

# Friends of Merri Creek



## NEWSLETTER

November 2010

– January 2011

## We win 2010 Port Phillip & Westernport Landcare Award

Friends of Merri Creek won in the category: *Community Group Caring for Public Land.*

The Awards, which celebrate the environmental contribution of individuals, community groups, schools and councils, took place on Saturday 11 September at Zinc, Federation Square, Melbourne. In the words of the judges *"The Friends of Merri Creek have shown great leadership and innovation in regards to protecting and enhancing the environs of the Merri Creek."*

This award is great recognition for the work done by Friends of Merri Creek, and the honour is shared by our members and all those who have helped out at any of our events. The award is particularly special for us as an urban-based group, when Landcare tends to be associated with rural-based groups.

Next year, Friends of Merri Creek will represent the Port Phillip and Westernport catchment in the same category at the Victorian Landcare Awards.



Dr Kate Auty, Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, presented the award to Friends of Merri Creek (FoMC) President David Redfearn, alongside two members of the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Authority Board (Drew Jessop and Kay Spierings), FoMC Membership Secretary Monica Williamson, and FoMC Secretary Ray Radford.

## 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm Wednesday 24th November  
CERES Environment Room, Lee Street East Brunswick

### AGENDA

**1. Wurundjeri 'Welcome to Country'**

Wurundjeri Elder, Uncle Ringo, will then tell us about the Merri Creek Cultural Heritage Project that he's coordinating for the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Cultural Heritage Council.

**2. President's Report — David Redfearn**

**3. Election of the 2011 Committee**

(Nominations needed — see page 2)

**4. Election of six Friends' Representatives to MCMC**

**5. End of year celebrations**

Drinks and nibbles provided.

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7 Marran Baba update / Alligator weed treatment update / Dick's witticisms    8 Events calendar

# Creek Clippings

**Urban Growth Boundary expanded** The Victorian Parliament has now passed the expanded Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), after previously passing a slightly modified version of the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contributions tax. The UGB legislation also ratifies a planning scheme amendment that identifies areas to be zoned Urban Growth Zone as well as Special Use and Rural Conservation Zones within the new UGB. Commonwealth approval has already been given for the Strategic Impact Assessment which specifies the prescriptions about required protection and allowed destruction of EPBC listed communities and species. For more about the UGB, see the front page of our website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~fomc/>

**New local area group** Welcome to our newest group: Friends of Coburg Lake and Surrounds formed by residents living near Bakers Rd Coburg North. They are keen to build upon and extend the planting done between Bakers Rd and Coburg Lake by Melbourne Water, and to work with local

## Newsletter to be re-named MERRI GROWLER

*After considering 20 suggestions from members, the FoMC Committee decided to re-name the newsletter **Merri Growler**, as proposed by Life member, Brian Bainbridge. This suggests campaigning while also promoting one of our iconic species, the Growling Grass Frog. We hope you like it too.*

*The name **Merri Musings** (or a version) was suggested by three people, so we'll use this for the section currently called **Creek Clippings**. These changes will start from the first edition in 2011 and Dean Lombard has promised to also provide a new layout.*

schools, organisations, Council, residents and businesses to increase the number of indigenous plantings throughout the local area. For more information, contact Emma Hopkins at [emma\\_hopkins@optusnet.com.au](mailto:emma_hopkins@optusnet.com.au).

**Talks on undergrounding Powerlines** FoMC has accepted an invitation from the City of Darebin to participate in discussions with other councils and relevant groups about undergrounding electricity infrastructure in the Merri corridor. Also, the residents' group that is campaigning against the expansion of the Brunswick Terminal Station has had heartening responses from a number of politicians. For campaign updates see <http://powergridsolutions.blogspot.com>

**Treasures found in Thornbury** Firstly, those at a planting at Strettle Wetland on 11/7 saw two Tawny Frogmouths and found a *Geocache* with trinkets and notebook. These lunchbox-sized treasure chests are hidden all over the world and people search for them using website clues. Secondly, at a weeding at the same site on 12/9, the participants saw three Tawnys and a Grey-headed Flying Fox roosting. Then on 16/9, FoMC Secretary, Ray Radford, saw the ultimate treasure not far downstream: a Platypus swimming in the Merri!



Australasian Darter at Edwardes Lake  
Photo by Chris Neeson

## 2010 Annual General Meeting

Continued from page 1

### All members are invited to attend the AGM

Please come along to find out about Merri Creek Cultural Heritage Project, elect our new Committee and help celebrate another successful year.

### How about joining the FoMC Committee?

All committee positions become vacant at the AGM and it's always good to have some new people. A role on the Committee would suit someone who would like to do more in the group but perhaps isn't able to attend activities. If you are even vaguely interested in being on the Friends' Committee or in being a representative to the MCMC, or in volunteering for one of the various Sub-Committees, please contact Ray Radford by email: [merricreek@bigpond.com](mailto:merricreek@bigpond.com) or by phone: 0422 989 166. Also contact Ray for a Nomination Form, or download it from our website under *Membership*. The forms must be received before 19th November, although nominations for any vacancy will also be welcome at the AGM. An election will only be held if there are more nominations than vacancies.

It is absolutely okay to nominate yourself and leave it open to be seconded by someone else.

### Check Your Membership

Please note that only financial members can vote at the AGM or nominate for positions. If you wish to vote but are currently not financial, your membership fee and application form will need to be received before Tuesday 16 November. Unfortunately, memberships cannot be approved at the AGM.



On bird surveys, we also find other fauna, like this Blue-tongued Lizard at Kalkallo Common on 29 August  
Photo by Nicole Spillane

# Birds along the Merri in early spring

Our third set of bird surveys for 2010 was a few weeks later than last year, in an effort to pick up some of the migrants that arrive in spring. (Most arrive in late August, September or October.)

We were rewarded with several cuckoos: 5 Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoos, a Pallid Cuckoo, and an addition to the survey list, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo. The Fan-tailed Cuckoo was consorting with the immature Pallid Cuckoo at Bababi Djinanang, possibly in a case of mistaken identity. Both were enjoying Grass Antherid (Woolly Bear) caterpillars in the grassland, although Fan-tailed Cuckoos normally live in forest or woodland.

Total bird numbers were higher than in the August surveys last year. There were considerably more honeyeaters, thornbills, Magpie-larks, Skylarks, Silvereyes, Starlings, Common Mynas, Pipits and Goldfinches. It is good to see a total of 15 Grey Fantails recorded across 6 sites, compared with 8 across 4 sites last year. The increase in the bird population could be related to the wetter weather this year, rather than the later timing of the surveys. Duck numbers were generally down on last year.

Species diversity was lower this year, with a total of 66 species being recorded, compared with 73 species across the same ten sites last year. Kalkallo Common, the eleventh site that has only been surveyed this year, recorded two additional species.

There was a number of breeding reports: Tawny Frogmouths, Magpie-larks, Little Ravens, and a courtship

display by Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo. Black Swans had 6 young at Coburg Lake.

Departure of the winter migrants is another thing that happens at this time of year. Flame Robins seem to have departed from the Merri grasslands (heading for higher altitudes) between the surveys on 29 August and 5 September.

The high flows in the Merri were impressive on 5 September. At least one pair of Superb Fairy-wrens from the two creekside colonies in Bababi Djinanang appeared distressed, possibly having lost a nest to rising floodwaters. Many frogs were calling, particularly in Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn Grasslands) and in East Brunswick.

The most numerous species were: Common Starling (654 – most of them at Galgi Ngarrk), Common Myna (101), Red Wattlebird (96), Rainbow Lorikeet (95), and Rock Dove (94).

Sites with the greatest diversity were Blyth Street-Moreland Road in East Brunswick (31 species), Galgi Ngarrk (30 species) and Coburg Lake with 29 species.

We look forward to recording more of the warm weather migrants in the November surveys, including the Sacred Kingfisher, Reed Warbler, Rufous and Brown Songlarks, and Olive-backed Oriole.

**Ann McGregor** Merri Birdwatch Coordinator



Fan-tailed Cuckoo at Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd Grasslands) Fawkner  
Photo by Brian Bainbridge

## 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 are on 14 November*

- ☞ **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 21 November.*

**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.*

# Early Nancy and Woolly Bears

Spring has arrived at Craigieburn Grassland Flora and Fauna Reserve (*Galgi Ngarrk*). The first of the lilies, 'Early Nancy'



Early Nancy lily

*Wurmbea dioica* are in bloom. These plants are dioecious, meaning male and female flowers are produced on separate plants. Many leaves of various other lilies, Onion Orchids and other wildflowers are sprouting.

The *Hymenanthera dentata* bushes are smothered in their tiny creamy yellow bell flowers, sweet temptations for many grassland insects

including moths, beetles and bees. *Clematis microphylla* tumbles over shrubs and rocks covered in their fine cream flowers, which will develop into masses of fluffy seeds.

These and many other plants are sprouting enthusiastically in response to the recent 'average' rains and removal of



*Pterolocera* sp Lined Group caterpillar

sheep from the grassland. Until a year or so ago, sheep had been kept on the reserve for biomass reduction. This grazing aimed to maintain plant species diversity by preventing one species, say Kangaroo Grass, becoming dominant and smothering everything else. This had worked fairly well but constant browsing and eating of the seedlings has led to



*Pterolocera* sp Lined Group male moth

the loss of native shrubs from knolls and escarpments and prevented any regeneration of the scattered Red Gum, wattle and Allocasuarina trees.

Since removal of the sheep, nature



Eye Spot Anthelid

has resumed biomass reduction. The local kangaroos are more prevalent in the area. The conservation reserves are increasingly crucial for their local survival as ever more of the once Green Wedge land of the upper Merri is lost to freeways, roads, housing and industrial development.

Probably as important, and certainly more numerous 'Grassland Munchers' are the many native caterpillars, often called 'Woolly Bears'. Currently the most obvious type is the handsome, short haired, yellow/orange/black/white coloured



Another Eye Spot Anthelid

Anthelid *Pterolocera* sp Lined Group. Many are quite large and will soon spin a cocoon and pupate. Their moths emerge in late summer or autumn. Male moths have impressive antennae used to detect pheromones emitted by the wingless females enabling them to locate and mate with them.

There are also the hairier and flamboyantly coloured caterpillars of the Eye Spot Anthelid, *Anthela ocellata*. These look like jumper-clad footy teams spread all over the grassland. Their colours include black, white, red, tan, fawn, orange, green, lemon and lime.

Some anthelids even have 'mohair' jumpers.

Feeding on *Crassula decumbens* and various other low growing herbs are the mostly black, smooth skinned caterpillars of *Apina*



Eye Spot Anthelid — mohair



*Apina callisto* Pasture Day Moth caterpillar

*callisto* Pasture Day Moth. Soon they will burrow into the soil to pupate. Their day flying moth emerges locally in April.



Parasitic wasp

The caterpillars don't get everything their own way: lurking in the grass are many colourful parasitic wasps. When they spy a suitable caterpillar they lay their eggs in or onto its body. The caterpillar goes on growing with the developing wasp eggs and larvae inside it. When the caterpillar pupates wasps, not a moth, will emerge.



Caterpillar parasitised by wasp



*Apina callisto* Pasture Day Moth

Also hunting for the caterpillars are several species of cuckoos. They are returning to the grasslands, having migrated north for the winter. From a vantage point of a bush or fence post they scan the ground for caterpillars which they swoop down on, grab and return to their perch to eat. The cuckoos

are also looking for birds' nests in which to lay their eggs. Pallid Cuckoos may use honeyeaters', flycatchers' and mudlarks' nests; Horsefield's Bronze Cuckoos use blue wrens' nests. Once mated, the female cuckoo sneaks in and lays one of her look-alike eggs in the host nest, carefully removing one of the host's eggs so they won't notice. Recent research suggests the Cuckoos may begin incubation of her egg within her body to ensure her chick hatches before the other chicks. If tricked, the little birds can find themselves raising a very demanding cuckoo chick instead of their own young.



*Pallid Cuckoo*

**Wendy Moore** Convenor, Friends of Merri Grasslands

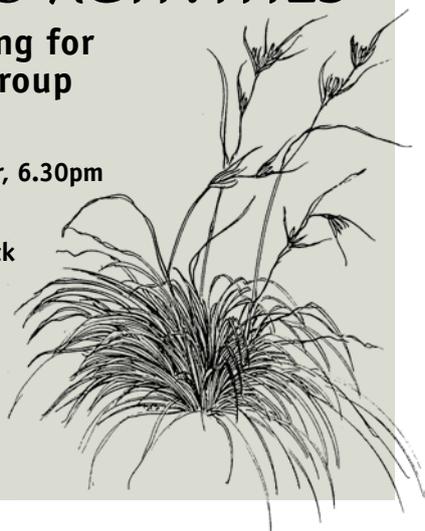
# HELP PLAN OUR 2011 PLANTING ACTIVITIES

**Planning Meeting for Regeneration Group Activities 2011**

Wednesday 8 December, 6.30pm

MCMC office  
2 Lee St, East Brunswick

All FoMC members are welcome to help plan our planting and weeding activities for 2011.



*Another Eye Spot Anthelid*

# SECRETARY'S REPORT Friends Activities 2010

## 2010 Friends Committee

**President:** David Redfearn

**Vice President:** Ann McGregor

**Secretary:** Ray Radford

**Treasurer:** Colin Abbott/Simon O'Connor

**Membership Sec:** Monica Williamson

**Committee member:** Nicole Lowe

Also on the Committee were these representatives of Sub-Committees:

**Regeneration Group:** Christabel McCarthy

**Litter Group:** Paul Prentice

**Streamteam:** Irene Baker

**Newsletter:** Dean Lombard

The Committee met bi-monthly until 30 September, which is the limit of this report.

## Friends Representation on MCMC

Trevor Hausler continued in his twelfth year as MCMC President, Ann McGregor as Secretary, Allie Dawe as Treasurer, with Paul Prentice, Christabel McCarthy and Nicole Lowe as Committee members.

The Friends representatives remain the most consistent members at MCMC meetings, and many also attended some of the quarterly Sub-Committee meetings.

The Substitute Representatives, Pascale Pitot, David Redfearn, Ruth Shiel, Sandra Simpson and Simon O'Connor made various contributions.

## Regeneration Group Activities

Our most active group is taking on more and more management-type activities, with participants almost doubling from 60 in 2009 to 112 people - who attended the following activities:

Handweeding at Merri Park Wetland Northcote on 18/10/09, 4/11/09, 29/11/09, 14/3 & 22/8; at the Friends' site near Strettle Wetland on 11/4 & 12/9; collecting 11 bales of Kangaroo Grass seed at Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd G'land) on 8/1; Gorse removal at Kalkallo Common on 17/1, at Bababi Marning (Cooper St G'land) on 21/2, at Galgi Ngarrk (Craigieburn G'land) on 21/3 and at the Wallan rail line on 18/4.

Although the above increase means fewer planting days, this year that number has dropped even more, mainly due to MCMC's focus on a major contract with the Aurora development in Epping North.

Total attendance at plantings, in our wettest season for ages, has gone down from 210 in 2009 to 114 people at these events: at Rushall Reserve Nth Fitzroy on 30/5 at the Friends' site near Strettle Wetland Thornbury on 11/7, with much weeding afterwards (we also found a *Geocache* and saw 2 Tawny Frogmouths - see page 2); at Imaroo St Fawkner on 25/7;

at Phillips Reserve East Brunswick on 8/8; at Bababi Djinanang (Jukes Rd) on 15/8.

Only 2665 plants went into the ground, which is way down from 5221 in 2009, but there was also some tree-guarding and occasional weeding.

Once again the MCMC Parkland Management Team supported us at most of the plantings and also supplied barbecues later. Thanks also to the Darebin Bush Crew for resourcing our steadily expanding site near Strettle Wetland, Thornbury.

**Coordinator:** Christabel McCarthy.

## Litter Clean-ups

Attendance has dropped off a bit with a total of 22 people cleaning up heaps of litter monthly, except January: at Walker St East, Northcote on 4/10/09; at Alister St East Brunswick on 1/11/09; at Broadhurst Ave Reservoir on 6/12/09; at Ngarrk-djarrang (Central Creek G'land) 7/2; at Merri Park Wetlands Northcote on 14/3; at Aitken Creek Craigieburn on 4/4 (Easter Sunday); at Bell St East Coburg on 2/5; at Moreland Rd East Coburg on 6/6; at Edgars Creek below Edwardes Lake Reservoir on 4/7; near Rushall Railway Station Nth Fitzroy on 1/8; at Harding St East Coburg on 5/9 (where Paul had to rush to rescue the litter bags from the fast rising waters).

**Coordinator:** Paul Prentice.

## Streamteam

This group again conducted water quality tests on the first Sunday of every month, upstream of St Georges Rd bridge Nth Fitzroy, with a total of 96 people attending from October 2009 to September 2010.

The seasonal variation of water quality and macroinvertebrate life has again persisted this year. Also, the return of rain has led to high water flows and the highest turbidity recorded in six years of monthly monitoring at this site. The effects on other water quality indicators are not yet clear and we wait to see the effect of wetter conditions on the macroinvertebrates.

Thanks to the *WaterWatch* program, the group now has a field microscope, which will help identify macroinvertebrates to the family level, enabling a better indication of species sensitivity and water quality.

**Coordinator:** Irene Baker.

## Newsletter

Four high-quality Newsletters were printed and posted in February, May, August and November, with wonderful layouts by Dean Lombard. More people continue to receive newsletters by email link to colour versions on our website. Next year the newsletter will feature a new layout and a new name: "*Merri Growler*."

**Layout:** Dean Lombard.

## Merri Birdwatch

The quarterly bird surveys continued this year at ten sites along the Merri and at Edwardes Lake. An additional site, Kalkallo Common, was surveyed in 2010 as the volunteer contribution to a government grant for conservation management of the grassland on the Common. Many thanks to all the survey leaders, who share their expertise and time to collect valuable data and help learner-birders. Overall attendances are estimated at about 150. Reports on each Birdwatch survey have appeared in our newsletter.

**Coordinator:** Ann McGregor.

## Campaigns

Unfortunately we have lost our main campaign to stop the expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary. However, we will continue to press for a Conservation Network in the upper Merri area.

Our quest to create wetlands in Moreland and Darebin is finally looking hopeful.

## Walks Talks and Tours

18 people enjoyed visiting 10 places of worship on Bruce McGregor's *Holiest Sites of the Merri Catchment tour* on 24/9. While 15 people had a pleasant walk at the *Rakali Reconnaissance* on 29/9, unfortunately no water rat was seen. This was the first year for ages that we haven't held a Wildflower Walk in the native grasslands.

## Other Activities and News

Grants came from the Australian Government *Caring For Our Country* and from Melbourne Water Community Grants.

Stalls were held at CERES Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival on 28/11/2009 and at the Sydney Rd Street Party on 28/2.

We made submissions to the Victorian Environment Assessment Council Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation; and we lobbied Parks Victoria and DSE for Public Acquisition Overlays in the upper Merri.

Strong wind meant no Golden Sun Moths for 9 people at our survey on 16/12/09.

Overall attendances were again boosted by Birdwatch to around 540 people at 65 Friends' organised events, and this doesn't include those held by sub-groups: MECCARG or Friends of Edgars Creek. (Last year we had 700 people at 50 events.)

Particular thanks to Monica Williamson for regularly staffing the office; to Simon D'Alfonso for looking after our website, to Ruth Shiel for updating our only sign near Roseneath St Clifton Hill; and to Julie Mason for welcoming new members.

Ray Radford Secretary 2010

# Galada Tamboore at Merri Creek (Marran Baba)\*

Update No. 9 on the new park north of the Western Ring Rd, from Andrew Shannon, Team Leader Community Engagement and Communications, Urban Parks, Parks Victoria.

Works should now be complete on the shared walking and cycling trail enabling people to explore the Galada Tamboore area of Merri Creek. The new path links the communities of Campbellfield and Thomastown via a new footbridge across the creek near Barry Rd, while a small side path assists visitors to reach the gorge. In addition to its geological significance and landscape beauty, the gorge is a peaceful place where the urban environment is left behind and where the sound of the creek replaces the sounds of the city. The section of the shared path from Somerset Rd to Hatty Ct was constructed earlier this year by Hume City Council. The new works extend the path over the creek and to the existing footbridge across the Hume Freeway (Craigieburn Bypass) to link to Whittlesea Public Gardens.

To enable the path to be constructed on the steep section of land behind Sarah St in Campbellfield, a “clean up” has occurred in the area where the fences of adjacent industrial properties



New footbridge and path at Galada Tamboore Photo by Parks Victoria

had become dilapidated and were encroaching on the park. At the time of writing there have been some difficulties in getting access to complete the final surfacing of the section of trail between Merri Creek and the freeway, but the long term intention is to concrete the path.

Parks Victoria has teamed up with Merri Creek Management Committee to involve students from Campbellfield Heights Primary School in discovering the Merri Creek and understanding its ecological importance. Although the school is only 10 minutes walk from the park, very few of the local kids had visited the park prior to a recent tour with MCMC’s Angela Foley and Parks Victoria’s Paul Hitch.

As part of the Galada Tamboore master plan, Parks Victoria is planning the path link from Somerset Rd downstream to the Ring Rd, to meet with the main section of the Merri Creek Path, which continues to the Yarra River.

*\*Naming: Marran Baba means “body of mother” in the Wurundjeri language.*

## Alligator weed treatment update

During 2009/2010, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) monitored and treated all of the known Merri Creek alligator weed infestations. To minimise the risk of re-infestation through fragments, treatment works commenced from the highest upstream infestation point and progressively worked downstream.

### Treatment works in Merri Creek

- ☞ The stretch of creek between Murray Rd and Moreland Rd is now in the “monitoring phase” of the eradication program. This is the result of successful manual removal treatments during 2008/09.
- ☞ Most infestations within the next stretch of creek (between Moreland Rd and Blyth St) were removed by hand during 2009/10. Monitoring of these sites during the coming season will assess the success of treatment and determine whether progression to “monitoring phase” status is appropriate.
- ☞ Downstream infestations of Merri Creek (below Blyth St) were chemically treated.

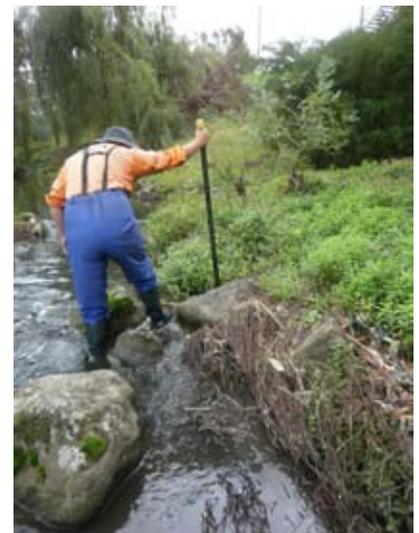
There have also been some treatment works, including removal by hand and excavation, in Edgars Creek at Edwardes Park Lake (the uppermost extent of the Merri Creek infestation).

DPI is now planning for the 2010/2011 treatment and will continue treatment by working downstream from the most upstream infestation.

Sites currently in the “monitoring phase” of

the eradication program will be checked for regrowth, with appropriate treatment applied if required. Removal by hand will concentrate on the next section of creek, below Blyth St. Other infestations will continue to be treated chemically.

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



A DPI crew member inspecting an Alligator Weed site along the Merri Photo by DPI

## DICK’S WITTICISMS

**Here are some more witty one-liners from FoMC Life Member and active Regeneration Group participant, Dick Harcourt:**

*In a democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.*

*You have a right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted then held against you.*

*Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?*

*He who laughs last thinks slowest.*

# Events...

## NOVEMBER

### **Saturday 6 MECCARG\* Site Maintenance and Weeding**

Just south of Murray Rd bridge, Coburg, 1pm-3pm. Melway 18 A11. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664.

### **Sunday 7 Litter Clean-Up—Northcote**

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

### **Sunday 7 Streamteam Water Quality Testing**

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

### **Saturday 13 MECCARG\* Murnong Harvest & Cook-up**

Just south of Murray Rd bridge, Coburg, 1pm-4pm. Melway 18 A11. Features a Welcome to Country and traditional dancers. Wear sturdy footwear and gloves. Phone Dave and Nic 9354 9664. (Note: changed from 6/11.)

### **Sunday 14 Fourth Bird Survey for 2010**

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

### **Saturday 20 CERES Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival**

CERES Environment Park, Lee St East Brunswick, 3-9pm. Don't miss this fantastic community event.

**Sunday 21 Fourth Bird survey, Bababi Marning & Kalkallo Common**  
See page 3 for details.

### **Sunday 21 Wildflower Walk at Bababi Marning native grassland—Campbellfield**

Meet at the Istrian Australian Social Club, Cooper St Campbellfield, 10.30am-12.30pm. Melway 180 K10, or car pool outside the MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick before 10am. Guided by flora and fauna expert, Brian Bainbridge. Light refreshments provided.

### **Sunday 21 FoEC† Weeding along 'goose-neck' meander**

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald St, North Coburg, 1-3pm. Melway 18 A9. Phone Sylvia 9470 3805.

### **Wednesday 24 Friends of Merri Creek Annual General Meeting**

CERES Environment Room, Lee St East Brunswick, 7.30pm. Have your say in running the Friends group, find out about the Wurundjeri Merri Creek Cultural Heritage Project, and party afterwards. Drinks and nibbles supplied.

### **Sunday 28 Community Indigenous cultural event—North Fitzroy**

Near Rushall station North Fitzroy, 3-6pm (note time). Melway 30 D11. Includes planting of semi-aquatics and Indigenous cultural activities. Funded by Melbourne Water Community Grant.

## DECEMBER

### **Saturday 4 MECCARG\* Hand Weeding**

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 5 Litter Clean-Up—Craigieburn**

Rushwood Dve Craigieburn, 10am-12 noon. Melway 180 E1. 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.

### **Wednesday 8 Planning Meeting for FoMC Regeneration Group Activities 2011**

MCMC office, 2 Lee St East Brunswick, 6.30pm. All FoMC members are welcome to help plan our planting and weeding activities for 2011.

### **Tuesday 14 Growing Grass Frog Survey of Cooper St Quarry**

Meet at the main entrance to the Northern Landfill and Recycling Centre, 490 Cooper St, Epping (next to Mossrock Timber Recycling) at 6pm (-9pm). Melway 181 A10 Participate in this ongoing survey of GGFs and see some of the other fauna survey works, including reptile trapping, spotlighting, camera monitoring and harp trapping (for bats). Led by Peter Homan of RMIT and the Victorian Field Naturalists. Bring gumboots, head torch (and earplugs - the frogs are deafening!). Phone Tim Connell at the City of Whittlesea - 9401 0566.

### **Late Dec. Golden Sun Moth Surveys???**

There may or may not be a survey, but if you are interested and able to participate close to Christmas, please register with Ray at MCMC on 9380 8199 or email: admin@mcmc.org.au and we will keep you posted.

## DECEMBER

## JANUARY 2011

### **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.

### **Friday 7 FoMC newsletter deadline**

Please send articles to admin@mcmc.org.au.

### **Early Jan. Kangaroo Grass Seed Harvest**

Please register your interest with Ray at MCMC on 9380 8199 or email: admin@mcmc.org.au and we will notify you of the date and the location. (Please note that this activity may involve rigorous exercise in high temperatures and may not be suitable for people with a medical condition.) Funded by an Australian Government Caring for Our Country Grant.

## FEBRUARY 2011

### **Saturday 5 MECCARG\* Site Preparation**

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

### **Sunday 6 Litter Clean-Up—East Brunswick**

Alister St East Brunswick, 10am-12 noon. Melway 30 C9. 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.

### **Sunday 13 Gorse removal—Kalkallo common**

Malcolm St, next to the Cemetery - turn off the Hume Highway at Kalkallo Hotel, 10am-1pm. Melway 367 F2. Light refreshments provided. Funded by DSE Bush Guardians Grant.

### **Sunday 20 First Bird Survey for 2011**

8.45-10.30am at most sites along the creek. Details in the next newsletter.

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

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