



Ponderings

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

SPRING 2018 | ISSUE 60

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate

Ocean Crusaders



Paddle Against Plastic

It was just a matter of luck that Carolyn Layton chanced upon a large pile of rubbish at Docklands while on a ride along the Moonee Ponds Creek with students from Penola College. Her investigations led to finding the Lower Moonee Ponds Creek the centre of attention with a clean up in progress and a “Melbourne Paddle Against Plastic” event planned for the following Sunday.

Thanks Carolyn, because what unfolded was truly inspirational.

Ocean Crusaders Founder and Managing Director, Ian Thomson, had harnessed a wonderful group of dedicated organisations. These included Beach Patrol Australia, Love our Streets, Boomerang Alliance, the Cleanwater Group and Baykeeper, all donating their time and energy.

Aquayak donated the use of their kayaks and the “Dragon Masters” Dragon Boat Club provided two impressively decorated craft and crew. The Ocean Crusaders launch completed the awesome fleet. Base Camp was set up where the Moonee Ponds Creek enters the Yarra.

Despite the chill and threat of rain 122 volunteers signed in and

set out upstream. While walkers were confined to the right bank, kayaks gave access to both sides of the Creek. With impressive precision bags were filled by bank crews and taken down to the creek edge to be picked up by the kayaks, transferred to the dragon boats and launch and delivered to camp.

The bags were weighed and documented, then after a triumphant group photo the rubbish was sorted and piled

on to a huge skip. It’s very daunting that in just two hours 938kg of rubbish was collected and with a large percentage being lightweight plastic and polystyrene the volume of rubbish was staggering. Thousands of drink containers in the mix sent out a clear endorsement for the campaign

to introduce a Container Deposit Scheme.

The event was declared one of the best for the Australia-wide Paddle Against Plastic campaign and more events for Victoria are planned.

More information can be found on the Ocean Crusaders website <http://oceancrusaders.org/mooneepap/>





Dilapidated buildings on the site will most likely be dismantled.

Nursery Corner Reserve Master Plan

Moonee Valley City Council is preparing a master plan to help shape the future of Nursery Corner Reserve, Strathmore. Council is keen for local residents and stakeholders to contribute to the plan

A community ideas session is being held at the Reserve on Sunday 14 October from 9.30-11.30am. Council invites the community to come along and discuss ideas and possible options for the open space area. Feedback gathered will be used to prepare a draft Nursery Corner Reserve Master Plan which will go out for public consultation in early 2019.

Have your say about the master plan

You can provide feedback by Sunday, 21 October 2018 in the following ways:

- ▶ posting a feedback form to Council using the reply paid envelope provided
- ▶ emailing parkimprovements@mvcc.vic.gov.au
- ▶ emailing to City Design, Moonee Valley City Council, PO Box 126, Moonee Ponds 3039.

For more information about the Nursery Corner Master Plan contact Council's City Design team on 9243 8888 or email: <https://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/latest-news/nursery-corner-in-the-communities-hands.aspx>

Moonee Valley's new Advocacy Coordinator

Meghan Hopper has recently joined Moonee Valley City Council as their Advocacy Coordinator. In this role she works within Council's Communications team where she is responsible for progressing the Advocacy Strategy, which lists eight high priority projects for which Council is seeking support and funding from other levels of Government. One of the top eight projects chosen by

Moonee Valley Councillors for inclusion in the Strategy is the revitalisation of the Moonee Ponds Creek at Brosnan Crescent. Meghan comes to Moonee Valley already very familiar with this part of the Creek, as she was previously a Councillor and Mayor in the City of Moreland, and throughout Meghan's childhood her grandmother lived in Margaret Street, Oak Park.





"LAKE" The Melbourne Fringe Festival comes to Strathmore and the Moonee Ponds Creek



Devised and performed by visual artist and performer Nick Barlow, "Lake" set out to explore two of our most precious resources, water and people, and in turn provided a powerful statement about the issue of the way our disposable society impacts on our local waterways.

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek had joined with Nick to collect plastic that would be used in his costume making workshop on the morning of the performance. We cleaned up the creek behind Cross Keys Reserve, a symbolic precious section not lined in concrete. Nick took the depressing collection home and washed it sparkling clean for the costume making.



Performance day arrived and the morning was spent in the Cross Keys Pavilion creating costumes. In the afternoon water was carried in buckets from the Creek to the Pop-Up Park in Strathmore and emptied into a large temporary pond. Choosing a very public walk between the Moonee Ponds Creek and his Lake installation, Nick captured a much larger audience adding to the spectators who braved a chilly afternoon to watch Nick's masterful performance. Using cardboard boxes Nick created a constantly changing sculpture evoking both the city and the forest. As the hours passed the battle to keep the sculpture standing intensified, a metaphor for our world, till darkness fell and flood lights created the final images.



Photos by Anna, Nina and Nick.

“CHAIN OF PONDS COLLABORATION”

by Julie Francis and Kaye Oddie

The Moonee Ponds Collaboration began in February 2017 to test a new way of urban waterway management. It is a network of 18 stakeholders, with 10 supporting partners, who are working together to transform the Moonee Ponds Creek into an iconic waterway for Melbourne. Those involved include government agencies, community groups, water and road authorities, businesses, not-for-profits and academics. As a sign of commitment, the partners will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding on October 23. The group is now named “Chain of Ponds Collaboration”. You can learn more about the group in this [3.5 minute video](#)

The Collaboration group is focussed on the whole catchment, not just the creek corridor, on co-ordination of efforts and on action rather than just planning. This ‘action’ focus is possible because the group is aligning their efforts with plans that are being developed, including the Chain of Ponds Plan from Moonee Valley and Moreland Councils, Melbourne Water’s Healthy Waterways Strategy and other policies and strategies around open space, health and wellbeing, greening and ecology, climate adaptation and urban renewal.

Foci for the operation of the group also include governance, mapping and research and advocacy for investment in Creek projects. A prospectus of ideas and projects is being prepared and a co-ordinator is to be appointed.

Already the group has ensured coordination across agencies for master-planning and delivery of on-ground works; has highlighted the value of the creek corridor and enhancement as public open space; has resulted in multi-council research projects; and alignment between parties on submissions on major development projects.

The innovative approach to urban waterway management has resulted in much interest across the waterways and urban planning sectors, as it demonstrates a different way of working together. Collaboration along the Creek is gaining momentum.

These are exciting outcomes, and show the strength of having a connected and coordinated network of organisations and advocates for the Moonee Ponds Creek – the strength of collaboration translated into action and outcomes for the Creek.

INVITATION

On Wednesday 24th October, key dignitaries from a range of organisations will converge at JP Fawkner Reserve for a signing ceremony for the Chain of Ponds Collaboration Memorandum of Understanding.

The ceremony is an exciting symbolic event, acknowledging and celebrating the 18 partner organisations who have committed to work together towards the shared vision:

To transform the Moonee Ponds Creek into an iconic Melbourne waterway that provides high social and environmental benefits

When: Wednesday 24 October 2018

Time: 10:30am

Where: JP Fawkner Reserve, 1A Francis Street, Oak Park

RSVP: mooneeponds.creek@melbournewater.com.au or phone **9679 7690**.



Healthy Waterways Strategy

In our Winter Ponderings we made an error in reporting the Waterways Research Forum drawing this response from Dr Judy Blackbeard, Manager Applied Research, Integrated Planning : “Thanks for sending the Ponderings newsletter which I enjoyed reading. Nice to see the Waterways Research Forum mentioned. One small detail... MW is responsible for around 8,600km of waterways, and not

480km as mentioned in Ponderings. The latter figure would certainly make our job a lot easier!”

Thanks for the correction Judy. May we make amends with this link for our readers

<https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/healthy-waterways/western-waterways-get-boost>

Park improvements in Moreland planned for 2019

Park improvements at Holbrook Reserve in Brunswick West have commenced. Works will involve path resurfacing, new park infrastructure (seats, signs and fencing) and a significant amount of revegetation along the creek and Citylink noise walls to build on previous works completed by Melbourne Water and Citylink. There will be opportunities for community involvement at a planting day in Autumn 2019.

Big changes are in the pipeline just a little further upstream at Sheils Reserve on Hope Street, West Brunswick. Whilst not on

the creek itself, the proposed works are based on creating bird habitat and will provide an important refuge along an otherwise constrained section of the creek. The park upgrade will also include new spaces for active, water and nature play, storm water harvesting and retention, BBQ facilities, a community orchard and extensive revegetation. The concept plan is available on Councils website. <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/about-us/projects/park-playground-and-creek-projects/sheils-reserve-redevelopment/>



DID YOU KNOW?

Kookaburras have been seen and heard along the upper Moonee Ponds Creek. These discovered in Westmeadows and at least one "sitting in an old gum tree".



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.**

Kernan Avenue

A small reserve along the creek at the end of Kernan Avenue, Pascoe Vale will be upgraded over the next year. Much of this land was surplus VicRoads land that Council purchased to protect the valuable open space corridor along the creek. Council will officially take ownership of this land in November this year. Proposed upgrade works will involve collaborating with the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek in creating and connecting revegetation areas, improving connections through to Tate Park. There will also be acknowledgement of the contributions that previous residents Max and Mavis Marshall made to this area over many years.



Lori talks through the Kernan Ave Reserve landscape plans with a local resident.

Westbreen Creek

Council is currently working on a Draft Conservation and Development Plan for the Westbreen Creek open space corridor from the Northern Golf Course to its confluence with the Moonee Ponds Creek in Pascoe Vale. A draft of the plan will be available for community consultation within the next month.



A season of success

A total of 5900 plants and trees were planted along the Moonee Ponds and Westbreen Creeks in Moreland at sites in Gowanbrae(NTD), Glenroy, Pascoe Vale and West Brunswick



Hopetoun Avenue planting and plant sale, Sunday 28 October.

Come celebrate Moreland's final planting day for the season together with a Brunswick Communities for Nature Plant Sale. Plenty of brilliant advice will be available on establishing native gardens and creating nature strip plantings.

Sunday October 28th 10.00 – 12.00 Hopetoun Avenue, Brunswick West (Melway 29 A4)



Travancore Park

On Sunday, 29 July more than 150 community members had their gardening gloves on for National Tree Day at Travancore Park.

So many hands made light work and more than 3,640 seedlings nestled into their new home! The incredible effort will add to the native plants along the new bike path and contribute to Moonee Valley's wildlife corridors.

Photo: Zoe



National Tree Day celebrations



Gowanbrae

A really stunning attendance at the Moreland National Tree Day event at Gowanbrae included Scout Groups from Strathmore and Fawkner, locals, Friends of MPC and many of our regular planters. With over 100 volunteers on site, 800 trees and shrubs were planted with ease and it was great to have those young legs managing the tricky slope. Thanks

to the City of Moreland for providing wonderful after lunch entertainment. We were treated to a brilliant display by Full Flight Birds of Prey with a young lass not much bigger than Zorro the Wedge-tailed Eagle informing and entertaining the large crowd with ease.



Oil spills and pollution threats to the Moonee Ponds Creek



On the 24/08/2018 oil and other substances were released into a drain that discharges into the Moonee Ponds Creek next to the Koala Crescent footbridge upstream of Mickleham Road, Westmeadows. Melbourne Water and EPA were promptly notified. Officers attended the site and took measures to mitigate the impacts on the waterway.

Melbourne Water placed a boom in the Creek to stop the spread and in the following days removed pollutant material with an eductor truck. Investigations are being carried out to locate the source of the spill and it's a worrying fact that the Creek is constantly under threat due to criminal activity



This event was only days before the Factory Fire Incident in Footscray with its resulting devastating effect on Stony Creek.

Moonee Ponds Creek is also listed in Melbourne Airport's recent release of information on PFODS contamination though not as seriously contaminated as Deep Creek which showed PFOS levels two thousand times the level considered safe for recreational use and a staggering 200,000 times the safe level for drinking water.

Finally another report was made to Melbourne Water and the EPA over substances entering Westbreen Creek and seen at the confluence with Moonee Ponds Creek at Gaffney Street.



Reminiscing with Maurice...

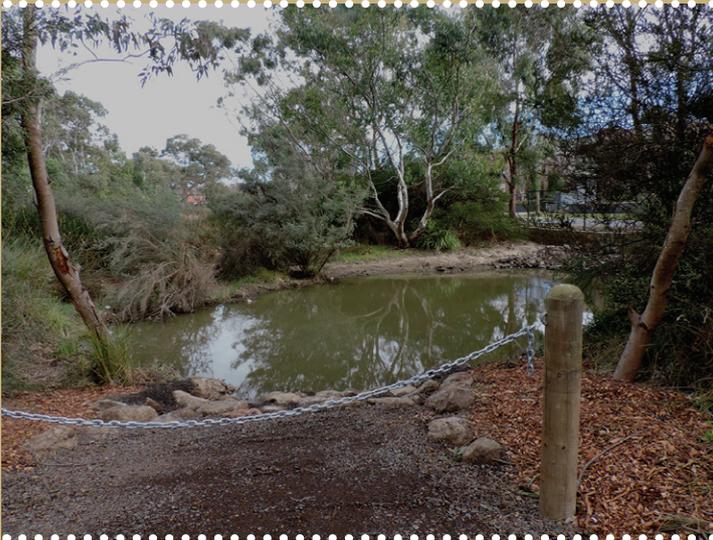
You might need to know this area in Oak Park to appreciate the huge changes since this photo taken February 1987. View from New Road down to Devereaux Street. Note the horses on Moonee Ponds Creek bank and Essendon Airport on horizon. Seem to remember a Pony Club....? The block in the foreground now has three separate dwellings on it. Impossible to take this view now, the viewpoint not available.

Photo: Maurice Austin



Signs of the times

More signs are popping up along the Moonee Ponds Creek in Hume and wetland improvements continue. Cambridge Gardens Estate in Attwood has a fresh pond and a new swale. The wetlands here have been a success story with regular additions to the Frog Census and Birdata Citizen Science projects.



Hume frogs after dark

Biodiversity Office, Melissa Doherty, presented a lively and informative “Frogs After Dark” evening at the Hume Global Learning Centre. A brilliant Powerpoint Presentation, diagrams, models and sound recordings were enjoyed by a diverse, enthusiastic audience. Following the presentation Melissa led the group on an excursion down to the North Jacana Wetland where much to Anna’s delight the frogs were

on song. The icing on the cake of a very successful night was the recruitment of one of the participants who that very same night downloaded the Melbourne Water Frog Census App, made a recording and sent it in to the Frog Census. Citizen Science at its best. Melissa has a Birds of Hume Talk and Walk planned for October but both events are already fully booked!



Scones and Scouts a winning combination

Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek joined with the 1st Tullapark Scout Group and members of the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force to plant 700 wildflowers and shrubs along the Moonee Ponds Creek in front of the Scout Hall in Westmeadows. Sixty-eight volunteers of all ages made light

HUME

Update

work of the task with plenty of time to indulge in that famous Devonshire Tea. Giving the Scouts a patch to care for is a wonderful way to encourage youngsters to learn about their local environment.



Incinerator Art Award

The Moonee Ponds Creek has once again been the inspiration for artistic endeavour with Joseph L. Griffith* presenting a video installation entitled “Fountains for Moonee Ponds Creek”.

Joseph’s work is one of thirty-three shortlisted entries in the running for the \$10,000 Boathouse Award, a \$3,000 Incinerator Gallery Award and a \$1,000 People’s Choice Award.

The Incinerator Art Award “pays homage to the legacy of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony who believed that art and architectural practices are ethical enterprises that should aim to bring about positive social change”

The awards were announced on Friday 12 October.

Details:

Exhibition dates:

Saturday 13 October – Sunday 25 November

Venue: Incinerator gallery

Address: 180 Holmes Road, Moonee Ponds VIC 3039



* Joseph is a Friend of Moonee Ponds Creek .

Sightings

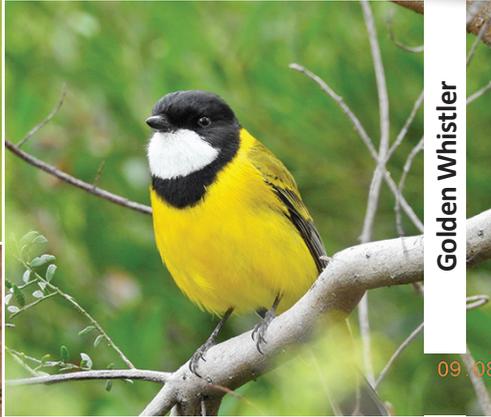
Dennis Hocking has been finding a superb collection of Cuckoos, Kestrels and colourful characters around the Jacana Wetlands.



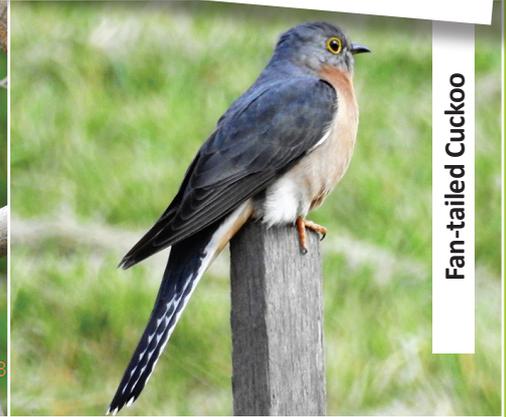
Black-fronted Dotterel



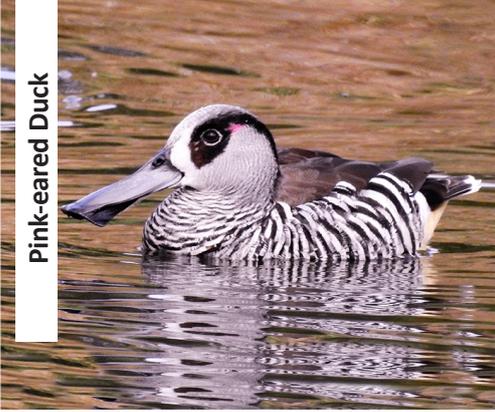
Nankeen Kestrel



Golden Whistler



Fan-tailed Cuckoo



Pink-eared Duck



Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo



Scarlet Robin



Red-capped Robin



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos



Golden-headed Cisticola

Awards and a gift from Site Office

Chris Sawyer and Susie Kumar who skilfully crafted the Chain of Ponds Masterplan have gifted to the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek a copy of the catalogue from the Australian Pavilion at the 2018 Venice Biennale Architettura. It's a wonderful document exploring many aspects of the theme "Repair" and the interaction of architecture in the landscape and an acknowledgment of the damage that has been done to the Australian environment that needs and deserves repair. The Moonee Ponds Creek features in Chris and Susie's essay in the Catalogue.

A note in the Catalogue reads "Dear Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, We are ever so grateful for your generous and kindest support. Such a privilege to work so closely with your inspiring group". The feeling is mutual and the catalogue is a wonderful addition to our collection.

In further excellent news, "Chain of Ponds - An Action Plan for Moonee Ponds Creek - SiteOffice" received an Award of Excellence in Landscape Planning at the 2018 VIC Landscape Architecture Awards and progresses to the National Awards. Congratulations Chris and Susie.

STOP PRESS! Site Office won the *Landscape Planning Award of Excellence* at the national awards.

Chain of Ponds Consultation Sessions

Venta Slizys and Alex English hosted three successful consultation sessions giving Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and residents of Moonee Valley and Moreland the chance to "Have Your Say" on the Moonee Ponds Creek Masterplan.

The impressive Draft Document was also on display in libraries across the two Councils, Ideas and concerns raised at the sessions are being evaluated along with submissions received. Updates will be posted on the Council Websites.



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:

- 18 October (AGM) • 17 December •

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