

FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK MINUTES OF MEETINGS 2000 -

GENERAL MEETING MONDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2020, 6:30PM
Sam Merrifield Library

WELCOME: Peter Scully our new President welcomed everyone to the first meeting for 2020.

PRESENT: Julie Law, Kaye Oddie, Marcus Lancaster, Peter Scully, Audrey Biggs, Joe Griffiths, Joanna Dietrich, Lori Arthur, Kelvin Thomson, Vince Aitkin, Ray Hehr, Frank Kinnersley, Joanne Beaumont, John Widmer, Tony Smith, Carolyn Layton

APOLOGIES: Anna Lanigan, Anne Foley, Kevin Balaam, Zoe Jellie, Nina Ninucha, David Widdowson

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest relevant to the agenda.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the General Meeting held on Dec 19th 2019 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Kaye Oddie

Seconded: Frank Kinnersley

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Treasurer Vince Aitkin

Presented by Vince Aitkin

Balance \$37,147.97, which includes general account, term deposits, and Alan Thomson scholarship fund. It was moved and seconded that the report be accepted.

Moved: Vince Aitkin

Seconded: Kaye Oddie

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the absence of a Secretary, due to the resignation of the newly appointed Secretary, there was no Secretary's Report.

GUEST SPEAKER

Guest speaker was **Lori Arthur**, Natural Resources Management Officer, Moreland Council, speaking on the Hopetoun-Vanberg Bridge project, the Naturalisation of the Moonee Ponds Creek/Brosnan Crescent project and Moreland's Nature Plan

Lori presented a very interesting report on the above topics. There was much interest in the details of this project judging by the number of questions asked.

The main points follow:

1. **Hopetoun –Vanberg Bridge Project.** Location between Moreland Road and Albion St. The State Govt. provided a \$400,000 grant under the 'Boosting Recreational Water Use Initiative.' Melbourne Water and Moreland and Moonee Valley Councils have stumped up the shortfall for the bridge. The Bridge across the creek will move cyclists across the creek and more directly north towards Moreland Road on the Brunswick side of the creek. The project also includes improvement vegetation and walking paths on east side of Creek. A section of cyclone fencing will be removed. The path will wind between existing planting to avoid destruction. Expected completion date is October 2020.

2. **Business Case for Creek Naturalisation Brosnan Crescent.** Lori explained that there were 4 options for naturalisation worked up in this project. Each has different impacts and price tags to match, ranging from \$800,000 for basic changes to degrading the concrete and planting, up to the \$12 million option that would include laying back the banks and major ponds and pipe works to manage the flood waters. The more work on managing flood waters in an option, the higher the cost would be. All seemed to face the issue of washing out of vegetation during flooding to a greater or lesser degree.

The option that was chosen as the most realistic, given this work is meant to be able to be replicated down the creek, was a combination of the third one which is a replication of the upper MP creek with some elements of the most basic one and has an estimated price tag of \$5-6 million. Lori took lots of questions on possible strategies for managing flood waters and pointed out it is very complex problem and that no flood mitigation strategy was without disadvantages. She said there would be a trial of the option chosen which could take a few years at least. Lori said they are now up to looking at the potential social /health benefits of the project. Expected release of Business Case: Next 2 months.

3. **Moreland Nature Plan** ‘Protect and Celebrate Moreland Council’s Natural Assets,’ and connect people with nature. There will be an overall plan worked out and a project for implementation over the following three years. Following initial community conversations in Nov 2019, a Draft is being prepared for community consultation in April. Expected to be completed by late June/July. A range of possibilities were mentioned, such as increasing the canopy trees, understorey planting, nature strip planting, work with traditional owners, Water Sensitive Urban Design strategies, edible gardens in open spaces, fruit trees in parks, cat management. There was some discussion around cat curfews and a question about bush kinder.

Laurie was thanked for her very interesting presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE

General Note:

*Correspondence includes formal written correspondence sent by and received by FoMPC
Correspondence does not include email correspondence*

Correspondence In

Letters from Melb Water dated 09/12/19 related to Development Service Schemes:

interim 6838 Amess Rd Development	Riddells Ck
interim 8074 Aviators Field Development	Pt Cook
interim 7711 Cherry Ck Development	Werribee

Correspondence Out

Nil

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil

NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Litter & graffiti along the Moonee Ponds Creek

As Guest Speaker **John Widmer** provided briefing background as basis for general discussion.

John mainly spoke about some of the issues facing the lower Moonee Ponds Creek and, in particular, the apparently ad hoc approach to cleaning the poorly designed litter traps (installed by Transurban) in this section of the creek. He highlighted the fact that over the next few years there will be an extra 15,000 people living in high rises being constructed close to the creek and then the West Gate Tunnel project’s projected impact in this area. Problems with getting anything done about litter (and anything else) are exacerbated by

the complicated governance in this section of the creek and disputes over who is responsible.

Kaye invited John to draft a letter for the FoMPC to send to Council about the inadequate frequency of cleaning of the litter traps. There followed some discussion about graffiti including some sharing of different views about the role and value of graffiti in urban areas.

2. **Woodlands Park, Essendon wetlands opening**

In Anna's absence Kaye spoke about the Woodlands Park Wetlands opening and the release of a couple of Perch species as part of this. The Perch were chosen, even though not indigenous, as they will eat Carp eggs and also mosquito fish another common pest fish species.

3. **Kensington Festival participation.** Contact Kaye Oddie and join the FoMPC stall roster if you can spare some time on 29th March at Holland Park Kensington. Peter added this event to the FoMPC Calendar.

4. **Metro Tunnel Substation proposal along lower Moonee Ponds Creek, Kensington/North Melbourne** Kaye spoke about how towers that could/should have been put on AusNet or VicTrack land are likely to be constructed on land along the creek corridor. Kaye is setting up a meeting to discuss the options. Melbourne Water, Melbourne City Council and FoMPC will be represented at the meeting.

5. **WGTP landscaping plant selection.**

Kaye pointed out the inappropriate planting selection on the plans for this project. She has been in communication with the WGTP authorities and they appear to be willing to discuss changing some species.

She also passed around a photo of some 'spoil material' dumped in the creek in the area of the old West Melbourne Swamp. Flooding in a drain had delivered this 'spoil material' to an area of very good riparian vegetation. Kelvin suggested a letter of complaint be sent to relevant authorities and to Clay Lucas reporter with The Age who raised this.

6. **Clean up Australia Day – MVCC Boeing Res -Sunday 01/03/2020**

Registration with CUAD website. It was decided that there was no need to register another clean up site and that we could participate at the site already registered in Boeing Reserve. After some discussion about whether someone should make contact with the organisers and organise our participation it was decided that it was okay for whoever wanted to join in to just turn up on the day at Boeing Reserve.

7. **Sports field advertising signage – MVCC**

Vince was asked whether he knew anything about when submissions are due. He said he was told he would be contacted but that hasn't happened. He was asked to call Nina to find out the time frame for submissions about the advertising

8. **Future Guest Speakers**

Peter called for suggestions. Michelle Gooding (MVCC) was mentioned.

9. **Call for FoMPC Secretary.** Peter reported that due to certain circumstances our newly appointed Secretary has not been able to continue. Peter emphasised that the Secretary position does not have to be a difficult one and would not involve submission writing. He suggested preparation of the Agenda and writing the occasional letter would be the most of it. John Widmer offered to take on the position for a month until someone else was found. Nominated: Kelvin. Seconded: Vince. John was thanked for stepping up.

10. Community Grants

MVCC has Council grants avail for community groups in Moonee Valley
Grants up to \$20,000 for one-off projects / for projects to be completed within 12 months
Applications close Tues 10/03/2020
Contact [grants web page](#) @ mvcc for details

Note:

From 05/02/2020 revised Council 'Memorandum of Understanding' includes revised implications regarding liability of FoMPC with respect to OHS. Kaye reported that we can only get grants if a revised MOU is signed.

Kaye offered to write the applications for a joint project working with Essendon Community Garden involving community planting in the area. Another would be a submission for a grant to complete the Lawson Street planting.

(2020 MoU would run from 01/03/2020 to 31/12/2020)

11. Climate change forum

Forum hosted by MVCC. Speakers from Bureau of Met, Dep't of Health, and 'RENEW' (sustainable solutions) Thurs 27/02/2020, 6.30-8.00pm at Clocktower with topics:

- climate change & weather
- impact of climate change etc

Register with MVCC

12. Local sustainability champions

Free 10 week (2hrs/wk) program by MVCC
get the 'tools' you need to develop a local environment program
expressions of interest close Fri 28/02/2020
mvcc.vic.gov.au/champions or ph 9243 8888

13. Nurturing Wurundjeri: Country & Culture

Sunday 22/03/2020 11am – 3pm at AJ Davis Reserve, Airport West
presented by Friends of Steele Ck

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14. Kaye mentioned an MCC Amendment C278 called "Sunlight to Public Parks" to protect parks from overshadowing by high rises. She pointed out that Moonee Ponds Creek is not included as an open space within the terms of the Amendment C278.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

GENERAL MEETING – **Monday April 20, 6.30pm**, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds.

Peter declared the meeting closed

Minutes Secretary
Carolyn Layton

Peter Scully, Pres
0419 311 369

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES 2020

Sunday 01/03/20	Clean-up Aust Day MVCC 9am – 1pm Details on CUAD website	Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights meeting point at pagoda at end of carpark near bridge over creek
Sunday 29/03/20	Kensington Festival FoMPC liaison person: Kaye Oddie	Holland Park, Kensington
Monday 20/04/20	FoMPC General Meeting Start 6.30pm	Sam Merrifield Library
Sunday 31/05/20 TBC	World Environment Day Details to be confirmed	TBC
Monday 15/06/20	FoMPC General Meeting Start 6.30pm	Sam Merrifield Library
Tuesday 30/06/20	Landcare Vic membership Landcare Vic insurance	Renewal due Renewal due
Sunday 02/08/20	National Tree Day MVCC Details to be confirmed FoMPC liaison person: TBC	Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights
Monday 17/08/20	FoMPC General Meeting Start 6.30pm	Sam Merrifield Library
Monday 19/10/20	FoMPC General Meeting and AGM Start 6.30pm	Sam Merrifield Library
Monday 21/12/20	FoMPC General Meeting Start 6.30pm	Sam Merrifield Library

MEETING PROTOCOL

- *We again remind all persons attending our meetings and events that we have a Workplace Behaviour Act for bullying, sexual harassment and discrimination for all FoMPC events in place. We request that everyone behave appropriately and courteously to all attending our meetings and events.*
- *If you are at a meeting and miss something, please request for it to be repeated and we require people do not talk over each other or around the table on different matters as other people are presenting.*
- *As a member if you require a copy of our ‘model rules’ we can email it out to you on request, or by post if you do not have an email address.*

**DUE TO COVID-19, NO OTHER MEETINGS
WERE HELD IN 2020**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY JAN 17, 2021

Riverside Park

Adelaide Boulevard, Gowanbrae

WELCOME:

The meeting commenced 11.45am. Peter Scully welcomed all attendees. The attendance of Cr Angelica Panapoulos (recently elected to Moreland Council) was acknowledged

PRESENT:

Kaye Oddie, Anna Lanigan, Greg Lanigan, Margaret Brougham, Peter Scully, Maurice Austin, Angelica Panapoulos, Frank Kinnersley, Darren McClellan, Alison Cook, Allan Thomson, Lex Thomson, Anne Black, Kelvin Thomson, James Ruse, Rachel McKenna, David Priest

Attendees were asked to observe Covid requirements: 1.5m distancing and/or wearing masks and to sign the Attendance Sheet, as important for Covid contacting purposes.

APOLOGIES:

Vince Aitkin, Nina Eason, Amanda Grace, Zoe Jellie, John Kavanagh, David Widdowson, Tony Smith, Kevin Balaam, Liz Forbes

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

held on Monday, October 21, 2019

Minutes as previously distributed were accepted as accurate record.

Moved: Anna Lanigan. Seconded: Frank Kinnersley.

Passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The annual general meeting was held on Monday, 18 October 2019 at the Sam Merrifield library. * A detailed informative report was presented by the outgoing president of long-standing, Kelvin Thomson. * The election of office bearers was conducted. * Special recognition was given to Anna Lanigan for her contributions to the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek over a long period of time.

The year's calendar of events scheduled the next annual general meeting to be held Monday 19th October 2020. Other worldwide events would circumvent this. The celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek was held at the Oak Park Sports Pavilion on Sunday, 1st December 2019. The event was a great success and fitting tribute to all of the work carried out over those 30 years. The quality of the information on display at the anniversary event, and the enthusiasm of the speakers clearly demonstrated the long-standing strength of the Friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek.

An end of year/start of year barbecue was planned for the evening of Friday, 31st January, 2020. As a harbinger of interesting times ahead, the event was cancelled due to the hot, dry, windy conditions.

The February meeting was addressed by Ms Lori Arthur (Natural Resources Management Officer, Moreland Council). The involvement of Moreland Council illustrates its commitment to put into action its environmental policies.

Unfortunately, this was to be the last meeting in 2020 to be attended by members. By early February the Moonee Valley Council had prepared its draft Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek for 2020.

The draft included some provisions which remain unresolved and it has not been signed. As it stands no volunteer work proceeded with Moonee Valley Council in 2020 and the Memorandum of Understanding probably will be re-drafted in 2021.

So, at the end of the extended 'year' for the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek;

- * Our schedule of bi-monthly meetings had to be abandoned due to the COVID-19 restrictions and non-availability of a venue.

- * Our promising list of guest speakers was not to be called upon.

- * Several attempts were made to arrange activities along the creek but none could proceed due to limits on outdoor gatherings.

While the prospect of resuming activities in 2021 is looking brighter, there is still some uncertainty. It may take some careful negotiations with the relevant Councils to establish a protocol for limited numbers of members to recommence some Creekside maintenance/weeding/planting activities during 2021. The year as president has been enlightening and disappointing in equal measure. Enlightening for the insight into the breadth of knowledge and depth of experience among the members, and disappointing for the lost opportunity of being able to participate in the year's program of planned activities which had to be abandoned.

The Ponderings 2020 calendar on the kitchen wall was a constant and poignant reminder of the creek steadily flowing throughout the seasons even while we were often severely restricted in our outdoor movements. While I won't re-nominate for the position of President I do intend to continue as an active member of the Friends at Moonee Ponds Creek, attending meetings and outdoor activities. Thank you for the opportunity to hold the position of President for the year 2020. - Peter Scully

FINANCIAL REPORT for Year ended 30 June 2020

The report prepared by Treasurer, Vince Aitkin, was summarised and presented by Peter in Vince's absence.

Income: \$20,037.86

Expenditure: \$9,285.66

Surplus at end of financial year \$53,430.08 (as held in FoMPC accounts with Bendigo Bank)

Treasurer's Financial Report distributed separately

Treasurer's Financial Report was accepted as accurate record

Moved: Kaye Oddie

Seconded: Frank Kinnersley

Passed unanimously

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

- President Nomination received: John Kavanagh
Nominated by Kelvin Thomson, seconded by Anna Lanigan
Passed unanimously. John Kavanagh elected as President

- Vice-President Nomination received: Frank Kinnersley
Nominated by Kaye Oddie, seconded by Anna Lanigan
Passed unanimously. Frank Kinnersley elected as Vice-President

- Treasurer Nomination received: Vince Aitkin
Nominated by Kaye Oddie, seconded by Frank Kinnersley
Passed unanimously. Vince Aitkin elected as Treasurer

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- Secretary & Public Officer
No formal nominations were received and position remains vacant.

- Appointment of Minute Secretary/ies
Nomination; Carolyn Layton
As this is not a formal committee position a vote was not conducted.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Annual membership fee is currently \$20 p.a. Due to lack of meetings and other activities during 2020 the Committee had previously decided to waive membership renewals for 2021 and to extend memberships by 12 months.

- Outgoing President thanked his Committee members, Kaye, Frank and Vince, and also David Widdowson for his great work via Ponderings on keeping the Friends and wider Creek community informed during the difficult year of communication due to Covid.

- Prior to close of meeting it was noted that the proceedings had not commenced with a 'Welcome to Country'. This was an oversight as acknowledged by Peter.

- The date for the first meeting of the FoMPC for 2021 is set as Monday 15 February. The meeting to be conducted as a physical meeting or by Zoom, depending on Covid restrictions. Access to meeting room at Sam Merrifield Library to be confirmed.

The meeting closed 12.15pm
Close of AGM

Executive Meeting 30/1/2021 at Vince's Home

Present – Vince Aitkin, John Kavanagh, Kaye Oddie and Frank Kinnersley

Purpose of meeting was to welcome incoming President John, provide an outline of operations and discuss some current matters

1. Welcome particularly to John as the history and recent history of FoMPC was explained, John explained his background and connection to the creek
2. Treasurer Vince outlined treasury and banking arrangements plus explained how accounts are used. John was to attend Strathmore Bendigo Bank to set up his connections with the accounts
3. Kaye outlined Secretary's situation. She is acting until a new person is established. Frank is currently handling the Consumer Affairs Victoria Public Officer position
Kaye discussed the Chain of Ponds project and our involvement
4. Frank outlined the Membership system etc. Mention of the Excel spread sheet with details of members and others on the mailing list. Membership term aligns with financial year. Mentioned that due to pandemic meaning few activities we had waived fees for a year. The practice of those who join between January and June having membership for the following financial year was discussed and endorsed. Discussed the separate Pondering email list as Frank currently handles the distribution; currently approx 550 on that list
5. John discussed various matters, including meeting format. Suggested having more executive meetings so less business at general meetings to help hold attendees interest
6. General business. Various other aspects were discussed

GENERAL MEETING MONDAY APRIL 19, 2021, 6:30PM

Sam Merrifield Library

PRESENT: John Kavanagh, Alison Cook, Liz Forbes, Rachel Lopes, Frank Kinnersley, Maurice Austin, Jacqueline Novoselac(Melb Water), Fin Adamson(Melb Water), Jen Edwards, Greg Hunt, Carolyn Layton, Ralph Nardella, Kaye Oddie, Barbara Weimar, Alex English, Peter Scully, Ray Hehr, Peter Cosh, Chris Cosh, Julie Law, Kelvin Thomson, Anna Lanigan, Tony Smith.

John welcomed everyone then read the following WELCOME TO COUNTRY:
We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

APOLOGIES Kevin Allen, Debbie Gonzalez Canada, Pamela Lloyd, Vince Aitkin

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING. Meeting held on March 15, 2021. The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Kaye Seconded John

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Treasurer Vince Aitkin. In Vince's absence, John gave a summary of transactions and balances in the accounts. He stated there were no monies owed by FoMPC and no monies owed to FoMPC. John reminded the meeting that the amount in the General Account included funds for some works which had been delayed due to COVID and he noted that this money would be spent this year.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Guest Presentation: Update on the Brosnan Crescent Naturalisation Project Fin Adamson(Project Manager), Jacqueline Novoselac (Comms and Engagement Lead)

Fin stated that this naturalisation project is part of the Melb Water 'Reimagine Your Creek Program', which has been running for 5 years. He showed before and after photos of creeks which had been in this program, for example, Dandenong Creek, Arnolds Creek, Melton and Blind Creek in Boronia. He said that in comparison Moonee Ponds Creek had a more complex set of issues. Fin stated "a key driver will be getting a balance between the cost versus a good result."

Fin mentioned that flood and contaminated land were constraints in this project. Fin told us that their modelling suggested that flooding was not the main constraint due to the deep channel through which the Creek flows, as well as flood mitigation works upstream at Jacana.

Regarding contaminated soils, a recent examination of the soils in the area to be naturalised found low amounts of PFAS. This contaminant appeared to have been transported there via the Creek, possibly as a result of its use in fire-fighting training further upstream at the Airport and nearby. Since removal of the PFAS would be very difficult and costly, Fin said that it would need to be worked around. He added that the location of PFAS in the soil profile meant that there would be a limit to the amount of excavation possible at the Brosnan Cres site.

It is against this background that the themes from the Chain of Ponds strategic vision and the resulting options for the site will be tested. The design options chosen need to find "the balance between desirability, feasibility and viability." Fin highlighted examples of where natural looking results can be achieved with minimal removal of concrete.

The focus of the consideration to date appeared to be the Creek bed, not including the land to each side, although Fin stated that funding was being sought to do works in Oak Park Reserve and Lebanon Reserve.

Jacqueline spoke about the planned 3 week community engagement program starting 10th May. The first week would be mainly digital engagement then there would be two weeks of community engagement activities on the ground. The aim in the first part would be to inform about the PFAS story as well as gather information about how people use the Creek and their views on what is desirable in the project. Plans are being developed to engage in the second and third weeks in various ways with users of the Creek such as the local Primary School, walkers, sporting clubs, dog walkers, cyclists and there would be letterbox drops in the local area. Mention was made of a second phase 6 weeks later where there would be testing of some design options.

In response to a question from John, "When will we see something happening?" Fin stated that a start will be made this summer and that there would be 5-6 months of construction. The planting of the area would take place over the following years. In question time, Julie pointed out it was important to consider young people and their adventures and not to forget them in the design options. Jacqueline mentioned that they would be engaging with Strathmore Nth Primary.

John thanked Fin and Jacqueline and said that we were grateful for the opportunities being provided for engagement in the process

2. General Items

- **Chain of Ponds Collaboration.** John introduced the Chain of Ponds Collaboration new Lead, Rachel Lopes, who mentioned that the Collaboration group had been "Highly Commended" in the 2021 National Stormwater Awards for Excellence in Strategic or Master Planning. The CoP was the 2019 Victorian Award Winner.
- **Westgate Tunnel Project Veloway/Bridge 75 plan.** Kaye spoke about a new design for the veloway across the Creek. Instead of the proposed U-shaped loop in the veloway, the redesign goes straight across the creek and in the process, reuses an old railway bridge and incorporates a viewing platform as well as improving the on-ground open space. The redesign was initiated by the Bicycle Network and welcomed by local community organisations and the City of Melbourne as a superior outcome. The West Gate Tunnel Authority subsequently rejected the suggested changes. Community organisations intend writing to the Minister for Planning Richard Wynne seeking reversal of the WGT Authority decision. It was agreed from the floor that FoMPC endorse the new design and the draft letter to the Minister.
- **Closure of shared path at Docklands for Dockland Film Studio's new Sound Stage 6.** Kaye highlighted this issue and sought the agreement of the meeting to write to Development Victoria and Melbourne City Council to get the path reinstated so as to allow through public access along the Creek corridor. The Meeting agreed for Kaye to follow up the issue by writing to the relevant agencies.
- **Brunswick South-West planters.** This was held over due to the absence of Pamela Lloyd who is seeking to reinvigorate this group.
- **Bike jumps and tracks – BMX and MTB report has been completed by MVCC Officers and was considered by Moonee Valley Council on Tuesday 13 May 2021.** Nina and Kaye reported on the decision by Council to remove high risk jumps but at same time "to leave low-risk jumps until other options are developed." Kaye reported that FoMPC had last year put in a submission to Moonee Valley Council,

regarding the on-going impact of jumps, destroying the re-vegetation work that had been done at Wykrook-nguluk Darrang Reserve. Nina added that the officer report itself on the consultation of Moonee Valley Council with Youth Representatives was overall good but said they were very disappointed with the half-response recommendation for this Reserve. It was considered naïve that jumps would not be recreated in the Reserve whilst Council worked through the long process establishing jumps facilities at more appropriate sites in the municipality. The meeting agreed that Kaye and John would liaise to write a letter to MCC.

- **Issues around Strathnaver Reserve - update by Nina.** Nina reported that the very large advertising signs are back around Strathnaver Reserve oval – which is currently used by the Split Soccer Club. She gave some background to this ongoing issue. The MAV (Municipal Association of Victoria) are reviewing guidelines for advertising around sports grounds. John offered to follow up this issue with the MAV. Nina also reported that there was a project called the Chris Lane Project in the pipeline at Boeing Reserve and she was attempting to find details of what exactly was being planned.
- **Issues relating to sports clubs along the Creek:** Nina raised the issue of the potential removal of some trees at Ormond Park. She also expressed concerns for future public access to the sports grounds at Cross Keys should one club have sole use of the facility. John suggested that a letter re: open space remaining open be sent to the Council. This was agreed to by the meeting.
- **New Members** John welcomed new members Mitchell Smith and Elizabeth O'Malley.
- John thanked Carolyn Layton and Greg Hunt for their work on 'Activities for New Members.'

3. Other Business

1. John reported that he'd been informed by Lori Arthur (Natural Resource Management Officer at Moreland Council) that permission had been given to Dr. Sapphire McMullan-Fisher to collect fungi samples from council land, likely along Creek corridors, as part of *The Wild Fungi DNA Project*. See link <https://myco.org.au/wild-dna-project/> for more information.
2. Anna reported that she had been forwarded an email via the Field Naturalist Club of Victoria from researcher Miraca Walker who is a part of the team producing the BBCs upcoming documentary series, Planet Earth 111. In the 'Human' episode they are hoping to film the nesting and hunting behaviour of Tawny frogmouths in and around Melbourne City in November 2021. At this stage they wish to receive information on known past observations. "To help us plan the best areas to film we are aiming to build a map of previous frogmouth nest sites with particular emphasis on nests that are in or near to an urban landscape, such as a back garden, school yard, sports field or any location which has a manmade element to it." In the email Miraca also states, "...for the safety of nesting birds we would never release nest locations to the general public and would keep all GPS records/photos/maps etc. private." Anna has been in contact with Miraca about her recorded sightings and others are invited to do so Miraca.Walker02@bbc.co.uk

Dates for Your Diary

- Call for items for June issue of Ponderings; email to Editor David Widdowson fompc.ponderings@gmail.com by mid-May.
- Kensington Embankment community planting day - advance notice for late May/early June (specific date TBC)
- **Next FoMPC Meeting: Monday June 21st 6:30 p.m.** Please email any items for the agenda by June 1st to friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

MINUTES GENERAL MEETING MONDAY JUNE 21st, 2021, 6:30PM

ZOOM Meeting

PRESENT: John Kavanagh, Alison Cook, Kaye Oddie, Anna Lanigan, Frank Kinnersley, Tony Smith, Alex English (Moreland City Council), David Kilroe (Moonee Valley City Council), Darren McLelland, Vince Aitkin, Kevin Balaam, Joanne Dietrich, Carolyn Layton, Pamela Lloyd, Prya Schiling, Alister Briggs, Emily Brennan, Nina Ninucha, Sharnie Sirotic.

John warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting then read the following WELCOME TO COUNTRY: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

APOLOGIES: Zoe Jellie

WELCOMES: John mentioned our guest speakers, Alex English, Open Space Planner, Moreland City Council and David Kilroe, Senior Strategic Planner, MVCC and thanked them for coming along. He also made particular mention of the new members present at tonight's online meeting; Emily Brennan and Alister Briggs.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING. The Minutes of the Meeting, held on April 19th 2021, were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: John Seconded Carolyn. Vote: Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Treasurer: Vince Aitkin. John reported that the Treasurer's Report had already been presented to the Committee and endorsed, on June 7th. He highlighted money spent on plants for the upcoming Community Planting Day at Outlook Drive on 18th July, as part of the grant received from the Australian Government, facilitated through local MHR Peter Khalil'. He noted \$3362 was spent on plants and other project items to date and \$13,668 remained from the \$17,030 total grant. John also noted that the Term Deposit Account had been renewed and stated that FoMPC neither owes nor is owed any monies.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Hume Planning Scheme Amendment C250.

Anna introduced this item and explained how she had been doing one of her regular bird counts at the Tarnuk, near Wright St Westmeadows, and ran into some local Wright Street residents who expressed serious concerns about a new amendment for a development proposal for land adjoining Wright Street and the Cleanaway Toxic Landfill site.

The planned amendment has been initiated by MAB Corporation through the Hume City Council and proposes rezoning to provide 41 industrial sites plus 227 houses. Anna highlighted major issues for the plan, namely that it is on land currently zoned 'Rural,' land which actually serves as a buffer zone for the Cleanaway toxic landfill site next door.

She reported that she had seen a recently released Compliance Report which showed it had failed to meet the safety requirements for PFAS storage in May. Anna said that she had put in a personal submission against the proposed Amendment C250. Anna then handed over to Kaye, who had put in a submission on behalf of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek.

Kaye showed some images from the FoMPC submission, including one illustrating the development proposal's close proximity to the Moonee Ponds Creek and others that illustrated the natural 'chain of ponds' form of the Creek in this area, as well as its close proximity to parklands of the Tarnuk and the nearby Woodlands Historic Park.

Concerns outlined included: The proposed narrow open space buffer zone (70 metres) between the development site and the Creek which she stated was "totally inadequate, given the number of new residences nearby." With housing lots of less than 400sq metres and the area zoned under 'General Residential', she pointed out that the developer has the ability to go up to three stories, with no requirement for gardens. She pointed out that there is still regular testing of ground water on the land proposed for the intensive development, which shows contaminated ground water is spreading under the subject rezoning site.

Kaye added that the developers want a 'Development Plan Overlay' applied, which would mean no third party appeal rights apply. This would mean local residents and groups like FoMPC would have no input. The FoMPC submission, not surprisingly, also opposed this overlay.

Kaye said that the Amendment represents "an overdevelopment of the site". She summarised the FoMPC position: That the land remain, as was originally intended, as a buffer zone between the Toxic Landfill site and the adjoining residential areas of Westmeadows and as a land buffer to the Moonee Ponds Creek, which encompasses original natural values along these upper reaches of the Creek.

Kaye went on to reference Helen van den Berg of the Terminate Tulla Toxic Dump Action Group and their data showing that the toxic ground water has seeped 700 metres out from the landfill site so far. The contaminated water is currently 25-30m below the surface, however there are concerns about this with construction of buildings and services on the site. The sloping land leading down to the creek and stormwater runoff from the rezoned/developed site and treatment was also of concern.

In response to a question from Darren about what we can do as individuals, Kaye suggested that people contact her and she will give details on how to put in a late submission and/or apply to present to the Panel Hearing. Kaye also said that Helen van den Berg encourages everyone to keep writing letters of complaint to the Hume Councillors.

John thanked Kaye (and Anna) for the presentation and congratulated Kaye on completing the FoMPC's detailed submission.

- 1. Moonee Valley Environmental Significance Overlays (ESOs)-along the Moonee Ponds Creek** Anna reported that Logan Shield alerted her to the fact that Moonee Valley has only one ESO, in a small area at Strathnaver Grasslands. On the Moreland Council side of the Creek, in contrast, there are ESOs in place along the length of the Creek within the Council boundary. Anna contacted Alex English and he has spoken with Logan about how they went about the ESOs. Alex offered to speak tonight on the topic.

John thanked Anna for her introduction and introduced Alex English and David Kilroe to speak about ESOs in their respective municipal areas.

- 2. Moreland Council ESOs - Alex English** Alex told us that they have had 15 years of experience with ESOs in their work looking after Merri Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek (including Melville Ck but not Westbreen). Alex said that ESOs are meant to trigger planning permits "but in fact very few have been triggered due to the exemptions granted." He added, "So in fact ESOs haven't always been effective."

Alex acknowledged the Planning Controls Working Group of the Chain of Ponds Collaboration. He said this group's work had led to the strengthening of the planning controls such as protection of vegetation up

to 30m from the Creek and open space to 50m. Triggers need to be extended to include fencing, and to move height exclusion for works within 5 metres of the Creek further away. Alex spoke of the importance of ESOs spelling out aspirations for the areas they covered. He said that priorities they have for the areas under ESOs were heritage and landscape. There were some questions and discussion around the various overlays under planning schemes including Significant Landscape Overlay SLOs.

David Kilroe from Moonee Valley Council was introduced by Alex. David said that they were subjected to strengthened planning controls as a result of Moonee Ponds Creek being included in the 'Waterways of the West' program. He pointed out that in Moonee Valley, ESOs were more focused on priority sites and significant trees across the Council area. He confirmed there was one ESO at this stage along the Creek at Strathnaver Grasslands and some protection zones around significant trees including some near the Creek.

Anna asked David what was the best way for us to move forward with this? David suggested the Community Page on Waterways of the West.

John thanked Alex and David and said that he really appreciated input from senior people from two different Councils.

- 4 **MVCC Developing the Council Plan/Health Plan.** It was noted that this plan is being prepared.
- 5 **Working with Children Card - proposed for volunteers.** John reported that Parks Victoria (information forwarded from The Field Naturalists Club of Victoria) are considering making it compulsory for volunteers to have a WWCC, even just for one day or one-off events. Anna pointed out that it would be overkill for FoMPC as children attend our events with parent(s) whose responsibility it is to look after them. John agreed and said, "We are keeping a watching brief on this." Kaye noted that the FoMPC already has a Childsafe Policy, developed some years ago in response to State Government requirements.
- 6 **Membership Renewals:** Frank, Vice President and also our Membership Secretary announced that membership fees would be up for renewal in the new financial year. He requested that we don't "jump the gun" in paying but instead wait to receive the email to be sent to those who need to renew.
- 7 **Shared Path/Access at Docklands** Kaye reported briefly on the issue. In summary, following an online meeting with a number of government representatives associated with the development of the Sound Stage at the Docklands Film Studios, the Victorian Planning Authority VPA is looking at how to reinstate access to the Creek corridor and they will consult the FoMPC in this.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Brittany Lambert a Kindergarten teacher from Dunstan Reserve Kinder in Brunswick is keen to work with FoMPC. She is interested in doing more than collecting rubbish (which they do already). Tony mentioned Melville Creek could be of interest. Alex added that where Melville Creek used to flow into Fraser Reserve is a possibility, to highlight this tributary of the Moonee Ponds Creek and remember its history. Alex also mentioned LD John's Reserve where a wetland is being created. He suggested this may be of interest, however, he said that Dunstan Reserve is a higher priority for the Council. There are works in the pipeline there and Alex said he would let his colleagues know of Brittany's interest in getting involved. Nina suggested Brittany Lambert connect to the Water Watch program and to this end contact Julia Cirillo at the Merri Creek Management Committee.
2. **Update** John reported that the letter he agreed to write at the last meeting to Moonee Valley Council regarding damage by BMX and Mountain bike use in Shelley Reserve/Wykrook-nguluk Darrang was "noted"

by the Council. He was told that there is a proposed budget allocated to a “commitment to reinstating the area once the bikes leave and a new BMX facility has been built in Moonee Valley.”

3 On 19th May there was a diesel spill into the Creek. John said that he was pleased with the response from Melbourne Water (Jacqueline). This contrasted with the EPA’s response, which he said was “poor.” John shared his view that the EPA are “not nearly proactive enough.”

4. John congratulated David Widdowson for his work on Winter Ponderings and commented that he was a “wonderful editor.”

5. Environment Groups in Moonee Valley. John reported that he attended a community meeting with a variety of environment groups operating in Moonee Valley. At the meeting they heard from each of the groups about the works in which they are engaged. He spoke very positively about the groups and the work they do, as well as Millie Bourke the Conservation Project Officer (“a fantastic officer”) who organised the event.

6 Updates Nina updated the meeting on a number of issues raised at the last meeting: Chris Lane memorial: she reported that no trees will be removed in the making of this memorial mini-baseball ground. Regarding Strathnaver signage: Clubs are presently “doing as they like” in regard to signage around the sports oval while legal advice is being sought and rumours of an appearance at VCAT are circulating. Nursery Corner: The draft budget, which was to be voted on by Council at its next meeting, included an allocation of \$1.5 million to be shared between three sites, including Nursery Corner. Bollards along Mascoma Street Strathmore: Nina presented a budget submission for bollards which was to go to council officers this week. She said that no money has been allocated but that they will be “investigating the issues.” MVCC Soccer Clubs: The opposition to sole tenancy by soccer clubs in Moonee Valley (three of which are adjacent to the Creek) “led a good campaign” and she “hoped they would be listened to.” Strathmore North Primary School: proposed development will not be using land currently used for the staff carpark, so they will not require the use of open space along the Creek for their parking. John thanked Nina for her updates.

7. Archives Storage. David announced that a search is on for a location to store the FoMPC archives, banners, photos etc. He indicated that if the space were large enough it could be a place to hold Committee and General Meetings. He invited those interested in being involved in discussing the options and making recommendations to the Committee, to come to a meeting to be held at his house details to be advertised. There were some comments about what archival material exists, how much and where it is currently and what needed to happen before storage.

8. On-line Meetings. Nina suggested that we have an on-line option for attendance at General Meetings. John supported the idea, with the qualification that on-line attendance could be as ‘observer ‘only.

9. South-West Planters. Pamela Lloyd reported that there would be a Planting Day, 25th July at Holbrook Park (access via Hope St) organised with the assistance of Merri Creek Management Committee and Moreland Council. Pamela told the meeting “everything was ready to go”, however, she asked for someone with more experience in organising events like this to look over the arrangements for the day. John said the FoMPC supported her project and offered to publicise the event. Kaye offered to check their arrangements.

10. Welcome to new members. John read out the names of the new members: Emily Brennan, Simon Harvey, David Leitinger, Hugh Coldwell-Ross, Alister Briggs, Sam Moorhead, James Anastasios, Anne Moule, and Peter Whelan.

John thanked everyone for their contributions to the online meeting and the attendees and guest speakers and ended the meeting.

NOTICES:

- **Sunday 18th July 10am-12noon Community Planting at Djirri Djirri Reserve, Outlook Drive, Glenroy.**
In conjunction with Moreland Council we are finally getting to infill plants with Wurundjeri cultural associations (food, fibre, tools and medicines) as part of our 'Communities Environment Program' grant project. All equipment provided as well as refreshments. All Welcome

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

- **Next FoMPC Meeting: Monday August 16th 6:30 p.m.** Please email any items for the agenda by Aug 1st to the Secretary at friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au

Carolyn Layton
Minutes Secretary

GENERAL MEETING MONDAY AUGUST 16th, 2021 by ZOOM

PRESENT

John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Alison Cook, Vince Aitkin, Kaye Oddie, Kevin Balaam, Tim Read MP, Ray Hehr, Kelvin Thompson, Tony Smith, Milly Burke(MVCC), Gary Manefield, John, Darryn Hartnett, Anna Lanigan, Rachel Lopes, Pamela Lloyd, Chris Cook, Anna and Darren, Malcolm, Ffion Davies, Joanne Dietrich, Julia Cirillo (MCMC), Elissa Symmons, Carolyn Layton, David Widdowson

APOLOGIES

Joanne Beaumont, Zoe Jellie, Nina Ninucha, Alex English

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

John read: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

WELCOME

John welcomed everyone to the meeting and made a special mention of attendee Tim Read MP and invited him to say a few words. Tim said that he was here "to listen and learn of any concerns" and added, "Thanks for having us". He introduced parliamentary intern Ffion Davies who is engaged in a project on the Moonee Ponds Creek.

John made special mention of our newest members James McConnell, Alex English, Jennifer Lepper, Rachel Lopes, Gary Manefield, and Darryn Hartnett. He highlighted and welcomed those new members who were present at the meeting: Garry, Rachel and Darren.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on June 21, 2021.

Moved Kaye. Seconded Carolyn. Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Treasurer Vince Aitkin. Vince read out the account balances. He indicated that the CEP Djirri Djirri project had completed its expenditure, with unexpended grant funds remaining. He reported that our Public Liability has been recently renewed. Vince reported that the Annual Financial Reports had been prepared and would be presented at the AGM 18th Oct. Moved Vince: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Seconded Kelvin. Carried.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. **Update on Djirri Djirri Reserve CEP project planting and signs.** Kaye reported that the lockdowns had caused the Community Planting in July to be cancelled. Contractors had to be engaged to do the planting of the 1200 tube stock. Some special plants such as the Yam Daisies were held over. The signs have been installed and include images of plants are known to have Traditional Owners' associations for food, medicine, fibre and tools.

2. **Community engagement meetings to be held by Melbourne Water and Chain of Ponds Collaboration in relation to the Brosnan Crescent Naturalisation Project** were highlighted by John. See the following link for details of the on-line sessions, including the link to join each Zoom meeting and to make submissions:
<https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/reimaginingmooneepondscreek>

David had posted the three concept plans on FoMPC Facebook. Kaye recommended members join one of the online presentations to learn more about the concepts so that informed feedback can be provided. She asked whether we should have a FoMPC position on this issue.

1. **Clean-up day at Brunswick West.** Pamela Lloyd briefly re-introduced the planned Clean-up day scheduled for 10th October (raised at the last FoMPC meeting.) She proposed that it occur in partnership with FoMPC.

Julia Cirillo (Merri Creek Management Committee) explained that Moreland Council funded her to organise the event and that Pam is the FoMPC contact. She shared details of the planning for the event on 10th Oct. e.g. site safety assessment, Covid-safe plan and equipment. John Kavanagh told the meeting that he would put the proposal to the FoMPC committee and get back to them.

Julia told the meeting that she also had funding from Moreland Council for individual clean-ups and that she operated a Facebook Page: **Merri Creek Community Litter Clean Ups COVID Style**. For example, A household can get together with equipment provided (litter kit, pick-up sticks) to collect litter along an area of the Creek, sort it and count categories, assisted by Julia. The results are uploaded to the State-wide portal, Litter Watch Victoria. <https://www.litterwatchvictoria.org.au/>

2. **Membership renewals** – Frank reported that there are currently 80 financial members. He pointed out that memberships are due in the middle of the year, coinciding with the financial year. Those who need to renew are sent an email, so no need to renew unless you get the email. John suggested that if anyone is unsure of their financial status they should email Frank. Frank added that a significant proportion of the FoMPC membership fee \$11.50/\$20 goes towards our membership of Landcare Victoria Inc., through which we obtain the Public Liability insurance cover for our activities.

3. **Land purchases for public open space along the Moonee Ponds Creek:**

- **John St, Oak Park** - Carolyn reported that a block of land (1500sqm) adjacent to the Creek in John Street Oak Park was auctioned on July 24th and that it had been bought by Moreland City Council. Carolyn described some of the prior history about the land and community awareness about its potential sale. The land in question was of the type the Council looked to acquire to increase the open space along the Creek corridor, in keeping with its 2018 Chain of Ponds strategic plan. Prior to the auction, Moreland Council officers assessed the site, its potential purchase and obtained executive approval to bid at the auction. This was successful. Rachel Lopes, Lead for the Chain of Ponds Collaboration, commented that the relationships that have been built between stakeholders of the Collaboration helped facilitate the Council assessment.
- **Chelmsford St, Kensington** – Kaye reported on the recent purchase by the Melbourne City Council of land along the lower Moonee Ponds Creek in Chelmsford St, Kensington. The land (3600sqm) is former industrial land and, like John St, Oak Park, directly abuts the Creek and the Kensington Embankment, where this year FoMPC undertook further infill plantings. The land will provide much needed open space for the local community, enhance the open space amenity of the Creek corridor and indirectly benefit the urban renewal areas of Macaulay and Arden on the opposite side of the Creek.

4. **Lionsville/Ryman development** – Darren Hartnett reported on developments at the Lionsville site on the corner of Moreland Road and Pascoe Vale Road, Pascoe Vale Sth. The site abuts the Moonee Ponds Creek along its lower boundary. Darren expressed his concern over preliminary plans to develop the site with multiple tall buildings, built close to boundaries and with little open space between them. He reported that one resident had been given until Christmas to leave and the resident was worried about where he could go. The meeting was also told of some removal of vegetation; its extent and location in relation to the Creek was discussed. Tim Read stated that in a General Residential Zone the height limit was 11m but when a residential development includes ‘aged care on hand’ it can go to 16m. Kaye expressed concerns about overshadowing of the Creek by tall buildings and said that the development should have a buffer between it and the Creek corridor. *A suggestion was made by Kelvin for the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek to write to the Moonee Valley Council asking for details on whether the tree clearing and other actions that have been carried out at the site have been done with a Council permit, and if they are legal, what Council consultation with the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and local residents took place prior to the issuing of the permit. John Kavanagh agreed to this proposal.* ~~Suggestions were made to Darren by Kelvin to write to Moonee Valley Council and the Chain of Ponds Collaboration to ask what they know of the plans.~~ It would appear the Moonee Valley Council had been involved but no planning permit application had been received.
5. John announced that online community engagement workshops will be run by the Hume City Council to discuss the development of its Land and Biodiversity Plan 2021-26: See <https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Home> for details.

NOTICES: None to report

NEXT FoMPC MEETING: AGM to be held Monday October 18th, 6:30 p.m.



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

PO Box 54, ESSENDON, Victoria, 3040

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A0020337R ABN 92 871 466 322

To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

MINUTES

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY OCTOBER 18, 2021, 7.00PM

ZOOM

PRESENT:

John Kavanagh, Alison Cook, Liz Forbes, Frank Kinnersley, Greg Hunt, Carolyn Layton, Kaye Oddie, Ray Hehr, Kelvin Thomson, Anna Lanigan, Tony Smith, Gary Manefield, Kevin Balaam, Vince Aitkin, Malcolm Wrest, Nina Nanuchia, Alister Briggs, David Widdowson, Peter Scully, Pam Lloyd, Zoe, Joanne, Anne.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING. Meeting held on Aug 16, 2021. The Minutes (including a minor amendment) were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: John Seconded: Carolyn

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vince Aitkin gave a financial report; an update from the end of the financial year to Oct 18th 2021.

Reconciled Bank Balances with Bendigo Bank as at 11/4/2021 are:

General Account	\$ 2571.67
Subscriptions a/c	\$ 840.00
Term Deposit Due 2/3/2021	\$ 8075.73
Term Deposit Due 9/6/2021	\$ 15602.70
Allan Thomson Scholarship Due 28/8/2021	\$ 10188.93
Total Funds held at Bendigo Bank	\$ 37279.03

Vince reported that on 26/6/2020 we received a grant from the Department of Industry for \$17030 to conduct certain works on the creek near Outlook Drive (adjacent to the dual gauge Railway Viaduct crossing the creek). The project has been completed with great difficulty due to the Covid and lockdowns and the project officer has submitted closure papers to the Federal Government. There was underspend of \$ 1849.22 and Vince reported

that we are negotiating with the responsible Federal Government Department in the hope we will not need to repay these funds.

Vince moved a motion that this Report be accepted, seconded by Kelvin. Motion was declared carried. Vince was thanked for his work as Treasurer.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. iNaturalist and the Moonee Ponds Catchment Project. “iNaturalist is a social network of naturalists, citizen scientists and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe.”(Wikipedia)

Anna explained that iNaturalist replaced Bowerbird as a place where citizen scientists can place their wildlife observations on a digital data base. Anna presented a proposal for a ‘Wildlife of the Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Project’ within iNaturalist. All observations of wildlife made within the MPC catchment boundaries and loaded onto iNaturalist by whomever will be automatically brought together in this MPC Project site within iNaturalist.

The Project will require a moderator and other helpers to assist in the promotion of iNaturalist and training of budding citizen scientists to use the platform to record sightings. Anna who has posted thousands of observations on such sites, reported that she had worked with Mel Doherty on their ‘Wildlife of Hume’ iNaturalist project and could bring that experience, and even assistance from Mel herself initially, in moderating the Moonee Ponds Creek Project. She called for interested members to get involved.

Anna stated that other organisations such as Chain of Ponds Collaboration and Melbourne Water have expressed interest in being linked to the proposed Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Project. Comments were made concerning the branding to make sure the project was easy to find in a search and about the desirability of having FoMPC as the main organisation managing the iNaturalist account.

John congratulated Anna on her work so far in tapping into this wonderful resource. He moved a vote on the motion: That FoMPC give approval for Anna to take the next steps with the iNaturalist project. This was seconded by Anna and passed unanimously by the meeting.

2. Lionsville Site update

John reported that he had written to the Moonee Valley Council as directed at the last meeting and had received a detailed response to his questions, including information on the plans and what had been approved so far.

He spoke to a basic image of the site, showing the existing and proposed buildings. John explained that one of the planned buildings on the site (Stage 1A) was built and there was approval for the second (Stage 1B). He noted that there had been 4 extensions of approval so far on the site and buildings need to be completed by June 2023. None of the 5 other buildings on the map shown had approval to proceed as yet. John reported that in the application, these buildings are to be 4 levels high with 24-37 apartments each. John pointed out that the three buildings closest to the creek have the greatest potential for impact on the Creek corridor.

John assured the meeting that the developer would have to advertise these 5 buildings again in order to receive approval. He said we needed to keep a close eye on any developments. John stated that in his experience when there is a new buyer coming in, as is the case here, there is often an attempt to try for more in the approval process. John also reported that according to the MV Council, the plants removed (raised last meeting) did not require a permit. John asked if there were any questions. Malcolm asked about flood overlays but was reassured it was above the flood level.

3. Thanks Bruce Anderson John thanked Bruce for his generous donation of \$200. He had spontaneously donated this money when he heard that some stakes for planting near Kensington had been stolen.

4. Welcome to new members John welcomed our new 11 members: Lara Nelli, John Williams, Andrew Paull, Michael Whelan, Bruce Anderson, David Fabri, Joanna Swartzman, Fiona Parsons, Jen Brown, Chis Del Monaco and Malcom Wrest.

5. Signs at Strathnaver Reserve Nina reported that the signs had been pulled down by Council 2 weeks before the end of the season. She expressed her disappointment that the moratorium on enforcement of limits to the number and size of signs had been extended by the MV Council. She also reported that Herbert Reserve was being extensively dug up by children making bike jumps.

6. John Street Reserve update Carolyn shared some before and after photos of the small reserve at the end of John St Oak Park. In 2013 the Reserve was little more than a carpark for adjoining residents’ cars. There was no safe access to the creek and the area was surrounded by weedy trees and box

thorn. FoMPC worked closely with Lori Arthur and Vince Adreana of Moreland Council's Open Space and Design team.

Lori produced a detailed site plan, the Reserve and embankment along the creek was cleared, paths formed, a beautiful set of stone steps was put in and a well-attended planting bee, doubling as a FoMPC 25th Anniversary Celebration took place on June 15, 2014.

Today it is a well-used connecting track for walkers, cyclists and dogs. It provides access for those coming from downstream to the John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve and other attractions like the Francis Winifred Cafe. It has become an important link in some circuit walks along the creek. Vince provided some data from his informal surveys of users in September this year.

Carolyn reported that over the last few months a few John Street resident members have been exercising in the mornings, complete with masks and social distancing as they weeded, mulched and did some infill planting of the Reserve, the embankment along the creek track as well as other garden beds downstream. This has been supported by Moreland Council with 5 loads of mulch, stakes and a box of plants. Watch this space for more information on improving the habitat of the creek bank itself.

A Traffic Survey was undertaken at the shared pathway junction with MP Creek at the end of John Street, Oak Park. 4 survey events between 15 Sep and 24 Sep. Fair weather. Total survey time 212 minutes.

Walkers 90, Runners 12, Cyclists 19, Children in strollers 4, Dogs 46 - for a total of 173 users over 212 minutes. Males 47, Females 71, Children 11, – upstream bound 100, downstream bound 73.

A Traffic survey was undertaken at bridge over MP at John Pascoe Reserve Oak Park from car park facing. 1 survey event for 37 minutes. Fair weather.

Walkers 92, Runners 6, Cyclists 20, 2 children in strollers, 22 dogs - total users for 37 minutes 142 . Males 52, Females 54, Cyclists 14, dogs 22.

7. Proposed weed control project Greg reported on some research into one of the weeds discovered to be rampant in sections of the Moonee Ponds Creek. **Tradescantia fluminensis** or Wandering trad, an invasive weed from Brazil, forms dense vegetative mats that smother native plants. There is a significant infestation discovered during recent weeding and mulching work nearby, on the north bank of Moonee Ponds Creek, approximately 50 metres downstream from the John St Reserve.

CSIRO has been investigating biological control agents for this weed. A smut **Kordyana brasiliensis** is proving successful at reducing infestations, such that manual control becomes possible. CSIRO has established that the smut has no effect on other than the target species. CSIRO is working with the Community Weed Alliance of the Dandenongs to develop control plots and through CWAD, smut-infected plant material is available and can be mailed to approved community groups. CSIRO has developed protocols for the conduct of trials using this material. In return, they have established a reporting framework to maintain oversight of trials.

With the approval of the City of Moreland and Melbourne Water, it is proposed that a trial release take place on the creek bank near the John St Reserve. Further, the Friends, under the signature of the chair, will write to Melbourne Water and Moreland Council, seeking this approval. We would monitor progress and report back to subsequent meetings of Friends. Further information regarding the biological control of Wandering trad is at <https://research.csiro.au/wandering-trad/our-research/> Kaye made a supporting comment regarding it being well backed up by CSIRO. John moved the motion that we write to Melbourne Water and Moreland Council to seek approval for conducting a trial. Kaye seconded the motion and it was carried.

8.Arden Strategy Plan Kaye showed plans of the urban renewal area 'Arden' in North Melbourne that the State Government is redeveloping as a mid-high rise mixed use area, incorporating commercial, research and residential. It is based around a new underground station of the Melbourne Metro, also called 'Arden'. The Moonee Ponds Creek runs along the western side of the Arden precinct. The Creek is subject to flooding along this reach and the Arden precinct is a floodplain area. Measures to incorporate the Creek corridor with proposed open spaces and integrated stormwater management in the precinct raised some concerns. In a submission, the FoMPC supported the integrated stormwater open space proposals within the precinct, but expressed concern about other measures along the Creek corridor, including raising Creek levee banks (1 metre) and constructing culverts along Creek embankments. One such area, the Kensington Embankment on the western side of the Creek is now established vegetation (overseen since 2000 by FoMPC, initially supported by City Link, later by Melbourne Water grants). Strong opposition was expressed about any destruction of this embankment as part of the wider open space measures for Arden.

Mapping & Moonee Ponds Creek Trail Survey Project: Volunteers required. Kaye gave some background to a request for volunteers. Following on from the Chain of Ponds Collaboration report "Trails, Transport and Connectivity – Principles and Design Guidelines" 2020, Moonee Valley City Council used a Working for Victoria grant to map and survey the entire length of the Moonee Ponds Creek trail, logging in all types of infrastructure, including seating, drinking fountains, rubbish bins, signage and more. A team of 13 participants took 4 months to walk the Creek, logging 2300 assets with GPS and photographs and then entering into a database: <https://mooneevalley.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=be9d284203b2439ab14e5b78fe67a5b8>. What is now required is for the database to be double-checked, so that it can become a usable document for councils and others. It is suggested that this task is something members of the FoMPC could undertake over the next few months. Training would be provided in reading the database, re-walking the trail in sections and checking the entries, perhaps picking up any missed items. It is not considered to be an onerous task, just a commitment for a few total days of time. The meeting agreed to support this project and a call for volunteers will be made.

10. Shared path to Airport Malcom shared his views about the need for a shared path to the airport. He was referred to Frank Kinnersley who has participated in the Trails Transport and Connectivity Committee of the Chain of Ponds Collaboration and the recent walk through the area where extension of trail to airport would occur.

11. Archives John reminded the meeting that David Widdowson would be advertising a time for a meeting of members interested in working on the issue of the storage of the FoMPC archives.

8.10pm John thanked everyone and formally closed the meeting.

Dates for Your Diary

- Call for items for next issue of Ponderings; email to Editor David Widdowson fompc.ponderings@gmail.com by **November 24th** for **December 1st** release.
- **Next FoMPC General Meeting Dec 20th Venue:** to be announced.



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY OCTOBER 18, 2021, 6:30PM

ZOOM

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

John welcomed everyone and acknowledged the Traditional Owners and how they cared for the land.

We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

PRESENT

John Kavanagh, Alison Cook, Liz Forbes, Frank Kinnersley, Greg Hunt, Carolyn Layton, Kaye Oddie, Ray Hehr, Kelvin Thomson, Anna Lanigan, Tony Smith, Gary Manefield, Kevin Balaam, Vince Aitkin, Malcolm Wrest, Nina Nanuchia, Alister Briggs, David Widdowson, Peter Scully, Pam Lloyd

APOLOGIES

Alex English, Darryn Hartnett, Darren McClelland

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held on Jan 17, 2021 delayed due to Covid. The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Kelvin Seconded Vince

PRESIDENTS REPORT

John started by acknowledging the presence of Kelvin Thomson, former President, and thanked him for his attendance. John thanked FoMPC for the privilege of working for the past year with a group of people very committed to the mission of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek group.

He outlined some of the challenges of the year; with the Covid pandemic resulting, for example in curtailed and delayed activities and having to meet via Zoom instead of face-to-face. John pointed out, however, that the upside had been an increased appreciation in the community of our natural areas including the Moonee Ponds Creek and environs. John stated that the Friends Group had remained an important and well respected voice in the community.

John went on to thank everyone for their generous participation. He specifically mentioned and thanked the individual Committee members, Minutes secretary, Ponderings editor, Facebook admin team, Chain of Ponds Lead and the Councils and agencies with whom we work. John spoke positively about how our members generously step forward when there is a need and he shared his view that much more is achieved when we participate without worrying about where the credit goes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vince presented Financial Report for the Year Ending 30 June 2021. Vince stated the Report had already been referred to the Committee. He highlighted income, expenditure and the current balances in the accounts. Motion 'That the Financial Report be accepted' moved: Vince seconded Kaye. Declared carried. See Financial Report attached.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

John stepped down from the Chair and welcomed Kelvin Thomson to conduct the election of office bearers. Kelvin expressed his appreciation of the work of the Committee members over the past year. He congratulated

members involved in the ABC News item on 'Reimagining the Creek' at Brosnan Crescent. Kelvin also spoke highly of the FoMPC Facebook page and thanked the members who manage that and others for their contributions. Kelvin reported that Ffion Davies a parliamentary intern (present at the last meeting) had completed her report on the Moonee Ponds Creek and that he looked forward to reading it.

Kelvin called for nominations for each of the vacant positions. As each position had only one nomination, the following members were announced in turn as duly re-elected:

President: John Kavanagh

Vice-President: Frank Kinnersley

Treasurer: Vince Aitkin

Secretary and Public Officer: Alison Cook

Carolyn Layton was also reappointed as Minutes Secretary.

OTHER BUSINESS

The amount of the annual membership fee (currently \$20 per annum) was considered. Treasurer Vince shared his view that there was no need to raise this amount. As there were no other views expressed, John suggested that the annual fee remain at \$20 per annum for 2022. A motion to this effect was moved: Vince, Seconded: Nina and unanimously supported.

The meeting schedule was considered. John suggested it stay as the third Monday of every second month. Meeting Dates for 2022: 21st Feb, 18th April, 20th June, 15th August, 17th Oct, 19th Dec. This meeting schedule was put: Moved John and Seconded Kaye. Passed by the meeting.

After the vote, Nina raised her concern about urgent matters arising in between the two monthly meetings. Kelvin said that in the past, if an issue arose it was acted upon by the committee and a report on the issue prepared. After some discussion John suggested that a policy on dealing with urgent matters between meetings be formalised early in 2022.

The meeting was declared closed at 6.59pm