



Ponderings

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

WINTER 2018 | ISSUE 59

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate

Reimagining the Creek

Moonee Valley City Council and Moreland City Council, in partnership with Melbourne Water and Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and the community have developed a draft plan for the Moonee Ponds Creek.

The plan reimagines the creek as a healthy, vibrant destination, which supports native plants and animals, provides green space for leisure and recreation, and helps prevent flooding.

Over the years the creek has been used for agriculture, sewerage, drainage, recreation and more. We want to make sure that the next chapter respects the unique biodiversity and cultural heritage of the creek, whilst meeting the needs of the community.

As the creek means different things to different people, it's really important that the community is involved in each stage of the vision.

By having your say on the draft plan you're helping to create a vision of a future creek that we can all enjoy.

The vision is available at your local library or online at:
www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mpcreek and
www.moreland.vic.gov.au/moonee-ponds-creek

You can submit feedback by:

Emailing to: ourcreek@mvcc.vic.gov.au
and openspace@moreland.vic.gov.au

Artist Robert Lovick

or by Post:

Moonee Valley City Council:

City Design, 9 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds. 3039

Moreland City Council:

Open Space Unit, Moreland City Council,
Locked Bag 10, Moreland. 3058

If you have any questions about the draft, you can call
9243 8888 (Moonee Valley) or **8311 4387** (Moreland).

Feedback is open until Tuesday, 14 August

CONSULTATION SESSIONS

Brunswick West

When: Tuesday 17 July, 6.30 - 7.30 pm

Where: Campbell Turnbull Library Meeting Room,
220 Melville Road, Brunswick West

Flemington

When: Wednesday 18 July, 6.30 - 7.30pm

Where: Flemington Community Centre,
25 Mt Alexander Road, Flemington

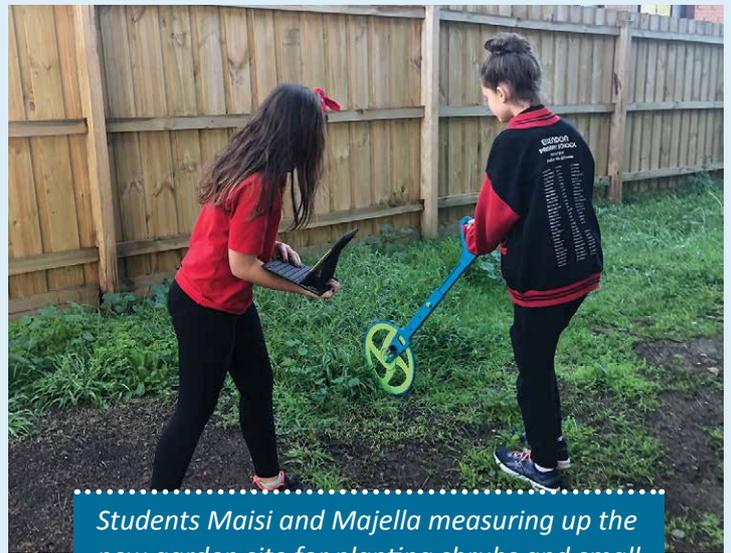
Glenroy

When: Thursday 2 August, 6.30 - 7.30 pm

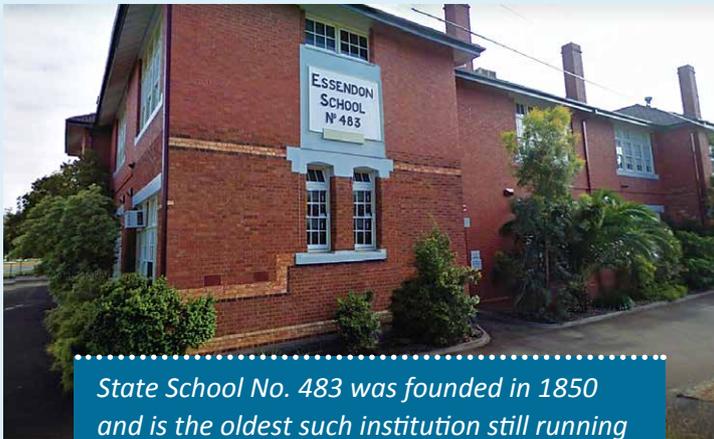
Where: Glenroy Library, 737 Pascoe Vale Road, Glenroy

Creating wildlife habitat at Essendon Primary School

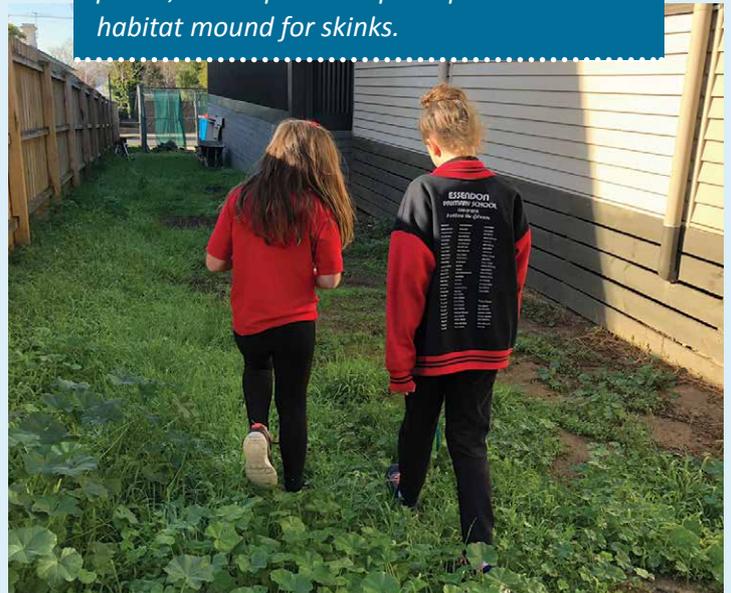
Essendon Primary School has been working towards improving their school grounds, to make them greener, following removal of a number of trees to make way for building access works, leaving an exposed “concrete jungle”, with little cover against the summer sun. The School community of teachers, parents and students have recently been awarded a Landcare Australia grant that will help go towards replacing trees and adding native shrubs and flowering plants in the grounds. They hope that the plants will bring native birds, bees and butterflies to the grounds and provide green spaces for students to enjoy. Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek were contacted for advice on plants and it will be great to share in this adventure with the school community.



Students Maisi and Majella measuring up the new garden site for planting shrubs and small plants, with a path and perhaps even a rock habitat mound for skinks.



State School No. 483 was founded in 1850 and is the oldest such institution still running in Metropolitan Melbourne.



Kelvin Thomson Park Celebrates Redevelopment

Moreland residents, Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, Council Representative and guests gathered to celebrate the redevelopment of Kelvin Thomson Park in Pascoe Vale South, a valuable asset along the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor.

A plaque commemorating the occasion was unveiled followed by the planting of trees and shrubs. Kelvin Thomson celebrating his birthday on the day took the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of the late Max Marshall to the Park.



Mayor John Kavanagh of Moreland City Council with Kelvin Thomson (Fof MPC), .



Alex English (MCC) with volunteers planting out the railway verge.



Hume Biodiversity Officer, Melissa Doherty, gets up close to a Blue-tongue Lizard brought along to the launch.

Abundance of Hume's native wildlife showcased in new guide

Hume Council launched the Fauna of Hume field guide in April to an adoring crowd. The free guide is designed to encourage

residents to explore the diversity of native mammals, reptiles and frogs found in Hume's waterways, woodlands and grasslands

Fauna of Hume is a companion to the popular Birds of Hume field guide and contains images of 61 native species of mammals, frogs and reptiles and includes six of the most common introduced species that can be spotted throughout Hume. Introducing the guide Mayor of Hume Geoff Porter said "Fauna of Hume will encourage residents to get outdoors and appreciate the stunning abundance of wildlife and nature in Hume".

The companion field guide, Birds of Hume, has already proven to be a popular resource for residents, with over 9,000 copies distributed to the community. The Guides can be viewed on line at:

https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Waste_amp_Environment/Environment/Wildlife_and_conservation/Hume_Field_Guides



The beautiful field guides.

Waterways and Wetlands Research Stakeholder Forum

On June 1, Melbourne Water held a most informative forum of presentations by researchers working in conjunction with Melbourne Water. It was introduced by Melbourne Water's Manager of Research, Judy Blackbeard, who described how they were responsible for 400km of waterways and over 500 stormwater systems. Their aim was to achieve optimum biodiversity and water management through evidence-based decision making, adaptive management/continuous improvement, informing waterway management cycle and knowledge sharing, collaborative research and collaboration with practitioners.

It was interesting hearing about research projects supporting these objectives and, down the track, that will be relevant to our waterways, including the Moonee Ponds Creek and its storm water drainage systems. Presenters at the forum were from various organisations including the University of Melbourne; CESAR (Centre for Environmental Stress and Adaptation Research) – a Melbourne group committed to a sustainable future, working in partnership with clients, using world leading science, technology and research to provide practical and innovative solutions in agricultural pest control and wildlife conservation); CAPIM (Centre for Aquatic Pollution Identification and Management at the University of Melbourne). Topics included: Improving species diversity by restoring functional links between riparian zones and streams; Ecological benefits and costs of stormwater wetlands; Fish-based measures for assessing pollution in waterways; Why are new housing estates a hot spot for synthetic pyrethroid pollution; and one for the future – Freshwater biodiversity monitoring using environmental DNA (eDNA).

 Kaye Oddie



Rakali spotted in Moonee Ponds Creek Strathmore

A Rakali, Australia's native water rat, was spotted in Moonee Ponds Creek at Nursery Corner Strathmore. Days later there was another report at the bridge over the Creek beside the Split Soccer Club Oval. These

shy creatures are hard to see as they skim rapidly just below the surface. The distinctive white tail seals the identification. This is good biodiversity news for our Creek at a time when the potential restoration of concreted sections downstream edges closer to a reality.

Flying along the Moonee Ponds Creek

A stunning series of videos have been produced by Melbourne Water. Using a camera attached to a drone the creek is showcased in all its glory from the headwaters to the Yarra..



The Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment begins to the north of Tullamarine Airport in farmland. The creek itself then meanders through Woodlands Historic Park and suburbs such as Westmeadows, Jacana, Strathmore Heights, Oak Park, Pascoe Vale South, Essendon, Brunswick West, Moonee Ponds, Flemington, North Melbourne and Kensington, before meeting the confluence with the Yarra River at Docklands, under the Bolte Bridge. This video focuses on the Southern Section of the creek starting at the Jacana Retarding Basin

Gowanbrae where flanked by parkland, walking and bike tracks it flows south through residential areas into the heavily built up areas of West Melbourne before joining the Yarra River at Docklands, under the Bolte Bridge.

This footage was commissioned by Melbourne Water to provide the community with an overview of the diversity of the environment and land use throughout the catchment.

For more information on Moonee Ponds Creek visit Melbourne Water's website. Enjoy the great movie images here: <https://vimeo.com/236915078>

Friends of Woodlands Historic Park expect to be planting on 4 August and 1 September.

One of our planting sites this year will be on the headwaters of Greenvale Creek in Weeroona Cemetery conservation zone, where we will be planting grasses. The other main site will be twin dams paddock where we are in the third year of a revegetation project which is likely to take many more years.

This year we will be planting mainly Yellow Box and wattles. We have received a grant for materials which covers both sites and the amount of planting we can do should be limited only by the number of volunteers. Since everything needs to be protected from Kangaroos there is a lot of work involved.

Contact: Jeff Triplett, 0404 830 227, or click to go to Woodland Historic Park website.

Creeky Links



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek: mooneepondscreek.org.au
[facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek](https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek)

Friends of Merri Creek: friendsofmerricreek.org.au/

Friends of Edgars Creek: foec.org.au

Friends of Steele Creek: [facebook.com/FriendsOfSteeleCreekInc](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSteeleCreekInc)

Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley: fmvonline.com

Bowerbird discussion website: bowerbird.org.au/projects/5249

Woodlands Historic Park: whp.altervista.org/

The Werribee River Association: werribeeriver.org.au

Contact us if you have any other links to share

Creek Watch



Please help by reporting rapid change of water levels or water discolouration along the creek:

- 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 in the creek. This needs to be **urgently reported to the EPA.**

Jacana Wetland Upgrade Completed

The Jacana Wetland Upgrade is complete with birdlife returning to the rejuvenated stretches of the wetland and cyclists and pedestrians enjoying the now completed new section of shared path alongside the Moonee Ponds Creek.

Click on the link [here](#) for more information and enjoy the wonderful video created during the final weeks.



The new shared trail along the Moonee Ponds Creek

The causeway at the northern end could one day be part of a walking trail.

Shading and cooling at Jacana Wetlands

Melbourne Water is shading, cooling and greening the Jacana Wetlands to make them enjoyable for more days of the year, enhancing the amenity and providing access for recreation and improving the health and wellbeing of the local community.

We'll be planting 170 native trees (Red Gums) to create shade for walkers and joggers along the shared paths and around 12,500 native shrubs will create understory garden-beds between the path and wetland so dog access to important frog habitat is reduced.

Melbourne Water doesn't work alone. We have collaborated with the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek to select trees and garden-bed species that will enhance the natural biodiversity of the area. Supported by Hume City Council, the Jacana Wetlands Urban Cooling Program is part of a Melbourne wide Project that aims to deliver 30 hectares of shade in public places by 2021 shading, cooling and greening public places across Melbourne to make them enjoyable for more days of the year.

Improving green spaces for cooling can occur through providing trees and vegetation for shade, and water to improve vegetation health and evapotranspiration, or both. Vegetation

Shading and Cooling at Jacana Wetlands

Melbourne Water is committed to enhancing life and liveability in your area.

The Jacana Wetlands Urban Cooling Project is creating tree canopy over this trail so that it can be enjoyed for more days of the year, improving the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Tree canopy will create shade to improve the comfort of cyclists and pedestrians by protecting them from summer sun. Tree shade is expected to reduce air temperatures by up to 4 degrees.

We'll be planting 170 native trees (Red Gums) to create shade as well as 12,500 native shrubs creating understory garden-beds between the path and wetland so that dog access to important frog habitat is reduced.

Planting is expected to take place in May/June 2018 and will be maintained for a number of years to ensure that trees and vegetation are established.

Melbourne Water doesn't work alone. We have collaborated with the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek to select trees and garden-bed species that will enhance the natural biodiversity of the area.

Supported by Hume City Council, this project forms part of our Urban Cooling Program which aims to transform 30 hectares of public land with shade and cooling by 2021.

We'd love to hear what you think about this urban cooling project - email us at Urban.Cooling@melbournewater.com.au



When it is warm and sunny, tree shade alone can make it feel 10 degrees cooler.



For more information on this project: Visit www.melbournewater.com.au



Photographed by Andre Braakhuis.

and water used to cool green space can also provide habitat, improve amenity, and help manage stormwater flows to waterways. The Jacana Tree canopy will create shade to improve the comfort of cyclists and pedestrians by protecting them from the summer sun. When it is warm and sunny, just tree shade alone can make it feel 10 degrees cooler.

By working together we can create greener and cooler, places to enjoy all year round.

Contact Us

Phone: **1800 290 769**

Email: urban.cooling@melbournewater.com.au



Reclaiming Kensington

One immediate dividend from Melbourne Water's Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Collaboration has been to direct serious attention to access issues along the western bank of the lower creek, particularly between Racecourse Road and Arden Street. The issue was raised early in the Collaboration by the Kensington Association with Liz Forbes keeping it on the agenda with knowledgeable support from Mary Chapman representing Melbourne City Council and Friends of MPC Secretary Kaye Oddie.

Macaulay Road divides this part of the western bank into two quite distinct sections, to the north the old straight square central channel was replaced by a more winding course late last century, leaving the wide expanse between the levees to go wild, lush vegetation largely obscuring various drainage confinement structures including the wide litter trap across the middle of the picture. This section is largely out of view behind the line of mostly modern commercial low rise along Stubbs Street with primary access shown upper right in the image at Parsons Street. The bank is crossed by several drains but walkable end to end, though without clear exits at either end, the point at hand.

It had been possible to walk under Macaulay Road bridge and continue south despite infrastructure close either side, but after an early Collaboration site visit accompanied by informative council agents with responsibility for rough sleepers, it was decided elsewhere to excavate the ground under that side of the bridge to end its long occupancy, breaking the walking link. At the same time Melbourne

Water has opened a gate behind the Bent Street substation which provides better access to the full length of the higher, narrower, and generally drier bank south towards Arden Street overlooking the wider waters of the former Railway Canal. So one step forward and one step back for general access. Outside Macaulay station the narrow creek channel opens into the wide tidal channel, providing a very accessible point for at least informal monitoring of sea level rise.

With government talk of this area becoming the green space core of the Arden-Macaulay redevelopment precinct, its future is clouded by road building projects and confused by a tangle of land titles and maintenance responsibilities.

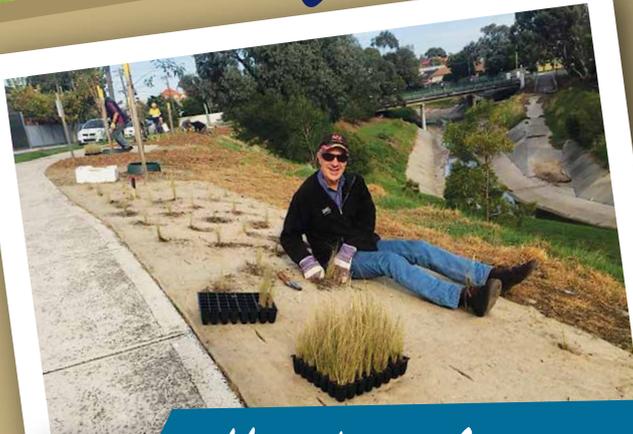
With government talk of this area becoming the green space core of the Arden-Macaulay redevelopment precinct, its future is clouded by

road building projects and confused by a tangle of land titles and maintenance responsibilities. So better short term access should lead to wider utilisation and that to higher expectations for future protection and improvement. Before being trashed in Melbourne's early years, this part had been a series of ponds through which outflow from the creek spilt into the beautiful blue, salty West Melbourne Lagoon.

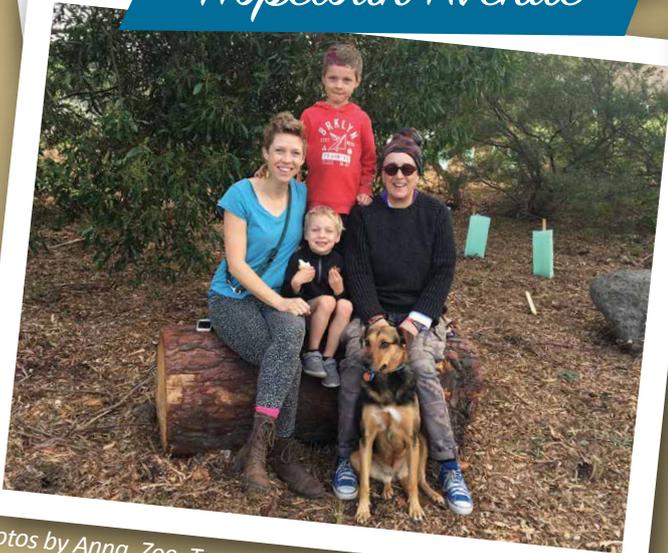
The recent meeting of the Collaboration working group on western bank access was also informed by a 35 page report from the Monash Industry Team Initiative (MITI). MITI "is a program by Monash University that partners multidisciplinary student teams with industry partners. From December 2017 to February 2018, three teams were partnered with Melbourne Water. The team that worked on the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration project consisted of three students and were supervised by project manager, Julie Francis."

 **Tony Smith**

Plantings



Hopetoun Avenue



Photos by Anna, Zoe, Tony, and MCC.

The *greening* of Moreland

During the first half of this year, Moreland was lucky to share access to a **Green Army** team with Maribyrnong Council, with a team of 10 young adults working 2 days per week with Councils Open Space Unit. The team spent a lot of this time along the Moonee Ponds Creek doing a range of bushland enhancement tasks such as black plastic and rubbish removal, weeding, mulching and large scale planting. The team finished up at the end of May with a few members having enjoyed the experience so much that they were now seeking paid employment in the environmental management field.

Landscape architect firm Thompson Berril Landscape Design in partnership with Alluvium (hydrologists) have been engaged by Council to help develop a **Conservation and Development Plan for the Westbreen Creek** corridor from the Northern Golf Course to its confluence with the Moonee Ponds Creek in Pascoe Vale. It is anticipated that the plan will provide recommendations to enhance environmental and amenity values, identify WSUD opportunities, support appropriate

Kingsford Smith Ulm



The Green Army

MORELAND

Update

recreation and transport connections whilst still allowing the functionality of the services provided by the easement. Council will be seeking community input on the draft plan in the new financial year.

Playground upgrades are soon to be completed at **Bryant Family Reserve (Oak Park)** and **Fraser Reserve (Brunswick West)**, both with good access from and to the Moonee Ponds Creek parkland. Be sure to test them out.

The season of community planting started with a glorious morning at **Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve** ably assisted by the 1st Oak Park Scouts. Complementing last year's plantings, the winding path from the Scout Hall down to the Creek is looking spectacular.

At **Hopetoun Reserve, Brunswick West** in late May, over 700 plants were installed on the day which included a number of local families, many travelling to the site by bike or scooter. This planting has been further enhanced with another 500 plants installed by contractors along the steep banks. New seating and signage is due to be installed at the site in July. These works have been supported by a Melbourne Water Corridors of Green grant.

Reminiscing with Maurice



Our meandering creek 33 years ago. A Tiger Moth joy flight out of Essendon Airport in 1985 gave me the chance to take many photos. This one is Strathmore North Primary School and surrounds. It has altered somewhat since. The house in Mascoma Street I lived in for a year in 1968 is visible in image.



Photograph by David Widdowson

Babepal Paenmirring (Mother's Tears) wins HART Award

Our beautiful ceremonial rock circle at Five Mile Creek has won a Highly Commended Award in this year's HART (Helping Achieve Reconciliation Together) Awards.

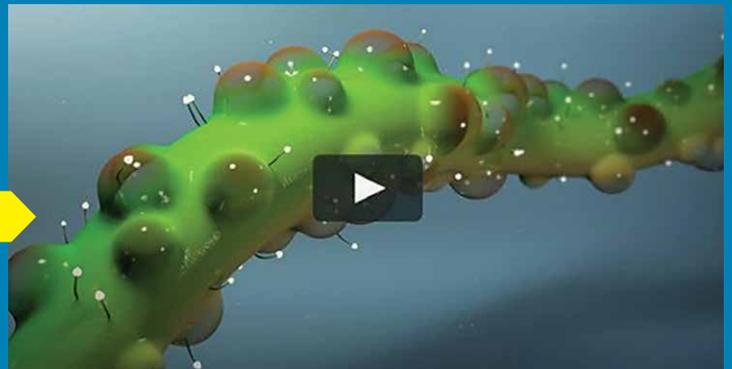
The HART Awards are presented by Reconciliation Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association to recognise Victorian initiatives that contribute to local reconciliation outcomes. The launch of Babepal Paenmirring featured in our Autumn Ponderings. Further activities and plantings in our mission to reintroduce the Murnong (yam daisy) and other local native plants to the area are planned for October.

Swinburne Uni abstract animation of Growling Grass Frog Calls:

<https://vimeo.com/268710165/78a4c27e82>

Put your headphones on and listen out for your recordings in there (+other frog species)! The animation responds directly to the calls and can be fed new data continuously, even from live recordings streamed from songmeters in the field.

It has been promoted through the new media arts networks so the story of growling grass frogs is getting out to a non-traditional audience for biodiversity issues. The animation was presented with very high definition speakers on a wall length digital screen at the gala launch of Melbourne Knowledge Week and formed the visual and acoustic backdrop to a welcome to country ceremony. Many people I spoke



VIMEO.COM

Melbourne Knowledge Week 2018 - The Hub - Growling Grass Frog Visualisation

to on the night had never heard of GGFs so it was great to use this for awareness raising.

 **James Frazer**, Waterwatch Coordinator, Customer and Strategy, Melbourne Water

Sightings

Birds spotted by Anna during her Autumn counts for Birdata.

MPC Westmeadows

Australian Hobby



MPC Strathmore

White-faced herons



Tarnuk Westmeadows

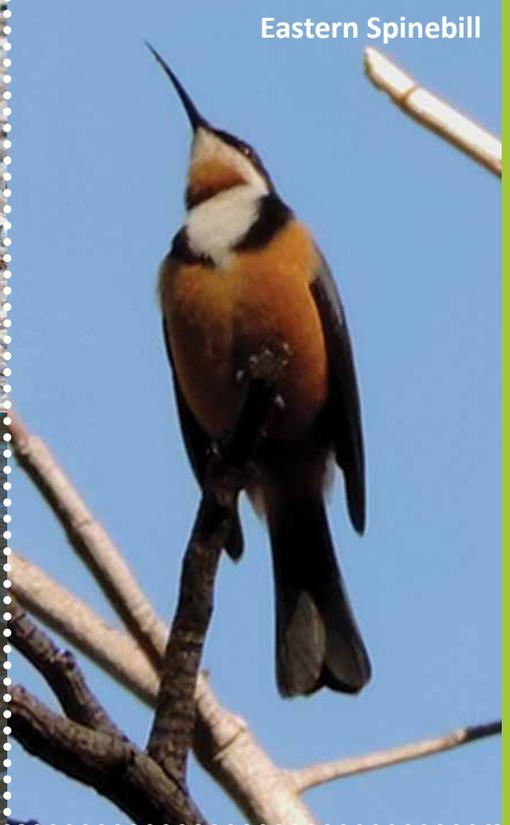
Rainbow Lorikeet



Willie Wagtail



Eastern Spinebill



North Jacana Wetland

Nankeen Kestrel



Australasian Grebe



Grey Butcherbird

Laughing Kookaburra



Black-fronted Dotterals



Tawny Frogmouths



Hoary-headed Grebe



Ponderings
welcome photos and
written contributions
from our readers. Please
send contributions to:
fompc.ponderings@gmail.com

Winter Planting Calendar

Last minute cancellations and changes will be posted to our [Facebook](#) page.

When	Where	Group/Contact Information
Sun 22 July 10.00am–12.00pm	Horseshoe Bend, downstream along Creek from Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights (Mel 16D5)	Moonee Valley City Council Conservation Officer 8325 1888
Sun 22 July 1.30–3.30pm	Ian Musgrove Reserve Koala Cres, Westmeadows (Melways 5H6)	City of Hume Urban Biodiversity Officer 9205 2466
Sun 29 July 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 July 10.00am–1.00pm	NATIONAL TREE DAY (Melways 29B11) Travancore Park, Moolton St, Travancore	Moonee Valley City Council Conservation Officer 8325 1888
Sun 26 August 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/friendsofmooneeponds creek/](https://www.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.

facebook



Join our “Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek” Facebook Group to keep up with planting dates, events and creek news.

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/join-us/ and complete the membership form or write to: **PO Box 54, Essendon Victoria. 3040.**

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



News from the...
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

Bimonthly meetings

Held the following dates at the Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds commencing at 6:30pm.

Meeting dates:

- 20 August • 18 October (AGM) • 17 December •

Did you know?

Relief is in Sight at Gowanbrae. Moreland City Council is building a public toilet in Gowanbrae along the shared path near Adelaide Boulevard and the Rotunda.

This has been a long time coming and good news for families who bring their children to the park and for all path users who pass through Gowanbrae along MPC.

Thanks for the update, Andre and Lori.