



# Ponderings

Seasonal newsletter of the  
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek  
Autumn 2023 | Issue 78

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate



## Concrete Removed from the Creek!



# First Piece of Concrete Removed!

It must have crossed many minds that the first piece of concrete to be removed — after a wait of nearly 50 years! — was just a few metres away from where the concrete was stopped in the mid-1970s by a concerted effort by local residents including the Strathmore Progress Association.

And of course there were lots of people there to celebrate the occasion — including many Friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek!

It all happened thanks to \$5 million funding by the State Government and contributions from Melbourne Water, Merri-bek and Moonee Valley Councils.

There followed an article in the Age commemorating the occasion, followed by an opinion piece a few days later, as well as speculation about the role of creek modification on the flooding of the Maribyrnong River last year—it was all happening at once!

All in all, a great event that will hopefully show the way for the future of the Creek!

David Widdowson, Editor

Thanks to Anna Lanigan, Kaye Oddie, Rachel Lopes, Nina Franceschi, Milly Burke and Kelvin Thomson for their assistance with the production of this issue.

Cover images by Anna Lanigan, Nina Franceschi and Joanne Dietrich.

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## Breaking New Ground on Moonee Ponds Creek by Rachel Lopes



Mid-January marked the beginning of major works at Strathmore, with the removal of the first concrete panel as part of the **Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek Project**. The project will create a more appealing creek-side environment, restore waterway health and activate open space and recreational opportunities along the creek.

The project links back to the 1980s when community advocacy and discussions first began to remove the concrete. The 2018 award-winning **Chain of Ponds Plan** included options for removing the concrete and reinstating the creek, and the formalisation of the **Chain of Ponds Collaboration Group**, helped bring the project to fruition with its partners.

The project moved from a desire to reality with a \$5 million State Government grant and further contributions from Melbourne Water, Merri-bek and Moonee Valley Councils.

*And everyone was smiling the day that first piece of concrete came out!*

The project is one of five key projects of the Chain of Ponds - a collaboration pushing the global benchmark for waterway transformation through strategic partnering with local and state government, community groups, not-for-profits, water authorities and research organisations.

According to Venta Slizys, Coordinator City Design at Moonee Valley Council, the **Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek** project reminds everyone of the value of rivers and creeks and how important it is to have these natural spaces to connect with:

*“The concrete sides will be removed, we’ll have six rock weirs, a new Pond near Oak Park reserve, additional community access points, pathways and seating.”*



### Residents hail fall of ‘Berlin Wall of waterways’

**Carla Waters**  
City editor

It had often been assumed that the creek would be restored to its original state, with the concrete sides removed and replaced with natural banks. The creek is now a more natural, flowing waterway.

The 800 million creek restoration is known as the Chain of Ponds project and is a joint partnership between the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, Melbourne Water, Merri-bek City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, City of Water and the state government.

Melbourne Water managing director Nerita Di Lorenzo said the first stage of the project - removing 10 metres of concrete, planting 10,000 native plants, creating rock weirs, installing seating, and building a bike and pedestrian path - was to be completed next year.

Di Lorenzo said flood marking had been undertaken and there was no increase in flood risk. BMPT sustainability and urban design expert Professor Sarah Beksey said the strengthening of the creek was a major step towards making the creek a more natural waterway.

“I honestly didn’t think I would see it in my lifetime.”

“The creek is a very important part of our community and it’s great to see it being restored to its original state. The creek is a natural asset and it’s important to have it back. The creek is a natural asset and it’s important to have it back. The creek is a natural asset and it’s important to have it back.”

“The creek is a very important part of our community and it’s great to see it being restored to its original state. The creek is a natural asset and it’s important to have it back. The creek is a natural asset and it’s important to have it back.”



By Rachel Lopes



## Concrete Removal—What’s Next?

The *Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek* project will continue through until mid-2024 and will include an Immersive Trail which will share the Wurundjeri values of the creek also.

With plenty more milestones to come, 2023 is shaping up to be another stellar year.



## People News

Jeffrey Gray has started in the role of Wurundjeri Liaison to work on the Chain of Ponds Cultural Heritage Strategic Priorities on our Prospectus.

He will also be working on the Immersive Trail for the Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek project and the Bandicoot Flight Path Project.

Thanks to DEECA and a Waterways of the West grant for part funding this wonderful opportunity.



## Bandicoots on the Flightpath

We have a wonderful new video for our Bandicoot Flight Path project. Enjoy the prescient comments from the children. [It can be seen on the Chain of Ponds website](#) [Or on Facebook](#)

We are hoping to secure a Community Engagement Ranger to project manage this project and share it with local schools and communities.

Well done to the Project Team for getting the project to this stage:

- Kate, Steve & Tim at Parks Vic
- Catherine at Living Colour Studios
- David at Melbourne Airport
- Trav at Conservations Volunteers Australia
- Liz at Hume and Ryan at Melbourne Water.



## Lower Moonee Ponds Creek Focus Group

Discussions are progressing between the CoP Collaboration, City of Melbourne and Development Victoria to reinstate the Shared Path that was built over as part of the Sound Stage 6 development at Docklands. Thanks to Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek’s Kaye Oddie and Frank Kinnersley for their knowledge and input in progressing the path’s reinstatement. [Photo by XMZPursuit The Age Feb 18.](#)



**Sunday March 5th, 2023**

## General Announcements

Kelvin Thomson has set up a Moonee Ponds Creek Litter clean-up team for those interested in tackling the litter issue across the whole catchment rather than just in their backyard. [Link here for those who would like to be part of the wider solution](#) (currently 45 members and climbing).

We are looking for members of the community who live locally to the confluence of Five Mile Creek and the Moonee Ponds Creek who are interested in ongoing litter clean-up events. This accumulation spot collects a large amount of litter which originates from the Keilor shopping Precinct, which is a major contributor to litter within the creek. Keeping this area clean will contribute hugely to reducing the amount of litter entering the Moonee Ponds Creek, and ultimately Port Phillip Bay.

**Link:** <https://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/join-a-clean-up>

## Clean Ups Listed Below:



For all Clean Up Australia Day Events, participants should bring a hat, sunscreen, rain jacket and water. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Gloves and bags will be provided.

Registration is encouraged on the [Clean Up Australia Day](#) website to assist Site Supervisors with expected numbers.



Date/Time:	Where:	Group/Contact:
Sun 5 March 8.30am-1:00pm	<b>Moonee Ponds Creek. Boeing Reserve</b> Meeting Point: Pagoda by the creek at the end of Boeing Reserve Car Park, Strathmore Heights ( Melway 16 C5)	Site Supervisor: Paul Bird
Sun 5 March 10am-1.00pm	<b>5 Mile Creek Reserve</b> Meeting Point: Rock Circle Southern end of Government Road, Essendon (Melway 28 J2) <b>Followed by a Community BBQ</b>	Moonee Valley Sustainability Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Chain of Ponds Collaboration Valley Youth. Supervisor: Logan Shield
Sun 5 March 10am	<b>Westbreen Creek, Joyce Reserve, Pascoe Vale</b> Meeting Point: Reserve entrance closest to intersection of Kent Rd and Cornwall Rd (Melway 17 A7)	Site Supervisor: Charlotte Napper
Sun 5 March 10am	<b>Moonee Ponds Creek Brunswick West</b> Meeting Point: Brady Reserve end of Whitby St (Melway 29 C6)	Site Supervisor: Irene Bryan
Sun 5 March 10am-1.00pm	<b>Moonee Ponds Creek Kensington</b> Meeting Point: 25 Stubbs St Kensington then walk to creek. (Melway 43 A3)	Team Ellen Clean-up Club Site Supervisor: Riley Allen



## City Nature Challenge 2023

Hume City is participating again in the global City Nature Challenge 2023, happening from Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May, with other local governments along Moonee Ponds Creek and across greater Melbourne. People are encouraged to get into their gardens, or visit local parks, reserves, and waterways to make biodiversity observations using iNaturalist, either via the website or smart phone app. In 2022, the Greater Melbourne collective came 33<sup>rd</sup> for the number of observations made, in the 445 cities from 47 countries that took part.

To prepare for City Nature Challenge, several iNaturalist training sessions are being offered around Hume in March and April to show people how to make and upload observations of wild plants, animals, and fungi. Register for an online webinar on Wednesday 26 April starting at 7.30pm to 9pm here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/522187746607>

On the [Discover Nature in Hume](#) webpage, download a CNC 2023 flyer with more details about the other iNaturalist training sessions, plus find PDF copies of the Birds of Hume and Fauna of Hume field guides.

For City Nature Challenge there will also be guided walks to record the wildlife of Moonee Ponds Creek, including at Woodlands Historic Park and Jacana Wetland. A collection of all the events you can register for, including in Sunbury and Mickleham, can be found here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/city-nature-challenge-2023-1729459>

To track the progress and explore nature in your neighbours, you can follow the leader boards with these links:

[City Nature Challenge 2023: Hume City Council](#)

[City Nature Challenge 2023: Greater Melbourne](#)



## Hume City Council Ethnolink

Ethnolink is working with Hume City Council to improve resources and services for people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

We are looking for native speakers over the age of 18 who are living in the Hume City Council area to complete a survey for us in exchange for a \$50 digital Coles gift voucher. The languages are the following: Assyrian, Turkish, Greek, Nepali, Urdu Arabic, Farsi, Punjabi and Vietnamese.

Please feel free to share this information, you can also call me on 0493 236 923 for any questions you may have. - Karine Bachelier

### Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May

Citizen science is free, fun, and easy to do on your own, or with family and friends. In this four-day biodiversity challenge, head out with your phones and cameras to record as many wild animals, plants, and fungi as you can find.

Over 475 cities will be involved worldwide, with people searching for wildlife in their gardens, local parks, and creeks. Upload photos to iNaturalist by 7 May for these observations to count, and they are automatically included into projects.

To compete globally, Hume City is collaborating with 26 local governments to form the Greater Melbourne project.

A lead-up series of training sessions will prepare people to take part and get familiar with iNaturalist. Guided nature walks are planned over the weekend to look for various species. Please register your attendance on [Eventbrite](#) or the following links as numbers to attend events are limited.

For more information about getting involved, contact Melissa Doherty, Council's Urban Biodiversity Officer. [melissado@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:melissado@hume.vic.gov.au) - 0409 702 086



**How:**

Install iNaturalist on your phone & create an account

Take photos of nature on your phone or camera

Upload to iNaturalist using the app or website

**Why:**

Add to species databases

Connect with nature

Get active outdoors



## Action packed April!

We are delighted to have an action-packed April on the way:

**Grassroots Youth Summit** - The Grassroots Youth Summit will bring together our environmental changemakers for three days of all things art, science, volunteering and leadership. This program is designed to be immersive, inspiring and action-based for community from 12 to 25 years old. All details of where, when and how to sign up will be available on our Valley Youth socials soon or check out [www.valleyyouth.org.au](http://www.valleyyouth.org.au).

**Nature Play Week** - Brought to you by the Kids in Nature Network, Nature Play Week runs from April 17 to 30. *Playing in nature help us capture the health, learning and wellbeing that comes from our creek.* Nature play isn't just for big reserves, nature is everywhere – even in a pot plant, the water in our taps, and the stars out the window at night! This nature play week find a hill to roll down, take a book to read under your favourite tree or join a kid in making some mud pies. Find our more at [kidsinnaturenetwork.org.au](http://kidsinnaturenetwork.org.au)

**City Nature Challenge 2023** - Moonee Valley is joining the City Nature Challenge for 2023. Join us and other cities from across the globe in this world-wide bioblitz! Get in on the action by snapping a photo of wildlife and upload it to iNaturalist between April 28 and May 1. All our neighbouring Councils are also participating so keep an eye out for City Nature Challenge events on near you!

Keep an eye out for more information about our programs on the events page [www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/events)



## Healing Ceremony

by Anna Lanigan

On January 26<sup>th</sup> a Healing Ceremony took place in Queens Park, Moonee Ponds. The Acknowledgment of History address was given by Wurunjeri Woi-wurrung Elder Aunty Diane Kerr while her grandson performed the Smoking Ceremony. Nhanbu Togip performed traditional dance.



Guest speaker, Courtney Ugle gave a compelling account of the tragic sequence of events that led her to travel across the country to start a new life playing for Essendon in the AFL Women's League. It brought into sharp focus the overwhelming evidence of domestic violence and its aftermath. The Ceremony ended with a performance by David Arden & his band.





## Woodlands Park fish

The morning of January 17 dawned onto a sad sight at Woodlands Park. Due to an irrigation malfunction, the lower holding pond was empty. Although many of the critters are able to manage in such circumstances, we did lose many of our large native fish.

Sometimes, even with the best intentions, things go wrong with our systems. Thank you to our community who so quickly alerted Council about the problem and for their patience as we rectified the issue.

Although, it was sad to see the large fish gone, one positive is that the fish we lost were carp — not mature golden perch!



When the ponds were re-set in 2019, the team removed a large number of adult carp and dumped goldfish from the system. Carp is a pest species that can ruin our wetlands.

We knew there would be many carp eggs ready to hatch when the water returned. Native fish were added to the system to see if they could out compete the carp hatchlings. It is great to see the theory worked and it is a credit to the care of our community that the wetlands have remained carp and goldfish free.

Although many critters of the lower pond will have sought refuge in the mud or the top pond, Council has given the ecology a little boost, releasing 100 silver perch and 100 golden perch fingerlings into the pond. We hope these babies enjoy their new home and continue to help keep the wetland healthy and water clean.





**Merri-bek**  
City Council

By  
**Charlotte**  
**Napper**



### Hopetoun Avenue Path Works

The works on a new section of path just south of the new bridge along Hopetoun Ave, Brunswick West have just been completed. Prior to the works this section of path was difficult to access and narrow in sections. The completed works include an improved entry from Hopetoun Ave and a concrete section of path with a handrail along a narrow steep section. Council will continue to expand the revegetation works around the new path, building on the existing revegetation works that have occurred over the last few years.

### Gowanbrae Path Works

We have now begun construction works on a new section of pedestrian path to link Seggan Circle in Gowanbrae to the Moonee Ponds Creek shared trail. The path is approximately 200m long and will provide safer access to the trail and the creek corridor. Weather permitting, the works are planned to be completed by May 2023.

### Goodbyes

After more than 10 years, **Lori Arthur** has moved on from Merri-bek to take up an exciting opportunity closer to home. Lori has achieved much in her time as Merri-bek’s Natural Resource Management Officer including the development of Merri-bek’s first Nature Plan, contribution to the Chain of Ponds Collaboration and many projects to improve the conservation values and amenity of our urban bushland. Lori’s passion and dedication to improving the municipality will be missed. Thank you Lori! [\(See p11\).](#)

We’ve also said goodbye (temporarily) to Open Space Planner Alex English who many would know from his involvement with the **Chain of Ponds** collaboration and many other open space projects in Merri-bek. Alex is taking 12 months leave from Council, and we look forward to welcoming him back after his break. Current contacts:

Vince Andreana, Natural Resource Management Officer [vandreana@merri-bek.vic.gov.au](mailto:vandreana@merri-bek.vic.gov.au)

Charlotte Napper, Conservation Programs Officer [cnapper@merri-bek.vic.gov.au](mailto:cnapper@merri-bek.vic.gov.au)

**STEP UP TO CLEAN UP**

Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 5th March  
10am - 12pm K W Joyce Reserve, Pascoe Vale  
Meet at the entrance near Kent & Cornwall Rd intersection

For more information contact:  
[nature@merri-bek.vic.gov.au](mailto:nature@merri-bek.vic.gov.au)

### Clean Up Australia Day

This Clean Up Australia Day, Council will be hosting a clean-up along the Westbreen Creek with MCMC and Chain of Ponds. Our last clean-up in December had a good turnout, so we are keeping the momentum going on litter clean-ups in the catchment. We’ll once again audit the litter to contribute data to the **Chain of Ponds Litter Reduction Action**. If you’d like to be involved, please find event details and registration here:

[Clean-Up Australia Day at Westbreen Creek Tickets, Sun 05/03/2023 at 10:00 am | Eventbrite](#)

We are also continuing to promote registrations for community litter clean-ups which individuals, social groups, businesses, schools or other community groups can do at any time of year: [Community Litter Collection \(merri-bek.vic.gov.au\)](#).



# Other News



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek have been invited to participate in providing feedback on a Swale and Wetland development in Gilpin Park, Brunswick West. The concept is very similar to the Herbert Street Living Stream project which has been a huge success, providing habitat for wildlife (birds, bees and frogs) and more recently the development of the Gavin Park Wetland.

The Gilpin Park Project will be a great addition to the wildlife corridor between the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creeks. [See Link.](#)

## About the project

We have developed a concept plan for improvements at Gilpin Park in Brunswick. The plan includes the construction of a wetland.

We are going to turn the current shallow drainage line in Gilpin Park into a vegetated swale. The swale will look like a dry creek bed with indigenous plants. Stormwater will flow through the swale into the wetland located at the western end.

We want your feedback on the concept plan. Scroll down to explore the project more or jump straight into our online survey.

Swales are linear, depressed channels that collect and transfer stormwater. They can be lined with grasses or more densely planted and landscaped. Swales can carry stormwater and screen and remove gross pollutants, such as litter and coarse sediment.

### What we've heard so far

The concept design for the Gilpin Park swale and wetland has been informed by consultation undertaken in 2020-2021 for the Brunswick Central Parklands project.

[Take the survey here.](#)



## Allan Thomson Environment Scholarship Essay Highlights

### Topic — “The Impact of Plastic on our Oceans and what we can do about it”

“I’m very thankful to you because through my research and writing I got to explore a strong topic that hasn’t been seen as significant in my mind. I slowly got to learn about the dangers of pollution and hope that I too can benefit from this by taking my own advice...” - Nandana Khan.

“It is almost certain that microplastics (broken down plastic) are impossible to retrieve from the ocean so as true humanitarians we should collectively try and limit the amount of plastic going into the ocean to begin with.” – Noura Haidar.

“As a nation we need to be strict and careful about how we dispose our plastic garbage, because remember one act of carelessly throwing plastic away on the streets can lead to the disruption of ocean life...” – Ameema Arshad.

“Just keep in mind that plastic takes up to more than 400 years to decompose, therefore the ocean can soon be flooded with plastic” – Jessica Truong.

“At least 8 million tonnes of plastic are discarded into the oceans annually. That would be the same as every minute emptying a garbage truck into our lovely oceans.” – Zahra Allawi.

“Malaysia, a country located in Southeast Asia, was responsible for 73,098 tonnes (73 million + kilograms) of plastic in the oceans as of 2021” – Aiman Khan.

“Mismanaged plastic recycling that turns into an overflowing landfill that travels to our rivers and is then found in our oceans, sending the animals/marine wildlife to near extinction by destroying their natural habitat with man-made pollution.” – Milika Atoa.

“Discarded plastic fishing lines entangle turtles and seabirds, and plastic pieces of all sizes choke and clog the stomachs of creatures who mistake it for food, from tiny zooplankton to whales.” – Leeza Zubair.

# Farewell to Lori Arthur

***The FoMPC held a Gathering at the new Gavin Park Wetlands on January 29 to farewell Lori Arthur.***

***President John Kavanagh made the following speech:***

We are here to farewell Lori and to thank her sincerely for her extraordinary efforts at Moreland/Merri-Bek.

Lori joined the Council in September 2010 as the **Natural Resource Management Officer** and has been a major contributor to an incredible range of projects, plans and strategies.

When I saw the list of what she was involved in - it was literally amazing!

So I have decided just to list a few that directly impact on the Moonee Ponds Creek and associated waterways:

- o Moreland Indigenous Vegetation Assessment
- o Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Plan
- o Merri Creek Management Committee maintenance programs
- o Melbourne Water greening the Pipeline projects
- o Chain of Ponds Plan, Collaboration Governance Group and Litter Working Group
- o Westbreen Creek Conservation and Development Plan
- o Gowanbrae Open Space Development Plan
- o Hopetoun Vanberg Bridge over the Moonee Ponds Creek
- o Waterway Design Guidelines for the Moonee Ponds Creek
- o Herbert St Living Stream
- o Critical work on the acquisition of 2A John St Oak Park, Outlook Drive Glenroy, Hopetoun Avenue Brunswick West and Moreland Rd Pascoe Vale South
- o Coordinating the relationship with Friends groups
- o Innumerable revegetation projects along Merri-bek's waterways
- o Innumerable community and National Tree planting days
- o Gavin Park Wetlands

There's an old Chinese proverb that articulates Lori's efforts more than anything else:

***The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.***

She leaves working in this community with her environmental impacts lasting forever.

***If you seek her monument, look around you.***

Her knowledge, her expertise, her efficiency have been so very much appreciated by the community and has so significantly enhanced the Creek! Added to this she's a magnificent person as well.

Thank you Lori – your contribution has been enormous – best of luck with your land restoration work in Castlemaine!



# First rainbow for 30 years makes Allan's day

RAINBOW lorikeets have been spotted in the Coburg region for the first time in more than 30 years.

Pascoe Vale Naturalists member, Allan Thomson, initially spotted a pair of the rare birds in the eucalypt trees of his Derby St, Pascoe Vale home, which were followed by a small party of the birds.

"Our group set up 30 years ago with the aim of getting birds back into the area," Mr Thomson said.

"We've been carefully plotting the numbers and species of birds in that time, and over the last three or four years lorikeets have been coming back in big numbers — but this is the first sighting of rainbow lorikeets

since we've been going — it's very exciting.

Mr Thomson said lorikeets were highly migratory birds which followed the seasonal flowering of eucalypt trees down the east coast of Australia.

Mr Thomson said it was unusual for rainbow lorikeets to come this far west.



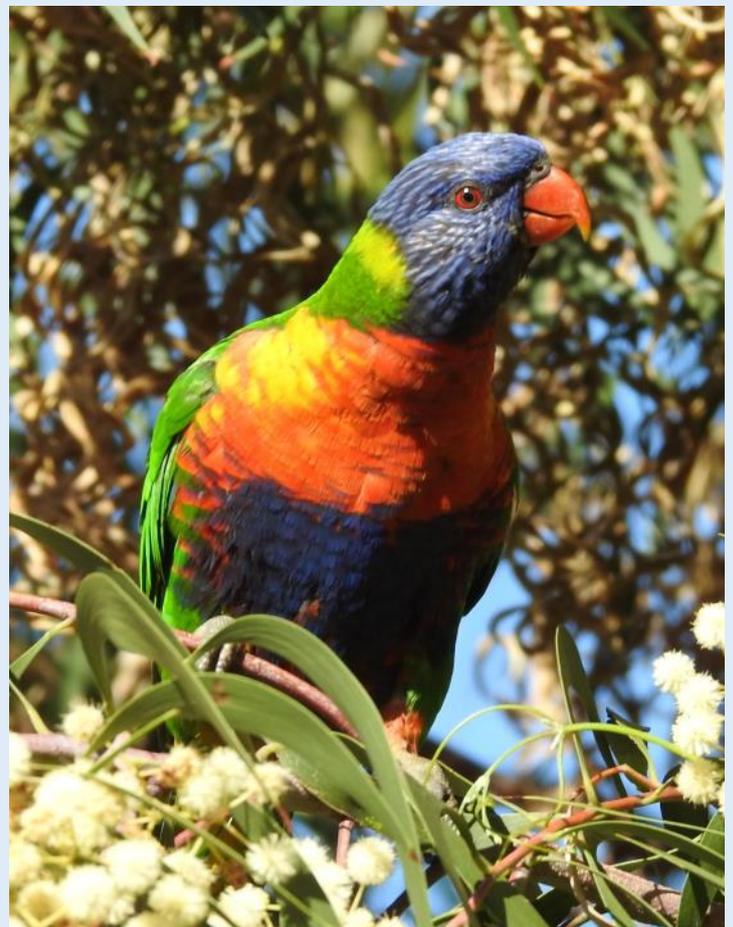
● BELOW: Pascoe Vale Naturalists member Allan Thomson keeps a sharp eye out for rainbow lorikeets (left).  
339CB519

It hard to believe it these days, but there was a time when Rainbow Lorikeets were rarely seen along the Moonee Ponds Creek. Kelvin Thomson dropped in a press cutting saved by his Dad, Allan in 1994 (above).



It would be a rare experience these days to take a walk along the Creek without seeing at least one!

The report celebrated Allan's first sighting of a Rainbow Lorikeet along the Creek in more than 30 years.



In 2022 Rainbow Lorikeets topped the Aussie Backyard Bird Count, proving that Allan's chance sighting was the start of a trend that has continued to this day.



Crested Pigeons by Anna Lanigan



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo by Anna



Willie Wagtail by Maurice Austin



Long-billed Corella by Anna



Tawny Chick by Laurelle Demesy



Kookaburra by Poppy Bell

# Sightings



Dragonfly by Maurice



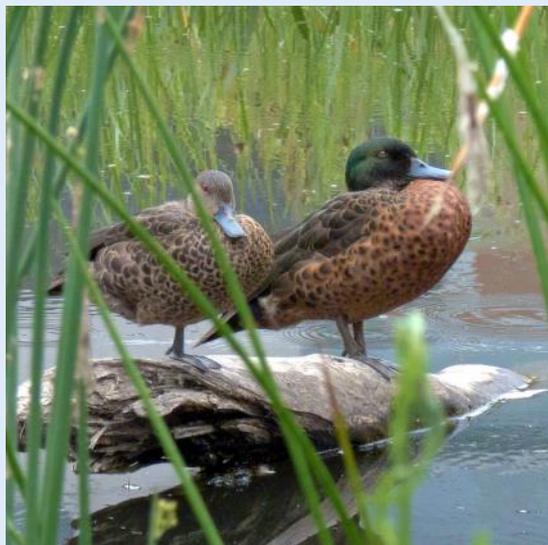
Sacred Kingfisher by Laurelle



Bluetongue Lizard by Poppy



Tawny Frogmouths by Laurelle



Chestnut Teals by Maurice



Kookaburra by Anna



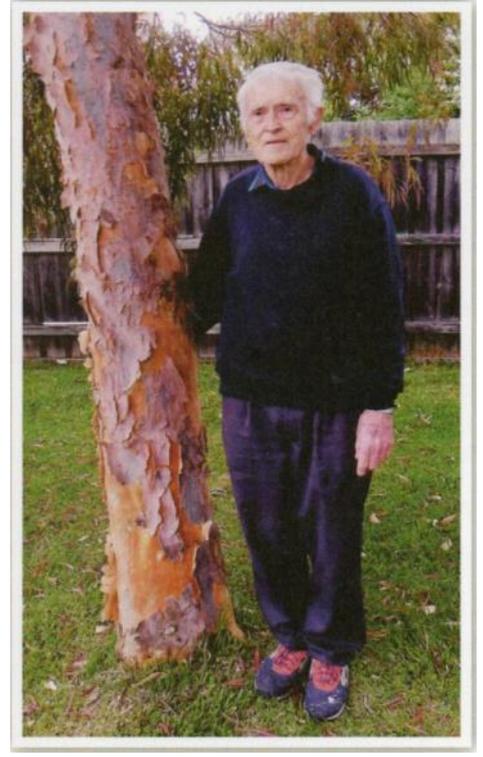
# Summer Blooms

Images by Nina



# Obituary — Bob Steadman 1939 – 2022

by Kaye Oddie



Former Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek member Bob Steadman passed away late last year and a memorial service was held in January.

The FoMPC would like to pay tribute to his long involvement of over 30 years in the association and active involvement in Creek projects. Bob became a member of the Moonee Ponds Creek Association (later FoMPC) in 1992 (early after our establishment in 1989) and, as a Pascoe Vale resident, became involved in many Creek activities.

In particular, community plantings, and as Kelvin Thomson recalls, in the early days the plants were watered using Creek water and Bob would scramble down steep slopes to set up the pump and hoses. And during dry spells, he would take it upon himself to keep the plants watered and also to be a 'one-man clean-up crew' along the Creek. Bob was still helping plant in 2017 and collect litter, only retiring in 2021, when ill-health took hold.

Originally from NSW, Bob trained in textile science, gained a PhD and worked in wool technology and cotton, later as a lecturer and researcher, with time spent in Canada, US and Nigeria. His multi-disciplinary interests took in race walking, cycling and cross-country skiing, languages and music. An interest in physiology and meteorology led to the Bureau of Meteorology adopting his 'Steadman Model' for calculating '[apparent temperature](#)', i.e. "[it feels like ...](#)" which is still in use today, e.g. at the Australian Open.

The FoMPC has appreciated, and the Moonee Ponds Creek has benefitted, from the expertise and great zeal Bob brought to enhancing our environment.



# MPC History Page — Concreting the Creek

To commemorate finally having some concrete removed, here are some concrete memories!



# DeFENCEless Strategies

by Anna Lanigan and Nina Franceschi



Open Space Defenders along the Moonee Ponds Creek seem to be in a constant battle with Councils over strategies and infrastructure that effect the amenity of open spaces. One current battle is the issue of **sponsorship advertising** at venues along the Creek.

Despite a transparent and well-subscribed “consultation process”, residents and Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek were outraged to discover that the draft **Signage at Sporting Clubs and Reserves** document, that resulted from the consultation process, was amended in Council proceedings, clearly giving in to the demands of the powerful sporting lobby. Changing the wording in the statement on **Location** from:

**"Signage should be at least 30 metres away from sensitive landscape environs and nearby residents. Signage should also face away from these uses."**

To: **" Signs must face away from sensitive landscape environs and nearby residents, when located within 30 metres of these areas. Signs in these areas must be made from material that reduces the visual impact."**

demonstrated a complete disregard for the consultation process that resulted in wording that would have protected the amenity of natural environments next to Sporting Reserves.

Sporting Clubs have also been given liberty to cover up to **70%** of their available space with advertising, a massive overkill again, showing no regard for the environment and no regard for the local residents and rate-payers.

Since the December Council meeting, two further consultations have taken place. An onsite meeting at Strathnaver Oval was attended by Nina Franceschi, Anna Lanigan, Frank Kinnersley and John Kavanagh.

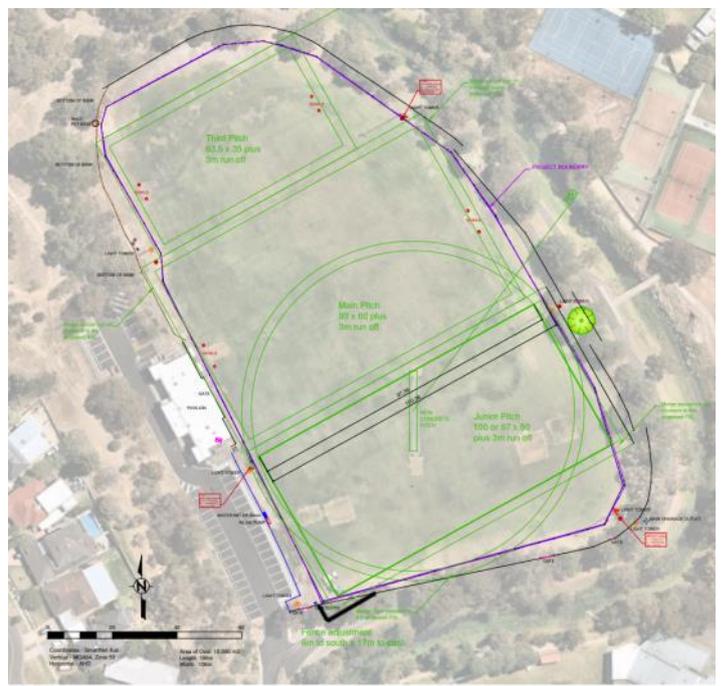
While the issue of advertising signage was briefly raised, this “consultation” was more to get Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek to rubber stamp the removal of several trees and allow the soccer pitch fence to be relocated, encroaching on MPC open space to accommodate a junior soccer pitch that met size regulations.

You would think a concession such as this may have softened the stance on advertising within 30 metres of the Creek but **NO** — the demands continue relentlessly.

A second meeting arranged by Nina Franceschi, held at Council, only reinforced the amended version of the Advertising Strategy with a trial run in its current form to continue for at least a season to be followed by a review.

By then, with possession being 9/10s of the law, there will be an even greater challenge to sway the issue in favour of the environment and open space amenity.

In the meantime MVCC has placed another moratorium on the issue with some residents considering a challenge.





Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

PO Box 1092, Moonee Ponds, Victoria 3039

[www.mooneepondscreek.org.au](http://www.mooneepondscreek.org.au)

[friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au](mailto:friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au)

## FoMPC News



### Lionsville Redevelopment

The FoMPC have been active in helping to inform the community about the redevelopment plans for the Lionsville site in Essendon. Many local residents have told us that they have not previously been notified of the proposal. After the feedback from the community - including from the FoMPC - the applicant has placed the application 'on hold' to consider the concerns raised. We will be following events related to this site very closely due to it being located adjacent to both the Moonee Ponds and Five Mile Creeks.



## Other Business

- **Hopetoun Stage 2 Works:** FoMPC reps, Merri-bek Natural Resources Management officer and Melbourne Water officer met on site to discuss the Stage 2 works, north/upstream of the new Vanberg-Hopetoun Bridge. Works will include removal of the obsolete high mesh fencing; replacement with simpler low fencing, a new granitic path, and some revegetation. The works to look forward to will complement those associated with and downstream of the bridge.
- **Oak Park Laneways**—The popular pedestrian laneways linking Oak Park residents to JP Fawcner Reserve and the creek’s open space corridor were saved from being opened up for vehicles. Thanks are due to local residents, the FoMPC and to the Council for formalising the long-standing pedestrian link.
- **Kernan Street Reserve** — Kelvin had a discussion with Merri-bek Council and found that there is no impediment to the reserve being named after Max Marshall, who lived next door and who planted a number of the now mature trees.
- The FoMPC was successful in a **Liveable Communities Liveable Waterways** grant from Melbourne Water to continue the infill vegetation of the ‘Kensington Embankment’ – the land on the western side of the Moonee Ponds Creek between Macaulay Rd and Arden St Bridges. Hiccup in the process when it was discovered that the landowner had changed from DELWP to VicTrack (for reasons unknown) – eventually resolved with permission given to use the land.
- Due to the impending closure of the Essendon Post Office we have been forced to change our postal address. Please note the new postal address for the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek is **P.O. Box 1092, Moonee Ponds, 3039.**

### Secretary and Treasurer Still Needed

Please contact us at the above email address if you are interested in either of these positions.

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

Help protect and enhance the Moonee Ponds Creek’s natural environment. For information and to join, go to [mooneepondscreek.org.au](http://mooneepondscreek.org.au) and complete the membership form, or write to PO Box 1092, Moonee Ponds.

CALENDAR	Event and Location:	Contact/ Link
Monday, April 17 <sup>th</sup> , 6.30pm	FoMPC meeting, at Sam Merrifield Library	<a href="http://mooneepondscreek.org.au">mooneepondscreek.org.au</a>

Your Contributions to Ponderings are welcome!  
Please send your images and stories to [fompc.ponderings@gmail.com](mailto:fompc.ponderings@gmail.com)