



## Urban Growth Boundary update

"If the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is expanded as proposed and if we keep doing stormwater drainage the way it is being done at present, then all of Merri Creek upstream of Craigieburn will become like the creek downstream: a sick, degraded urban drain."

**S**o said Chris Walsh, Principal Research Fellow, Department of Resource Management and Geography, Melbourne University, at a conference on stormwater on Friday 26 March.

It is the State Government that decides whether or not the expanded UGB goes ahead and if the system of drainage is to be vastly improved. Currently, the State Government bill to adopt the UGB and the controversial Growth Area Infrastructure Tax has been at least temporarily shelved, after it wasn't passed in the Upper House at a second reading. However there are moves

to reach a compromise on the tax between the major parties. If this occurs, a slightly revised version of the bill would be passed.

The Federal Minister for Environment, Peter Garrett has already given his in-principle approval to the expansion, through the Strategic Impact Assessment provisions of the EPBC Act. However he specified that details are still to be finalised on the actions to mitigate impacts on matters of national environmental significance.

## OUTCOME OF SECOND AGM

*Our second Annual General Meeting for 2009 on Wednesday 17 March was over in a flash with the approval of the Finance Report and some new appointments to the FoMC Committee.*

*Simon O'Connor has taken on the role of Treasurer after Colin Abbott resigned due to heavy pressures of his own business. Colin has soldiered on as Treasurer under great difficulties since May 2004. Simon is already on the FoMC Committee, having joined it in 2009.*

*Nicole Lowe has answered our request in the February newsletter to be the new FoMC representative on MCMC, taking the position left vacant after Louise Grgat stepped down. Nicole, who is a FoMC Life Member and*

*very active in the Regeneration Group, has already attended a MCMC meeting – on 18/2. She joins the other representatives, Trevor Hausler, Ann McGregor, Allie Dawe, Paul Prentice and Christabel McCarthy.*

*Sandra Simpson has volunteered to be a Substitute representative on the MCMC and to represent FoMC on the Merri Creek & Environs Strategy Implementation Sub-Committee.*

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# Creek Clippings

**Kangaroo poisonings:** Journalist Deborah Gough wrote in *The Age* on 21/2/10 that scores of kangaroos around the Austral Bricks factory at Craigieburn have bone deformities from the factory's fluoride emissions. A number of kangaroos are in pain and some are likely to die from their deformities. Although the levels of fluoride emissions are deemed safe for humans and are within licence conditions, the EPA agreed that the impact on kangaroos was unacceptable and demanded that Austral Bricks reduce its emissions. A planned \$75 million expansion of the Craigieburn plant is expected to reduce emissions by more than 75% once works are completed in 2011.

**Another successful grant:** Our sub-group, Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group, has received \$17,017 from Melbourne Water Community Grants Program to continue their wonderful recreation of Riparian Escarpment Shrubland EVC around the Rosemary Grevillea escarpment and Pentridge quarry.

**Lots more tree pruning:** SP AusNet, the company in charge of the high voltage powerlines, is ramping up its tree-pruning program to prevent possible damage to the line. The program is lagging behind tree growth, so we are likely to see some dramatic pruning happening soon. This is regrettable and will probably upset many people. However, FoMC supports the pruning on the basis that no action could be dangerous and that SP AusNet adequately funds replacement planting (which they have promised to do).

**Harding Street Main Drain Rehabilitation:** Melbourne Water rehabilitated a section of the Harding Street Main Drain in Coburg and will plant over 750 trees and shrubs in or around areas where established trees and shrubs have been removed.

**Wetlands update:** Moreland City Council is doing cultural heritage surveys of two proposed wetland locations at Lawson St Fawkner (the most likely site) and at the current golf driving range at Edgars Creek parklands.

FoMC has again requested that Darebin City Council allocate funding in its next budget for a re-design of the Strettle Wetland in Thornbury to treat stormwater. So far, there has been no response.

## HELP REVEGETATE BUSHFIRE AREAS

*Parks Victoria is looking for volunteers to help revegetate some of the areas affected by the bushfires in February 2009. From 1 May to 13 June, 50,000 seedlings will be planted to create a habitat link between the severely burnt Kinglake National Park and the unburnt Warrandyte-Kinglake Nature Conservation Reserve. This connection will help the recovery of small mammals such as the Brush Tailed Phascogale and Common Dunnart.*

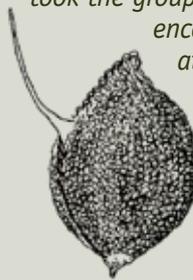
*For enquires, or to register, contact Tara Sanders, Parks Victoria Fire Recovery Officer, at [tsanders@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:tsanders@parks.vic.gov.au) or phone 5772 0290.*

## MEMBER ILLUSTRATES SEED BOOK

*FoMC member Ailsa Campbell has illustrated an amazing book entitled Collect and Grow That Seed: Small Australian Plants, as part of a self-publishing team. The writers are four very knowledgeable women in their eighties and the book took the group nine years to complete. It aims to encourage gardeners to try their hands at simple propagation from seed.*

*The group's passion, experience and dedication in producing this excellent book is truly inspirational.*

*Copies can be obtained for only \$20.00 by arrangement with Ailsa Campbell: email [ailsauida@gmail.com](mailto:ailsauida@gmail.com)*



**Stormwater harvesting proposal:** FoMC has supported a proposal by Yarra Valley Water to harvest stormwater in a large underground tank near Bell St Coburg. If it goes ahead, it is estimated that it would save 213 ML/year of potable water and that it would remove 658 kg/year of nitrogen from Merri Creek. Recycled water would be available to irrigate public open space in the surrounding area.

**Pipeline bridge open:** In the previous newsletter, we said that Melbourne Water's new bridge and new cycle path



at Holden St North Fitzroy would be completed by early February, but it took longer than expected. However the bridge was opened in April and is called "Koonda Lat" which means "Travel Over" in the Wurundjeri language.

**Merri Path realigned in Moreland:** Works started in March on widening and re-aligning of the Merri Creek shared path south of Moreland Road and behind the Brunswick Velodrome. There will possibly be two more Merri Creek path widening / re-alignment jobs constructed this financial year – from Albert St Brunswick to Alister St Nth Fitzroy and from Albion St to CERES in Brunswick.

**Emergency location posts along the Merri:** The cities of Darebin and Yarra have installed a number of small posts along Merri Creek with location numbers, such as E310, which can be given to emergency services to enable speedy location.

# Why we support willow removal

While established willows may be aesthetically pleasing to many people, there are very good reasons for removing them. So we support Melbourne Water's program of woody weed removal and replacement with indigenous vegetation.

Willows are on the list of Australia's 20 worst weeds, because of their invasiveness, potential for spread, and economic and environmental impacts. Most willows easily spread by stems and twigs breaking off and taking root, particularly after floods. Consequently they have taken over thousands of kilometres of rivers, creeks and wetlands in south-eastern Australia. Their roots spread into streambeds, slowing and diverting water flow, reducing aeration and causing

flooding and erosion. Their heavy leaf fall in autumn degrades water quality, reducing oxygen to levels dangerous to native aquatic plants and animals like platypus. They provide very limited food (insects, nectar, fruits) or shelter for our native birds and mammals, particularly in winter. They extract large volumes of water from stream systems.

Willows and other invasive weeds such as poplars and ash are very good at establishing a monoculture, whereas Melbourne's indigenous riparian plant communities comprise dozens of species of trees, shrubs, creepers and ground layer plants. Victoria has a very diverse plant population but unfortunately many river management agencies have in the

past severely reduced the range of plant species that grow along our waterways. Grazing and 'river engineering' which shaped riversides into trapezoidal drainage channels removed most vegetation, rocks and wood from the waterways.

Calculations by MCMC show that less than 2% of the land area within 5km of the Merri Creek in Coburg is covered by the original local native plants. Yet, it is this 2% indigenous vegetation that supports by far the greatest diversity of wildlife in our suburbs. The potential for indigenous revegetation in areas other than creekside parklands is extremely limited.

On our regular bird surveys we have recorded over 100 bird species along the Merri over the past 18 months. A large proportion would not be there if the Creek was lined with willows and ash trees.

**Ann McGregor** FoMC Vice-President

## WEEDY TREES REMOVED AT NORTHCOTE GOLF COURSE

*At Northcote Golf Course in January, the yells of 'Fore' were outnumbered by yells of 'Timberr' as Melbourne Water removed lots of weedy trees like Ash and Willows. The result of the works can best be observed from*



*the area adjacent to the Brunswick Velodrome. There you can now clearly see the confluence of the previously unnoticed small un-named creek that flows through the golf course from the Preston main drain.*

# Alligator weed treatment update

The alligator weed monitoring and treatment program of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is progressing well this season across the state. It has been a huge task that has consisted of auditing approximately 700 backyards in Melbourne that previously had alligator weed infestations, together with a number of creeks and waterways in urban and rural Victoria. Several new infestations have also been detected this season through the DPI surveillance network.

## Backyards

The backyard audit involves DPI Weed Alert staff visiting residential properties throughout Melbourne and treating alligator weed if present. This operation involves 8-12 staff over 8 weeks. Records show that about a third of sites still have alligator weed. This is encouraging, as the remaining two-thirds are now in a monitoring stage and hopefully will be deemed eradicated before too long.



Alligator weed in Edwardes Lake was treated with a variety of methods. Excavation was used in this upper section of the Merri Creek system.

## Riparian metropolitan sites

The strategy of treating from upstream to downstream is continuing, limiting the risk of re-infestation. Edwardes Lake, the uppermost location of infestations in the Merri Creek system, was treated late in 2009. This involved a variety of treatment methods including excavation, removal by hand and the application of chemicals. Works then progressed down the Merri, again, with a variety of treatment approaches being used.

Treatments in the northern suburbs have been completed for the season with the Darebin Creek and Yarra River infestations also being chemically treated. However, Creeks in the eastern metropolitan area are densely infested, making treatment time longer than originally anticipated.

*Please report any sightings of alligator weed to the DPI on 136 186.*

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

# Birds along the Merri in late summer

Our February round of bird surveys was conducted on 14 February at 9 sites, and 28 February at Bababi Marning (Cooper Street Grasslands).

A new site has been added this year—Kalkallo Common, which was surveyed on 7 March. Surveys at this site will contribute to documenting its conservation values and assist in efforts to secure currently unreserved areas of remnant native vegetation to the north of the Common. MCMC has received a Federal Government grant under the *Bush Guardians* program for weed control in the significant grassland vegetation. Results from the March survey are not included below, but the sighting of ten Blue-winged Parrots was a feature of the survey. These beautiful small parrots have a soft, tinkling call. They breed in Tasmania, southern Victoria and south-eastern South Australia in spring-summer, then migrate in March-April to inland NSW, south-western Queensland and eastern South Australia. So the flock at Kalkallo was probably heading northwards for winter.

At our ten regular sites, a total of 66 species was recorded. (This is down from 76 species at nine sites in February-March 2009.) Highlights included a Little Button-quail at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands), and a family of four



Blue-winged Parrot  
by Tony Wilson,  
[www.tannin.net.au](http://www.tannin.net.au)

Tawny Frogmouths at Coburg Lake. There was a good range of raptors: Black-shouldered Kite, Brown Goshawk (3 sites), Collared Sparrowhawk, Nankeen Kestrel and Peregrine Falcon. The most numerous species were House Sparrow, Rock Dove, Common Myna, Rainbow Lorikeet, Silver Gull and Pacific Black Duck. Every site recorded Spotted (Turtle) Dove, Australian Magpie, and Common Myna. Coburg Lake Reserve had the largest number of species, with 32.

Both Long-billed and Little Corellas were recorded for the second time since surveys began in October 2008. These noisy white cockatoo-like birds seem to have moved into the northern suburbs in recent months.

Of the summer migrants to the Merri, Australian Reed-Warblers were still evident at Edwardes Lake and Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Road Grassland), but the Sacred Kingfisher, Rufous and Brown Songlarks, White-winged Triller, cuckoos and Little Grassbird were not recorded.

The next surveys are in May—come and join us; beginners are welcome!

**Ann McGregor** Merri Birdwatch Coordinator

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR FoMC OFFICE

*Can you help out at the FoMC office in Brunswick Town Hall? This role involves a couple of hours once a fortnight during a working day to check the mail and do the banking.*

*It would suit someone who would like to do more for the group, but is unable to participate in our events.*

*Currently our Membership Secretary, Monica Williamson, has kept the office ticking over, but she needs a hand. If you're interested, Monica would be very happy to show you the ropes. Please email Monica at: [merricreek@bigpond.com](mailto:merricreek@bigpond.com) or phone Ray on 0422 989 166.*

## MORE MERRI BIRDWATCH SURVEYS

The next bird surveys at eleven sites along Merri Creek, now including Kalkallo Common near Kalkallo Creek (a Merri tributary), are listed below. All surveys will be from 8.45-10.30am. 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 on 16 May & 5 September

- 🦋 **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)\*** and **Kalkallo Common\*** are on 23 May & 29 August.

*Bababi Marning: meet near the Istrian Club, Cooper St, Campbellfield (Melway 180 K10).*

*Kalkallo Common: 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.

# Grassland birds love a buffer

A summary of one of the bird talks given at the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM on 17 March.

Native Grassland environments are highly threatened. However work in recent years has highlighted how even small reserves may be highly important for conservation of rare plant species.

Things get more complicated when it comes to fauna, as the context of the reserve may have a strong impact on viability of the site for different species. Grassland birds are a focus for Grassland conservation and different species vary in their success at persisting in reserves in different situations.

The birds that specialise in feeding or nesting in grasslands employ a number of characteristic tactics to protect themselves from predators. For instance, Australasian Pipits have streaky patterns and strong legs, features that are shared by grassland birds from diverse groups such as Quail, Button Quail, larks and snipe.

There are alternative strategies for avoiding predation than camouflage. Male Flame Robins could hardly have a



more dramatic colour scheme. They are strongly attracted to the burnt grasslands often created by ecological burns. These areas provide the birds with the vantage points

to see predators from a distance. Unfortunately this means they are also drawn to mown short grass and will gather on ovals and golf courses, where they are vulnerable to ingesting pesticides.

Rufous Songlarks demonstrate another common theme in Grassland birds by having strong, carrying songs to help find a mate, mark a territory or warn of predators. In Brown Quail, these calls are emitted while hidden within the grasses. In the case of the Rufous Songlark, the tops of dead bushes and trees are used.

In contrast, female Rufous Songlarks are far more demure as they carry out the bulk of the precarious ground nesting duties. Females were seen



throughout 2008 at Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grasslands), suggesting that breeding was attempted.

The Brown Songlark is even more of an open country bird. In this species the male has dispensed with perches and makes his territorial songs from the air. The strenuous exercise involved has been a factor in the remarkable size disparity between the muscular males and the much smaller females.

One interesting sighting from the FoMC birdwalks was the sight of Grey Currawongs hunting at Bababi Djinanang - this species is more typical of leaf-strewn woodlands and tree trunks.

Two Grasslands in the northern suburbs appear to display the influence that humans and their companion animals may exert on ground frequenting birds. Bababi Djinanang occupies



a little over 4 hectares, while Ngarri-djarrang (Central Creek Grasslands) in Reservoir is approximately 9 hectares. However Bababi Djinanang

is separated from human disturbance and in particular cat hunting ranges by a buffer of about 100 metres of mown open space to the west. The Merri Creek wraps around the rest of the grassland forming a natural barrier to cats from the Reservoir side of the creek. A rabbit proof fence with a top wire possibly also discourages cat predation. It seems likely that these factors could explain the greater intensity of ground-frequenting bird activity at Bababi Djinanang, despite its smaller area.

However even with plentiful habitat and good buffers, reserves in urban areas may not be enough to sustain all bird species. Yellow-rumped Thornbills (or Butterbums) are a common bird in many farmland environments. Even Quarries

Park in Clifton Hill and adjacent Yarra Bend Park support a healthy flock that feed in mown lawns and shelter in dense revegetation plots.

Bababi Djinanang still supported a flock up to the late 1990's. It seems likely that habitat changes associated with mowing regimes, disturbance of key habitat and loss of connectivity with other populations led to eventual demise of the group. The species has also failed to recolonise apparently suitable habitat in Moomba Park in Fawkner from north of the Western Ring Road where the species remains relatively common. The roads presumably form too severe a filter for this weak-flying species. It is interesting to consider whether a re-introduction program for this species is justified and how it might be attempted.



**Brian Bainbridge** leader of Bird surveys at Bababi Djinanang & Bababi Marning

# Update No. 7 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.

Construction of the shared cycling and walking path to link Galada Tamboore to the Whittlesea Public Gardens started in April. These works will complete the trail from Somerset Rd in Campbellfield to Whittlesea Public Gardens in Lalor and will include a new footbridge over the creek. A gravel path leads from the trail to the spectacular Barry Road Gorge, which is a site of State Significance.

A strategic management plan will be developed for the entire Merri Creek Parklands, covering the area from the Ring Road to Craigieburn East Road. This will include the area of Galada Tamboore along with the significant Cooper Street and Craigieburn Grasslands. The plan will draw heavily on the Draft Concept Plan (2006) and the submissions received during the consultation on the draft.



River Bottlebrush at Galada Tamboore

The strategic management plan will provide strategies for the management of conservation, recreation and cultural values within the parklands over the next 15 years. A draft management plan will be released for public comment within the coming months and Parks Victoria will notify the Friends of Merri Creek once a draft is available.

For further information please contact Andrew Shannon, Team Leader Community Engagement, on 8627 4650.

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

## DICK'S WITTICISMS

*For too long, only those who attend Regeneration Group events have benefited from the witty one-liners delivered by Life Member Dick Harcourt. But now some of his seemingly endless witticisms are going to be shared through the newsletter.*

*For instance, upon being greeted at the Merri Park Wetland Weeding on 14 March, Dick said: "I'm quite happy — I just checked my birth certificate and there was no expiry date." Later on he said: "change is inevitable — except from a vending machine."*

*Dick doesn't pretend that his quips are original but admits to being a bit of a "green comedian — who recycles his (and other people's) jokes" (including that one).*

*He seems to follow the motto, "a good pun is its Own Reword" and so says such things as: "a man's home is his castle — in a manor of speaking" or "a boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat."*

*Look for more of Dick's Witticisms in the future newsletters.*

## Two poems by Sandra Simpson

inspired by the February bird survey at Babaji Djinanang (Jukes Road Grassland).

### Manna Gum at Babaji Djinanang

We stand in silence gazing  
at the Manna gum in flower  
on this overcast morning.  
Yellow blossoms amidst green leaves  
by the flowing water and reeds.  
Its crooked shape  
on the rocky escarpment.  
Such natural beauty and dignity.  
Leaving an imprint of tenderness,  
in my heart, in the spaciousness  
and we walk slowly on our way  
as a Peregrine Falcon in flight  
appears high overhead.

### Magpies

A male magpie stands around  
he recently lost a leg.  
He does not move very much  
mainly staying in one place.  
His loyal partner is nearby  
looking out for him.  
She works very hard  
to care for him.

# Double jeopardy

It was three decades ago that one of the earlier threats to our environment and heritage, the Fawkner to Clifton Hill freeway, was averted; but there's no way that they will ever cease, as witness the upper Merri's recent (perhaps only temporary) escape, along with other areas, from the expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary.

The latter would not only have destroyed much precious remnant grassland, but also added to the number of isolated, car-dependent outer-suburban dwellers; fortunately the Planning Minister insisted that his hated innovation, the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution, should be part of the deal, so it was defeated in the Upper House.

Other good outcomes have included the Hardy-Gallagher Park in North Carlton that was saved from a factory, the Upfield railway line, the Abbotsford Convent, the St Kilda Triangle, the east-west tunnel stymied for now, the Brunswick to Richmond powerline, the Northcote levee and wetlands; but there were heavy losses in Royal Park and the Carlton Gardens.

And some big guns are being rolled out against us: residents' and councils' rights to oppose or even *be informed* of developments have been suspended until mid-2012, resulting in neighbourhoods suddenly being overwhelmed by massive high-density projects. Various cases have been documented in the papers and electronic media, a local one being the 199-unit complex planned for five house blocks at Nicholson and Moore Streets in East Coburg.

It's an Australia-wide disgrace, caused by the Federal Government's rush to increase social housing and its imposition of tight deadlines on the States, e.g. 75 per cent of 4500 units in Victoria to be completed by the end of 2010, even though the economic stimulus is no longer needed as the crisis has passed. Justin Madden similarly mentioned the temporary benefit of job creation to justify the enduring 38-storey eyesore proposed for Box Hill - rather like the debacles of roof insulation and school buildings.

There are also plans to fast-track transport projects, obviously designed to force through the tunnel and the Ring Road to Eastlink connection across the Yarra valley.

It was sickening to hear the Premier some time ago declaring that the latter was several years away because of the cost of kilometres of tunnels, and to know we'd soon be told that, happy surprise, it could be built in the near future, but sorry, we can't afford to go underground...

So many harmful things like tower blocks, motorways, the desalinator and extended brown-coal burning, instead of

moderate medium-density housing including dual occupancy; road congestion charges, rail freight, double-decker trains and dual-moding (bikes plus P.T.); rainwater tanks and recycling; energy-efficiency measures, and renewables like sun and wind and hot rock.

What's putting all our infrastructure under extreme strain is of course the surge in population, caused by politicians obsessed with quantity rather than quality of life and urged on by various lobby groups – commercial, industrial, ethnic, social, religious, educational. Thus we have immigration at excessive levels, even after the partial closing of the back-door rort of students simply being allowed to stay on; and that insult to parents and planet alike, the "Baby Bonus".

We face the twin perils of global warming, and of rapidly

increasing numbers which will inevitably lead to even more emissions and ultimately mass starvation: anyone who wants 60 per cent more people in this country with its world's-worst per-capita carbon footprint must have neither sense nor conscience.

Sustainable Population Australia which is trying to save both humanity and nature is up against apathy, ignorance, selfishness, greed and "motherhood and apple pie" emotionalism: an article

in *The Age* showed its bias right from the title "Migrants enrich our way of life" and had the gall to suggest that scrapping the birth incentive would send a message of despairing about the future.

Local Federal MP Kelvin Thomson has set out a 14-point plan aimed at achieving zero population growth in Australia, one of them being the encouragement of the sustainable two child family with subsequent offspring in future not receiving support.

The greatest reason for us to stabilise our numbers and also reduce our environmental impact is that we could then offer our help to Third World countries to do the same, through family-planning clinics, education for girls, revegetation, renewable sources of energy and so on. Rescuing the planet's people, animals and plants from catastrophe may well be Mission Impossible, but failing to attempt it is out of the question.



The upper Merri at Kate Looker's property in Woodstock

## 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 for 2010

8.45-10.30am at nine sites along the creek. See page 4 for details.

## Sunday 16 Friends of Edgars Creek Planting at Silurian cliff

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Help extend stream bank shrubland around a regionally significant cliff. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants Program. Phone Sylvia 9470 3805.

## Sunday 23 Second Bird Survey (Bababi Marring & Kalkallo Common)

8.45-10.30am, see page 4 for details.

## Sunday 30 Planting & BBQ

Rushall Recreation Reserve North Fitzroy, end of Holden St. 10am-1pm. Melway 30 D11. Funded by City of Yarra. Phone Ben at MCMC on 9380 8199.

# JUNE

## Saturday 5 MECCARG\* Planting & Aboriginal Story Telling

Near the footbridge between Bell St and Murray Rd, Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway 18 A12. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Bring a digging tool and a bucket if you can. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

## Sunday 6 Litter Clean-Up - East Coburg

Moreland Rd East Coburg, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 A4. 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. Ph: 9354 9885.

## Friday 18 Singing the Merri Fundraiser

Northcote Uniting Church Hall 250 High St Northcote, 7pm. Melway 30 E9. Join in the fun when the Rogues Choir and a range of community musicians raise funds for MCMC.

## Sunday 20 FoEC† Planting along 'goose-neck' meander

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Help restore creekline tussock grassland. Funded by Moreland City Council. Phone Sam Niedra (Moreland CC) 0403 603 540.

# JULY

## Saturday 3 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 4 Litter Clean-Up - Reservoir

Edgars Creek, below the Edwardes Lake dam wall, Edwardes St Reservoir, 10am-12 noon. Melway 18 D5. Phone Paul 9489 5062.

## Sunday 4 Streamteam Water Quality Testing

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

## Sunday 11 FoMC Planting—Strettle Wetland

Friends' site near Strettle wetland Thornbury, 10am-1pm. Melway 30 B3. Help continue the expansion of our site. Light refreshments afterwards. Funded by the City of Darebin. Phone Christabel 0419 115 945.

## Sunday 18 Friends of Edwardes Lake and FoEC†—Joint Planting

Meet at bottom of Kia-Ora Rd, Reservoir (off Gilbert Rd), 1-3pm. Melway 18 C6. Funded by Darebin City Council. Phone Sylvia 9470 3805.

## Sunday 25 Planting & BBQ—Fawkner

Imaroo St, Fawkner, 10am-1pm. Melway 17 K6. Funded by Landcare Australia/Spicers Paper. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

# AUGUST

## Sunday 1 Litter Clean-Up - North Fitzroy

Near Rushall station North Fitzroy, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 D11. 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. Ph: 9354 9885.

## Sunday 1 FoEC† National Tree Day Planting & BBQ

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, North Coburg, 10am-1pm. Melway 18 A9. Funded by Moreland City Council. Phone Sam Niedra (Moreland CC) 0403 603 540.

## Sunday 1 Yarra City Council National Tree Day Planting & BBQ

Byrne St Nth Fitzroy, 10am-12pm Melway 30 C11. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

## Saturday 7 MECCARG\* Planting & Basket Weaving Workshop

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 8 Landcare Australia/SPAusNet planting & BBQ

Phillips Reserve, cnr Weigall & Primrose Sts East Brunswick, 10am-1pm. Melway 30 B7. Funded by Landcare Australia/SP AusNet.

## Sunday 15 Planting & BBQ—Fawkner

Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grassland), 10am-1pm. Melway 18 A2. Funded by the Federal Government's Caring for Country Program. Phone Ben at MCMC 9380 8199.

\* MECCARG = Merri & Edgars Creek Confluence Area Restoration Group  
† FoEC = Friends of Edgars Creek