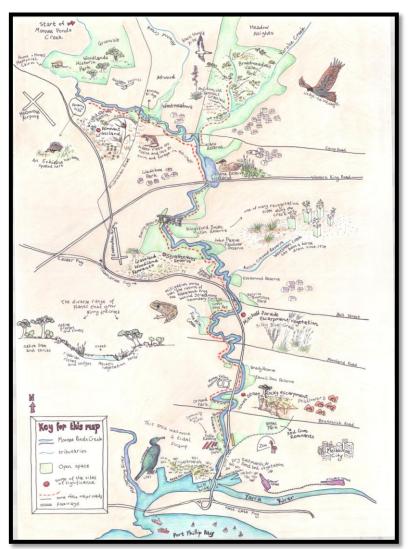
Bridges over the Moonee Ponds Creek

by Anna Lanigan

A journey
downstream from
Somerton Road,
Greenvale to
Flemington Bridge,
North Melbourne



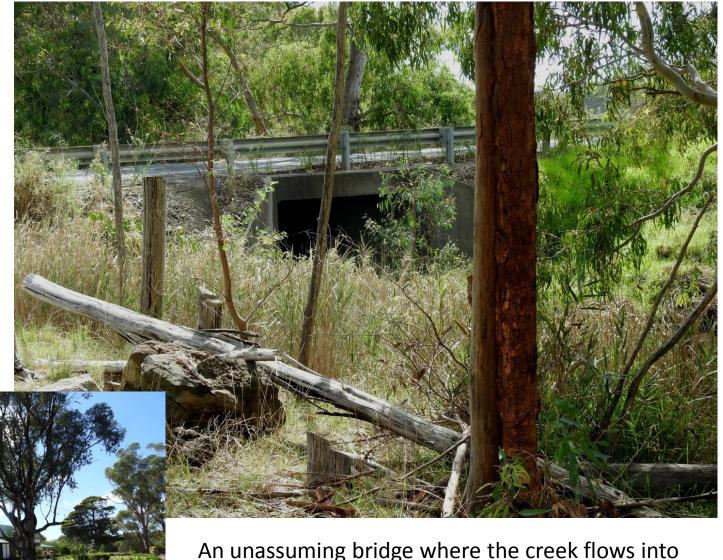
Artwork by Rachael Aerea

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

I acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Owners and original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek, and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present.



Somerton Road Greenvale



An unassuming bridge where the creek flows into Woodlands Historic Park.

Sherwood was the home of the Oaklands Hunt Club.

Sherwood Receptions

Woodlands Historic Park, Somerton Rd Picnic Area





Sacred Kingfisher



Connection to the extensive shared trails in WHP. A small ford downstream completes a loop for an easy ramble around this section of the creek with lovely bird life.

Chaffey's Bridge, Woodlands built in the 1920's





Superb Fairywren



The bridge fell into disrepair in the 1980's and was dismantled and replaced by a ford crossing

Marker Road – Melbourne Airport



Tarnuk Footbridge



Koala Crescent across to the Cambridge Gardens Estate





Tawny Frogmouths watching the planes



Stormwater outlets present challenges all along the creek

Mickleham Rd

Built in 1982 Mickleham Rd bridge gave a more direct route north bypassing the historic Fawkner St Bridge. Substantial improvements in habitat are made along the creek



Footbridge and frogs in Westmeadows

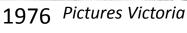


Fawkner Street – Old Broadmeadows



Listed on the Victorian Heritage Register this iconic bridge played a crucial role in the expansion of settlement in Victoria.

2022



Bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek

The impressive bluestone and granite bridge was constructed in 1869, replacing a timber bridge built in 1854. It was possibly designed by Evander McIver, the Roads Board secretary, who was also an engineer and architect. The Roads Board offices, also associated with McIver, share similar stylistic features. The bridge has long served as the focal point of Old

Broadmeadows.



A new footbridge connecting communities to the Moonee Ponds Creek shared trail and the bus stop



Broadmeadows Deviation Road



Jacana Reserve Footbridge



Western Ring Road – 2013 and 2022





Ponderings report Summer 2005





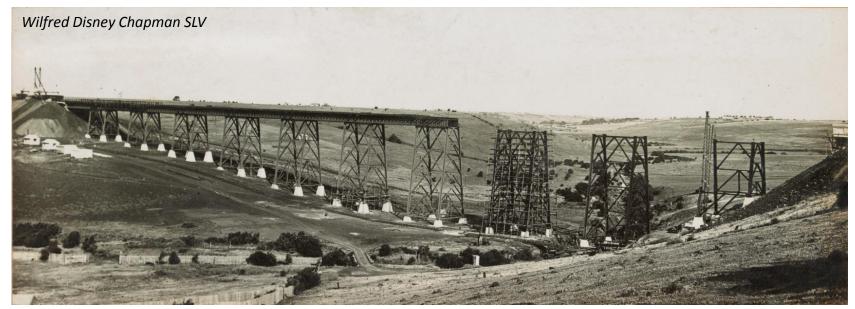
A connection with iconic city bridges



54 OFFER STREEP OURKE

In the 1880's David Munro built Princes Bridge, Queens Bridge and the Sandridge Rail Bridge over the Yarra River

The Rail Viaduct in 1928 and 2016





Reimagining the Creek - Chain of Ponds Collaboration





Artist impression by Robert Lovick in concept plans - Site Office

Two footbridges will bookend a long held dream of local residents and Friends of MPC with the removal of this first section of concrete and a return of wildlife habitat and amenity.

Pascoe Vale Road



Gaffney St Footbridge

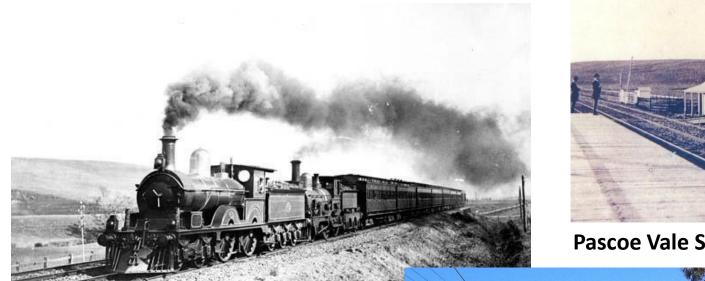


Pictures Victoria

Original fence Wannaeue 1870's



Sydney Express crossing Moonee Ponds Creek at Strathmore c1900



Pascoe Vale Station -1890

Public Records Office Victoria Station Image: Moreland City Libraries.

Pictures Victoria



Vintage train off to Seymour in 2015

"Malfunction Junction" – the Bell St Interchange



- •Six separate bridges completed in 1970.
- Victoria's first3 level bridgeconstruction
- Freeway
 widened and
 the direct Bell
 St to Pascoe
 Vale ramp
 added yet
 another bridge
 over MPC

Google Earth

Reynard St Bridge



Google Earth



Reynard St Bridge 2016



c1970 Reynard Street bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek Pictures Victoria and Coburg History Society



Cross Keys Footbridge

Moreland Road



Moreland Rd 1905 looking toward Essendon *Pictures Victoria, Coburg Historical Society*

Albion St Bridge over the years



Pre 1920 Bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek (Pictures Victoria and MCC libraries)



Pre 1938 Albion Bridge looking at Essendon (Pictures Victoria and MCC libraries)



Communities across the Creek connected by footbridges



Audrey Biggs

Hope St Footbridge Brunswick West 1940's



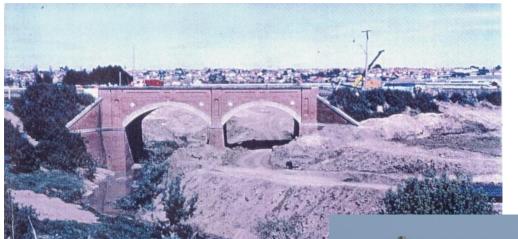


Moonee Ponds Creek floodplain the path of least resistance for a freeway



Charles Daniel Pratt – 1928 (SLV)

Wilson St Bridge



Australia's first recorded concrete bridge was completed in January 1893 only to be demolished to make way for the Tullamarine Freeway.

Wilson St Bridge 2022

Fof MPC Archive





Dawson St Bridge



Audrey Biggs



Detail from Charles Pratt image



Tullamarine Freeway - Citylink

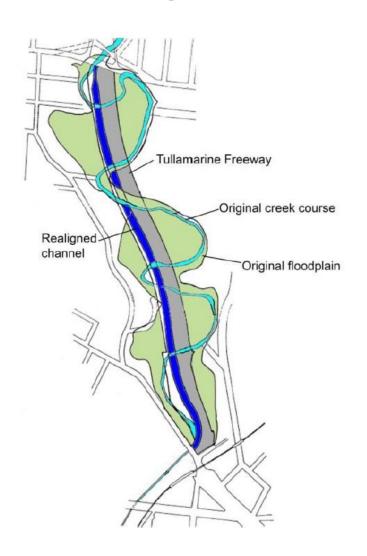


The Creek realignment and concrete encroaches upon Union St Escarpment significant for its geology and history

Stella Blay



Taking the shortcut through meanders



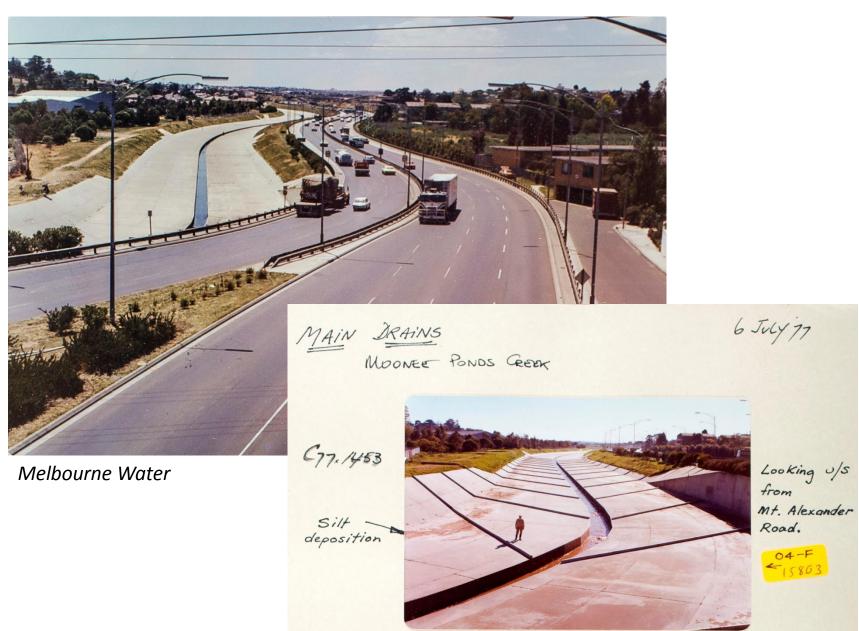
In 2018 Marcus Lancaster completed a brilliant PHD thesis entitled "An urban environmental history of Melbourne's watercourses". Figure 95 Plan showing the area of floodplain lost due to construction of the freeway.



One meander rescued - now a Storage Pond in the Trin Warren Tamboore Wetland complex

Figure 95. Plan showing the area of floodplain lost due to construction of the freeway. Source: MMBW (1981).

"Main Drains – Moonee Ponds Creek"



Mains Bridge - Flemington



Mains Bridge painting by Robert Hoddle

The Flemington Bridge crossing began as a ford and in 1839 was upgraded to a log bridge, the first vehicular bridge in Melbourne built by James Patrick Main.

The Road to the Diggings

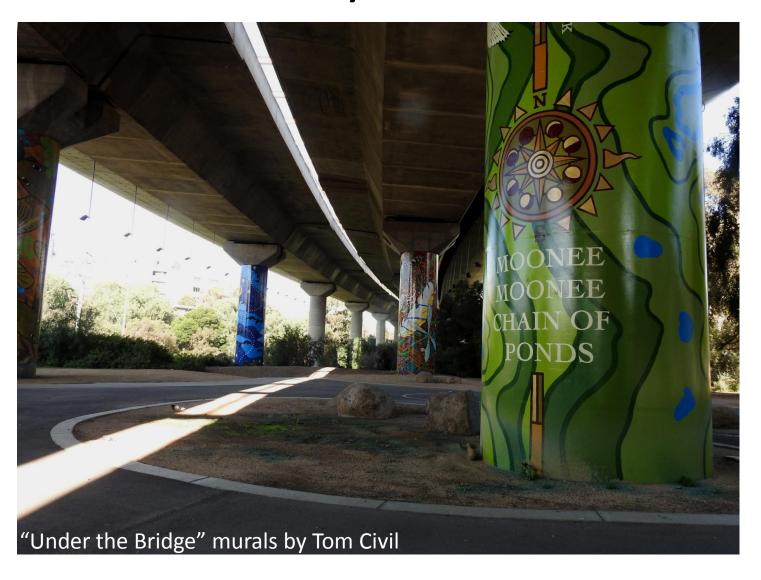


Flemington Rd Bridge to Mt Alexander Rd

Watercolour painting by Samuel Charles Brees c1856 *SLV*

Flemington Bridge had many upgrades over the years as it became one of the early routes to Sydney Rd and the quarries that built Melbourne,

Downstream from Flemington Rd there is a story to be continued...



Sources for images and information

- Pictures Victoria
- State Library of Victoria
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- Broadmeadows A forgotten History
- An urban environmental history of Melbourne's watercourses by Marcus Lancaster
- Spanning Two Centuries Historic Bridges of Australia by Colin O'Conner
- Old Melbourne Town before the Gold Rush by Michael Cannon
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- Annals of Essendon by R.W. Chalmers
- Moreland Thematic History
- https://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM01189b.htm
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- Google Earth
- Melbourne Miles The Story of Melbourne's Roads by Max Lay
- Photographs by Anna Lanigan unless otherwise attributed