



Ponderings

Seasonal newsletter of the
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek
Winter 2017 | Issue 55

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate

MOONEE PONDS CREEK IN FOCUS

Two brilliant projects carried out by RMIT students placed the Moonee Ponds Creek on centre stage this semester. Tony Smith en route to another piece of work at the RMIT Gallery chanced upon an exhibition called "Being There". Traversing the Moonee Ponds Creek on foot from Woodlands Historic Park to the Yarra, three students had collected audio and video images of the creek and some debris along the way expressing concern for the pollution and neglect that the Creek has faced over the years. The result is a wonderful movie of images showcasing the contrasts of the wild and natural upstream sections with the stark and harsh reality of the downstream concrete drain. A separate soundtrack delightfully recorded the adventure along the way and some debris was artfully arranged for the exhibition. We hope to have a link to the video for our website. Thanks to Liz Simpson, Zeljko Radic and Leanne Waterhouse.

The second project involved a group of Landscape Architecture Students set the task of designing ideas for improving the access and amenity of the Moonee Ponds Creek. Dividing the MPC into 9 sections, each student created a dossier of ideas that were then blended into a masterful concept plan. Once again the advantage of fresh young minds taking on a challenge resulted in a wonderful piece of work. Along the way the students met up with Venta from Moonee Valley Council, and Chris and Susie from Site Office, no doubt a powerful learning experience with the creators of Moonee Valley Council's soon to be adopted Moonee Ponds Creek Masterplan. Many thanks to Michaela Prescott, Lecturer and mentor of the project for a great explanation at the public viewing and once again we hope that the students' ideas will eventually come into the public domain for a wider audience.



LIKE OUR "Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek" Facebook page to keep up with planting dates, events and creek news.



HERBERT STREET LIVING STREAM PROJECT: A DIAGRAM COMES TO LIFE

Project Completion on the **Herbert Street Living Stream** project was achieved in June. This exciting project has redirected low flow stormwater through a new pond and vegetated channel, transforming the small parkland along the historical natural alignment of the Moonee Ponds Creek. It has included installation of an underground gross pollutant trap (GPT) at the end of Herbert Street, establishment of a new sediment pond and revegetation of the former natural creek course of Moonee Ponds Creek with indigenous plants to further treat stormwater and provide valuable habitat. Further revegetation works in the surrounding reserve will be undertaken with the community in August (see planting calendar for more information).

A pond lining was laid down to stabilise the bed. It was then covered with rocks and the edges planted.



The new gross pollutant trap will remove litter from the storm water before it enters the pond. A valve can divert excessive flows back to the main drain to the creek.



The pond has a barrier for safety and plants have been added to secure the edges and provide a frog habitat.



The project will be complemented by further plantings creating a wonderful new ecosystem.



Overflow from the pond will flow down to the creek.



The stream flows under the grassy path along the creek.



The view back to Herbert St. Jute matting and plants have been put in to stabilise the stream.



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MORELAND URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

In May, Moreland Council released its **Draft Urban Forest Strategy** for public consultation. The strategy is designed to shape the future planning and management of vegetation across the municipality and the engagement of the community in this process. Several information sessions were held across the municipality with the community showing much interest in the ideas proposed. The 300+ submissions are currently being reviewed with a report due to go to Council later this year. Alex English, Moreland's Urban Space Planner created an informative and thought provoking Powerpoint presentation for the information sessions.

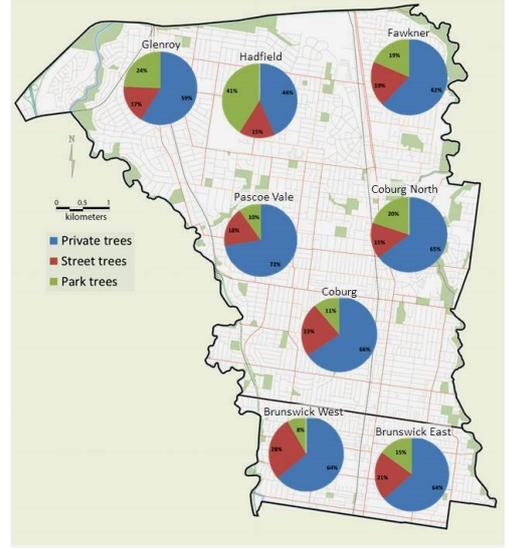


Same street, just without the trees



Thermal imaging, comparing cars in full sun (left) and shade (right)

Tree distribution across Moreland

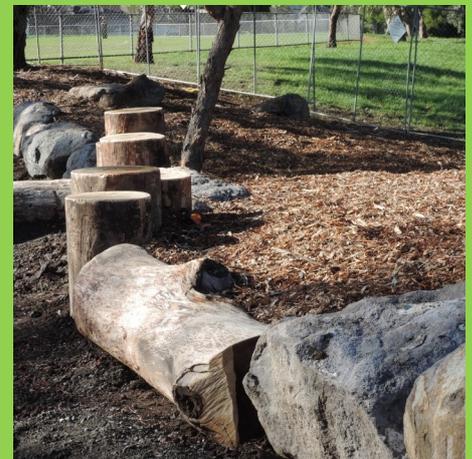
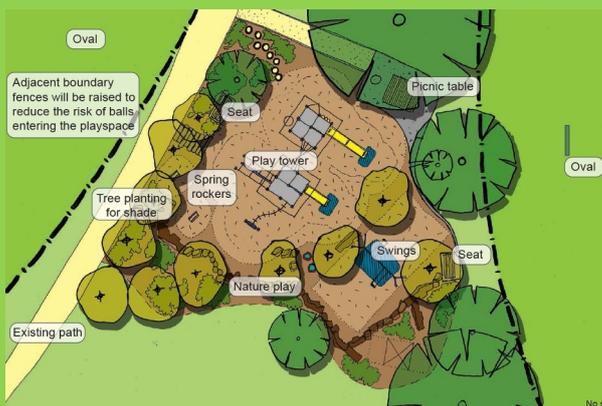


SHARED PATH UPGRADE

The shared path at Kingsford Ulm Reserve is nearing completion. The path provides an important link between the Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Trail and Glenroy community facilities, including the recently upgraded playground and the 1st Oak Park Scout Hall. This project has seen a number of delays through wet weather and the management of asbestos found at the work site. The path is long and winding to ensure it meets all abilities access but this has created great opportunities for planting and enhancement on the otherwise barren slope. A community planting was held at the site on Sunday 25 June with further planting and soft landscaping works to be completed in subsequent weeks.

A NEW PLAYGROUND FOR JP FAWKNER RESERVE

Down the creek at JP Fawkner Reserve in Oak Park, Council is nearing the completion of a full overhaul of the existing playground between the two ovals. The upgrade includes a blend of 'nature play' (logs, rocks and mulched garden beds with indigenous plantings) and new play equipment, creating a fun environment for social, cognitive, imaginative and physical play. The existing play equipment has been removed and the area will be improved with seats and tree planting for shade.



The playground is also accessible to Moonee Valley residents via the ford near the Men's Shed, Mascoma Street in Strathmore.

HUME ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS TO JULIE and ANNA

Julie Law and Anna Lanigan were nominated by Councillor Jodi Jackson for awards at the Hume City Council in May putting the Moonee Ponds Creek into the environmental spotlight. Julie was named Citizen of the Month for her tireless contribution as founding member of the Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek and a long time volunteer at Meadows Primary School.

Julie and fellow Westmeadows resident, Kim Westcombe (inset photo), have been the force behind impressive transformations of the creek corridor with a number of National Tree Days being highlights. Anna received a Certificate of Recognition for her work recording Hume's frog and bird populations through Frogwatch, Birddata and Bowerbird.



RACV WILD BYTES: STORIES FROM YOUR BACKYARD



Wed 16 August 2017
6.30 – 8.30pm
Broadmeadows Global Learning Centre
1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows

Have you ever wondered what to do when you've been swooped by a magpie or when a blue-tongued lizard suddenly appears in your yard, or maybe you've found a possum curled up inside your garage roof? Come along to hear Wildlife Victoria rescue and care volunteers answer these questions and plenty more during this exciting panel discussion, designed to reconnect community members with wildlife and their environment! All ages are welcome and invited to participate. Finger food catering provided at 6.30pm and the presentation starts at 7pm.

Please register your booking at:
<https://register.canbook.me/wildbytesaug2017>

RACV WILD BYTES - STORIES FROM YOUR BACKYARD

UPCOMING EVENT!
 HOSTED BY WILDLIFE VICTORIA

KEEN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP THE WILDLIFE IN YOUR BACKYARD?
 COME ALONG AND LEARN A FEW TRICKS!

WILDLIFE VICTORIA
 ON 13 900 9000

(FREE EVENT)

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH WILDLIFE RESCUE AND CARE VOLUNTEERS:
BROADMEADOWS GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE, 1079 PASCOE VALE ROAD, BROADMEADOWS

WEDNESDAY 16 AUGUST 2017, 7.00PM
 REFRESHMENTS FROM 6.30PM

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:
WWW.WILDLIFEVICTORIA.ORG.AU/RACV-WILD-BYTES

Tribute to Thomas Maxwell (Max) Marshall by Kelvin Thomson

Max lived for many years in Kernan Avenue, Pascoe Vale with his wife Mavis and three children. When I first met Max in 1981, I discovered he was watering the plants in the parkland down the road from my house, now named Kelvin Thomson Park. In order to water the plants, Max was running a hose from his garden across the Craigieburn Railway Line (under the tracks!), astonishingly civic-minded of him, though no doubt illegal. Later on he asked if Council could install a tap in the park for him so he could water without having to bring the hose across. It was really the least we could do to help him help us, and we did. Max personally planted and looked after many plants both in Kelvin Thomson Park and in other open space between his home and the Moonee Ponds Creek. In 1999 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for Services to the Automotive Parts Industry and to the Community.

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

Council recently engaged external consultants to undertake a Moonee Valley wide survey to identify all local trees of significance. The survey identified approximately 250 trees on both public and private property which are of significant value and are therefore proposed to be included in our Significant Tree Register. Council plans to implement a planning scheme amendment to allow new trees to be added to the register, or deleted if they have been removed (via a planning permit) since the last update. The amendment would incorporate the trees into the Environmental Significance Overlay of the Moonee Valley Planning Scheme. This means a permit would be required to remove or lop the trees, and for any buildings and works within the Tree Protection Zone which is put in place to protect root structures. It is expected that this Draft Significant Tree Register and associated amendment will be available for comment in September. You will be able to view the details at council's website. Following consultation it will be presented to Council for adoption and then to the Minister for Planning for approval.



NEW VOLUNTEER POLICY

Moonee Valley has recently adopted a new Volunteer Policy which is in line with the National Standards. Environmental Groups such as Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek are Community Groups with their own volunteers rather than Volunteers of Council. For small groups not Incorporated and Insured this has meant that they need to join the larger incorporated groups, for example, the members of Friends of 5 Mile Creek have joined as members of Moonee Ponds Creek to ensure they are protected under their public liability insurance.

From next year we will develop an agreement between the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and Council to outline the activities that the group will undertake and the support that Council will provide. The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek will continue to operate as they have and will be able to hold working bees on Council Land, in accordance with the agreement. Kim will focus on providing environmental education to schools and the broader community through events such as presentations from experts, workshops to strengthen ecology on private property and activities in neighbourhood parks that aren't associated with existing Friends of Groups. Kim and I are committed to continuing to supporting the great work that our Environmental Friends Groups do and we look forward to the coming activities. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us.

TERRY'S TREE

A Yellow Box (Eucalyptus Melliodora) has been planted in Strathnaver Reserve in memory of Terry Mundy. Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, local friends and family joined Pauline for the occasion. On a day of wild weather the sun shone beautifully for the planting and speeches.



Jacana Wetland upgrade

Site visit at the North Jacana Wetland. Emma Wiggan and Aaron Broadway from Melbourne Water outlined the works planned to repair and improve the filtering capacity of the wetlands. Works will commence later this year and a website will provide updates.

Community bulletins have been distributed to residents in Jacana, Glenroy, Gowanbrae Estate and Gladstone Park informing them about the upcoming Jacana Wetlands Upgrade Project. Information has also been uploaded on the Melbourne Water website which can be accessed via melbournewater.com.au/jacanawetlands.

Construction works are scheduled to start in early July 2017 and will take 12 months to complete, weather permitting. Based on Melbourne Water's current program, works will start at the Southern Wetland located on the south side of the Western Ring Road and then move to the Northern Wetland.

More information about the exact timing and staging of the works will be available closer to the start of construction.



Trin Warren Tam-boore Wetland (Royal Park)

The constructed five-hectare Trin Warren Tam-boore wetland takes stormwater from surrounding suburbs, cleans it, and stores it to irrigate Royal Park.

An upgrade of the site planned for May involved the removal of the historical silt stockpiles from the site and cleaning of the silt trap immediately upstream of Trin Warren Tam-boore wetland.

The silt trap is designed to capture sediment in the waterway before it can reach the wetland and requires regular cleaning.

The silt contains trace amounts of asbestos. Asbestos removal works will be undertaken by asbestos removal specialists under the supervision of an independent occupational health and safety specialist.

Melbourne Water will also install a new valve at the outlet of the Trin Warren Tam-boore wetland to provide greater flexibility to control the water level within the wetland to optimise conditions for aquatic vegetation with the aim of improving water quality.

A Dusky Moorhen and a Royal Spoonbill at Trin Warren

MOONEE PONDS CREEK HEALTHY WATERWAYS COLLABORATION

by Tony Smith

Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways program is currently engaged in a 20 year review. Alongside that, with particular concerns about infrastructure investment slated for the low lying Arden precinct, the City of Melbourne engaged with Melbourne Water to look at the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment as a whole. Recognising the limits of traditional methods of stakeholder engagement, the two projects engaged Twyfords who specialise in waterways-related collaborations drawing on Dave Snowden's Cynefin frameworks, which Tony Smith can tell you more about if you need to know.



The first session in February attracted around fifty people, maybe the highest number that has ever come together to talk about Moonee Ponds Creek, at Moonee Valley Bowling/Sports Club in Pattison Street. The second was at Docklands Hub, a short walk beyond the improbable corner of Collins and Bourke. Next was Hume Global Learning Centre at Broadmeadows Station, then Gowanbrae Community Centre with its magnificent overview of the creek valley north and south. The most recent returned to Moonee Valley at Essendon Hockey Centre. All were half day sessions with appropriate food. Numbers are holding in the twenties and everybody seems to be in a happy mood at the end which bodes well for continuing progress.

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek have been well represented at the sessions to date, along with the local councils and other instrumentalities. The City of Moonee Valley Master Plan for the creek, which is close to final endorsement by council, informs the collaboration process, as do a lot of prior reports up to and including the recent RMIT Studio Masters of Landscape Architecture Plan for the creek. The most practical outcome of the collaboration is likely to be working relationship between various parties who will need to work together if any of the many specific projects under discussion are to be achieved.

We have started subgroup site visits to locations of particular interest, starting with a walk from Jacana station to the Gowanbrae session via Jacana south wetland and the retarding basin spillway. A separate visit looking at access to the western bank between Arden and Racecourse roads benefited from the participation of a specialist in contact with rough sleepers. The next site visit on 6 July will meet near the north end of the ice rink and look at the areas slated to be impacted by the West Gate Tunnel proposal around and north of Footscray Road.



WEST GATE TUNNEL EES SUBMISSION and HEARINGS

by Tony Smith

The Environmental Effects Statement for the proposed West Gate Tunnel is "on exhibition" until Monday July 10, with submissions welcome until 5.00pm that day. Kaye Oddie has made a submission on behalf of Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek which she will be able to expand on in a presentation to the Inquiry and Advisory Committee's public hearings which are scheduled to commence on 14 August. The City of Melbourne has also released a draft submission which provides a comprehensive rebuttal of the proposal based on impacts of traffic and on planned brownfield developments in the western quarter of the city and on the important role the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor is expected to play in bringing that end of the city together.

Others are encouraged to make their own submissions and can nominate whether they wish to also make a presentation, that option providing an opportunity to expand and introduce further arguments in what has become a fast moving exercise of community groups in the west and north learning just how much damage is proposed together with its failure to meet its own advertised objectives, let alone community standards for noise and diesel pollution. Official information and propaganda re the proposal can be accessed at <http://westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/wgt/>.

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Sightings



Anna spotted an Australian King Parrot and Musk Lorikeets at the Strathmore Men's Shed.



An Australian White Ibis and an Eastern Great Egret found by Anna near Flemington Bridge.



Anna finally sights a Striated Pardalote in Woodlands Historic Park where Nina found the Kangaroo Mums on Mother's Day.



Pied Currawong, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike and White-faced Heron, all sighted in Strathmore by Anna.



Contributions to Ponderings welcome.
Please send your images and stories to ponderings@mpccc.org

PLANTING KICKS OFF ALONG THE MOONEE PONDS CREEK GOWANBRAE



KINGFORD SMITH ULM RESERVE, GLENROY



CREEKY LINKS

mooneepondscreek.org.au
facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek
friendsofmerricreek.org.au/
foec.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

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.**

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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:

21 August 2017

16 October 2017

PLANTINGS

When	Where	Group/Contact Information
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 30 July	NATIONAL TREE DAY Special events across the municipalities	Information on Council websites and Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Facebook.
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 6 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 13 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/

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT WE HAVE TWO BEE HOTELS BESIDE THE MOONEE PONDS CREEK SHARED TRAIL IN STRATHMORE. THEIR PRIME LOCATION FACING THE MORNING SUN IS IN A PATCH OF WILDFLOWERS AND IS HOPED TO ATTRACT NATIVE BEES, ESPECIALLY THE BLUE-BANDED BEE. THE MATTED FLAX LILY (DIANELLA AMOENA), ONLY DESCRIBED IN 1995 AND LISTED AS ENDANGERED, DEPENDS ON THE "BUZZ POLLINATION" TECHNIQUE SO CLEVERLY PERFECTED BY BLUE-BANDED BEES. PROVIDING BEE HOTELS AND PLANTING DIANELLA AMOENA IT'S PERFECT MATCHMAKING ON THE MOONEE PONDS CREEK.



Mercedes, author of A Hotel for Polly (right) and Greg from the Strathmore Men's Shed, discuss the potential for further hotels along the creek.

