



Ponderings

Seasonal newsletter of the
Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee
Spring 2016 | Issue 52

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate



A large flock of Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos have been seen along the Moonee Ponds Creek flyway from Flemington Bridge to the Trestle Bridge, sighted at Parkville, West Brunswick, Pascoe Vale, Strathmore, Oak Park, Strathmore Heights & Gowanbrae. Photos by Tom, Anna and Nina.





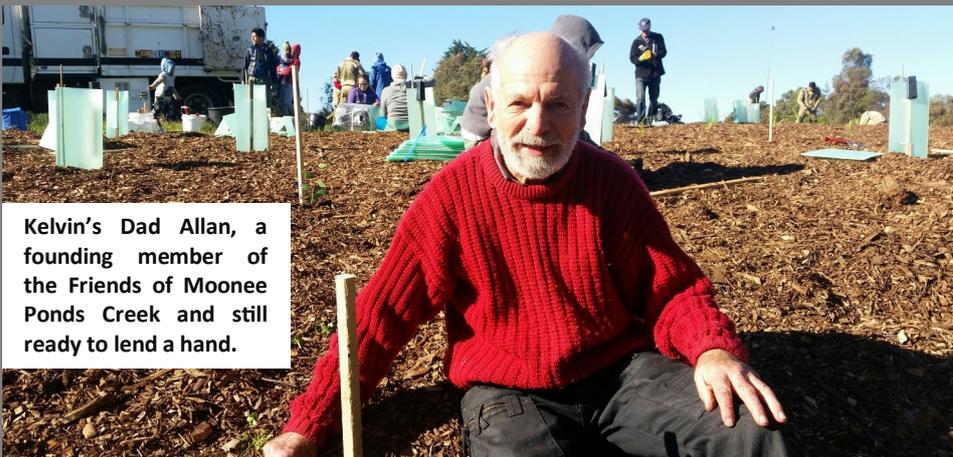
Living Stream @ Herbert Street Reserve

The **proposed project** is to use water from the existing stormwater system to supply water for a revegetated "living stream" in the former creek line of Moonee Ponds Creek at Herbert St Reserve.

Water from the existing 28ha urban **catchment** currently flows through existing Council and Melbourne Water drainage system to Moonee Ponds Creek.

Using a "**Gross Pollutant Trap**" litter and bottles will be removed from the stormwater. Low flows are then proposed to be diverted through an underground pipe and into the existing swale in the former creek line. Revegetation works coupled with the low flows will recreate a "living stream" in the former Moonee Ponds creek line.

Higher flows and flood events will continue down the existing stormwater drain, bypassing the reserve.



Kelvin's Dad Allan, a founding member of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and still ready to lend a hand.



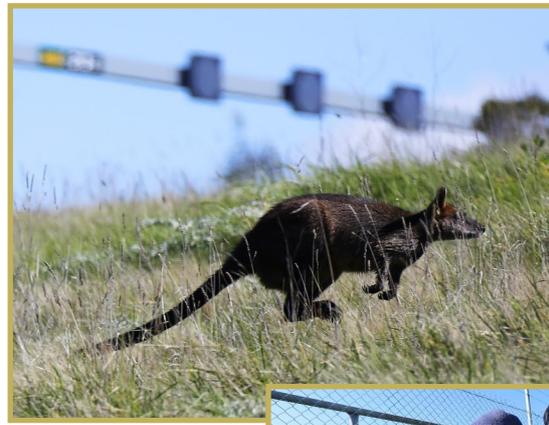
Kelvin Thomson & Ben Davis at Herbert St.

Gowanbrae Wallaby Biolink

Rising above the Jacana Retarding Basin on the Moonee Ponds Creek is a grassy hillslope which lies between the Jacana Wetlands and a gully on the other side in Gowanbrae.

A small population of Swamp Wallabies use the hillslope to go from the wetlands to the gully. A series of planned works by Melbourne Water on the Jacana Retarding Basin and VicRoads on noise walls along the M80 Western Ring Road brought together the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, local resident Corey Bannister and the Gowanbrae Residents Group – to propose a biolink for the swamp wallabies to connect the wetlands and the gully by planting trees and shrubs across the hillslope.

What seemed a simple idea involved quite a lot of discussion with landowners and stakeholders: VicRoads, AusNet Services, Melbourne Water, Moreland Council and wildlife and vegetation experts. VicRoads kindly agreed to sponsor the project as part of the Glenroy-Gowanbrae Noise Wall Project. It all came together with a community planting on Sunday 14 August, when 50 specially selected native trees and shrubs were planted and high guards placed around them so the wallabies wouldn't eat the new plants before they have a chance to grow and form their biolink!.



A Swamp Wallaby joins us on planting day.

Frank and Andre hard at work.

Planters pose for a group shot.



Photos by Vic Roads photographer and Andre.

The Jacana Valley, with earlier plantings by Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, looking beautiful on the day



Flocks of Galahs have been regularly sighted along the creek this winter. These were spotted by Nina at Brosnan Cres, Strathmore.

Sighting

MELBOURNE WATER REPORT

Progress report, woody weed removal



- All weed control is complete.
- Planting has commenced at some sites where the banks are bare. Planting across the wider extent of the project will commence at the end of August following site preparation.
- Mulch generated from the project was re-used at either Moonee Valley City Council sites within 5km of where it was removed or used for Melbourne Water plantings in the area.
- An additional planting day with the community has been organised at Holbrook Reserve (see diary dates on page 8).



ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

Regular attendees at plantings at Moonee Ponds Creek have come across members of the Dera Sacha Sauda (DSS).

This is a socio-spiritual organisation which teaches free meditation to all and practices and preaches humanitarianism and selfless service. It was formed in India in 1948 and worldwide the group has 50 million members.

Dera Sacha Sauda is a tolerant confluence of all religions (including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism and others) in which anyone can address 'God' by any of his innumerable names.

The group works with a set of 15 principles, which include humanitarianism, non-discrimination, truthfulness, honesty and earning one's livelihood through hard work and rightful means. Members participate in a wide range of social welfare activities. This is undertaken through the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force, set up as a disaster relief agency, however, in Australia they are well-known for their participation in revegetation projects.

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek have benefitted from the help of the DSS Green S Welfare Force at a number of our community plantings along the Creek with over 50 participants and their families. The group also volunteers at larger plantings as far away as Hindmarsh in the Wimmera and Grow West, near Melton.





More sightings along the creek, a Grey Butcherbird by Nina and a Laughing Kookaburra spotted by Debbie.

Sightings

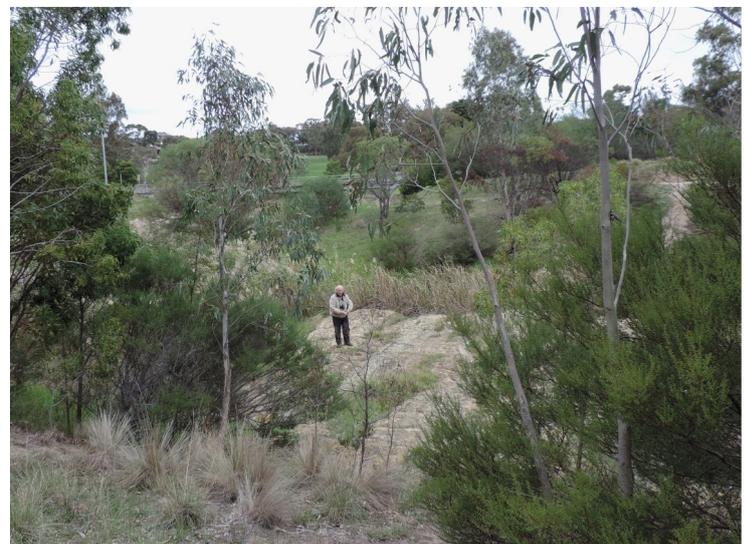


TONY'S MEANDER

Tony Smith, a life long supporter of the Moonee Ponds Creek has found a new project in Westmeadows. A little known section of the creek was diverted in an attempt to create better flood flows. Originally this was to just cause changes during flood flows, but over the years this corner of the creek has silted up and become forgotten. Tony intends to get the flows back into this beautiful little corner of the creek in Westmeadows. Here is what Tony has to say about his first visit back to the meander:

"On the first day I went for a look at the meander, my attention was drawn by one particular bird and I took one photo, getting very lucky. It was the only bird photo I attempted that day. It is a Grey Goshawk, a species which has two colour morphs, the pure white being less common but Kelvin tells us sometimes allows it to hide amongst a flock of cockatoos who don't see it as a threat to them. It has become an inescapable choice as emblem for the meander project."

What Tony has discovered is a wonderful Moonee Ponds Creek backwater that we could revert to its natural setting. He intends to work with Hume City Council and Melbourne Water to reinstate its historic flow.



A fantastic afternoon tea was held at Living Legends, Woodlands Historic Park, Greenvale for the launch of the **HUME CITY COUNCIL BIRDS OF HUME - A GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING LOCAL BIRD SPECIES**.

Over 100 people attended the celebration showcasing the spectacular photographic contributions by members of the Craieburn Camera Club and other local photographers. The highlight of the afternoon was a presentation by Andrew Haysom (below), a regular visitor to Woodlands who recently celebrated his goal of 100 bird species photographed in the park.

Thank you to Melissa Doherty and Karen Fowler from Hume City Council for providing the resources and expertise in creating a superb booklet.



WHAT'S ALL THE CROAKING ABOUT?

Hume City Council have funded signs to celebrate their frog populations. The new sign can be seen at the Moonee Ponds Creek in Westmeadows and features photographs by Ken Walker (Bowerbird) and your roving reporter Anna.



Join the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek for \$10 per year

Help preserve and improve the Moonee Ponds Creek's natural environment. For information and to join, go to mooneepondscreek.org.au and complete the membership form or write to PO Box 54, Essendon VIC 3040.



NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 6.30pm, Mon 10 October 2016

The AGM of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek will be held at the Sam Merrifield Library, Moonee Ponds. Details will be emailed to members.

Please consider attending the meeting to have your say about the Moonee Ponds Creek.

TARNUK RESCUE

Regular walkers along the Upper Moonee Ponds Creek will be familiar with a large plantation of trees alongside the shared path in Attwood.

In January, Anna Lanigan reported to Hume City Council that the plastic and stakes used as tree guards were starting to choke the vegetation. The huge task of removal was far too great for the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek to undertake. It was established that this area was under the control of Melbourne Water and subsequently contact was made with Jessica Walker who organised contractors to come in and clear up the area. The result is spectacular with the shrubs and trees breathing easy and looking wonderful.



The map above shows the enormity of the task.



SAVE HOPETOUN AVE RESERVE

Melbourne Water is proposing to rezone and sell off part of Hopetoun Avenue Reserve in Brunswick West.

Locals have rallied to gain support for a petition to be presented to Melbourne Water in the hope that they will withdraw their plans.

www.gopetition.com/petitions/save-the-park-at-hopetoun-ave.html



Area under threat

MOONEE VALLEY NEWS

In the past Five Mile Creek Reserve was home to the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation.

Silcrete tools and a scatter have been identified at the Reserve. With the guidance of Wurundjeri's 'Narrap' team, we have been installing a rock circle to highlight this as a meeting point of the Wurundjeri People and protect the history of the site.

Wurundjeri's 'Narrap' team will also be conducting planting activities in and around the site. Due to unusually high rainfall the work is a slow process with care taken to ensure the site will not be damaged. Completion of the circle is expected by the end of 2016. The existing trees were also pruned to remove hazards and a dead eucalypt was 'habitat pruned', left standing but limbs were reduced to provide habitat for birds to roost on or hollows for nesting.



D I A R Y

When	Where	Group/Contact Information
Sun 28 Aug 10.00am-12.00noon	Community planting Gowanbrae Community Centre Marigold Crescent, Gowanbrae	Gowanbrae Residents Group Andre 0439 033 736
Sat 10 Sep Time to be advised Refer to Facebook	Community planting Holbrook Reserve, Moonee Ponds (Mel 29 B8)	Vince Andreana, Moreland CC 8311 4386 Lizzie Younger, Melb Water 9679 7358
Sun 23 Oct 10.00am-3.00pm	Gowanbrae Festival 2016 Gowanbrae Community Centre Marigold Crescent, Gowanbrae	Gowanbrae Residents Group Andre 0439 033 736

Last minute cancellations and changes will be posted to the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Facebook page.
facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneeponds creek/



Sightings

Nina has a new camera and captures the fast moving honeyeaters. Whoo hoo.



DID YOU KNOW?

THAT THE LAWSON STREET RESERVE IN MOONEE PONDS, RECENTLY UPGRADED AS OPEN SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ENJOY, WAS CHAMPIONED BY LONG TIME LOCAL RESIDENT ALBERT GLASS WHO 40 YEARS AGO PLANTED A SEEDLING THAT IS NOW THE LARGE EUCALYPT THAT FEATURES IN THE CORNER OF THE RESERVE.



CREEK WATCH

Rapid change of water levels or discolouration of problems along the creek that need to be reported:

- ◇ High water flows coming out of drains during a period of no rain could indicate a leaking water main or underground burst pipe. To report this, contact **Yarra Valley Water** for the east side of the bank and **City West Water** for the west side of the bank.
- ◇ If the creek water is yellow or white or otherwise discoloured, this could indicate trade waste being dumped into the creek. This needs to be **urgently reported to the EPA.**

CREEKY LINKS

mooneeponds creek.org.au
 facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneeponds creek
 friendsofmerricreek.org.au/
 facebook.com/FriendsOfSteeleCreekInc
 facebook.com/groups/1541338476087146
 fmvonline.com
 bowerbird.org.au/projects/5249
 whp.altervista.org/
 werribeeriver.org.au

Contact us if you have any other links to share