



# Ponderings

Spring 2006 Issue 15

Seasonal newsletter of the Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee



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educate \* rehabilitate \* community \* revegetate \* interpret \* policy

## Return Of The Growling Grass Frog Festival

### JOIN IN THE FUN AT OUR FANTASTIC FESTIVAL!

- \* Plant along the wetland edge and help to create important habitat for frogs and other fauna.
- \* Learn about your catchment with the Waterwatch Trailer.
  - \* Meet the invertebrates that call the wetland home.
  - \* Crafty and creative fun for kids with Bronwyn and the "Citylink Creek Connections" program.
  - \* Discover the local frog species of Melbourne.
  - \* Join the Melbourne Water Frog Census.
- \* View the plans for the exciting new interpretative signage.



PHOTO: Lydia Fucsko/frogs.org.au

Please direct any enquiries to Stephanie Spathis, Community Liaison & Support Officer on 9333 2406 or [steph@mpccc.org](mailto:steph@mpccc.org)

**Where:** Jacana Wetlands, Jacana. South of the Western Ring Road.

**When:** Sunday 24 September. 10.00am to 2.00pm.

**Public Entrance:** Moonee Blvd, Glenroy (6 E12).

**Car Parking:** Limited parking on Eleanor St, Jacana (6 11F) and Moonee Blvd, Glenroy (6 E12).

**Public Transport:** Jacana Station (6 G12). A 15 min. walk to Festival.

**Cycle, Jog or Walk The Dog!:** along the sealed shared pathway that takes you right through to the Festival.

The Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee and *Ponderings* gratefully acknowledge the financial support of these councils.





Welcome to the newsletter of the Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee (MPCCC). We are a not-for-profit, environmentally-based, community

organisation that acts as a champion for the Moonee Ponds Creek and its tributaries. Members of the MPCCC include the Cities of Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Moreland and Hume; the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek; and representatives from the community.

The Moonee Ponds Creek flows 68km from Yuroke in Melbourne's north-western suburbs past Melbourne Airport through the municipalities of Hume, Moreland, Moonee Valley and Melbourne, along the Tullamarine Freeway, through the Docklands and into the Yarra River to Port Phillip Bay. Greenvale, Attwood, Yuroke, Westbreen and Five Mile Creeks are the five tributaries of the Moonee Ponds Creek.

Our aim is to encourage an understanding and stewardship of the Moonee Ponds Creek and its tributaries; to highlight its values through education, interpretation and hands-on participation; and to revegetate and rehabilitate the Creek and its tributaries.

The MPCCC co-ordinates various programs. "Creating Creek Communities" invites and encourages the community to become involved in revegetation and other fun activities along the banks of the Creek. "CityLink Creek Connections" aims to engage and inform groups that don't traditionally get involved in environmental education. The Bushland Team maintain, restore and rehabilitate various revegetation and remnant sites along the Moonee Ponds Creek within the City of Moreland. The MPCCC also participate in Clean Up Australia Day and community festivals.

Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee  
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Education & Interpretation Officer: Bronwyn Riddell  
Community Liaison & Support Officer & Bushland Team Leader: Stephanie Spathis  
Ponderings Editor: Debbie Farmer  
Bushland Team Member: Grant McAdam  
Planting Supervisors: Elissa Simmons, Michael Cincotta and Triona Allen

The Purple Swamphen is our logo. The 'Swampies' love to call the dense, reedy creek edges and wetlands their home. Their long red legs and feet carry them across golf-courses and ovals, whilst constantly flicking their tail. With their scarlet red bills and deep-blue feathers, this waterhen is quite a sight.

This newsletter is proudly printed on M.Real Evolve 100% Recycled paper. Made from 100% recovered paper (post consumer waste), de-inked and bleached (chlorine-free process). Go to [www.evolve-papers.com](http://www.evolve-papers.com).

Kindly printed at the electorate office of Kelvin Thomson MP, Member for Wills.

Feedback regarding *Ponderings*, contributions for future issues, mailing list and editorial enquires are welcome anytime. Please direct to *Ponderings* editor Debbie Farmer on 9333 2406 or [ponderings@mpccc.org](mailto:ponderings@mpccc.org).

# welcome

Sitting under a huge ancient River Red Gum at Woodlands Historic Park to eat my lunch and watch the Kangaroos, it occurred to me how important the restoration work that MPCCC and others do. Without urban restoration, it would be only the privileged few who in 100 years time could sit under a large Red Gum tree. Nature would be almost unknown in the megalopolis, and the experience of watching wildlife lost to most. And we're not just talking satisfaction, there are real health benefits to be had through contact with nature. We also mustn't forget that nature in the urban environment provides us with lots of other benefits - cooling and filtering the air for example. A city devoid of nature would be a very unpleasant place indeed, and by making it more pleasant hopefully it reduces people's need to build their house in some unspoilt corner of Melbourne's surrounds, extending the city inexorably outward. Well done all you people who contribute to such positive outcomes. A special thank you to Andrew Gemmell, who resigned recently from the honorary positions of MPCCC Treasurer and Secretary of Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek.

MPCCC has been successful in negotiating increased funding from its Council members, with the Moreland City Council and the City of Melbourne allocating the funding we requested, and Hume and Moonee Valley City Councils allocating some increases. Increased funding is necessary to cover increased costs due to increases in materials costs, but also to pay staff at MPCCC at rates comparable with staff employed by its local government members. Council funding is particularly important in employing the Co-ordinator, whose role it is to communicate with all the people involved, to seek funding for programs, to be involved in planning what happens along the Creek, to ensure the organisation is run properly, etc. Selection of a new Co-ordinator is underway at present, so expect to see a new face at the helm soon!

In order to reduce postage costs, and to save paper, please think about changing your delivery options for *Ponderings* to email. That way you get *Ponderings* in full colour too. To change to email delivery, send an email to [ponderings@mpccc.org](mailto:ponderings@mpccc.org) requesting we change your *Ponderings* delivery to email. Don't forget to tell us your name and existing address so we can find you in our database.

-Tony Faithfull  
Acting Co-ordinator

## Members Newsletters

### City of Melbourne

*The Green Leaflet*, quarterly, available via post or email. Mailing list: City of Melbourne on 9658 9658. Environmental and sustainability queries: Gabrielle Stannus, Community Sustainability Officer at [gabsta@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:gabsta@melbourne.vic.gov.au) or 9658 8557.

### Moonee Valley City Council

*Environmentally Speaking*, quarterly, available via post or email. Mailing list: Damien Connell at [dconnell@mval.vic.gov.au](mailto:dconnell@mval.vic.gov.au) or 9243 9142. Environmental and sustainability queries: as above.

### Moreland City Council

The Moreland City Council website offers numerous tips and information sources on environmental and sustainability issues. Contact 9240 1167 or [info@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moreland.vic.gov.au)

### Hume City Council

*Eco-Tracks Environment Newsletter*, quarterly, available via post or email. Mailing list: Anna Kruk, Environment Administration Officer at [annak@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:annak@hume.vic.gov.au) or 9205 2473. Environmental and sustainability queries: Carol Jadraque, Community Environment Officer at [carolj@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:carolj@hume.vic.gov.au) or 9205 2466.

### Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

Established in 1997, the Friends contribute to the management, protection, development and use of the Moonee Ponds Creek. Contact the President, Kelvin Thomson MP, at [Kelvin.Thomson@aph.gov.au](mailto:Kelvin.Thomson@aph.gov.au).

Your guide to news, events, happenings, information, etc. Contributions are warmly welcomed anytime. Write to MPCCC or ponderings@mpccc.org.

# clippings

## Bridge Beautification

The CityLink bridges that cross the Moonee Ponds Creek will soon be given a beautiful new facelift.

CityLink and Moonee Valley Council will work together on this latest public art project, which is the third project that CityLink has funded in the city.

Indigenous artwork will be painted on six CityLink bridges that cross the Creek, with the project running for twelve months.



Strathmore Secondary College students work on the mural located under CityLink's Bell St underpass in 2005.

Source: Moonee Valley Leader, May 1, 2006.

### HUME FAUNA SURVEY

If you are interested in participating in a Fauna Survey on Saturday 21 October (including Upper Moonee Ponds Creek), please contact Karen Wilson on 9205 2378 or karenw@hume.vic.gov.au.



## Shared Pathway Completion

The new section of shared pathway along the Moonee Ponds Creek in Strathmore has been completed.

The new concreted sections of the shared pathway connects existing trails along the Moonee Ponds Creek between Boeing Reserve in Strathmore and Gowanbrae.

Shared pathway users can now conveniently link between Moonee Valley and Moreland.

Source: Moonee Valley Community News, June 27 2006

Pick up a copy of the Moonee Ponds Creek Walking Trail (Brochure No. 3) from the City of Moonee Valley. Ring 9243 8888 for a copy.

## "Trin Warren Tam-boore"

### Official Launch of Wetlands at Royal Park

A clear sky and bright shining sun greeted those at the official launch of the wetlands at Royal Park on World Environment Day, 4th June 2006.

The project, funded by the Victorian Government and developed by Melbourne City Council in partnership with Melbourne Water, provides valuable faunal habitat; treats and recycles stormwater; protects the quality of water in Port Phillip Bay and enhances community recreation and education.

The launch included a "Welcome to Country" by Wurundjeri elder, Joy Murphy Wandin. She announced the name of the wetland "Trin Warren Tam-boore", which translates as Bell-bird waterhole from the Woiwurrung language. Ian Harris, City of Melbourne's Senior Planner for Parks and Recreation, introduced the other speakers who included The Hon. John So, Lord Mayor and the Hon. Bronwyn Pike MP.

Many fun activities were held on the day. Water investigation activities with Melbourne Water, a community planting, photo exhibitions by local school children, informative stalls from North Melbourne Sustainability Street, MPCCC's CityLink Creek Connections Program, and Melbourne Zoo staff brought across a couple of Growling Grass Frogs.

The enjoyable event was attended by approximately 300 people. And last but not least, North Melbourne Rotary kindly provided a very tasty BBQ.

-Sandy Simpson

Collect a self-guided walk brochure from the Town Hall or Visitor Centre at Federation Square or download one at [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au).



Some of the children joined in the "Welcome to Country" ceremony where leaves were burnt in the traditional manner.

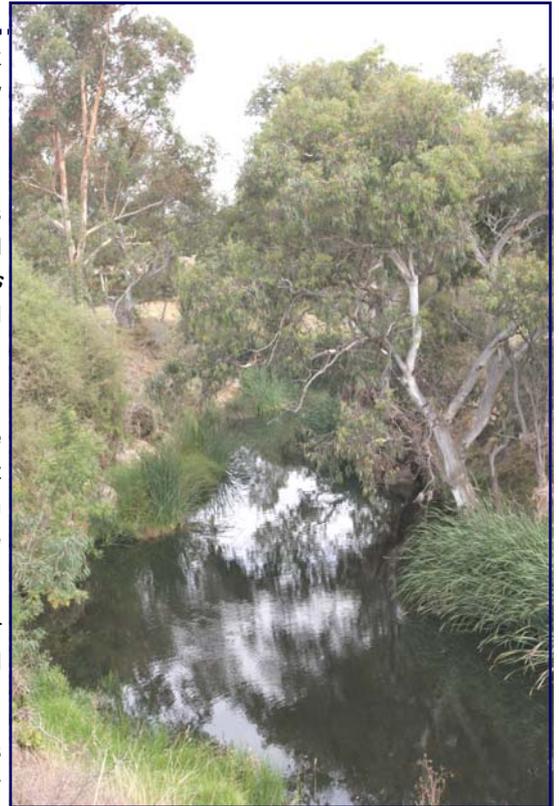
# The Tarnuk

The beautiful expanse of open green space and natural bushland that the Moonee Ponds Creek flows through in Westmeadows is currently known as the Wright Street Retarding Basin Reserve. This title does little to describe the conservation values of the location. A new name was needed.....

The first stage of the Westmeadows and Upper Moonee Ponds Creek Interpretation Strategy has been completed. Detailed below are the exciting new changes which will take place over the coming months.

- \* The Wright Street Retarding Basin Reserve will be given a new name: "The Tarnuk". This was the name given to the wooden drinking containers that were made by removing and carving the gnarled, knotty, round growths on the trunks and boughs of the River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) by the Kulin people. The Kulin people were the traditional owners of south-eastern Australia. Legend has the Tarnuk in creation stories of the Great Flood that created what we know as Port Phillip Bay.
- \* The completion of the construction of a three kilometre extension to the shared pathway. The pathway links Willow Brook Reserve and Wright Street Retarding Basin Reserve ("The Tarnuk") in Westmeadows through to Woodlands Historic Park. A new seat and viewing platform will be installed.
- \* The Creek Dwellers Walk Interpretive Signage Trail is currently under development. This will eventually enhance the educational, recreational and tourism potential of the area.

The Westmeadows and Upper Moonee Ponds Creek Interpretation Strategy was commissioned by a sub-committee of the Tullamarine Landfill Community Consultative Committee, that administers the \$500,000 community fund established by Cleanaway in 2002.



At some camps, there may have been an exceptionally large wooden container called a "tarnuk bullito". They were too big to carry from one camp to another. Blossoms taken from the *Banksia* and other flowering plants would be placed in them, pounded to pulp, and then mixed with water to form a sweet and refreshing drink.

SOURCE: People of the Merri Merri; Isabel Ellender & Peter Christiansen, 2001.

Education and Interpretation Officer Bronwyn Riddell, who is implementing the Strategy, describes the area as a great community asset.

"The main aim of this stage of our project is to raise community awareness and appreciation for this unique but little known district. We want to inspire, challenge and stimulate people to recognise and understand its significance. Through this project we will increase understanding and stewardship of our cultural and natural values and encourage a sense of community pride and ownership. The extension of the shared pathway together with interpretive signage will allow people to visit and understand the heritage of the wonderful Moonee Ponds Creek valley, which stretches all the way to Port Phillip Bay. It will become one of the longest and most interesting trails in the greater Melbourne areas", she said.

Please direct enquiries to the Education and Interpretation Officer, Bronwyn Riddell, on 9333 2406 or [bronwyn@mpccc.org](mailto:bronwyn@mpccc.org).



# National Tree Day.



The weather was on its best behaviour for this year's National Tree Day. Pale sunshine lit up a blue sky in the morning, with grey clouds moving in over the afternoon, to bring perfectly timed rains that evening. The wind, on the other hand, announced its presence all day, with fierce gusts.

100 volunteers planted 2000 indigenous trees and shrubs to boost the existing plantings that are growing remarkably well and looking great. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make the 2006 National Tree Day in Westmeadows an outstanding success.



Tony and young Cameron had a great day!



Thank you everybody!



Kirsty, volunteer; and Debbie, MPCCC *Ponderings* editor.



Two "Tarnuks", on display.



Everyone enjoyed watching the "One Fire Dancers" during the lunchtime break in planting. Thanks to the Kangan Batman Tafe students for providing the delicious lunch.



Roberto, of "Connies Collectables" and Stephanie, MPCCC Community Liaison & Support Officer, show us two of the "Connies" collectable cards on Australian flora & fauna.



Superman and his friends helped to collect the empty tubes.

# Autumn Planting Season Wrap Up

As always a big thank you goes out to all our wonderful volunteers who took the time to join in on a community planting day (or several!) this Autumn.

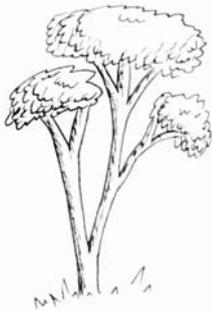
We hope you enjoy the following tales of our Autumn planting events. After tallying up the figures, a phenomenal 3,312 trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers were planted along the creek banks and nearby areas by 169 wonderful volunteers. This is just fantastic!

A calendar of events for September and October is attached to the back of this edition of Ponderings for those of you who can't wait to get down by the creek again, and also for anyone who has yet to take part in one of the many weekend plantings on offer. For more info, contact me on 9333 2406 (Thursday and Friday) or [steph@mpccc.org](mailto:steph@mpccc.org).

And of course many thanks to our wonderful planting staff Elissa Simmons, Michael Cincotta, Jacqui Turney and Triona Allen.

See you by the creek sometime!

Stephanie Spathis



The escarpment below the Oak Park Sports Oval is slowly but surely growing into a mini Oak Park forest, and as local friends group member Bob Eason mentioned, "It gives you encouragement to see how well the plants are growing, it makes you want

to go on and plant more." And indeed the 9 volunteers did a splendid job of adding more to the existing vegetation by staking and guarding 92 trees and shrubs. We made sure we did not plant too close to the goat track that weaves its way through the middle of the site so that the locals can continue to use this useful shortcut. It will be a nice shady route to take in a few years!

We also welcomed a new MPCCC planting supervisor, Jacqui Turney, to her first planting along the Moonee Ponds Creek.



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## Friends of Strathmore Ponds

22nd April  
20th May



Pacific Black Duck

The 2006 Autumn Planting Season began with a sunny day. We were entertained by a pair of Australian Hobby's noisily chatting to a Brown Goshawk while 10 enthusiastic volunteers did a fantastic job planting 215 low growing shrubs, grasses and groundcovers. Some of the local kids had a great time discovering worms in the moist soil and running excitedly to show their Dad each time they found another fat wriggler!! We also welcomed a new MPCCC planting supervisor, Michael Cincotta, to his first of hopefully many plantings along the Moonee Ponds Creek.

The group met again later in the season to plant an additional 220 tubestock on the creek-side embankment. The resident Black Ducks,

who are now becoming a feature of the Strathmore Ponds planting site, visited the 9 volunteers who worked very quickly and finished planting in close to an hour. Bob and Vince Aitkin are now looking after these newly planted seedlings with lots of TLC. If you walk past the site you might see them giving the plants a good drink of creek water via their well designed water pump!



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## Strath-Oak Planters

29 April



Some of the volunteers showed us their mountaineering skills by planting half way up the escarpment.

# Friends of Jacana Wetlands

7 May—Postponed

3 June 22 July

Black-shouldered Kite



Unfortunately with rain and a threatening forecast numbers were down for the first planting at the Jacana Wetlands, so we rescheduled for later in the season. The second planting luckily brought in sunny blue skies for the planting, staking and guarding of 96 trees and shrubs in the Wallaby habitat area. Frogs serenaded our 14 volunteers who visited from Strathmore, Pascoe Vale and Brunswick to join our Glenroy regulars and thanks to Michael for soldiering on despite his cold! On our next planting at the Wetlands, 6 volunteers planted 52 tubestock with stakes and guards to protect them from grazing wallabies, rabbits, hares and the occasional kangaroo. From earlier investigations, Andrew was able to tell us that it was two juvenile Black-Shouldered Kites that were making a very noisy ruckus from the nearby River Red Gums. Julie started to replace some plants that looked like they hadn't made it through, but discovered they were starting to shoot from the base! This was very pleasing and we all crossed our fingers for rain as the ground was quite dry in parts. We also welcomed a new MPCCC planting supervisor, Triona Allen, to her first of hopefully many plantings along the Moonee Ponds Creek.



Lillian, Thomasina and Carmen make a great planting team, the trees and shrubs they are planting will eventually be part of a large habitat zone that will provide shelter and protection for the many animals the visit the Jacana Wetlands, including wallabies and birds.



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# Essendon Residents

28 May

25 June

The weather was fine and a lively bunch of 8 volunteers worked to replace last year's plant losses. There was a circus of invertebrates living underneath the jute mat squares that were lifted - lots of Red-backed Spiders, snails, earwigs and millipedes. A fine feast for any hungry Blue-tongue Lizard! We used some water saving crystals to help along the 50 plants that were planted, as the soil was incredibly dry and hydrophobic. This is definitely a planting site for Autumn, it could use all the rain and growth time before the hot dry winds of Summer.



The two Andrea's whisper words of encouragement to the newly planted shrubs and trees in Essendon



Adele was walking past the planting site on her morning walk and decided to join in!



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The next planting didn't quite seem to fit in with the calendars of the locals; however we kindly received 4 apologies from those who could not attend on the day. We went on to plant 150 indigenous trees and shrubs along Hopetoun Avenue with the 3 hard working volunteers that helped out. A big thanks to Bob and the Torpy family who planted the remaining 150 plants into the mulched bed the following weekend and our thanks also goes out to Andrew Kleinig from Melbourne Water who organised the delivery and spreading of mulch on the site.

# Friends of Lower Moonee Ponds Creek

17 June

Pied Cormorant



There were lots of new faces who joined in to plant 285 tubestock along the creek bank in Kensington. The plants were being well watered in, and the tank in the planting trailer was soon emptied. Deborah and Russell, the kind folk at Kensington Garden Centre, were happy for us to refill the water tank from their nursery water supply and the 19 volunteers were able to continue planting and watering. Thanks to Zac and Jessica for keeping the dogs entertained! The Kensington Garden Centre is SGA (Sustainable Gardening Australia) accredited and is located on the corner of Macaulay Rd and Stubbs St, Kensington. Many thanks Deborah and Russell for letting us use your water!



PLANTING SPONSORED BY CITY OF MELBOURNE

# Brunswick South-West Planters

27 May 24 June

18 volunteers spread out along the several revegetation beds that the Brunswick South-West Planters nurture beside the creek in Brunswick to add some colourful wildflowers. 410 tubestock were planted, including some Wattle Mat-rush (*Lomandra filiformis*) that Audrey and Jan have grown in Audrey's backyard (away from the hungry mouth of Margery the sheep!) The *Lomandra's* were planted underneath some River Red Gums and soon had mulch tucked in and around them to insulate the roots and suppress the weeds. Many thanks to John McCunnie from Moreland City Council for organising the mulch.



It was a hive of activity on this sunny day, the volunteers were spread out along the Brunswick site taking part in various jobs.



Unfazed by the rain, Alan continues planting *Correa glabra* on the escarpment.

When the group met again on the 8th June, volunteers planted, staked and guarded 50 shrubs on one of the escarpments. The group continued working even when rain began to fall. Alan (bird watching extraordinaire) busied himself planting *Correa glabra* that will surely attract some nectar-loving birds that he can observe in the future. The group also hand-weeded as they went. Those who didn't feel like planting on the escarpment, planted 32 tubestock in another revegetation bed, handweeded and spread mulch. Let's keep our fingers crossed for the Brunswick South-West Planters, they have been nominated for a Regional Landcare Award, and have also applied for a Volunteer Small Equipment Grant to purchase a pump and other materials to make their creek-side rehabilitation works both easier and safer. We will let you know if they were successful in the next edition of Ponderings!



Rock Correa, *Correa glabra*, is a lovely addition to any garden and the birds love them.



Moreland City Council

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# Friends of Westbreen Creek

21 May 18 June

The Friends started these seasons' activities with a hand-weeding day, removing the vigorously growing weeds from around the well established and flourishing groundcovers that were planted last Spring. It was a valuable way for the 5 volunteers who attended to identify the natives from the weeds.

We had an impressive turnout of 35 for the May planting with 900 tubestock and hikos planted alongside the creek for habitat, soil stability and as a replacement for weeds. A newly mulched bed alongside the shared pathway was also planted with the intention of creating a showy, colourful grassland.

The June planting focused on planting aquatic rushes alongside the creek and establishing some smaller shrubs. 12 volunteers planted 500 plants. Many thanks to Jude and Judy who have grown the majority of the plants we have planted

this season along Westbreen Creek.



Thanks to Ken and Helen who have visited the site at different times and continued the important task of handweeding.



Moreland Councillor Milad El-Halabi lent a hand on the day.



Moreland City Council

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# Gowanbrae Residents

30 April

Elissa and myself arrived at the northern footbridge in Gowanbrae on a drizzly, grey morning. I anticipated that our volunteers would prefer a warm cuppa indoors, but felt completely inspired when 11 local residents joined us in the drizzle with big smiles to stake and guard 10 Grey Box eucalypts and plant 100 tubestock! The volunteers also collected litter and removed tree guards from some riparian plants that are growing well on the west creek bank. Welcome to the new members of the Gowanbrae Residents; Andre, and John and family (thanks John for trimming back the plantings by the bridge, thus maintaining safe access across the bridge!). We were not the only people outside on the damp morning either. The Boomerang Club were practicing for their tournament in Japan, and a fun run was taking place along the shared pathway. This gave us some entertainment during lunch under the shelter of the Ashen family garage.

Thanks to David, Lisa, Reece and Jacinta Ashen. We forgot to give-away our free native plants - so double for everybody next time!



Moreland City Council

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# Qantas Funding Success

"Do you think they will give us one of those giant cheques?", asked Stephanie. "No, I don't think they make them anymore", replied Bronwyn. But they do, so it seems, as Bronwyn and Stephanie discovered when they attended our most recent funding achievement.



From left to right. Sally White, environment manager, Melbourne Airport; Alison Watson, environment coordinator, Melbourne Airport; Mark Ireland, environment projects manager, Qantas; Kelvin Thomson, MP for Wills; Bronwyn Riddell, education and interpretation officer, MPCCC; and Sue Wright, Friends of Woodlands Historic Park at the grant handover.

Bronwyn is very happy about receiving her "giant cheque"!



Representatives from Qantas and Melbourne Airport passed on the \$5000 grant to Bronwyn and Stephanie, MPCCC staff members. Qantas received the funding in 2005, when they won the Melbourne Airport Environment awards. The money was to be spent on an environmental initiative. MPCCC will use the \$5000 grant to update and reprint "The Tale Of The Moonee Ponds Creek" poster and other educational materials. The updated posters will incorporate the new Creek Dwellers Walk Interpretative Signs Trail, which connects Westmeadows to the Docklands via a shared pathway; and pinpoint the numerous volunteer "friends of" groups along the Moonee Ponds Creek.



## What has Bronwyn been up to lately?

Enjoy a small selection of Bronwyn's many and varied activities.

University High School students weaving a traditional piece of artwork for the Royal Park Wetlands opening.



Opening of the new Wetlands in Royal Park. This piece of weaving was created by the University High students and featured on the day.



Flemington Community House Holiday Program. The children created a creek on a plate with different objects.



Flemington Community House Holiday Program. Creeky creatures and traditional weaving were enjoyed by all of the children

Contact Bronwyn Riddell, Education & Interpretation Officer on 9333 2406 or [bronwyn@mpccc.org](mailto:bronwyn@mpccc.org).

# seasonal sightings

We welcome all of your interesting faunal and floral observations, be they big or small. If you would like to contribute a sighting, please direct to *Ponderings* Editor, Debbie Farmer, on 9333 2406 or ponderings@mpccc.org.

Whilst inspecting her indigenous seedlings in her cold frame, Judy Allen discovered an unusual fungi growing. It is an "Earth Star", which is in the puff ball group of fungi. As you can see in the photo, the outer casing opens out like a set of petals to reveal the



spore case. When Judy squeezed the spore case, a puff of black spores escaped. Thanks Judy, you're a star!

Brunswick S-W Planters, Jan and Alan Flack, wrote in a lovely letter for "Seasonal Sightings". They have observed a Nankeen Kestrel harassing a Peregrine Falcon next to the creek over Moonee Valley Racecourse. An Eastern Spinebill was spotted at Brunswick South West Primary in a large garden bed of both indigenous and native plants. The Spinebill was busily working away at a *Grevillea* sp. Thanks Jan.

Kelvin Thomson, President of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, has forwarded a list of native birds he has sighted from Woodlands Historic Park to the Docklands over the last two years. Some of the highlights include: Sacred Kingfisher,

Hardhead, Flame Robin, Weebill, Rufous Whistler, Black-fronted Dotterel, White-headed Stilt, Richard's Pipit, Little Wattlebird, Great and Little Egret, Brown Goshawk, Golden Whistler, Purple-crowned Lorikeet, Yellow-winged Honeyeater, Striated Pardalote, Dusky Woodswallow, Yellow-tailed Thornbill, Red-browed Finch,



Golden Whistler

Christine Matthews heard a distinctive screech and then spotted 2 or 3 Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoos perched in a tree at Royal Park, along with a pair of Red-rumped Parrots. She also regularly sees Crested Pigeons in West Brunswick, and Royal Park. Thanks Christine.

Curtis Doughty has sent us in his fauna list for Jacana Wetlands for July. Some highlights are: Eurasian Coot, Little-pied Cormorant, Chestnut Teal, White-faced Heron, Dusky Moorhen, Purple Swamphen, Australasian Grebe, Silvereye, Superb Fairywren, Nankeen Kestrel, Spotted Pardalote and Pacific Black Duck. Thanks



Superb Fairywren

contact Curtis.  
M P C C C .  
Thanks Kelvin.

## out and about

**Community Working Bee CERES**  
Saturday 9 September  
9.30am-4.30pm

The construction of the CERES Sustainability Centre will provide many opportunities for both skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled but interested and enthusiastic people from the community to come together for a day of productivity and fun.

The contribution of your time and energy can help to make this dream a physical reality.

@ Ceres Community Environment Park  
8 Lee St  
Brunswick East

Contact:  
Cathy Nixon  
9388 1707  
cathy@ceres.org.au

**"Continent of Curiosities"**  
A journey through Australian natural history  
Monday 11 September  
7.00pm-8.30pm

Dr Danielle Clode, zoologist and former scientific interpreter for Museum Victoria takes us on a strange and eclectic journey through Australia's natural history, exploring and explaining the stories behind some of the Museum of Victoria's collections.

@ Edendale Farm Community Environment Centre  
Gastons Rd  
Eltham

Bookings:  
9439 8700  
elthambook-shop@bigpond.com

**"Wanderings in the Australian Desert"**  
Birds Australia Victoria General Meeting  
Thursday 14 September  
6.30pm

Speaker Trevor Blake will illustrate the general nature and history of life in the remote desert areas covering reptiles, plants, insects and birds. He will also speak of traditional Aboriginal traditional in central Australia.

@ Room S203 upstairs and opposite the stairs to the theatre at Strathcona B.G.G.S.  
Scott St, Canterbury

Contact:  
Mark Anderson  
9641 1484  
mafanders@hotmail.com

**"Land Crabs, Crazy Ants and Rainforests"**  
Field Naturalists Club Juniors Group  
8.00pm

The Juniors Group is specifically designed for children and teenagers. The group aims to encourage an interest in our natural environment and its study amongst young people. Parents are welcome too!

Monthly meetings involve a short talk, (this month will be by Peter Green), and a discussion of exhibits brought in by junior members.

@ FNCV Hall  
1 Gardena Street  
Blackburn

Contact:  
Wendy Clark  
AH 9877 9266

**"Gardening For Life"**  
Horticultural Therapy Association of Victoria  
Thurs 12 to Sat 14 Oct

The State Conference on Friday and Saturday will enlighten you about how plants and garden-related activities can promote well-being of mind, body and spirit.

Enjoy the garden tour on Thursday and be inspired by the Kevin Heinze Garden Centre, a Sensory Garden, the Ilma Lever Garden Centre and the Royal Children's Hospital Garden.

@ Royal Talbot Rehab. Centre in Kew

Contact:  
9848 9710  
www.horticulturaltherapy.com.au