



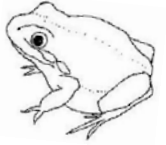
moonee ponds creek  
co-ordination committee

# Ponderings

Autumn 2008

Issue 21

Seasonal Newsletter of the Moonee Ponds  
Creek Co-ordination Committee Inc



advocate

educate

interpret

participate

rehabilitate

revegetate



## Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 2nd March

The Staff and Committee members of Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee invite you to join in the fun and help clean up Australia at one of our clean up sites along the Moonee Ponds Creek. Last year we collected a massive 450 bags of rubbish and are aiming for a record this year, but we need your help. So why not join in the fun and meet us at one of our sites?



Clean Up 2007—Flemington and North Melbourne

After Clean Up  
come and join us to celebrate the days  
efforts and enjoy a free African BBQ lunch  
at the Flemington Community Centre  
1pm–2pm

### MPCCC Clean Up Sites—2008

Flemington & North Melbourne  
Jacana Wetlands in Glenroy  
Strathmore & Oak Park  
Westmeadows  
Cross Keys Reserve  
Kensington  
Meadow Heights



Turn to Page 5 for further details on how you can help  
clean up the Moonee Ponds Creek and Australia.



### NEW 2008 Autumn Planting Calendar

Would you like to participate in the restoration of the Moonee Ponds Creek? Check out our planting calendar on the back page to find out how you can make a difference.

The Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination  
Committee gratefully acknowledge the  
financial support of these Councils.





Welcome to the newsletter of the Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee Inc (MPCCC). We are a not-for-profit, environmentally-based, community organisation that acts as a champion for the Moonee Ponds Creek and its tributaries. Members of the MPCCC include the Cities of Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Moreland and Hume; the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek; and representatives from the community.

# Welcome



The Staff and Committee of MPCCC would like to thank Emily Box for her dedication to her position as Greening and Administration Officer. Emily has accepted a position with Melbourne Water as a Partnership Support Office—Western Waters.

We all wish her well for the future

The Moonee Ponds Creek flows 68km from Yuroke in Melbourne's north-western suburbs past Melbourne Airport through the municipalities of Hume, Moreland, Moonee Valley and Melbourne, along the Tullamarine Freeway, through the Docklands and into the Yarra River to Port Phillip Bay. The five tributaries of the Moonee Ponds Creek are Greenvale, Attwood, Yuroke, Westbreen and Five Mile Creeks.

Our aim is to encourage an understanding and connection to the Moonee Ponds Creek and its tributaries; to highlight its values through education, interpretation and hands-on participation; and to revegetate and rehabilitate the Creek and its tributaries.

The MPCCC co-ordinates various programs. "Creating Creek Communities" invites and encourages the community to become involved in revegetation and other fun activities along the banks of the Creek. "CityLink Creek Connections" aims to engage and inform groups that don't traditionally get involved in environmental education. The Bushland Team maintain, restore and rehabilitate various revegetation and remnant sites along the Moonee Ponds Creek within the City of Moreland. The MPCCC also participates in Clean Up Australia Day and community festivals.

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**Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee Inc Staff**  
*Co-ordinator:* Heather Holder  
*Education & Interpretation Officer:* Bronwyn Riddell  
*Greening Officer:* Stephanie Spathis

**Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee Inc Members**  
*President:* Cr Gary Jungwirth  
*Vice President:* Terry Mundy  
*Vice President:* Eamonn Fennessy  
*Secretary:* Nigel Higgins  
*Treasurer:* Joe Ficarra  
*Public Officer:* Karen Wilson  
*Members:* Vince Aitkin, David Dunstan, Rob Ellis, Cr Mark Higginbotham, Cr Rose Iser, Frank Kinnersey and Julie Law

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Kindly printed at the electorate office of Kelvin Thomson MP, Member for Wills

Feedback regarding *Ponderings*, contributions for future issues, mailing list and editorial enquires are welcome anytime. Contact Newsletter Publisher on (03) 9333 2406 or [ponderings@mpccc.org](mailto:ponderings@mpccc.org)

## MPCCC needs your HELP !

MPCCC needs to find a new location for our office. For the past 4 years, Parks Victoria has very kindly allowed us to reside at the Woodlands Historic Park Depot. With Parks Victoria recently gaining additional land to manage, they have decided it is best to move their staff and operations to the Woodland Historic Park Depot. There is not enough room for both of our organisations, so MPCCC need to find a new location. If anyone knows of any locations that might be suitable for our operations could you please ring Heather on (03) 9333 2406 ASAP.

Come and join us for planting in 2008. We will be starting our Community Planting days on April 26th, in Moonee Ponds with the Travencore Residents Group. The autumn planting calendar is at the back of this issue.

### MPCCC Inc Member Newsletters and Contacts



**City of Melbourne**

*The Green Leaflet*, available quarterly, please contact City of Melbourne on (03) 9658 9658. For environmental and sustainability queries, please contact Gabrielle Stannus, Community Sustainability Officer at [gabsta@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:gabsta@melbourne.vic.gov.au) or (03) 9658 8557.



**Moonee Valley City Council**

*Valley View* available every six weeks, please contact Moonee Valley City Council on (03) 9243 8888. For environmental and sustainability queries please contact Moonee Valley City Council on (03) 9243 9142.



**Moreland City Council**

The Moreland City Council website offers numerous tips and information sources on environmental and sustainability issues. Please contact (03) 9240 1167 or [info@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moreland.vic.gov.au)



**Hume City Council**

*Eco-Tracks Environment Newsletter*, available quarterly, please contact Anna Kruk, Environment Administration Officer at [annak@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:annak@hume.vic.gov.au) or (03) 9205 2473. For environmental and sustainability queries please contact Anna Kruk as above.



**Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek**

Established in 1997, the Friends contribute to the management, protection, development and use of the Moonee Ponds Creek. Contact the President, Kelvin Thomson at [Kelvin.Thomson.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:Kelvin.Thomson.mp@aph.gov.au).

# New MPCCC Committee

The Members and Staff of the Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee would like to thank Kelvin Thomson for his dedication and commitment to the Moonee Ponds Creek. Kelvin has been the MPCCC President for 10 years and has recently stepped down.

The MPCCC members voted in at the last AGM are:-

**President:** Cr Gary Jungwirth (*Hume City Council*)

**Vice President:** Terry Mundy (*Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc*)  
Eamonn Fennessy (*City of Melbourne*)

**Treasurer:** Joe Ficarra (*Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc*)

**Secretary:** Nigel Higgins (*Moonee Valley City Council*)

**Public Officer:** Karen Wilson (*Hume City Council*)

**Ordinary members:**

Vince Aitkin (*Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc*)

David Dunstan (*Moreland City Council*)

Rob Ellis (*City of Melbourne*)

Cr Mark Higginbotham (*Moreland City Council*)

Cr Rose Iser (*Moonee Valley City Council*)

Frank Kinnersley (*Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc*)

Julie Law (*Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc*)



## Sightings

Fauna observations along the Moonee Ponds Creek. If you see anything interesting contact the newsletter publisher on (03) 9333 2406 or [ponderings@mpccc.org](mailto:ponderings@mpccc.org)



Danielle Thomas has been watching a Powerful Owl (Olivia) in the Fitzroy Gardens which has been feasting on possums every night.

Paul White has regularly seen White Faced Herons and carp whilst riding along the lower reaches of the creek



### BAT COUNT

The next bat count is on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008, at 7pm. Meet at the Car Park of the Yarra Bend Park Golf Course (Melway Map 2D G7)

Everyone is welcome to join. For further information please contact Dr Rodney van der Ree, on (03) 8344 3661 or 0412 562 429



In December Jim Baillie was watching Cockatoos having lunch on the pine nuts in his front yard. Lorikeets are also regular visitors to his back garden. He has also spotted Galahs frequenting Jacana Reserve.

In Pascoe Vale, Steve Tupper has recently seen two New Holland Honeyeaters and a Boobook Owl or sometimes called the Mopoke due to its distinctive call.



Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee and Parks Victoria staff were excited to have a Brown Falcon visit the Woodlands Historic Park Depot early February.

### Friends of Royal Park–Bird Survey – 24 February, 9am-11am

Would like to help with bird surveys in Royal Park ?

Then please contact Gabnelle Stannus on (AH) 9329 2801 or [gabstar3003@yahoo.com](mailto:gabstar3003@yahoo.com)

Meet at the carpark adjacent to Trin Warren Tam-boore (Royal Park Wetlands) Manningham St, Parkville (Melways 29 C12)

Amphibian species are becoming extinct at a pace never seen before. For the first time, scientists have gathered enough evidence to assert that humanity might be facing one of the biggest extinction crises of recent times. Species, genera, and even families are vanishing at alarming rates. In 2004, the Global Amphibian Assessment conducted by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) revealed that one-third to one-half of the world's 6,000 amphibian species are currently threatened with extinction and over 120 have already disappeared.

Amphibians are severely affected by habitat loss, climate change, pollution and pesticides, introduced species, and over-collection for food and pets. While habitat destruction is the major causal threat, the most immediate cause is a parasitic fungus called amphibian chytrid, a disease that is deadly to hundreds of amphibian species and has slowly spread from Africa across the planet over the past 30-40 years. Global climate change may have exacerbated the problem.

## WHY FROGS MATTER

Conservation biologists refer to amphibians as "the canaries in the coal mine" - they are among the first species to be affected by environmental stressors, so when they show declines in the wild, it serves as a warning to other species, including humans. Amphibians are also a critical part of a healthy natural world. In addition to their intrinsic value as a beautiful part of nature, they offer many benefits to us:

- They play an important role in the food web as both predator and prey, maintaining the delicate balance of nature. Where they are disappearing, detrimental effects are already being documented.
- Amphibians eat pest insects, benefiting successful agriculture around the world and minimizing the spread of diseases, including malaria.
- The skin of amphibians has substances that protect them from some microbes and viruses, offering possible medical cures for a variety of human diseases, including AIDS.
- Amphibians' skin is highly permeable, allowing them to drink and breathe. Unfortunately, contaminants also readily enter the body, making amphibians an exceptional indicator of environmental quality. They are particularly sensitive to pollution, making them important sentinels to potential human threats.
- Frogs have had a special place in various human cultures for centuries, cherished as agents of life and good luck.



Peron's Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*)



Waterholding Frog (*Cyclorana platycephala*)  
Photos courtesy of Lydia Fucsko



Green Tree Frog (*Litoria caerulea*)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO ?

Find out more about Amphibian ark (<http://www.amphibianark.org/yearofthefrog.htm>)

Join the Melbourne Water Frog Census (<http://frogs.melbournewater.com.au/>)

Create a Frog Garden (<http://frogsaustralia.net.au/conservation/creating-habitat.cfm>)

Learn more about the Frogs of Australia (<http://frogsaustralia.net.au>)

Tell your teachers about these two websites (<http://www.helpafrog.org/toolkit.htm>) & (<http://frogs.org.au>)

There are many frogs that live along the Moonee Ponds Creek. Come along on a planting day and learn about the frogs and other fauna and flora, everyone is welcome.

**Join us on a planting day to create frog habitat along the Moonee Ponds Creek.**

**Check out the planting calendar at the back of this issue.**

# Clean Up Australia Day



## Sunday March 2nd

To date, Clean Up Australia Day participants have collected over 200,000 tonnes of rubbish - that's 4.7 million household wheelie bins! In 2008, Friends group members and the local Community are working to clean up the Moonee Ponds Creek at 7 sites along the creek. MPCCC staff members would love to see you at one of these sites. Why not join in the fun and make a difference in your local community?

### 1) Westmeadows

With the Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek

**Time:** 9am to 11am

**Meeting point:** Enter site via reserve on Koala Crescent next to house number 40. Meet on the shared pathway. Melways 5 J6.

**Bike:** The Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Pathway takes you alongside the meeting point.

**Car:** park on Koala Crescent.

### 2) Jacana Wetlands

With the Friends of Jacana Wetlands

**Time:** 10am to 12pm

**Meeting point:** Meet under the Western Ring Road bridge. Enter site next to 60 Moonee Blvd or at the Broadmeadows Sports Club. Melways 6 E10

**Bike:** The Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Pathway takes you alongside the meeting point.

**Train:** Jacana Station on the Craigieburn line. Cross the pedestrian bridge over Pascoe Vale Rd and head down the hill to the wetlands.

**Car:** park on Moonee Blvd, Glenroy or Eleanor St, Jacana.

### 3) Strathnaver Reserve and John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve

**Time:** 10am to 12pm

**Meeting point:** Meet at the Oak Park Tennis Club carpark located on Francis St, Oak Park. Melways 16 F6.

**Bike:** The Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Pathway takes you alongside the meeting point.

**Train:** Oak Park station on the Broadmeadows line is a ten minute walk.

**Car:** park at the North Essendon Athletics Centre, Strathmore (16 E6). Walk across the footbridge. Or park at the Oak Park Tennis Club and in Francis St.

### 4) North Melbourne Sustainability Group

**Time:** 10am to 12pm

**Meeting point:** Meet along the creek bank opposite Macaulay Station, Kensington. Melways 2A C5.

**Bike:** The Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Pathway takes you alongside the meeting point.

**Train:** Macaulay Station on the Upfield Line is opposite the site

**Car:** Park on Stubbs St or Bent Street, Kensington.

### 5) Cross Keys Reserve

**Time:** 10am to 12pm

**Meeting point:** Meet on Bridge Street Essendon at the pedestrian bridge over the Moonee Ponds Creek. Melways 28 K1.

**Bike:** The Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Pathway takes you alongside the meeting point.

**Train:** Strathmore Station on the Craigieburn line is a 5 minute walk from the site

**Car:** Park at the Cross Keys Reserve carpark or on Bridge St.

### 6) Shankland Wetlands

**Time:** 10am to 1pm followed by lunch

**Meeting Point:** meet at the registration table at the play/bbq area off Shankland Boulevard, Meadow Heights Melways 179 G11

**Bike:** Take the Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Pathway and veer off at Jacana Reserve, following the Bike path under Johnson street and through Broadmeadows Valley park to the meeting point.

**Car:** Parking available on Shankland Blvd.

### 7) Flemington and North Melbourne Community Centre

**Time:** 10am to 12pm followed by lunch from 1pm to 2pm.

**Meeting point:** Meet at the Flemington Community Centre Melways: 2A 1D or the North Melbourne Community Centre Melways: 2A D4

**Bike:** The Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Pathway takes you alongside the meeting point

**Train:** Flemington Bridge station on Upfield line is a 5 minute walk to the Flemington Community centre. Macaulay Station on the Upfield line in a 10 minute walk from the North Melbourne Community Centre.

**Car:** park at either Community Centre.

Everyone who joins us for Clean Up is invited for a free celebratory lunch, of delicious traditional African food prepared by the local African Community at Flemington. It will be a great chance to share some food and a chat about the day's events with fellow volunteers from different sites

**Time: 1pm to 2pm**  
Flemington Community Centre (Melways 29 B12)

Don't forget to bring your sunhat, sunglasses, sunscreen, sturdy footwear, safety gloves, drinking water and tongs.

You must sign the volunteer register before beginning the Clean Up.

Why not ride your bike to the site or catch public transport instead.



## Neighbourhood Walking Group

In partnership with Dousta Galla Community Health, the Citylink Creek Connections Program and a group of women from the Flemington & North Melbourne Housing Estate have started a Neighbourhood Walking Group.

The Neighbourhood walking group provides a way for the women to establish social connections and friendships while having a positive impact on their health, fitness and overall wellbeing and exploring new areas in and around their homes.

Recently the women and their children took a trip to the Werribee Zoo with Victorian Police and Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union (LHMU). This was a fantastic day, enjoyed by everyone, especially the children who were extremely fascinated by all the animals.



## What's good 2 eat

A collaborative program to encourage children and their parents to eat healthy foods. With cooking demonstrations, a tour of the Flemington Community garden, "Go For Your Life" activities for kids and information about healthy food for school by Canteen Plus.

The City Link Creek Connections Program provided an opportunity for the children to create 'Food Faces' by using fruits and vegetables. This is a great activity which exposes children to a variety of fruits and vegetables in a fun way. They get to feel the different textures and smell the fruits and vegetables while creating their food face.



## Upcoming events in your Community

### Walk in Harmony Strengthening Communities Through Sport

On the 4th May 2008

Walk from Flemington Community Centre to Telstra Dome.

You will receive a free t-shirt and free entry to the Essendon v's Port Adelaide Football match at Telstra Dome.

**More information in the next issue of Ponderings.**

### Koorie Night Market

At Northcote Townhall, Ruckers Hill

Wednesday 12th March

Wednesday 19th March

Wednesday 26th March

5:30–10:30pm

Contact Eva-Jo Edwards 0432 402 516