



# Ponderings

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

AUTUMN 2018 | ISSUE 58

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate



## RESIDENTS PROTEST LAND SALE BY KAYE ODDIE

150 people gathered at short notice at a Public Meeting on Sunday 4 March at Outlook Drive, Glenroy to hear about the proposed sale for development by VicTrack of a large wedge of land (3.25ha) extending from the end of Outlook Drive down to the Moonee Ponds Creek. Notice of the proposed sale had only become publicly known two weeks beforehand. President of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, Kelvin Thomson, spoke saying that VicTrack had reneged on the agreement made in 2009 NOT to subdivide the land for development and that it would remain public open space. He highlighted State and local government strategies and policies that supported providing more open space to cater for the forecast increases in population, including Moreland. The Mayor of Moreland City Council, Cr John Kavanagh, along with fellow Councillors Helen Davidson, Dale Martin and Sue Bolton, explained the process, that the Council was being given the first right to purchase the land at the Valuer-General's valuation. However, this is likely to be an eight figure sum and a Resolution was passed urging VicTrack to transfer ownership (at no cost) of the open space to Moreland Council to manage as part of the Moonee Ponds Creek valley, one of Moreland's most significant open space and environmental assets. As Kelvin Thomson said, "Public land owners should stop trying to sell us something we already own."

To follow the progress on this important matter, see [facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneeponds creek](https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneeponds creek).

### NEWS

whereilive.com.au  
09/11/09

## LEADER REPORTS 2009 "VICTORY"



Local resident Michael McNabb and Christine Campbell MP are happy about the land victory. NZ00206

## Parkland stays

A PROPOSAL to subdivide a large chunk of parkland near Moonee Ponds Creek in Glenroy has been abandoned, pleasing the numerous residents who had objected. "The current recreational use of the land at Outlook Drive, Glenroy, will remain," he said. "Gowanbrae resident Michael McNabb said residents were pleased at the news. "Development of this land would have meant a significant loss of open space for local and surrounding communities, and would seriously impact the Moonee Ponds Creek and its environs," he said. Pascoe Vale state Labor MP Christine Campbell said the move was "a huge win for common sense". VicTrack's backdown was a result of the "great work of residents, Moreland City Council and my advocacy". "The community's use of this land as public open space will continue. "This is great news for residents who had objected to the land being developed for housing on the grounds that it would result in increased traffic and loss of amenity to their local area."



## MORELAND NEWS



# JACANA WETLANDS UPGRADE BY LIZ ELLIS

Site visit with Jason Brown, Project Manager from Melbourne Water and Billy Tran, Project Manager from project contractors, CPB. Jason and Billy took us on a tour of the wetlands and pointed out the area of works and improvements to the hydrology of the wetland.

Works have taken less than the estimated 12 months, with only the replanting of vegetation in the wetlands to be completed by mid April.

The works that have been completed include resetting of the rock chutes to create a weir system to improve the way the wetlands works hydrologically. The construction program for the rectification works will allow:

1. The northern and southern wetlands to cope with higher flow events and prevent the flooding of vegetation
2. Minimal impact on the base average flows along Moonee Ponds Creek
3. Improvement of the lining of the sediments ponds to allow for ongoing maintenance and improvement activities to be undertaken.

More information and other improvement works about the Jacana Wetlands Rectification works is available on the Melbourne Water website [melbournewater.com.au/what-we-are-doing/works-and-projects-near-me/all-projects/jacana-wetlands-upgrade](http://melbournewater.com.au/what-we-are-doing/works-and-projects-near-me/all-projects/jacana-wetlands-upgrade).



Water levels and wildlife are returning to normal following the extensive upgrade works



# REMINISCING WITH MAURICE

BY MAURICE AUSTIN

Photo taken c1973 from a rooftop in Kerr Ave, Oak Park looking west/south/west across the yet to be named Strathnaver Reserve. Moonee Ponds Creek is in there somewhere. I'm sure at least one of this Group will recognise a home. The 19th Century cottage visible is in Winifred Street, Oak Park and was transported from Nth Balwyn I believe around 1950. Still there with modifications. A view that now cannot be repeated as it is both built and more wonderfully, treed out.



# MONASH INDUSTRY TEAM INITIATIVE PROJECT REPORTS BY KAYE ODDIE

The Monash Industry Team Initiative (MITI) was undertaken from December 2017 to February 2018 as an example of a small collaborative project for the Moonee Ponds Creek. A multidisciplinary student team from Monash University partnered with Melbourne Water to study and make recommendations on:

- ⇒ Access options into the west bank of the Moonee Ponds Creek, Kensington
- ⇒ Flood-resilient materials for Moonee Ponds Creek infrastructure
- ⇒ Best practices around the world that could overcome the constraints of the Creek between Racecourse Rd and Arden St in Kensington/North Melbourne

Three reports have resulted from the MITI and comment was called from local community groups, such as FoMPC and Kensington Association. Together with the reports, the feedback will inform Melbourne Water, Melbourne City Council and the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration group in 'where to next' on such issues as access and materials.



MITI suggested options for access points along the west bank of the Moonee Ponds Creek, between Macaulay Rd and Arden St in Kensington.

E = existing access point  
S = suggested new access point  
P = pump outlet

**\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE, OUR PONDERING EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED TO \*\*\***  
**fompc.ponderings@gmail.com**



## DATE FOUND! 1979

The date for the demolition of the gas holder that used to stand in Moreland Road, Pascoe Vale has come to light with thanks to Kelvin Thomson and Jennifer Mok.

Local historian and member of the Essendon Historical Society, Peter Willoughby, was seeking the demolition date for an article he was researching on the Essendon Out Station Gas Holder and Depot, where the gas holder stood.

A photograph (1979) of the gas holder and depot, looking south, shows the site adjacent to the straightened course of the Moonee Ponds Creek; also the former course of the Moonee Ponds Creek and its tributary, Five Mile Creek and with Lionsville being a prominent site.

## HEALTHY WATERWAYS STRATEGY

Melbourne Water has been conducting workshops to help implement their Healthy Waterways Strategy and are seeking input on the priority targets and performance objectives. **HAVE YOUR SAY** on topics such as waterways amenity, access, fish, frogs, birds, vegetation, community connection for the Moonee Ponds Creek by going to:

[yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrrong-catchment/moonee-ponds-creek](https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrrong-catchment/moonee-ponds-creek) noting that the Moonee Ponds Creek is included as one of ten management units in the Maribyrrong catchment ('rivers of the west'). **Comment is due by 12 April 2018.**

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





## WALK WITH WURUNDJERI AT FIVE MILE CREEK

Such a lovely setting in the rock circle, and Wurundjeri Elder Uncle David Wandin and son Darren created a beautiful Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. Uncle David spoke of the silcrete tools that were found during the playground construction at 5 Mile Creek and are now safely preserved on the site. The circle is in the shape of the eye of Bunjil, the Wedge-tailed Eagle and placed on the gentle slope so that when it rains tears form and fall to the creek. The boulders, in groups of threes, represent the three clans who met here on days not so long ago.

Kate McCaughey, Moonee Valley's Manager Community Planning addressed the gathering and spoke of the value of green spaces that connect communities and the importance of preserving our indigenous heritage. The ceremony was followed by a community planting. The Murnong or Yam Daisies, a valuable indigenous food source once common in our area, were planted into beds in and around the stone circle and there are plans to return in October for the harvest. Friends of Five Mile Creek stalwarts, Ginny Moylan and Anne Black attended with their children and grandchildren representing decades of care and lobbying, transforming the creek's treeless, weed covered banks into the wonderful habitat that exists today.

## FROG HOTELS COME TO MOONEE VALLEY

Sites around Moonee Valley have been included in a new research project:

**ARTIFICIAL COVER STRUCTURES AS SHELTER AND CALLING SITES FOR FROGS**  
MSc Project, School of Ecosystem and Forest sciences, The University of Melbourne

Student: Jasmin Hartel; Supervisor: A/Prof Kirsten Parris

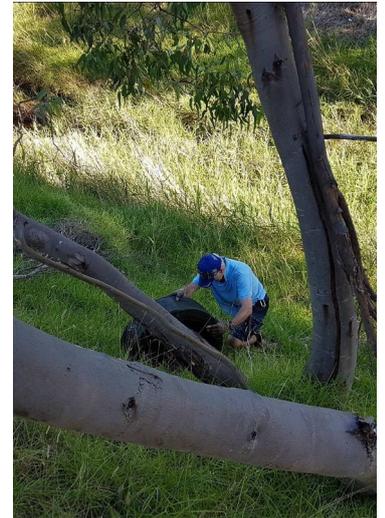
They propose to deploy artificial cover structures (arrays of PVC pipe and Vinidex slotted agricultural pipe) at up to 40 wetlands around Melbourne, to assess whether:

- these are used by frogs of different species as shelter and/or calling sites
- use varies with season
- the pipes provide a benefit to male frogs in noisy environments, by acting as a sound chamber that amplifies their advertisement calls



# CAROLYN LAYTON REPORTS ON CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Thanks to the enthusiastic creek cleaners who turned up for Clean Up Australia Day on the Creek at John Pascoe Fawcner Reserve. Once again this year Gary Manefield was a star, determinedly dragging many large items up the steep banks. Gary is one of the locals who cleans up the creek area throughout the year. Well done, we appreciate your efforts Gary.



## HISTORIC WATERCOLOUR OF OUR CREEK

Richard Ennis, Leader of the Incinerator Gallery's Arts and Culture team has found this watercolour of Moonee Ponds Creek, part of the art gallery's collection.

The artist is none other than Robert Hoddle (Surveyor General in the Port Phillip Colony). The work is called Main's Bridge, Moonee Moonee Ponds and is dated 1847.





## ICONIC MOONEE PONDS CREEK PHOTO IN THE AUSTRALIAN PAVILION CATALOGUE IN VENICE

Landscape Architects Chris Sawyer and Susie Kumar are reflecting on a range of their projects for a catalogue at the 16<sup>th</sup> International Biennale di Architettura, Venice, 26 May to 25 November 2018.

In the process of creating their contribution for the catalogue for the Australian Pavilion, Chris and Susie sought permission to use a photograph in the MPCCC collection 'Union Street Moonee Ponds Creek' 19 May 2008. The photograph shows a picture of the Moonee Ponds Creek concrete drain with a Eucalyptus sapling growing through the cracks. In Susie's words, "The image to our minds is a terrific reminder of the serendipitous nature of nature repairing on its own, a perfect example for the Australian Pavilion theme "Repair"". Chris and Susie skilfully crafted the Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan "to support the hopes and ambitions of the community through the exemplary dedication and commitment of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek".

**While approval for the photo to be used was given under the umbrella of the Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee (MPCCC) collection now in the hands of Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, mystery still surrounds the identity of the photographer, a mystery Ponderings would love to solve.**

The Moonee Ponds Creek will also feature in the official project selection depicting a hypothetical approach for the Arden Macaulay section of the Creek by Monash University.

### 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/)  
[foec.org.au](http://foec.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**.

# Sightings



Sighted in the Jacana Wetlands. A Great Egret, Pacific Black Ducks and Grey Teals and Masked Lapwings by Maurice (above). Silvereye and Nankeen Night Heron by Anna.



Spotted in Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights, a rare sighting by Anna of a Pied Butcherbird way south of it's normal range in the Mallee, keeping company with Galahs and an Eastern Rosella.



Finally the rain's come and Zoe finds Pobblebonk frogs on the Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Trail.



Much excitement in Anna's garden with a visit from an Eastern Spinebill and a return of the Blue-banded Bees.

Contributions to Ponderings welcome. Please send your images and stories to: [fompc.ponderings@gmail.com](mailto:fompc.ponderings@gmail.com)

## BIMONTHLY MEETINGS

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

**DATES:** 16 April 18 June 20 August 18 October (AGM) 17 December



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

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek supports child safe environments for its activities.

# PLANTINGS

When	Where	Group/Contact Information
Sun 15 Apr 10.00am-12.00pm	Hopetoun Reserve, Hopetoun Ave, Brunswick West. WORKING BEE AND MULCHING.	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540
Tue 1 May 10.00am-12.00pm	Kelvin Thomson Reserve, Pascoe Vale. Reopening followed by celebration lunch (Mel 16K11)	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540
Sun 6 May 10.00am-12.00pm	Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy. Meet the Playground. (Melways 16D4)	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540
Sun 27 May 10.00am-12.00pm	Hopetoun Reserve (Melways 29A4) Hopetoun Ave, Brunswick West	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540
Sun 17 Jun 1.30-3.30pm	Ian Musgrove Reserve Koala Cres, Westmeadows (Melways 5H6)	City of Hume Urban Biodiversity Officer 9205 2466
Sun 1 Jul 10.00am-12.00pm	Herbert Street Reserve Herbert Street, Pascoe Vale (Melways 16H8)	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540
Sun 22 Jul 10.00am-12.00pm	Horseshoe Bend, downstream along Creek from Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Hgts (Mel 16D5)	Moonee Valley City Council Conservation Officer 8325 1888
Sun 29 Jul 10.00am-1.00pm	NATIONAL TREE DAY (Melways 16C2) Gowanbrae Community Reserve, Gowanbrae	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540
Sun 29 Jul 10.00am-1.00pm	NATIONAL TREE DAY (Melways 29B11) Travancore Park, Moolton St, Travancore	Moonee Valley City Council Conservation Officer 8325 1888
Sun 26 Aug 1.30-3.30pm	Moonee Ponds Creek, Coopers Hill Drive Westmeadows (Melways 5K7)	City of Hume Urban Biodiversity Officer 9205 2466
Sun 28 Oct 10.00am-12.00pm	Hopetoun Reserve Hopetoun Ave, Brunswick West (Melways 29A4)	Moreland City Council. Natural Resource Management Officer 0403 603 540

**FOR ALL PLANTINGS, PLEASE BRING GLOVES AND DRINKING WATER, WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR.**

**ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek supports child safe environments for its activities.

Last minute cancellations and changes will be posted to our Facebook:

[facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek/](https://facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek/)

**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 OUR WHITE-FACED HERON SUPERMUM FEATURED IN ISSUE 57, RETURNED TO THE JOHN STREET NEST AND PRODUCED THREE MORE HEALTHY FLEDGLINGS. THAT'S NINE BABIES IN ONE SEASON.

