



Ponderings

Seasonal newsletter of the
Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee
Summer 2015 | Issue 49

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate

Celebrate the Past, Present & Future of the Moonee Ponds Creek

Come along to the Moonee Valley Festival on Sunday 28 February to share memories and ideas, and enjoy a feast of activities at the Moonee Ponds Creek marquee.

Moonee Valley City Council have engaged a vibrant team of consultants to design a master plan for the Moonee Ponds Creek. The team have organised this display to give us all a chance to have some input into the plan.

Activities include:

- ⇒ Photographic displays
- ⇒ Interactive maps
- ⇒ 1929 Linear Park plan
- ⇒ Watercolour painting
- ⇒ Guest appearances
- ⇒ Creek chronology
- ⇒ Volcano Dreaming
- ⇒ Pobblebonk Frog imagery

See you there!

Share your creative ideas to win an Apple iPad mini!

Get creative with ideas for the creek to be in the running to win an Apple iPad mini! Your views will then inspire the plan for the future of Moonee Ponds Creek. Feedback will be considered until 24 March 2016.

Go to www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mpcreek for more information.

A summary of the ideas and memories shared will be included in the Moonee Ponds Creek stand at the Moonee Valley Festival on Sunday 28 February 2016.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 6 March 2016

Andre Braakhuis has registered the Gowanbrae Rotunda as a site for Clean Up Australia Day.

For more information about this site go to:

www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/Riverwalk

If you wish to register a site along the creek, go to:

www.cleanup.org.au/au/CleanUpEvents/get-involved-in-clean-up-events.html

A BIG THANK YOU TO STRATHMORE COMMUNITY BANK BRANCH

Evidence of their support for our local community including Ponderings is all along the creek



Moonee Valley City Council is currently undertaking a master plan for Moonee Ponds Creek. The aim of the master plan is to generate exciting ideas and visions that will guide the future planning of the Moonee Ponds Creek to create a positive change in the creek valley. It is designed to bring together the community, stakeholders, land managers and government agencies to develop new strategies for improving life along the creek.

Particular aims and objectives for the project include:

- ◆ improving public space along the creek
- ◆ promoting pedestrian and bicycle connectivity along the creek and adjacent suburbs
- ◆ improving biodiversity and habitat within the city
- ◆ reducing stormwater loads into the creek
- ◆ improving the water quality and ecological health of the creek
- ◆ improving how the creek looks

The master plan will be informed by previous studies including; Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Plan, Walking & Cycling Strategy, Moonee Ponds Creek shared pathway audits, Water Sustainable Urban Design (WSUD) feasibility studies and various background documents.

Over the next few months Council will be working closely with the local community, special interest groups, Melbourne Water and other stakeholders to encourage input into the Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan.

Council invites interested members of the Friends of Group to join the project team for a workshop to discuss the development of the Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan.

The details of the workshop are:

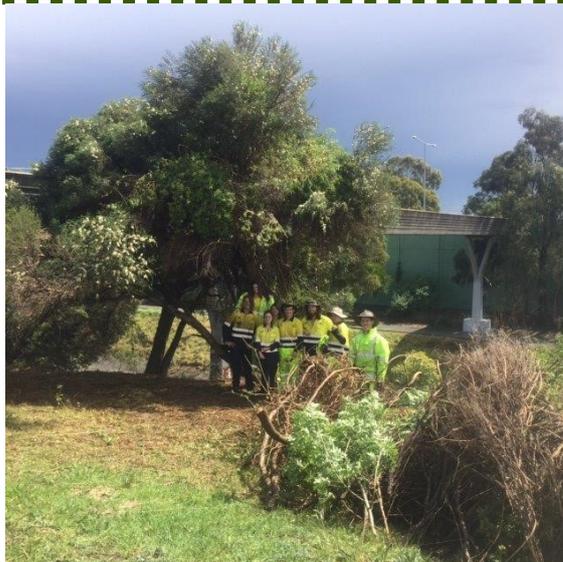
- Date:** Thursday 4 February 2016
Time: 6.00-8.00pm
Location: Council Chambers
RSVP: Friday 29 January 2016 by email ourcreek@mvcc.vic.gov.au for catering purposes.

The community will be able to contribute in a number of ways including:

- ◆ JOIN IN BY SHARING YOUR EXPRESSION of the creek's past or future through photography, writing or painting to be in the running to **win an Apple iPad mini!**
- ◆ VISITING THE MOONEE PONDS CREEK STAND at the Moonee Valley Festival on the **28 February 2016.**
- ◆ Informing the design through the INTERACTIVE MAP which will be **available early in the new year.**
- ◆ For further details and HOW TO ENTER the competition visit www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mpcreek.

MORELAND NEWS

In the spirit of working collaboratively, Moreland Council borrowed Moonee Valley's Green Army team for a (very) wet day in November and a (very) hot day in December to work along the Moreland side of the creek. The team's task was to tackle a heavy infestation of Creeping Groundsel (*Senecio angulatus*) which had invaded planted vegetation at Braddy Reserve, West Brunswick. The vine was growing amongst native vegetation and alongside a child care centre making control difficult. The team put their heads and hands to work, gently teasing the climber from vegetation and raking and removing it from site. The extremes in weather did little to dampen the teams enthusiasm and a great result was achieved. Thanks Green Army and thanks Moonee Valley City Council!



THE 2015 PLANTING





Andre Braakhuis from Gowanbrae photographed a Black-shouldered Kite & Rainbow Lorikeet.



Richard Akers from Melbourne Water spotted a nesting Eastern Long-Necked Turtle at Westmeadows.



This Reed Warbler was spotted in Strathmore by Nina Franceschi Eason just metres upstream of the concrete.



PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND US YOUR SIGHTINGS FOR FUTURE PONDERINGS. PHOTOS FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE CREEK WELCOME!



Nina and Anna found gorgeous babies, Pacific Black Ducks, a Tawny Frogmouth and Eurasian Coot, celebrating a successful breeding season along the creek



A Swamp Wallaby attending Strathmore North Primary School was photographed by Charlie Caputo.



Anna Lanigan spotted a New Holland Honeyeater, Black-winged Stilt and a cute little female Superb Fairy-wren at Jacana Wetlands.



Melbourne Water met with Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek for an onsite inspection



Melbourne Water will soon undertake upgrade works to the Jacana Retarding Basin to ensure it continues its safe operation.

Background

The Jacana Retarding Basin was originally constructed in 1967 and plays a crucial role in managing stormwater.

When heavy rain occurs, the retarding basin embankment holds back stormwater and slowly releases it downstream into the Moonee Ponds Creek, reducing flood risks to residents.

Why are works necessary?

Although the likelihood of problems with the Jacana Retarding Basin in its current state is minimal, assessment shows works are needed to further ensure embankment safety during extreme flood events.

Jacana Retarding Basin Upgrade Project

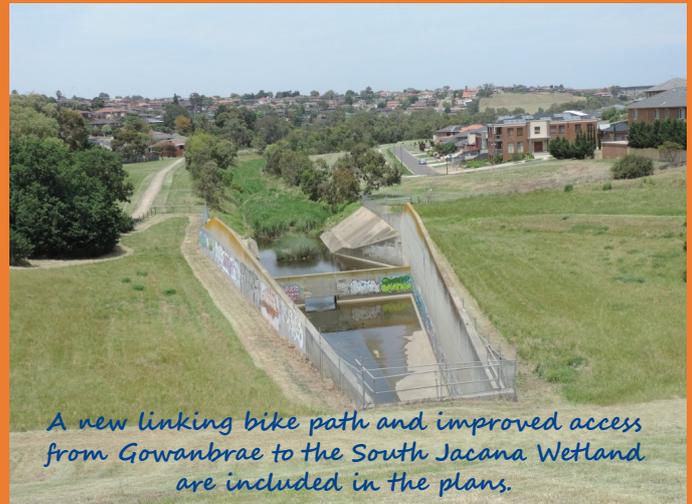
Timing - construction starts February and ends June 2016

As part of these works, Melbourne Water has identified an opportunity to further open up the retarding basin land for community recreation.

This includes:

- Removing the cyclone fence to the south of the retarding basin within the Gowanbrae Estate and replacing it with more user friendly fencing.
- Looping the shared pedestrian and bike path around the retarding basin and linking with the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail on the east side.

Further developments will be posted on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneeponds creek/



A new linking bike path and improved access from Gowanbrae to the South Jacana Wetland are included in the plans.

A message from Friends of Five Mile Creek

The initial expenditure towards the development of the Master Plan for the Five mile Creek will be in 2016, on determining the aboriginal site, in consultation with local elders.

In the meantime it is hoped the Green Army may be involved in weeding days during the week.

The days for planting next year are now reduced to two. Further information will be emailed closer to the days.

There was a very tiny Christmas party/break up on 27 November attended by five women and a dog. It was extremely pleasant.

Thank you to the Friends group for turning up during the year.



HUME NEWS

100 Grade 1/2 students from the School of Good Shepherd, Gladstone Park converged on the North Jacana Wetland for a morning of learning:

- ⇒ water quality
- ⇒ caring for the wetlands
- ⇒ frogs and birds
- ⇒ history & storytelling



It was a great day and thoroughly enjoyed by the students.

CITYLINK TULLA WIDENING UPDATE

Local Flemington residents are upset about the many trees that have been cut down adjacent to the CityLink noise wall opposite Travancore Park. Not detailed in earlier briefings with the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek was that the present noise walls are to be moved closer to the Creek, at the top of the Creek embankment, leaving little or no room to replant trees to ameliorate the visual obtrusiveness of the high concrete walls.

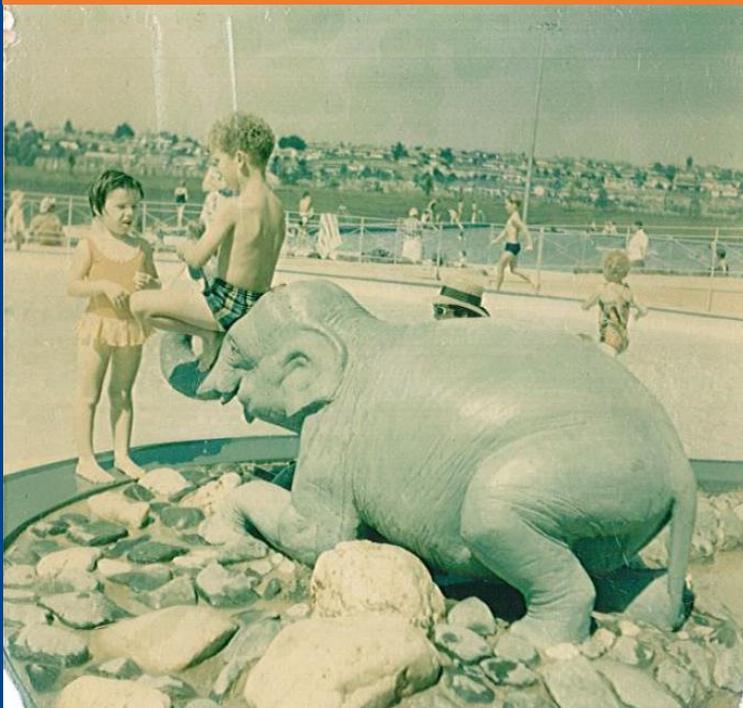
Relocation of the noise walls is to allow for construction of additional freeway lanes and ramps. Temporary noise walls are to be erected during construction of the new CityLink noise walls. These are to be built on the Travancore side of the Creek, and cutting back of trees along the park fenceline has already been undertaken to facilitate their construction.

Flemington Bridge will become a giant roadspace as part of the CLTW project with a new two-lane bridge to be constructed on the western side of the so-called 'ornamental pond' and new off ramps to be constructed on the eastern side of the pond with more tree and other vegetation removals. Yet more trees will be lost with the cutting down of the Lemon Scented Gums in Flemington Road. **THIS PROJECT DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY REVEGETATION OFFSETS.**

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT AT ONE TIME, THERE WERE NO TREES OR BUSHES BETWEEN THE LITTLE ELEPHANT AT THE "OAK PARK BATHS" AND THE MOONEE PONDS CREEK.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OAK PARK AQUATIC CENTRE



Upgrade of Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy

The playspace at Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy has been selected for upgrade this financial year along with a proposed new shared use path for the park, with funding for these projects allocated from Council's capital works program.

Improvements under consideration are:

- ⇒ A new playspace to be constructed in place of the existing carpark, including combination unit with monkey bars, slide and cargo rope play, plus a double swing with 'bird nest' swing, as well as 'egg' carousel spinner and rocker play items
- ⇒ Existing old play equipment replaced with a nature play area featuring boulders, tree trunks and log round steppers, plus an earth berm with rocks and native groundcovers in place of the steel mesh fencing around the perimeter
- ⇒ Extensive shade tree planting in and around the playspace and nature play areas
- ⇒ New steel framed park seats and picnic setting to replace old timber furniture
- ⇒ Repairs to existing access road into the park and fresh gravel topping to road surface
- ⇒ New timber and steel rail fencing with padlocked steel gate for service vehicle access in place of existing bollards and chain, to prevent unauthorised vehicle entry, and
- ⇒ Connector path at the bottom of the street linking into the new shared use path.

Creeky Links

www.mooneepondscreek.org.au
www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek
www.friendsofmerricreek.org.au/
www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSteeleCreekInc
www.facebook.com/groups/1541338476087146
www.fmvonline.com
www.bowerbird.org.au/projects/5249
www.whp.altervista.org/

Contact us if you have any other links to share.

LET YOUR FRIENDS KNOW WE HAVE GONE DIGITAL

ASK THEM TO CONTACT US AT [PONDERINGS@MPCCC.ORG](mailto:ponderings@mpccc.org) TO BE ADDED TO THE EMAIL MAILING LIST.



Wishing you all the greetings of the Season!

Thank you for all your Creeky contributions throughout the year.

We look forward to another great year ahead.

From your Ponderings editors
Nina & Anna
xx

2015 IN

REVIEW

