



moonee ponds creek
co-ordination committee

Ponderings

Winter 2010

Issue 30

Seasonal Newsletter of the Moonee Ponds Creek
Coordination Committee Inc

advocate

educate

interpret

participate

rehabilitate

revegetate



What's in this edition?

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- ➔ Putting Down the Roots of the Wurun
- ➔ World Environment Day at Royal Park
- ➔ Plan progress
- ➔ What's been happening along the creek
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World Environment Day at Royal Park

What an amazing afternoon!

After a grim morning of rain, the sun shone on all the fabulous activities in Royal Park for World Environment Day.

Besides giving hundreds of plants a new home, there were lots of other things to see and do: the Wild Action animals for people to meet and get to know — including a sizable freshwater croc, snakes, a flying fox and beautiful huge stick insects, Waterwatch frogs, you could learn to throw a boomerang, have a guided walk around the native garden to learn about the relationship the local Wurundjeri people had with the land and how they used the plants, and then sit and enjoy afternoon tea where Indian, Greek and African cuisine met Australian (lamingtons and Tim Tams).



The pictures tell the story of how much fun it all was!

Thank you to everyone who came and participated. **Don't miss Sunday 29 Aug — all this action will be happening again for Wattle Day!**



The Strategic Plan Progress Report

Things are still happening — slowly ...

On Wednesday 30 June, a very productive workshop was held at Hume Global Learning Centre.

Representatives of Melbourne Water, Melbourne Airport, Hume, Moonee Valley and Melbourne Councils, Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and the consultants preparing the Strategic Plan met to brainstorm and discuss aspirations for the creek.

An independent facilitator structured the morning, ensuring that discussions kept on track and practical ideas and recommendations were gathered.

A satisfying degree of agreement surfaced from the different participants, and the consultants went away with a clear outline of what we want for the creek.



The Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee gratefully acknowledges the support of these councils



Putting Down the Roots of the Wurun

A cold crisp day with intense blue sky greeted some 140 volunteers who signed on to put down their roots on the banks of the Ornamental Pond on Sunday 23 May.

What fantastic community support for the 'Putting Down the Roots' festival, organised as part of the CityLink Neighbourhood Connections program.

Wurundjeri Elder, Ian Hunter, conducted the 'Welcome to Country' Smoking Ceremony to mark the beginning of a strong community connection with the Moonee Ponds Creek and the greater environ-

ment, followed by a fantastic performance from the Minua Gidij Murra Dancers and *Lesson from a Koori*, a song by Fay June Ball, sung by the Debney Meadows Primary School choir.

The day brought together the traditional custodian of the land, CityLink staff, elderly members of the Chinese community, various African communities, the school community, the wider creek community and Federal and State Members of Parliament.

Together, they planted around 300 *Myoporum*, *Lomandra* and *Correa* as well as five River Gums symbolic of sectors of our community, women, men, youth and children, and one to celebrate the Year of Biodiversity.

A big thanks to Mobile Landcare who supported the planting activity, to Rotary North Melbourne who cooked a delicious BBQ and to the African Women's Network for providing Somalian tea and Oromo Coffee, and shared their culture with henna painting, and to the Melbourne Water catchment trailer

Others who provided their support on the day included Moonee Valley Police, LHMU, Kaayo Oromo Women's Group and the United Somalia Women's Organisation, Dousta Gala Community Health, Jesuit Social Services and members of surrounding communities.

Thank you to everyone who participated and made it such a huge success.



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What's been happening along the creek — Moonee Valley Report

Moonee Valley Council has been busy along their section of the Creek

Boeing Rail Reserve has had a newly constructed retaining wall, and contractors will be maintaining previous shrubby plantings on the top of the embankment, maintaining and enhancing remnant grasses on the embankment and undertaking weed control focusing on Chilean Needle Grass.

A patch of remnant grassland has been identified!

A four hectare area of **Remnant Grassland** has been identified in **Boeing Reserve** between the ovals and **Mascoma Street**. The area will be surveyed during spring and a management plan will be created by council.

You may notice that the site will be unmown during spring to allow for the grasses to grow and set seed to improve the success of the survey.

Horseshoe Bend is looking better for all the work there

Horseshoe Bend (located between **Strathnaver** and **Boeing Reserves**) was a high priority last year and will continue to be maintained this year. The area has been thinned to improve visibility through the site and almost 3000 small herbs and grasses have been planted there by community and Conservation Volunteers.

Strathnaver Grassland is being extended

Strathnaver Reserve Remnant Grassland has been extended from 1ha to 1.48ha and will continue to be managed for its conservation values.

The steep embankment south of **Strathnaver Reserve** is currently being worked on by Conservation Volunteers Green Gym Participants, who are getting fit, while they weed, plant and tidy. If you are interested in becoming involved in this program contact Conservation Volunteers Australia on 1800 032 501.



Strath-Oak Planters have been busy planting here at Brosnan Crescent

Talbot Reserve is being improved

Talbot Reserve has seen weeding, mulching, pruning and planting to its nature trail and a new garden bed of Drooping Sheoaks to screen the rail line and replace the 'weedy' Ash trees. This bed will be planted out with indigenous ground covers next planting season.

Five Mile Creek is looking so much better

Five Mile Creek continues to be improved through many plantings and weed control works. Keep an eye on this major improvement project. Thanks to the Friends of Five Mile Creek for their dedication and hard work.

Debneys Park is also receiving a major upgrade with new play and recreations facilities, garden beds, trees and creek interface.

Wild flower Walks

Keep an eye on Moonee Valley Council's website (mvcc.vic.gov.au) for information about two **Wildflower walks** that Michelle Gooding is going to run in September. One will be at the **Strathnaver Reserve**.

For more information call Michelle on 8325 1830 or email mgooding@mvcc.vic.gov.au

Can you help with Black Swan Monitoring?

Dr. Raoul Mulder at the University of Melbourne, is studying **Black Swans**. Apparently the swans get around quite a bit ... in more ways than one!

Dr Mulder is keen to hear where swans are seen, and who they are seen with. So if you see swans with either neck collars or leg bands, please make a note of the numbers on the collars or bands, the colour of the collar or band, the date, time, and place, Melway ref or GPS and send the information to: r.mulder@unimelb.edu.au.



Thank you to the team!

Getting *Ponderings* mailed out is a team effort — don't mention child labour ...

Alec, Hayden, Alyssa, Jarrod and Dean (from Strathmore North PS and Strathmore Secondary School) are the volunteer team behind packing and posting of *Ponderings*. They deserve a huge **'Thank you team!'**

While we don't want to put anyone out of work, we would prefer to send you your *Ponderings* electronically. It's better for the environment!

So if you would like to get *Ponderings* sent to your Inbox, please send your email address to ponderings@mpccc.org.

The environment thanks you!



What's happening in the coming months?

July, August and September Planting Calendar

Date	Friends Group	Time	Location	Melway Ref	Council
Sat 17 July	Friends of Jacana Wetlands	10am - 2pm	Jacana Wetland (spoon drain), Moonee Boulevard, Glenroy	6 D12	Moreland
Sat 24 July	Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek	10am - 2pm	Gowanbrae slopes (north of trestle bridge) Lanark Way / Adelaide Boulevard, Gowanbrae	16 C3	Moreland
Sun 1 Aug	National Tree Day Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek	10am - 1pm	The Tarnuk end of Wright St, Westmeadows, and follow the signs	5 G6	Hume
Sun 1 Aug	National Tree Day	10am - 2pm	Edgars Creek (western fence line, 100m upstream from Kodak bridge) Coburg North	18 A8	Moreland
Sun 8 Aug	Friends of Westbreen Creek	1 - 4 pm	Joyce Reserve, Northumberland Rd, Pascoe Vale	17 A6	Moreland
Sun 22 Aug	Growling Grass Frog Festival FO Jacana Wetlands	10am - 2pm	Jacana Wetland, Moonee Boulevard, Glenroy	6 D12	Moreland
Sun 29 Aug	Friends of Westbreen Creek	10am - 2pm	Joyce Reserve, Northumberland Rd, Pascoe Vale	17 A6	Moreland
Sun 29 Aug	Friends of Royal Park	10am - 3pm	Wattle Day planting, Royal Park, Corner of Macarthur Road and The Avenue	2B B2	Melbourne
Sat 4 Sept	Brunswick SW Planters	10am - 2pm	Denzil Don Reserve, Hope or Hunter Sts, Brunswick West	29 B6	Moreland
Sun 12 Sept	Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek	1.30 - 3.30pm	The Tarnuk end of Wright St, Westmeadows, and follow the signs	5 G6	Hume
Sat 25 Sept	Friends of the Sacred Kingfisher	10am - noon	End of Pascoe Street, Westmeadows,	6 B7	Hume

Sightings

Fauna and flora observations along the Moonee Ponds Creek. If you see anything interesting, please tell us about it, contact Stella, at ponderings@mpccc.org.



Erratum: I reported in the last edition, that Michelle Gooding had seen a White faced heron at Strathnaver Reserve — I was **WRONG** — it was a **White Necked Heron!** A much more exciting sighting! Sorry Michelle!



Farewell Sam!

All of you who have participated in planting days in Moreland will be sad to know that Sam Niedra has left Moreland Council.

He has gone to work for the Nature Conservation Trust NSW, based in Albury. He and his wife decided it was time to move their young family back to the country.

We will miss his happy face, and his quiet, knowledgeable demeanour, but understand his desire to get out of the city!

Thank you Sam for your support. Good luck — we wish you well for your future.

Terry Mundy reports a flock of **Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos** roosting in the horseshoe bend of Boeing/Strathnaver reserve. They have been there at least a week. There are between 12 to 20 of these large birds that fly up and down the creek and across to Essendon airport emitting their raucous 'squark'.



Bat Count

The next bat counts will be 21st July, meet at 5:15 pm, 18th August, at 5:30 pm and 22 September at 5:45 pm, Yarra Bend Park golf course Car park (2D G7)

New and regular counters welcome and very much appreciated. For further information contact Dr Rod van der Ree, on 8344 3661, 0412 562 429 or rvdr@unimelb.edu.au

Why not go along and help? — it is fun and informative.