



# Ponderings

Seasonal newsletter of the  
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek  
Autumn 2017 | Issue 54

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate

## OUR MOONEE PONDS CREEK at the MOONEE VALLEY FESTIVAL

Sharing ideas to improve the Moonee Ponds Creek with the community at the Moonee Valley Festival. These will form part of the Master Plan being developed by consultants Site Office (Chris and Susie) with the Friends Of Moonee Ponds Creek, Moonee Valley City Council (Venta) and Melbourne Water.

For more information visit [www.ourcreek.com.au](http://www.ourcreek.com.au).



Sammy, Labcoat Learnings helps a young citizen scientist find yabbies in the pond.

Organisers and the public join forces to collect information about the creek.



# 'Shelley Hillock' Revegetation Project

Landcare is setting up two projects along the Creek, funded by Transurban as part of the CityLink TullaWidening works, which have seen many trees and other plants removed and land excised. Two project sites have been selected, 'Shelley Hillock', Moonee Ponds and Brady Reserve, Brunswick West.

'Shelley Hillock' is on the Moonee Ponds side of the Creek, opposite the well known Union St Escarpment, Brunswick West. The site was once occupied by an old house built in 1915 by Thomas Mitchell (in photo with the Creek in flood circa 1935) . The house was at the end Shelley St, the only street on the site. Other houses were built in the 1950s.

The site was isolated following construction of the Tullamarine Freeway in 1967, and resulted in the old house and other homes being demolished and the obliteration of Shelley St. The proposed revegetation plan is for the site to be planted with trees, shrubs, low growing plants and grasses, all native to the Creek, to enhance biodiversity and habitat. Community planting days will be held as part of this Landcare project.



## MANGROVES RETURN TO THE LOWER MOONEE PONDS CREEK

It is so good to see a mangrove growing again along the lower Moonee Ponds Creek, Docklands following earlier destruction of mangroves during Port of Melbourne expansion works around 2000. The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek successfully approached the State Government for the retention of this section of the Creek corridor as public open space as part of the sale/lease of the Port of Melbourne.

Mangroves support an enormous variety of wildlife, birds, fish and crustaceans. Their presence will create a huge improvement of the biodiversity of the Lower Moonee Ponds Creek.

Photo from the Royal Botanic Gardens survey for Melbourne City Council, 2016 by Julie Francis, Melbourne City Council.

### Terry Mundy RIP

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Terry Mundy, one of the founding members of the Moonee Ponds Creek Association (now Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek) and a long time committee member. Terry was in ill-health for several years, but still came to community plantings and gatherings. Our condolences to Pauline and family and we hope you will take comfort from knowing that Terry's legacy along the Creek will always be remembered.



# MOONEE PONDS CREEK COLLABORATION PROJECT

## BY JULIE FRANCES, MELBOURNE WATER

The MOONEE PONDS CREEK COLLABORATION PROJECT is getting underway. Melbourne Water is facilitating all those organisations with an interest in the creek and catchment to come together to undertake whole-of-catchment planning for the Moonee Ponds Creek. The catchment approach is to ensure that the Creek is considered as part of the urban fabric, not a separate, hidden corridor, but entwined and linked to the different parklands, recreational areas, public transport hubs, commercial and residential precincts that surround it. Councils, State Government, landholders and community groups (including FoMPC) will be involved.

The first Stakeholder Workshop on February 22nd was attended by 60 people from 29 organisations. Aspirations and concerns for the catchment were discussed and it was determined that it faced a complex situation that requires a collaborative approach.

**A survey of participants before they attended the workshop showed the main issues were identified as:**

**Flood management:** stormwater management and water storages, sharing catchment flood protection, managing water flows upstream/within the catchment.

**Social values:** public open space/green space, amenity, liveability, people connecting with nature.

**Infrastructure:** waterways infrastructure, floodways, sewerage system, sediment pond control and maintenance of drains .

**Environment:** ecology, litter, contamination, erosion, pest plants and animals, nature conservation and pollution control.

**Engagement:** engaging with private landholders upstream, stakeholder engagement, involvement of the Wurundjeri and capacity building.

**Other issues :** funding, ensuring the safety of rough sleepers and catchment focused outcomes.

**At the end of the workshop, 16 organisations (including Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek) have committed to participating in a group that meets regularly to co-create solutions to catchment issues.** Several others who were not able to commit to regular participation were willing to offer support to the group that meets regularly. A full report from the workshop will be shared on the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek website.

**Further updates will be posted on the Moonee Ponds Creek Facebook page.**

**For further information contact Julie Francis, Melbourne Water**

**[Julie.francis@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:Julie.francis@melbournewater.com.au)**



Photo: Julie Francis

## HOPETOUN AVE UPDATE

Many local residents, groups and Moreland Council lodged submissions opposing Melbourne Water's proposed rezoning of 1 Hopetoun Ave, Brunswick West from Public Park and Recreation Zone to Neighbourhood Residential Zone One. Hearings by the State Government Land Standing Advisory Committee that were due to commence on 6th February were adjourned while Melbourne Water and Moreland Council renegotiate sale of the land to Moreland Council. This is promising, good news and we await the outcome.

**This land has been public parkland for 60 years.  
PLEASE LET US KEEP IT!**

## BRADY RESERVE

Moreland City Council and Landcare Australia will be planting at Brady Reserve, Brunswick West. Details are being finalised and will be posted on the Friends of Moonee Ponds Facebook page.

## HERBERT STREET LIVING STREAM PROJECT

Works planned to daylight a section of the Moonee Ponds Creek at Herbert St, Pascoe Vale, will be starting after Easter. Further updates will be provided on Facebook once construction begins. Details on Moreland City Council website.

## HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE MORELAND CITY COUNCIL PLAN

Every four years Moreland City Council prepares a Council Plan after the election of a new Council. This plan outlines the Council priorities that will be delivered over the coming four years. The Council Plan covers Council projects as well as core Council services.

There are five themes (one of which is Sustainable Environment and Climate Change) that will shape the Council Plan. Under each theme are a set of outcomes that Council wants to achieve. Your task is to tell us which outcomes you want Council to prioritise. Tell Council what you think by voting and placing comments by visiting <http://oursay.org/moreland>

**Vote for the creek with** "Protect the city's parklands, grasslands and waterway - focus on retaining or improving existing natural environments in Moreland; helping to increase biodiversity."

**Voting closes on the 27 March 2017. Stay tuned for voting outcome.**

## BOEING RESERVE MASTER PLAN

# MOONEE VALLEY NEWS

Proposed substantial changes for Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights are underway. Plans include the demolition and rebuilding of Sports Club Rooms expansion of oval facilities and car parking and upgrades of the Skate Park and playground. The proposal includes some clearing of established trees and plants.

Through Facebook community pages, Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek has received a wide range of views on this development. Not surprisingly, many residents are happy to see the local sports facilities upgraded while others are sad to see the whittling away of passive open space.

Friends Of Moonee Ponds Creek will work with the Moonee Valley Council to ensure that replacement plantings will take place to retain the area's beautiful amenity and habitat for wildlife.





A Grey Butcherbird finds breakfast in Woodlands Park, Essendon, a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo family making a racket in Westmeadows and an Eastern Rosella tries to hide at Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights. Photos by Anna.

# Sightings



This gorgeous pair of Tawny Frogmouths are part of a family of four spotted on several occasions in Brosnan Crescent, Strathmore. Here they are in Paul and Sandy's backyard . Photo by Nina.



New Holland Honeyeaters have taken up residence in Anna's garden in Strathmore and the Australian Hobbies have remained in Woodlands Park, Essendon following a successful breeding season.



Pink-eared Ducks and Black-winged Stilts were an exciting find in the North Jacana Wetland. Photos by Anna.



Contributions to Ponderings welcome.  
Please send your images and stories to [ponderings@mpccc.org](mailto:ponderings@mpccc.org)



Photo by James



Girl Guides and Friends of Five Mile Creek had a successful day with a large haul of rubbish (above).

Along the creek at John Pascoe Fawcner Reserve Oak Park, a small but enthusiastic group participated in this year's event. Allison and her father Gary collected a big haul. Kelvin, President of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek showed his usual support for the Day adding to an impressive pile of rubbish.

Thanks to Carolyn (Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek), Ginny (Friends of Five Mile Creek) and the Girl Guides for registering these sites and to all the volunteers for doing a great job.



Photos by Carolyn



## WESTERN DISTRIBUTOR

The Western Distributor is a Transurban proposal to widen the West Gate Freeway, tunnel under Yarraville, build a new bridge across the Maribyrnong and new connections to the Port, CityLink and the City. Go to [www.westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au/wd/](http://www.westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au/wd/). Unfortunately the latter connections would see seven new crossings over the lower Moonee Ponds Creek, compromising its open space amenity and the E-Gate urban renewal area. The State Government instigated the preparation of an Environment Effects Statement for the project, this is due for release mid-year for public comment and submission and later, panel hearings.

## MELBOURNE WATER GRANT

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek has been successful in obtaining a 2017 Melbourne Water community grant to revegetate a small section of the lower Jacana Retarding Basin area. The project will be in collaboration with Moreland Council and Gowanbrae Residents Association. Grasses will be planted along the edge of a low basaltic outcrop and trees and shrubs in a more open area.

## WESTBREEN CREEK OFFICIALLY ON THE MAP

Months of patient research and correspondence to State Government authorities by Alex English, Open Space Planner at Moreland Council has resulted in Westbreen Creek finally having its name officially recognised. It was previously just an unnamed tributary of Moonee Ponds Creek. Here is the extract from the Victoria Government Gazette 1 December 2016. Alex is pictured below with Kelvin Thomson during an inspection of the Creek. A full story of the history behind the creek's name is being prepared for a future edition of Ponderings. Keep a look out for it.

91298	Westbreen Creek	Moreland City Council (Long-standing name) Beginning within 47-97 Glenroy Road, Glenroy, heading in a south-easterly direction ending at Moonee Ponds Creek.
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Office of Geographic Names  
Land Victoria  
570 Bourke Street  
Melbourne 3000

JOHN E. TULLOCH  
Registrar of Geographic Names



## DID YOU KNOW?

THAT THE GRANITE OUTCROPS OF GELLIBRAND HILL, WOODLANDS HISTORIC PARK, ARE THE CLOSEST TO THE CITY OF MELBOURNE AND IN THE EARLY DAYS OF SETTLEMENT, THEY WERE IN DEMAND AS BUILDING STONE.

BAILLIERES VICTORIAN GAZETTER AND ROAD GUIDE OF 1865 (PAGE 56), STATES THAT TWO MILES NORTH EAST OF BROADMEADOWS, "IN GELLIBRANDS HILL" THERE ARE TWO QUARRIES OF GOOD BUILDING STONE, WHICH HAS BEEN USED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF PRINCESS BRIDGE, THE CHIEF SECRETARIES OFFICE AND THE MELBOURNE TOWN HALL.

SOURCE: RED GUMS AND RIDERS, DEPT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

## CREEKY LINKS

[mooneepondscreek.org.au](http://mooneepondscreek.org.au)  
[facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek](https://facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek)  
[friendsofmerricreek.org.au/](http://friendsofmerricreek.org.au/)  
[facebook.com/FriendsOfSteeleCreekInc](https://facebook.com/FriendsOfSteeleCreekInc)  
[facebook.com/groups/1541338476087146](https://facebook.com/groups/1541338476087146)  
[fmvonline.com](http://fmvonline.com)  
[bowerbird.org.au/projects/5249](http://bowerbird.org.au/projects/5249)  
[whp.altervista.org/](http://whp.altervista.org/)  
[werribeeriver.org.au](http://werribeeriver.org.au)

Contact us if you have any other links to share

## 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**.

# 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 [mooneeponds creek.org.au](http://mooneeponds creek.org.au) and complete the membership form or write to PO Box 54, Essendon VIC 3040.



## NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

### Bimonthly meetings

Held on the following dates at the Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds commencing at 6.30pm:

10 April 2017

19 June 2017

2 August 2017

16 October 2017

# PLANTINGS

When	Where	Group/Contact Information
Sun 21 May 10.00am-12:00pm	Moonee Ponds Creek Primula Boulevard, Gowanbrae (Melway 16 D1)	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540.
Sun 4 Jun 2.00-4.00pm	5 Mile Creek Reserve (Melway 28 J2) End of Government Road, Essendon (rubbish removal, guard maintenance & tidy)	Friends of 5 Mile Creek. Conservation Officer, Moonee Valley City Council 8325 1888.
Sun 4 Jun 1.00-3.30pm	Ripplebrook Drive, Westmeadows (Melway 6 D8)	Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek. Urban Biodiversity Office, City of Hume 9205 2466.
Sun 25 Jun 10am-12:30pm	Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy (Melway 16 D4). Meet at the Playground.	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540.
Sun 2 Jul 2.00-4.00pm	5 Mile Creek Reserve (Melway 28 J2) End of Government Road, Essendon	Friends of 5 Mile Creek. Conservation Officer, Moonee Valley City Council 8325 1888.
Sun 9 Jul 10.00am-12.00noon	Gowanbrae Edge Working Bee. End of Primula Boulevard, Gowanbrae (Melway 16 D1)	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek. Kaye 9329 0635. Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540. Gowanbrae Residents Group. Andre 0439 033 736
Sun 16 Jul 10.00am-12.00noon	Gowanbrae Edge Community Planting. End of Primula Boulevard, Gowanbrae (Melway 16 D1)	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek. Kaye 9329 0635. Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540. Gowanbrae Residents Group. Andre 0439 033 736
Sun 6 Aug 2.00-4.00pm	5 Mile Creek Reserve (Melway 28 J2). End of Government Road, Essendon	Friends of 5 Mile Creek. Conservation Officer, Moonee Valley City Council 8325 1888.
Sun 6 Aug 1.00-3.30pm	Westmeadows Reserve, end of Bent St (or Car park off Ardie St) Westmeadows (Melway 5 K6)	Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek and World Church of God. Urban Biodiversity Officer, City of Hume 9205 2466.
Sun 7 Aug 2.00-4pm	5 Mile Creek Reserve (Melway 28 J2) End of Government Road, Essendon	Friends of 5 Mile Creek. Conservation Officer, Moonee Valley City Council 8325 1888
Sun 13 Aug 10am-12:30pm	Moonee Ponds Creek. Herbert St Reserve, Pascoe Vale (Melway 16 H8)	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540
Sun 14 Aug 10am-12noon	Horseshoe Bend Working Bee. Follow signs downstream from Boeing Reserve Carpark, Strathmore Heights (Melway 16 D5)	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and Moonee Valley City Council. Kaye - 9329 0635
Sun 27 Aug 10am-12noon	Westbreen Creek, Gavin Park, Arndt Rd, Pascoe Vale (Melway 17 A7)	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540

**FOR ALL PLANTINGS, PLEASE BRING GLOVES AND DRINKING WATER, WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR AND ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.**

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

**HUME AND MOONEE VALLEY COUNCILS HAVE PLACED THESE PLANTINGS ON THEIR WEBSITE. THEY PREFER YOU TO REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE TO ASSIST WITH RESOURCING AND CATERING.**