to adjust for a smaller person or a child. Like recumbents (recliner cycles), they take bike design to another level.

And talking about adapting transport more closely to people's needs... Many years ago, a friend who worked at a centre for mentally handicapped adults in Williamstown told me how strenuously (and in the end successfully) she and others had campaigned for the rail service to be retained, because her clients were terrified of the steep climb up bus

steps: now, happily, we've got low-floor buses and trams and an increasing number of superstops. Well, "bus" does come from the Latin word *omnibus*, meaning "for everybody".

Public transport is vital to society, the environment and the economy, in that order. It caters for those who are too old or young, impoverished or disabled, independent or idealistic to drive; it helps to prevent road trauma, unfitnes and obesity, makes youngsters self-reliant, enables folk to get by with fewer cars and less petrol; eliminates common effects of being behind the wheel – overconfidence, delusions of grandeur, contempt for the law ("why shouldn't I speed/drink/text-message etc.? I can handle it!") and even road rage. Most of these benefits of course are also provided by bicycles, on their own or in partnership with P.T. Next, it minimises the automobile's harmful impact on the biosphere, the hydrosphere and the atmosphere; finally, it uses less fuel, land and other resources per capita and is the major means – minor ones include the unpopular car-pooling – of alleviating the frustrating, time-wasting, emissions-boosting traffic congestion.

It's a melancholy tribute to the degree of civilisation, cooperation and solidarity represented by P.T. that around the world vandals, terrorists and hooligans often choose it as a target for their violence. All the more reason for us to value and look after our own fine network: give credit for Vermont South and Craigieburn but insist that now it's South Morang's turn; applaud the Flinders Street icon's restoration, support the P.T. Users' Association.

And who are the most favoured P.T. users? That's easy: bus passengers. No ticket machines located amidships with nothing to hang on to during sudden starts and stops; no menacing motorists or kamikaze cyclists to watch out for when boarding or alighting; no puerile, futile anti-fare-evaders advertisements or silly acronyms. In any case, buses' layout seems to make cheating difficult; and people probably feel more secure on them than on trains.

On a freeway, traffic permitting, or on a reserved track with automatic guidance (yes, Adelaide's O-Bahn), they're as fast as you'd want urban P.T. to be. They don't have the carrying capacity of trams or trains, but with the big articulated vehicles and the Skybus juggernauts they're doing the best they can. If trucks can go to B-double or more and trams can stretch to 30 metres with five modules, buses can grow too!

Paul Prentice



Friends' Life Members – Ruth Shiel

This is the eleventh in a resumed series of short histories of the Friends' Life Members

Ruth Shiel's appreciation of the natural environment was extended when she moved to Melbourne from Numurkah, where her family has farmed since the 1890's. She joined the Melbourne University bushwalking club while studying for her Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education in the 1950's and she went on walks with the club to such scenic places as the Grampians in Victoria and Lake St Clair and Cradle Mountain in Tasmania, which according to her "were pretty rugged in those days".

She met her future husband Des at University and after their marriage, they went on a number of camping holidays all over Victoria and interstate. During these camping trips, Ruth became further interested in plants animals and geology. She taught humanities, had five children and then Des took long service leave in 1973. The family used this six month period to travel all around Australia camping mostly in the bush, rather than at camping grounds, with the children doing their school work on the trip.

With so much travelling there were always mishaps. Once, their car (a Ford Falcon station wagon) became bogged for six days in the dirt road that, in those days, was the highway south of Wilcannia NSW. However, they weren't the only ones and soon there were many people who became similarly bogged. While they awaited drying out, these strangers became a community and they established relationships that, for instance, enabled Ruth's children to happily eat another 'boggee' out of their week's supply of home-made cookies!

After her youngest child started school, Ruth returned to teaching in 1975 and also completed a graduate degree as a librarian. She then became a teacher/librarian and she remained in this role until her retirement in 1991. However, before this, in 1985, the family purchased a seven acre bush block out of Mansfield. At the time, the block was covered in blackberries, weeds and tall trees. Over many years, Ruth, Des and their children worked at clearing the weeds to allow the native plants to regenerate. They were happy with what they had achieved - until a recent storm brought down fifteen 100ft trees. There is still a lot of clearing-up to be done.

The block requires constant management as neighbouring blocks still contain blackberries and weeds. This experience taught Ruth and Des a lot about extending the range of

natural vegetation. A log house was built on the block in 1988 and the only electricity to the house is supplied by a solar system. However, the continually falling trees supply plenty of wood for heating and cooking.

After living in Donvale for 25 years, Ruth and Des moved to Clifton Hill in 1992. Soon after moving, Ruth was walking in Hall Reserve, opposite, and saw a Friends of Merri Creek stall which invited new members. She joined up on the spot and became one of our most regular participants

at plantings, often bringing Des along too. Ruth is the current coordinator of the Planting Group, continuing the role from last year. She also reliably updates the information sign at the Roseneath Street footbridge and she is one of the Friends' representatives to the MCMC as well as to one of its Sub-Committees. In recognition of her contribution to the group, Ruth was awarded honorary Life Membership at the AGM in 2004.

Ruth and Des support Bush Heritage and through that group they have helped to buy and manage a number of properties for conservation, mostly in Queensland and Western Australia. Their children are: Michael, who works in the Ministry of Transport in Canberra; Helena, who is in public liaison with Yarra Valley Water; Karen, who teaches humanities; Damon, who works in turf management; and Megan, an occupational therapist, now homeschooling her four children.

Besides her children, her environmental interests and her many travels, Ruth also enjoys needlepoint work and their home features a number of her intricate works. Des also has some of his own surprises, having written three books, each of which were rigorously edited by Ruth: *Ben Hall, Bushranger* in 1983; *Eucalyptus – Essence of Australia: The Story of the Eucalyptus Oil Industry* in 1985; and *The People's Man* (about Charles Jardine Don, the first tradesman to sit in the Victorian Parliament) in 1995, the last two being limited editions.

Ruth believes that the most important thing is that the ecology of the Earth has to survive. Accordingly, she sees doing something practical, like planting and weeding along the Merri Creek, as a part of a much larger endeavour.

Ray Radford (Secretary)



Friends of Merri Creek events calendar

MAY

Sunday 7 — Litter Clean-Up

Moreland Rd East Brunswick, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 30 A5.
Phone Paul 9489 5062.

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 14 — Friends of Wallan Creek Working Bee & BBQ

Wallan Community Park, (behind Scout Hall) Watson Street, Wallan, 10am-1pm. Melways 249 F8.
Contact John Robinson 5789 1411.

Sunday 14 — Weed Mapping including Woody Weeds

Cooper Street Grasslands, enter from beside the Istra Social Club, Cooper Street Campbellfield, 10am-1pm. Melway map 180 K10. We need your help to identify and eradicate a number of weed species to aid the restoration of the native grasslands. Funded by Parks Victoria Community Grant.
Phone Pascale Pitot 9484 5752.

Sunday 21 — Planting 7 BBQ

Imaroo St Fawkner, 10am-1pm. Melway 17K6. Help the local residents to revegetate this great site. Funded by Spicers paper.
Contact Brian at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 21 — Twin Lakes Walk

It's on again! Walk from Edwardes Lake to Coburg Lake along the Merri Creek and return along Edgars Creek. Meet at the Edwardes Lake dam wall, Edwardes St Reservoir opposite the hotel, at 1.00pm. Melway map 18 D5.
Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 28 — Handweeding and Weed Identification 4

Merri Park Wetland, Northcote, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 C9. Join the fourth round of identifying weeds and helping eliminate them from the wetland. Funded by Citipower.
Phone Leslie Fraser 9481 7365.

Sunday 28 — Planting & BBQ

Aitken Creek, Axminster Drive Craigieburn, 10am-1pm, with nearby residents and MCMC. Funded by Hume City Council. Melway map 386 J10. Phone Brian at MCMC 9380 8199 (w).

JUNE

Sunday 4 — Planting & BBQ

Merri Park Wetland, Northcote, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 C9. After four rounds of weeding, now we're ready to plant. Funded by Citipower. Phone Ruth Shiel 9489 5259.

Sunday 4 — Litter Clean-Up

Alister St, East Brunswick, 10am-12 noon. Melway map 30 C9. Afterwards, join the BBQ at nearby Merri Park wetlands.
Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Sunday 4 — 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 11 — Friends of Wallan Creek Working Bee & BBQ

Wallan Community Park, (behind Scout Hall) Watson Street, Wallan, 10am-1pm. Melways 249 F8.
Contact John Robinson 5789 1411.

Sunday 18 — Planting & BBQ

Craigieburn Grasslands, Enter from O'Herns Rd Somerton, 10am-1pm. Melway map 180 F6. Funded by Parks Victoria Community Grant. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

Friday 23 — Deadline for articles for the next newsletter.

Please send to admin@mcmc.org.au

JULY

Sunday 2 — Planting, Litter Clean-Up and BBQ

Aitken Creek, Hexham Crt Craigieburn, 10am-1pm, with nearby residents and MCMC. Funded by Hume City Council. Melway map 387 C12. Phone Brian at MCMC 9380 8199 (w) for planting, or Paul 9489 5062 for litter clean-up.

Sunday 2 — 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 9 — Friends of Wallan Creek Working Bee & BBQ

Wallan Community Park, (behind Scout Hall) Watson Street, Wallan, 10am-1pm. Melways 249 F8.
Contact John Robinson 5789 1411.

Sunday 16 — Planting & BBQ

Central Creek grasslands, Wattlebird Cr Reservoir, 10am-1pm, with MCMC. Come and help foster a local Friends of the Grasslands group. Funded by Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority grant to MCMC. Melway map 8 B11. Phone Brian at MCMC 9380 8199 (w).

Sunday 30 — Planting & Weeding

Friends' site, near Strettle wetlands Thornbury, 10am-1pm, with Darebin Bush Crew. Melway map 30 B3.
Phone Ray 0422 989 166.

Sunday 30 — Friends of Wallan Creek Working Bee & BBQ

Wallan Community Park, (behind Scout Hall) Watson Street, Wallan, 10am-1pm. Melways 249 F8.
Contact John Robinson 5789 1411.

AUGUST

Sunday 6 — Litter Clean-Up

St Georges Rd North Fitzroy, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 C10.
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 — Planting & BBQ

Robinson Reserve, Preston, 10am-1pm. Melway map 30 B2. Come along to plant lots of habitat to compensate for tree-clearing due to the high voltage powerlines. Funded by SPI Ausnet. Contact Brian at MCMC 9380 8199.

Sunday 13 — Friends of Wallan Creek Working Bee & BBQ

Wallan Community Park, (behind Scout Hall) Watson Street, Wallan, 10am-1pm. Melways 249 F8.
Contact John Robinson 5789 1411.

Sunday 20 — Planting & BBQ

Kalkallo Creek just before its confluence with the Merri, at John Laffan Memorial Reserve, 10am-1pm, with MCMC. Funded by Hume City Council. Melway map 367 F6.
Phone Ruth Shiel 9489 5259.

MERRI PARK WETLAND

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function of the wetland. The system is made up of a sedimentation/gross pollutant pond into which stormwater first enters. Water then flows across shallow marshes that filter out pollutants and into ponds, creating diverse habitat for birds, reptiles, frogs and other aquatic fauna. Water flows through pipes over the underground powerline that traverses the retarding basin. The wetland system does not affect the flood protection role that the retarding basin currently fulfils in protecting Sumner Estate housing.

Edited from a MCMC information leaflet