



Ponderings

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

SPRING 2020 | ISSUE 68

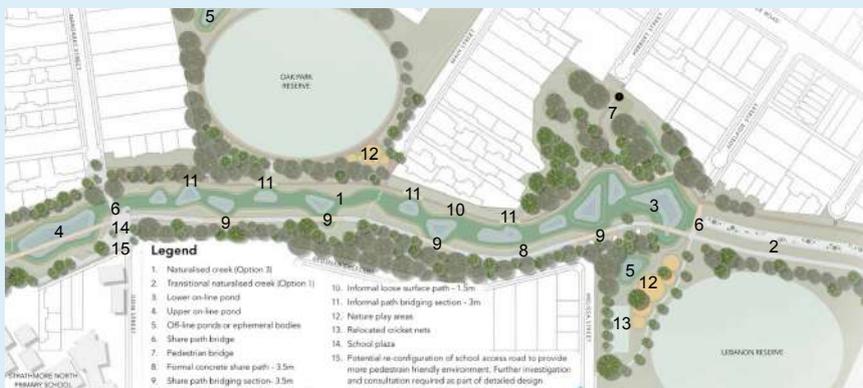
advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate



1979



\$5 Million for Naturalisation



Be careful what you wish for...

For years I've been wondering, as I walk the creek each day, "where is everybody?" Well now we are in lockdown again because of the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 (it's novelty is rapidly wearing off!), we know where the people are - they're walking, riding, running, playing - along the creek! With all the gyms closed and other activities cancelled, the shared trail plus other tracks are becoming crazy busy.

So, be careful what you wish for, as they say. But seriously, it's great to see so many people enjoying our creek, and I hope it leads to even greater public pressure to make the improvements we've been campaigning for - like tree planting, improved walking and cycling tracks and naturalisation by removal or covering of the concrete sections.

Speaking of concrete, it was great to hear that \$5 million has been awarded to the **Reimagining the Moonee Ponds Creek** project by the State Government for naturalising a 600 metre section of the creek next to Brosnan Crescent in Strathmore. Alex English reports on the latest news on page 4.

FoMPC have managed to get some other victories in our various battles over the last few months, despite being in "hibernation". Let's just hope we can all get back to normal as soon as possible...

David Widdowson, Editor

Thanks to Nina Franceschi, Anna Lanigan, Kaye Oddie, Alex English, Lori Arthur, Milly Burke and Maurice Austin for their assistance with this issue.

Cover images by Nina, The Age, Tony and MVCC.

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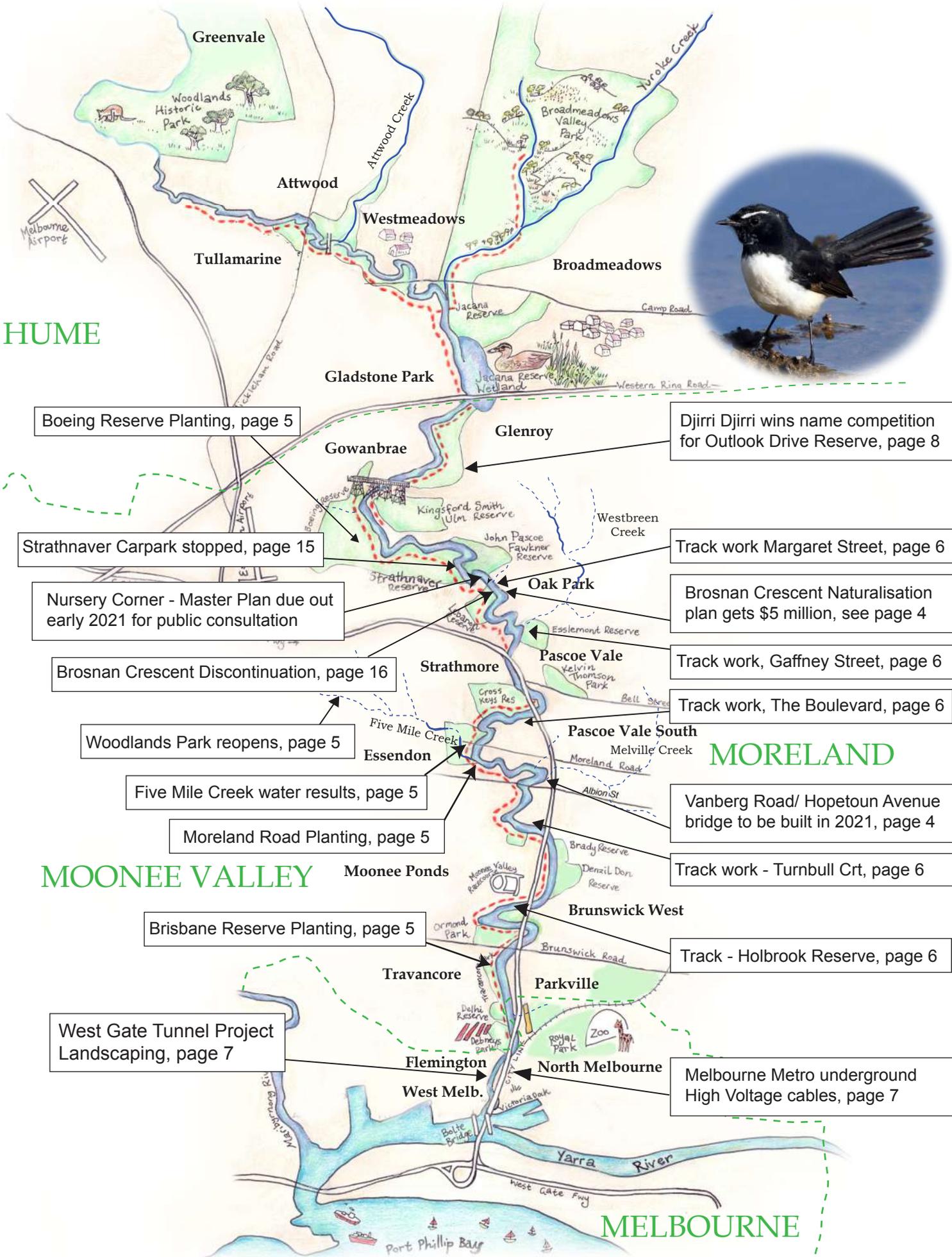


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Green dashed lines indicate municipal boundaries, Blue dashed lines indicate former tributaries. Red dashed line is the MPC Shared Trail. Original Map courtesy of Rachel Earea.



News

By Alex English
and Lori Arthur

\$5 Million for Naturalisation



Good news for the Creek, with the announcement of \$5 million in funding to help transform the first section of concrete channel from Brosnan Crescent, adjacent to Strathmore North Primary School. The funding comes from the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the project has been included in Melbourne Water's *Reimagining Your Creek* program.

The project will deliver a range of benefits including increased pedestrian access points, connectivity and recreational facilities, as well as increased community use of a linear park along the creek.



Due to the challenging and very expensive experience at the Stony Creek naturalisation, all parties are interested in a careful progression. A very detailed soil and Geotech assessment is planned to commence shortly which will guide the next steps of this project but also reveal whether the concrete can be removed.

A risk management plan is also being prepared to provide clarity around staging, decision making and communications. Once these important first steps are clarified then it will be critical to engage the Chain of Ponds Collaboration on the next steps.

Hopetoun - Vanberg Bridge

Moreland Council is about to announce the successful tenderer to construct the bridge - we are pleased with the proposal and cost. We will also be undertaking additional path and activation improvements in the area. We are hoping on-site construction will commence in January and be completed by June 2021. This project will provide a good estimate of cost and design for future bridge works along the creek.



New Lead – Chain of Ponds Collaboration

The Chain of Ponds Collaboration has welcomed the appointment of its new Lead – Rachel Lopes. Rachel takes over from Lori Arthur and Julie Francis, the Collaboration's successful first two Leads. She comes to the role with a very strong background in collaborative waterway projects (including her work on Melbourne Water's *Healthy Waterways Strategy*) as well as a strong communications (education video production) and strategic engagement background. Rachel will be based at *City West Water*, who will generously host the position for the next two years.

Whole of catchment litter investigation

Our consultants, *Alluvium Consulting*, are currently analysing existing litter data combined with the information received through stakeholder surveys and the online mapping portal. Thank you for everyone that provided information into the system.

Key litter items identified as issues in the Moonee Ponds Creek are polystyrene beads from foam insulation and packaging, plastics, food packaging and cigarette butts. Combining this data with the identified litter deposition and accumulation hot spots and land use types will help to identify and prioritise reduction strategies.

We will also be partnering again with RMIT Litter Trackers to release GPS tracker bottles in the lower area of the catchment to monitor the tidal effects of litter movement. Five bottles will be released in Kensington and monitored for four weeks. Information about the launch and opportunities to watch the bottles' movement will be promoted via the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek facebook page.

Waterways of the West

The State Government have just announced that the Moonee Ponds Creek has been included as one of the priority waterways under the **Waterways of the West** project. This is after strong advocacy from the Collaboration group. We hope to hear more details in the next few months.

by Milly Burke



Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights.

This was our largest area to receive a biodiversity boost this planting season, with large areas of weeds treated and over 17,600 plants seedlings installed. This planting helps to increase understory and habitat complexity to fortify the area as a 'deep green' parcel that will improve the quality of Moonee Ponds Creek as a key wildlife corridor in the area. We were also fortunate to discover a range of remnant ground covers within the planting area. In particular the northern corner of the reserve has a good range of remnant grasses and saltbush. We have added a little variety to the planting and included a few experimental seedlings. The project includes species that have historically not occurred here, as well as species that are similar to local ones, but the genetics are adapted to the warmer northern climates to prepare for climate change.



Brisbane Reserve, Ascot Vale

We have been undertaking weed treatment and habitat planting within Brisbane Reserve. With great connections to the neighbouring Travancore Park and linear plantings, these biodiversity enhancements will also help sustain and attract native pollinators for the neighbouring community garden.

Moreland Road South to Wiseman Court

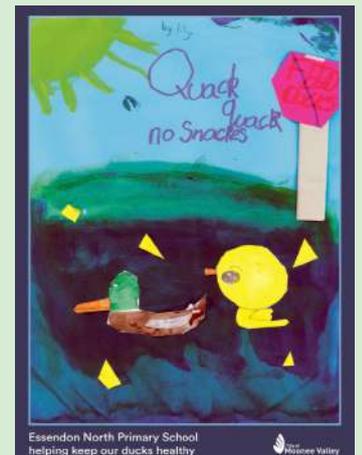
Weed treatment was done, and grassed areas were converted to habitat garden beds and planted out with a range of indigenous understory and wildflowers. We aim to create an attractive entry way to the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail and stabilised a steep weedy embankment.

Woodlands Park Reopens

The fences are down and we are delighted to say that Woodlands Park is now open! The stagnant ponds are now a functioning wetland to assist in the filtration and capture of stormwater, improving stormwater quality in Five Mile Creek, a tributary of Moonee Ponds Creek. On your next visit be sure to check out the water quality – you can often see all the way to the bottom! Also: new and upgraded nature play equipment; the floating islands – important predator-free nesting habitats for wetland birds; and new plantings around the park.



The incredible teachers and students of Essendon North Primary School have been using their online learning to discover more about Woodlands Park and Five Mile Creek history, ecology and significance to our local community. Students were inspired to help keep our ducks healthy, and have made a bunch of fantastic signs to help educate visitors to the park. Be sure to visit when you can and enjoy these signs by our local students. As Lily says "Quack Quack – no snacks!".



Waterwatch 2019 results are in

The results are in for **Waterwatch 2019** at Five Mile Creek. Thanks to the ongoing dedication of our volunteers who collect this valuable data for us. We look forward to seeing further improvements from the reset of the Woodlands Park wetland system.

Are you a teacher at a school connected with the creek? The conservation team are happy to help local schools use local reserves as outdoor classrooms. Contact: mburke@mvcc.vic.gov.au.

Path Upgrade Works Completed



Work has continued on Moreland's new creek-side informal paths at Turnbull Court, Brunswick West, north of Holbrook Reserve, The Boulevard in Pascoe Vale South, Gaffney Street in Pascoe Vale and Margaret Street in Oak Park.



The gravel track is now complete from Esslemont Reserve to JP Fawcner Reserve and a significant increase in public usage has already been noticed. We are also considering future path improvements around Deveraux Street and Athens Place in Oak Park, following community consultation.



Working for Victoria

Moreland has engaged 130 **Working for Victoria** (W4V) crew in our open spaces with the Natural Resources Management program having a crew for six months. Stage 4 restrictions have meant they are currently on hold but they will soon be undertaking some important vegetation improvements along the Moonee Ponds Creek. We can't wait for them to be back to work on improving the amenity of garden beds along the creeks in Moreland.



Moreland Nature Plan adopted.

The Moreland Nature Plan was successfully endorsed at Council's August Council meeting. With the support of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, over 280 submissions were received which is a great tribute to the community's value of this issue but also Lori Arthur's stewardship. Thank you to everyone for your incredible support and we look forward to the implementation of this important plan.



Djirri-Djirri Reserve

The land Moreland acquired at Outlook Drive Glenroy (following the successful campaign led by FoMPC to protect this open space from being sold for development by VicTrack) has been given the Wurundjeri associated name, **Djirri-Djirri**, which means Willie Wagtail. Moreland Council is developing plans for plantings in the new Reserve, and will provide appropriately themed signage - see page 8.

COVID-19 has been very disruptive, but there has been a silver lining with some exciting new funding opportunities. The recent large numbers of visitors to the creek provides a great opportunity for Councils and the Chain of Ponds Collaboration to explore ways to try to retain the new creek corridor users when restrictions are over.

- Alex English and Lori Arthur



West Gate Tunnel Project

Landscaping: Following the release of landscaping plans for the WGTP, two meetings have been held between Community Liaison Group reps, the WGTP/CPB/John Holland Joint Venture Stakeholder & Community Relations Managers and Tract Landscape Consultants. At the first meeting, it was agreed to change some of the proposed species for those compatible with the Moonee Ponds Creek vegetation palette. One example, *Angophora costata*, a NSW species, will be replaced by more River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*).

Reuse of logs: Unfortunately, many trees will be removed from both east and west sides of the Creek in the E-Gate and F-Gate reaches for the construction of the Dynon Road Connection bridge over the Moonee Ponds Creek (see photo of current west bank vegetation). Ideas for reuse of the River Red and Spotted Gum logs were sought by CPBJH Joint Venture and included retaining them for habitat or landscaping/log seating or perhaps donating to community groups. It was decided that they would best be retained as habitat logs and reused in the extensive landscaping to be undertaken as part of the project. The logs will be stored until the landscaping works are undertaken. - Kaye

Melbourne Metro

The FoMPC strongly opposed the change in location for underground HV cables associated with the Melbourne Metro project – which will now see them installed in two separate trenches along the west bank of the Moonee Ponds Creek, south of the Arden Street Bridge in Kensington. The cables will run from the AusNet Terminal to a substation, currently being built on the east side of the Creek, to serve the new Arden station. Twenty eight trees and other vegetation are currently proposed to be removed to accommodate these trenches.



Photo shows West bank of the Creek adjacent to AusNet, Kensington.

Only low ground covers would then be planted over the wide 4.2 metre wide total trench area. The works mean a significant loss of habitat and biodiversity from this isolated stretch of the Creek. In the protracted ongoing negotiations, over the next eight weeks, the CYP Joint Venture Group, will undertake “further optioneering regarding the cable route alignment ... which is expected to involve a reduction in potential impacts to vegetation.” Further discussion with stakeholder groups will then be undertaken prior to the planned commencement of the cable works in February 2021.

- Kaye



Melbourne Water Work for Victoria Program

Melbourne Water is employing a number of temporary workers through the State Government's Work for Victoria Program, who will undertake litter removal, weed control and vegetation maintenance, in waterways including the Moonee Ponds Creek.

The Program will also help the 'Moonee Ponds Creek whole of Catchment Litter Investigation' which is being delivered by Alluvium with funding and support from Chain of Ponds partners. The investigation aims to improve the understanding of litter threats in the Moonee Ponds Catchment.

Employees will contribute to this investigation by collecting data while working on our waterways. Current Stage 4 COVID restrictions have slowed Work for Victoria activity; however, you can expect to see our new team members out in the field in coming months. - Ryan Van Den Hove



Digitally altered image, DW

Djirri Djirri has won the competition to name the reserve at Outlook Drive, Glenroy. The land, which was going to be being sold by VicTrack for housing development, was saved by FoMPC and Moreland Council (with thanks especially to Councillors John Kavanagh, Helen Davidson and Sue Bolton). *Djirri Djirri* means Willie Wagtail or “little black dancing bird” in the local Woiwurrung language of the local First Nations people. The name was suggested by FoMPC member Elissa Simmons, who also wrote:

Willie Wagtails are one of the many native birds which frequent this Creekside park. The Willie Wagtail is a well-known and beloved bird, even by people who are not avid bird watchers. It would also make a cute, easily recognised silhouette/image to help interpret the park name's meaning on the signage. It would be wonderful to give our new park a Woi Wurrung name, in this International Year of Indigenous Languages.



The Willie Wagtail is insectivorous and spends much of its time chasing prey in open habitat. Djirri Djirri Reserve will provide just this sort of habitat for Willie Wagtails - Anna Lanigan has recorded them on her bird surveys in the area. Its common name is derived from its habit of fanning its tail horizontally when foraging on the ground. It has responded well to human alteration of the landscape and is a common sight in urban lawns, parks, and gardens.



The Willie Wagtail is one of Australia's most widespread species, at least on the mainland. Reflecting this, it features prominently in Indigenous Lore. It is believed that having a Willie Wagtail as your animal totem makes you live with a feeling of excitement and gregariousness. Seeing a Willie Wagtail is a reminder to stay cheerful; it makes us feel light and happy.



Some Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek will remember seeing **Djirri Djirri**, the Wurundjeri female dance group in the 2018 *Nhanbu Gurr* (Ancient Flower) Festival celebrated at the Babepal Paen-mirring rock circle at Five Mile Creek. According to their tradition the Willie Wagtail, the Spirit Bird, gave them dance. Wouldn't it be great to invite them to the celebration for the official opening of Djirri Djirri Reserve?

Down the Drain - Lost Tributaries of the MPC

Part 8: Johnstone Reserve by David

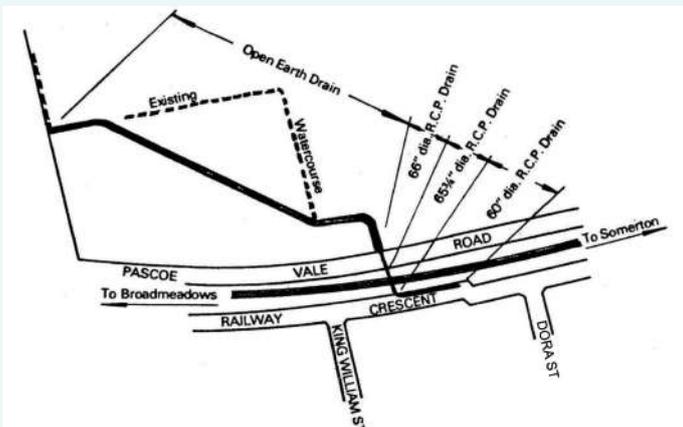
Back in the early 1970s, I remember going to the Broadmeadows tip, when it was located west of Pascoe Vale Road. The valley it was located in was another former tributary of the Moonee Ponds Creek and is now Johnstone Reserve. The drain that was created from it was originally known as the Railway Crescent Main Drain.



The Melbourne 1945 aerial map shows a bit of scouring, and gives some hint of where the creek ran, west of Pascoe Vale Road and the railway.



This map of Broadmeadows from pre-1960 gives a better idea of its path, it is marked "Railway Cr" which could represent creek or crescent.



Most of the work on the upper section started in 1958, when "the Housing Commission requested that the Board of Works should underground the drain along Railway Crescent. The Board agreed to the request, and undergrounded the drain between Dora Street and King William Street and under the Broadmeadows railway line

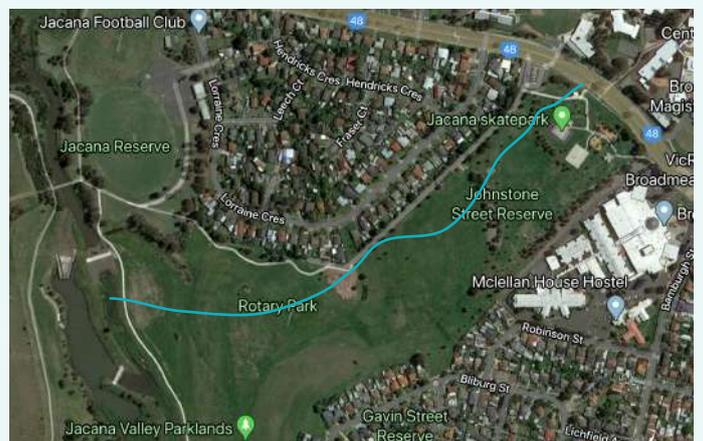
and Pascoe Vale Road. Downstream of Pascoe Vale Road, a new open earth drain was excavated for a distance of 1,000 feet (300m)" (MMBW 1981).



The modern flood map gives some idea of the path the creek originally took, starting in Railway Crescent, moving through what is now Broadmeadows Central, then Tanderrum Way to Johnstone Street Reserve. A secondary branch perhaps ran from the east down Johnstone Street.

Note that the Railway Crescent Main Drain now runs west to Yuroke Creek; this diversion drain was "completed in June 1972 - between Pascoe Vale Road and Ripplebrook Drive, an underground drain was installed, while between Ripplebrook Drive and Yuroke Creek a fully concrete-lined channel was constructed" (MMBW 1981).

Wikipedia records that "During the 1970s a major portion of what is now Jacana reserve was a rubbish dump created to fill a valley containing a small tributary of Moonee Ponds Creek", also noting the the nearby Broadmeadows Sporting Club "was opened by Prime Minister Gough Whitlam on 10th November 1975 - the day before his dismissal"!



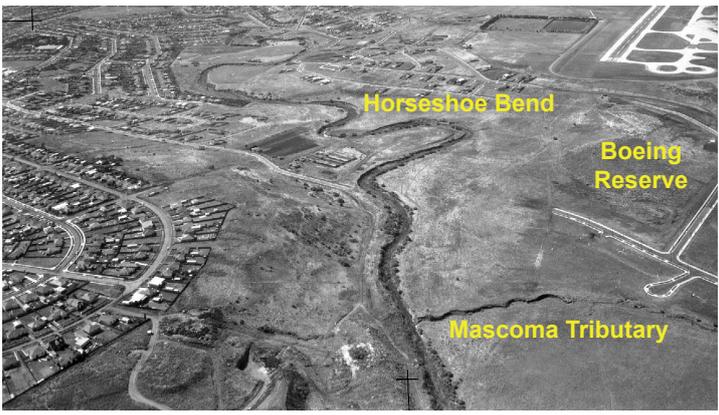
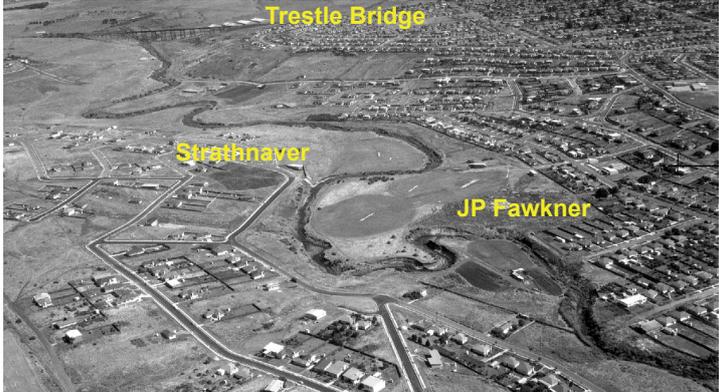
The modern aerial view has the possible path of the old creek marked in blue. Johnstone Street Reserve is the only modern sign of this lost waterway.

Next time: Royal Park

MPC History

Aerial Views from the 1960s

These aerial photos of the Moonee Ponds Creek in Strathmore North were taken by Jim Payens from 1960 to 1964. They reveal how bare the Creek was at that time and how much has changed since then. I have marked selected features to help orientation.



Reminiscing with Maurice Austin

Many of us are familiar with the footbridge across the Creek at the western end of Gaffney Street in Pascoe Vale. This is what it looks like now:



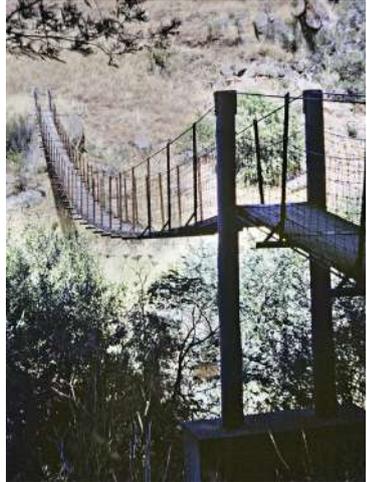
The current bridge dates from the 1970s, before that there was a wooden structure, known locally as the "swing bridge", and you could get up a decent movement if you strode across in the appropriate manner!



I was surprised to discover recently that there was an even more precarious bridge before this, as revealed in *The Argus* newspaper, 24th June, 1927:

OLD SWING BRIDGE - about 100 ratepayers of Pascoe Vale and Broadmeadows have petitioned the Coburg Council to take control of this old swing bridge across Moonee Ponds Creek... it was erected 24 years ago by the Peck family for their own use.

This old bridge reminds me of one I photographed in 1990 at Bulla, reputed to be the oldest of its type in Victoria. So perhaps the name "swing bridge" came from the old bridge, or came to be applied to the "new" bridge when it replaced the old?





Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo by Dennis



Galah by Anna



Little Wattlebird by Maurice

Sightings



Rainbow Lorikeet by Maurice



Magpie-larks by Maurice



Tawny Frogmouth by Karen



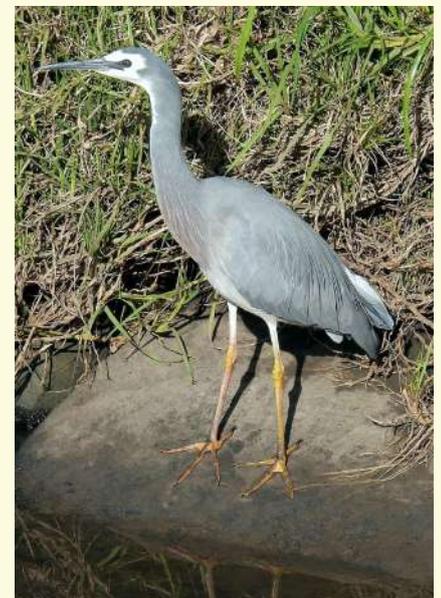
Rainbow Lorikeet by Maurice



Noisy Miner by Maurice



Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoos by Anna



White-faced Heron by Maurice



White-faced Heron by Maurice



Pacific Black Ducks by Maurice



Brown Falcon by Dennis

Mountain Bike Tracks



The issue of mountain bike users riding in reserves and along sections of the Moonee Ponds Creek (as well as using spades to create ramps and jumps) has been hotly debated in council and the general public, going by the heat it's raised on the FoMPC Facebook page! MVCC originally reported:

With COVID limiting sporting opportunities, it is understandable that people are seeking new recreational outlets. However, carving mountain bike tracks into public land is illegal and damages the environment. This has occurred at more than twelve sites across Moonee Valley in recent months. One of the hardest hit areas has been Napier Park in Strathmore, which has had about 200 plants destroyed, dangerous holes, mounds and tracks created, and damage to many years of investment in weed control and vegetation. Works to remediate this site have already cost ratepayers more than \$10,000. The improvised bike tracks also pose a public safety risk including slips, trips or falls, as many tracks are being built in open space and on existing paths.

Moonee Valley Mayor Cr Samantha Byrne said that she sympathises with people who do not have normal access to recreational activities due to the pandemic lockdown - "We understand why this group of mountain bikers and BMX riders may have wanted to create these tracks," Cr Byrne said, "however, public safety is paramount. There are also legal risks associated with damaging the landscape in many of these locations as they are within Aboriginal Cultural Heritage areas, feature registered significant trees, and are sites of geological significance."



The backlash was immediate from the public: "let the kids be kids", "it's good for their health, gets them away from screens and out in nature!" This forced the council to debate the issue further and then backdown to a degree, allowing the biking areas to continue for the most part.

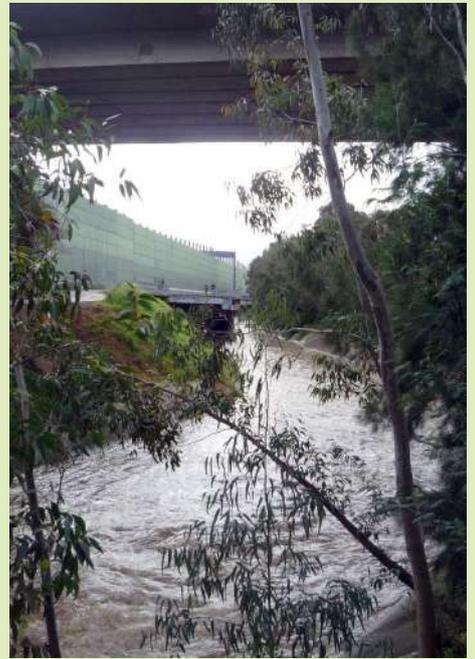
This is relevant to us, of course, because many of these tracks and jumps areas are along the Creek, some quite close to - or indeed on top of - areas that volunteers have planted out over the last 30 years. Damage is certainly being done and vegetation needs to be protected, however I can see the other side, we were all kids once and loved getting out and mucking around on bikes!



I suppose it's a matter of getting the balance right. I discovered this at Five Mile Creek Reserve in July - upon finding that the upper section, above the creek outlet, had been turned into hilly tracks to ride over (pictures above). Damage was there, but minor and quite acceptable. Then I got down on to the flats next to the creek and discovered that the lovely grassed walking track had been turned into a bog! There was also evidence of bikes being ridden down steep planted areas, damaging plantings done by Friends of Five Mile Creek over many years (below before and after).



The good news for everybody is that Councils have listened to both the Creek community and the bikers and have started investigating providing some open space that will satisfy the kids as well as protecting sensitive open space. They have recognized that while young children are well catered for in Moonee Valley, there is a pressing need for places where teenagers are free to do their own thing and have some say in their design and location. And finally - if there are any bike riders reading this - the dry tracks are fine, but please avoid sensitive areas and the bogs! - David



After the Deluge...

Photos by Sammy Cameron,
Josh Xavier and Jo Connellan





Spring!

Photos by Poppy Bell,
Lesley McKenzie Douglas
and Karen Cornell.



It all started in July 2018, when Kaye Oddie (then Secretary of FoMPC) noticed a Call for Tender for the construction of a car park at Strathnaver Reserve in Strathmore. Kaye contacted Moonee Valley Council to obtain the plans and found that they included an expansion of the carpark at the Strathnaver Sports Pavilion from 15 to 44 car spaces and the construction of a second, upper carpark on the Reserve on Mascoma Street, including a retaining wall above the shared trail that would have required the removal of hundreds of shrubs.



In August 2018, Anna and I arranged a site meeting with the Project Engineer, who advised us that the proposed upper carpark was unlikely to proceed, as the upgrade to the lower carpark was most likely sufficient for a small club and there was nothing to worry about. Regretably, we didn't take immediate action, and seven months later residents received a letter from Council advising them of the proposed upper carpark. This is when our 18 month campaign began, to stop the carpark being built on the reserve.

A group of us met several times to plan the campaign. We invited all Councillors to visit the site, encouraged residents and groups to write objection letters, and all eight of us presented to Councillors at the May 2019 meeting. We had our first win that night when Council voted to remove the carpark from the 2019-2020 budget, however, the battle was not over as Council had placed the proposed upper carpark in the Long Term Capital Works for 2023-24.

When Council removed the upper car park from the budget, they then included it in the **Development Contributions Plan**, a levy that land owners and developers pay to the State Government and Council to fund new infrastructure and facilities. In November 2019, Kaye and I presented to Council and the car park was removed from the Plan - our second win.



In the meantime, whilst the lower carpark was being built, members of the public continued to park their cars on the reserve where the proposed upper carpark was to be built, and the site became increasingly unattractive. Trashing of the site also included concrete waste material left by Council contractors, truckloads of sand destined for the sports field, noxious green waste and rubbish from match days and events at the Strathnaver Sports Pavilion. The site started to look like a tip.

We continued to advocate for the reserve, speaking with Councillors and rallying to have the carpark removed for good. In August 2020, James Williams and I presented to the Council, our focus being on the Strathnaver Grasslands, Aboriginal culture, the loss of habitat, and the carpark going against Council's own open space strategies. The presentation was a success, with Cr Nicole Marshall moving a motion to have the carpark removed from the Long Term Capital Works and a final decision to be made the following week.



It was a long week and - only two days before the vote - we posted a photo on our local Facebook Page showing the trees and shrubs that would have to be removed to make way for the carpark's retaining wall. More than 350 people liked our campaign, expressing massive support from a small community. Due to COVID-19, we watched the live stream of the council meeting from our homes and - after a four hour meeting - we had our final triumph. The Councillors had voted unanimously for the proposed upper carpark to be removed from the Long Term Capital Works, with some Councillors even expressing the opinion that the money saved could go towards the site being revegetated. So ended our long battle to protect the Creek from yet another assault on its Reserves!



FRANK KINNERSLEY

A multi-modal man - walker, cyclist and long-time advocate for sustainable travel.

Frank is the current vice president of the FoMPC, a member of the Chain of Ponds Collaboration, convenor of Moonee Valley Bicycle Users Group (and member of many other BUGs), member of the Rail Trails group, partner, grandfather and friend of many.

Frank's interest in sustainable travel started early, when growing up in Geelong and delivering newspapers to the Victorian Railways offices. Later, he would walk to shops and meetings, rather than drive. After a couple of late arrivals at meetings, he acquired a bike...and has never looked back! Cycling has taken him to many parts of Australia. The furthest were trips out from Perth and Cairns (first taking the train with his fold-up bike in a suitcase).

But walking was - and remains - a major part of his sustainable transport ethos. It was walking up the Moonee Ponds Creek path one day that he encountered a group of people planting - it turned out they were members of the FoMPC. Frank and the group's leader, Kelvin Thomson, began talking, sharing their interests in protecting and enhancing the Creek trails and corridor - which resulted in Frank later joining the organisation. Frank remains a much appreciated stalwart at FoMPC plantings, working bees and other activities to this day.

Frank's travel interests widened when he became involved in the Australian Rail Trails group, working closely with Vince Aitkin. They were both volunteers with Bicycle Network, touring many parts of Victoria, interstate and New Zealand. Later, Vince and Frank would bring their organisational skills to the FoMPC as a "job lot" as Kelvin Thomson once described, taking on the treasurer and secretarial roles respectively in the early 2000s. Frank continues his long involvement with FoMPC, now as vice president.

Frank continues to take a close interest in the condition of trails, shared paths, access and all things associated with safe and enjoyable cycling and walking. His expert knowledge and experience provides valuable input for councils and organisations in planning new paths, upgrades and routes.

On a more personal note, Frank was a mechanical engineer for many years with International Harvester in Geelong, later moving to work in Sunshine and live in Moonee Ponds. He has a daughter and a son and is a hands-on grandfather, minding a grandson one day a week. Needless to say, playing trains with his grandson is a favourite pursuit. - Kaye



Brosnan Crescent Discontinuation



Brosnan Crescent originally ran along the creek all the way to Mascoma Street; as shown by the blue section on the above photo. As part of the planned \$6.6 million expansion of Strathmore North Primary School, the school has applied to discontinue the road and transfer ownership of the land to the Department of Education and Training.

The FoMPC supported the proposal, but sought clarification on title boundaries and asked "that the public [be] given the opportunity to call for the discontinued road to be added to the adjoining Creek corridor land."

The Moonee Valley Bicycle User Group (Moonee BUG) objected to the proposal, wishing the road reserve be retained and used for transport purposes. Discontinuing the road and transferring the land to the school, goes against the Chain of Ponds aim of "improving setbacks to the Creek where it is narrow". They did not oppose the school expansion, but felt that it is best done on land that "does not impact the enjoyment of the creek by the public and the school community".

Residents objected to the proposal on the grounds that school staff parking might be lost, forcing staff to park on nearby streets, also that more people would park on the reserve between the Creek and the Crescent, damaging the Reserve and the Creek. With the planned Naturalisation of the Creek in this area on the cards (see cover story), there are also concerns about increased car parking in the area in the future. - David

Event Calendar

Because of the Coronavirus, all events are currently cancelled. Please check our Facebook page or our website for updates.

Join the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek for \$20 per year

For information and to join, go to: mooneepondscreek.org.au/join-us/