



Ponderings

Autumn 2013 Issue 40

Seasonal Newsletter of the Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee Inc

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate



Clean Up Wash Up

There were only three sites along the Creek this Clean Up Australia Day, but all the other sites in the catchment will have benefitted the Creek, by removing all that rubbish from potentially flowing down into it – so THANK YOU to all who participated, wherever you were!

At Five Mile Creek Park, a small number of hard workers turned up, some from the Friends group, some from Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, and others, lovely friends who came and helped.

Ginnie Moylan reported that they collected an amazing 12 bags of rubbish in two hours at the footbridge and 300 metres east, along the bike path in Five Mile Creek Park. Then two more volunteers arrived at midday, collected for half an hour at the south side of the ford – filling three more bags!! They also managed to scramble down beside the footbridge, to collect the eyesore, two big bags of household garbage left there months ago.

So a total of 15 bags plus sundry items of un-baggable rubbish – sad really in such a small area.

However, afterwards, the area looked wonderful, apart from inaccessible rubbish along the Moonee Ponds Creek at the waters edge.

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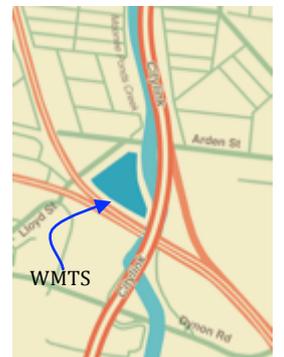
West Melbourne Terminal Station (WMTS) Upgrade



West Melbourne Terminal Station, viewed from the Moonee Ponds Creek (source WMTS Planning Application Summary Brochure)

Down towards the southern end of the Moonee Ponds Creek, at the junction of Arden and Lloyd Streets, is the West Melbourne Terminal Station, owned and operated by SP Ausnet. This mass of pylons and wires is an integral part of Victoria's electricity infrastructure that has been operating for more than 40 years, and it needs an upgrade.

Architects, Denton Corker Marshall have developed a concept design for the upgrade, featuring new purpose-built buildings to house



new, more efficient equipment to replace a lot of the ugly structures that currently supply Melbourne's CBD and inner suburbs with electricity. Because the terminal station has to remain operational during construction, these new buildings are planned to be constructed in areas of the site where there are currently no structures, that is, on the Creek-side of the site (see plan below). SP Ausnet hopes to start construction late this year.

The design includes modification of the surface of the new buildings with a pattern that camouflages their shapes to make them less visually intrusive. Nevertheless, some buildings will squat next to the Creek.

A landscape plan has been devised for the site in conjunction with the upgrade

work, and this includes significant planting along the Creek to mask and soften the impact of the buildings when seen from the bike track on the other side.

If you would like to be kept informed or find out more about the upgrade, including receiving updates, call SP Ausnet on 1800 609 109, email westmelbournets@sp-ausnet.com.au or visit www.sp-ausnet.com.au.



Landscape plan for the WMTS (source WMTS Planning Application Summary Brochure)



Concept design showing suggested patterning on the face of the buildings

Five Mile Creek Reserve

It's a secret – don't tell anyone ...

Just north of Moreland Road in Essendon, the Five Mile Creek joins the Moonee Ponds Creek, and where they join is a delightful park. Five Mile Creek wiggles its way through the park in a little gully, shaded by a mixture of gums, willows and other trees – a wonderful adventure playground. Down in the gully, there is no noise of nearby traffic – you could be miles from everything.

It is this park that the Friends of Five Mile Creek have been rescuing and caring for, and in a relatively short time have made a tremendous difference. Ginnie Moylan was the instigator of the group, and she explains how it all began...

My Five Mile Creek ... by Ginnie Moylan

I discovered the creek and its surrounds not long after I moved to Essendon in 1978. A gasometer stood where Peppercorn Park is now.

In the early 1980s, my Mum, Violet MacPhee, my little boys and I, had a 'rural' campfire on the banks under the willow tree, which is still there, and cooked sausages for tea! The area was weedy with lots of non-indigenous trees.

A planting on the Eastern bank was done in the 90s; a lovely wooden bridge was built ... and burnt; replaced ... and burnt again, just as Peppercorn Park was subdivided.

I met Steph Spathis (of the MPCCC) working along the Moonee Ponds Creek in 2006, and I mentioned the hidden gem, 'my' Five Mile Creek with its commemorative marker for the Pascoe National School founded in 1850. Steph organised some local school children to do a planting nearby. At a 'Clean Up Day' site at the Cross Keys reserve, that I supervised, I met Joanne Lillis and family, and together we decided to form the Friends of Five Mile Creek in 2009.

Later I met Michelle Gooding from Moonee Valley Council, and with her, Dave Hope, Anne Black and others, since then, we have held planting days on the first Sunday of each month in winter with tea and scones to follow! The results can be seen in these photos.

A grant in 2010 from Preston Motors enabled work to be done on the Western embankment, and some community groups have also kindly spread mulch, weeded and planted too. A drinking fountain and Children's play equipment were installed in 2012 near the gas BBQ and picnic table. After the completion of the new buildings at Lionsville more work is planned along the bike path at the junction of the Moonee Ponds Creek and the Five Mile up to the Moreland Road bridge.

Why don't you join us for the first planting this year: Sunday 5th May between 2 and 4 pm, Five Mile Creek Reserve, at the end of Government Road, (Mel 28 J2) and discover this hidden gem for yourself?



The slope below the car park at the end of Government Road in April 2010; the same site in April 2013



Another planting site in November 2010



The same site in February 2012



Again in October 2012



And in April 2013



Where Five Mile Creek escapes captivity and flows into the park



Some of the 'Five Mile Creekers' in Autumn 2011; this site in April 2013

Do you Pay and Display?

Do you park regularly where you have to buy a ticket to display in your windscreen? Did you know that these tickets are made of plastic? And do you know what happens to them if they blow out of your car? Well, they end up in the Bay! Here's just a few of the ones I have collected – it took only a few minutes to pick these up, down at the mouth of the Yarra – and once you notice them, you'll see them everywhere!

Melbourne City Council are trialing paper ones – well done MCC! So let's encourage other councils for follow suit – why use a non-renewable resource for such a transient item? And please be careful, next time you have to use one – don't let it blow away!



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.

There have been some very exciting sightings reported to *Ponderings* – and some fabulous photographs of birds seen along the Creek taken by Graeme Duke. Thank you so much everyone for letting us use your fantastic pictures!



The Wilson family of Westmeadows took this picture of an albino Brush-tail Possum near The Tarnuk. Amazingly, it has survived there for a couple of years



Tony Smith was watched by this Black-shouldered Kite, as he walked along the MPC trail near Bass Street, Pascoe Vale



Janet Graham sent us this picture of a Pacific Black Duck at Jacana, making sure its feathers were in good trim



Graeme saw this Yellow-rumped Thornbill and the wonderful Tawny Frogmouths at Boeing Reserve.



And this Firetail (Red-browed Finch) by the trestle bridge at Gowanbrae



Moreland City Council update by Lori Arthur



Council is working with landscape consultants, Pollen Studios, and the local community, to develop an Open Space Management and Development Plan for open space in Gowanbrae, for which the Moonee Ponds Creek plays a significant part. A user survey is available on the consultation page of Council's website: www.moreland.vic.gov.au, until 10th May, which will help guide the development of the plan.

The 2013 Moreland Community Planting Day calendar has recently been released listing a number of key planting dates through 2013 to continue building the habitat corridors through the city. Sites are being prepared for upcoming plantings along the Moonee Ponds Creek including:

Sunday 7th May - Friends of Westbreen Creek at Joyce Reserve, Pascoe Vale

Saturday 29th June - Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek at John Street, Oak Park, and

Sunday 14th July - Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek at JP Fawcner Reserve, Oak Park.

National Tree Day, on Sunday 28th July this year will again be held at Gowanbrae, along the creek near the old trestle train bridge.



The Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority would like your input into their draft Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS), which it has recently released for public consultation.

The draft RCS calls on the region's 50+ environmental agencies and councils to agree to – and work towards – shared targets for future environmental condition, because, despite everyone's hard work, evidence still shows a region in environmental decline.

The target-based RCS provides a new recipe for conservation in the region and will be a turning point if environmental organisations incorporate its targets into their work.

Environmental indicators such as the extent and condition of native vegetation; the condition of rivers and wetlands; the diversity of native animal species, the extent of rural hinterland and water quality in our bays are each the subject of targets in the RCS.

The RCS also includes an interactive 'Google Earth-style' map providing spatial information about the region's environmental assets. It can be interrogated at any scale – from whole region down to single property, so it has great potential as an everyday tool for planners, landholders and community members across the region as they make decisions that affect the environment.

Comments are invited on the draft RCS until 12th May 2013.

Visit www.ppwrcc.vic.gov.au to explore the RCS and provide feedback using the 'Leave Comments here' buttons that can be found on every web page.

(Source: PP&WCMA Newsletter)

Fun and games at Woodlands

On a sunny Sunday 24 March, Jamena and Landcare came together to host a community day – 'Live. Grow. Explore' at Woodlands Historic Park.

Under the magnificent Red Gums, next to the Moonee Ponds Creek, there were all manner of stalls where you could have your face painted or learn about growing vegetables, or the smart use of electricity, talk to a snake or a lizard, or listen to a story told by a fairy – you could learn to throw a boomerang, ride a pony or go for a guided bike ride or walk in the wonderful Woodlands Historic Park.

On top of all that, there was a free barbeque and ice cream, and native plants to take home. With live music to entertain the hundreds of people that came along, all in all, it was a great day, The Park also benefitted, with a patch of native grasses planted near the car park. Well done Landcare and Jamena!

For those who had never been there before, it was a great introduction to Woodlands – just for the trees alone, the park is worth a visit. But there is much more to it, including a large mob of Kangaroos, the nascent Creek, remnant grassland, woodland walks and bike track, and the historic homestead, which now houses the Living Legends Museum and retired racehorses.



Stalls under the magnificent Red Gums at Woodlands Historic Park

Autumn – Winter Planting Calendar

Date	Time	Friends Group	Location	Melway	Council
Sun 5 May	10am-12.00	Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek	The Tarnuk, end of Wright Street, Westmeadows	5 G6	Hume
		Friends of Westbreen Creek	Joyce Reserve, Northumberland Road, Pascoe Vale	17 A6	Moreland
Sat 25 May	10am-12.00	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek	Horseshoe Bend, Strathnaver Reserve, Strathmore	16 D5	Moonee Valley
	2pm-4pm	Brunswick SW Planters	Moonee Ponds Creek, Braddy Reserve, Victoria Street, Brunswick	29 B6	Moreland
Sat 29 June	10am-12.00	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek	Moonee Ponds Creek, John Street, Oak Park	16 F7	Moreland
Sun 30 June	10am-12.00	Friends of Sacred Kingfisher	Moonee Ponds Creek, opposite Circular Road, Westmeadows	6 B8	Hume
Sun 14 July	10am-12.00	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek	Moonee Ponds Creek, rear of JP Fawkner Reserve, Oak Park	16 F7	Moreland
Sun 28 July	10.am-12.00	National Tree Day	The Tarnuk, end of Wright Street, Westmeadows	5 G6	Hume
			Trestle Bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek, Adelaide Boulevard, Gowanbrae	16 C3	Moreland
Sun 4 Aug	10.am-12.00	Friends of Westbreen Creek	Joyce Reserve, Northumberland Road, Pascoe Vale	17 A6	Moreland
Sat 24 Aug	10.am-12.00	Friends of Sacred Kingfisher	Moonee Ponds Creek, opposite Circular Road, Westmeadows	6 B8	Hume
	2pm-4pm	Brunswick SW Planters	Moonee Ponds Creek, Braddy/Denzil Don Reserves, Victoria Street, Brunswick	29 B6	Moreland
Sun 29 Sept	1pm-3pm	Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek	The Tarnuk, end of Wright Street, Westmeadows	5 G6	Hume

Need information? If you need information about any of these planting days contact:

Hume: Melissa Doherty-9205 2466. **Moreland:** Lori Arthur-8311 4386. **Moonee Valley:** Michelle Gooding-8325 1830

Help us make a difference!

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek have received a 2013 Community Grant from Moonee Valley City Council, for an 'Infill Project' to plant more understorey and ground cover plants at **Horseshoe Bend in Strathmore Heights. (Mel 16 E6)**

The aim is to provide increased habitat and promote greater biodiversity in this tongue of land bordered on three sides by the Creek.

So come and join us on Saturday 25th May, at 10am.

Park in the Strathnaver Reserve car park, accessed off Mascoma Street, and walk south along the Creek.

And afterwards, join us for lunch.

Then on **Sunday 14th July, at 10am**, join us for a really exciting project at the **Old Ford, John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve, Oak Park, (Mel 16 F7).**

As part of the Corridors of Green project, (Melbourne Water and Moreland Council) a large stand of Elm suckers is being removed so that we can replant the area with indigenous plants.

It is wonderful to be involved in such a major step to help restore the Creek to a more natural state.

So come and help make a difference!

Would you like to help support the MPCCC to achieve its environmental objectives?

The Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee Inc. operates the **Environment Fund** to accept tax-deductible gifts of money or property.

Cheques should be made payable to **MPC Environment Fund** and may be posted to:

MPCCC, P.O. Box 2170, Greenvale, Vic. 3059.

Receipts confirming tax deductibility will be issued for all donations.

Other means of payment/donation will soon be advised on our website: mpccc.org.

Bat Count



At the March count, around 30,000 bats were counted – which is lower than expected for this time of year.

The next counts are on **Wednesday 22nd May**, with a meeting time of 5:15 pm; and **19th June** also at 5.15pm.

We will be meeting in the usual meeting spot at the Car park for the Yarra Bend Park Golf Course (Melway map 2D G7), which is on Yarra Bend Rd, which runs off Heidelberg Rd

Your continued assistance with this project is greatly appreciated! New counters and regulars are very welcome.

For more information, contact Rod van der Ree on 8344 3661, 0412 562 429 or rvdr@unimelb.edu.au