



# Ponderings

Seasonal newsletter of the  
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek  
Spring 2021 | Issue 72

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate



Simply Dedicated: Julie Law never stops caring for the creek (above) & Bob Steadman (below) just keeps on watering



### Who is behind all of this? meet the faces of MPCCC...

**Elissa**  
I'm a horticulturalist too (we're plant lovers out here) and live in Gladstone Park with two dogs (Basil & Kiana) & a possum (Chloe). I love my local environment, which happens to be the Westmeadows end of Moonee Ponds Creek. I've been walking my dogs down there for 20 years now. It's a place which provides me with some peace. It's where I first got to know my indigenous plants and the joys of discovering little remnants hanging on there. My passion has been grasslands and the herbs or 'predators' that are to be found in them. After working for Home City Council in the environmental field for 4 years, I worked up on the shores of the Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee and I haven't looked back since! I love working with local communities to better their environments, a planting day always inspires me & makes me realize why I do the job. My other passion is herbs, it's how I first got into plants, so I'm studying Herbal Medicine part time at night. Do you know that many of our weeds are also our native healing plants?

**Maed**  
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**Maddie**  
You guessed it, working the creek in my local besides that I am a plenty person too. So many horticulturalists to little time if there's one thing we know about out here it's that plants and people belong together - we're a bit sentimental like that. And just when you thought I was getting predictable - with a background in horticulture, landscape architecture, open space planning and hospitality, I have a pretty full and varied role at MPCCC. Ever wondered who you together at our events looking there and newsletters? Probably not - but that's me. Apart from that I am currently working on designing our new website (we're working on it) as well as other exciting projects such as our new 'look' and information brochure. I do love to get out too and get my hands dirty for the odd planting day. I keep at the side end of the Moonee Ponds Creek in West Melbourne. I can really appreciate what a difference a few groups of passionate people can make in the creek - thank you 'Ponderings'!

**Nicolette**  
Having worked for many years in event management and arts & cultural development, I have finally decided to follow my true passion - rubbish!  
Yes, it's true - I'm obsessed! As Education & Promotion coordinator of the Moonee Ponds Creek - Waste & Clean Project, my role is to develop their education campaigns and activities, promote awareness of stormwater issues and the health of the creek. It's a lot of fun and we'll make a bit of progress. I look forward to telling you more about it in coming issues! I live in North Fitzroy with my cat Fio (who thinks I'm a dog) and when I'm not at work, I like to indulge my other passions - long walks, cooking and watching films!  
But that's enough about me, we want to hear about you!  
Next edition only need to meet one of your fellow creek volunteers and hear about what inspires them.



## Ponderings - How it all Began



### Do you hear what I hear?

### Frogwatch Update

6

### The way we were...

Moonee Ponds Creek ain't what it used to be... so what was it like?  
Elaine Brogan recalls the deep flowing waters and abundance of wildlife which once flourished along the creek.

The Creek in Flood—Huge Street, West Brunswick (date unknown) Photo courtesy of Audrey Biggs

# ponderings

Newsletter of the Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee PO BOX 2170 Greenvale 3059  
P 9333 2406 F 9333 2413 E info@mpccc.org

### Co-ordinator's ramblings

Hello fellow Creek Ponderers. It Road, Construction of the northern side surely is a strange time in the world. is due to commence soon. Many animals First the drought, then the fires and are already taking advantage of these now war. In such tumultuous times, it new wetlands - see 'Autumn Sightings'

### AUTUMN EDITION

### In this issue

- 2 What Lurks Beneath—The Wonders of Waterwatch
- 3 Jacana Wetlands

# Lockdown Again!

Lots of people are getting sick of COVID-19, and I don't just mean the ones who are really getting sick! Just when we thought it was all over, we are back in lockdown again due to the Delta strain of the virus, and events were again being cancelled. Hopefully enough people can get fully vaccinated soon and we'll be able to enjoy more activities again.

Great to see planning work continuing on the Brosnan Crescent Naturalisation and the Nursery Corner Master Plan released. We report on these and other Council News.

We conclude our commemoration of 20 years of Ponderings, with an article by Elissa and Mel looking at how it all began. We also begin a new series looking at some of the best circuit walks that can be done along the Moonee Ponds Creek, concentrating on the most scenic sections.

David Widdowson, Editor.

Thanks to Anna Lanigan, Kaye Oddie, Rachel Lopes, Maurice Austin, Lori Arthur, Julia Cirillo and Nina Franceschi for their assistance with producing this issue.

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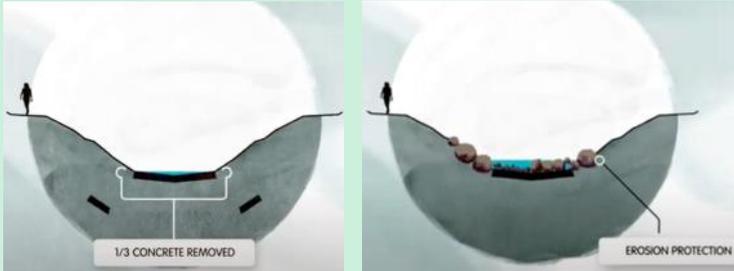
## Location / Trading hours

Guardian storage Essendon is located on Pascoe Vale Road, behind PETstock and Good Life Health Club.

Weekdays: 8:00am – 5:30pm  
Weekends: 9:00am – 4:00pm

## Brosnan Crescent Naturalisation

The MPC Naturalisation Project at Brosnan Crescent is progressing well—information sessions have been held, with three options being put forward for public feedback. All three options involve the removal of the concrete side walls, then the placing of rocks over the existing concrete to protect against erosion:



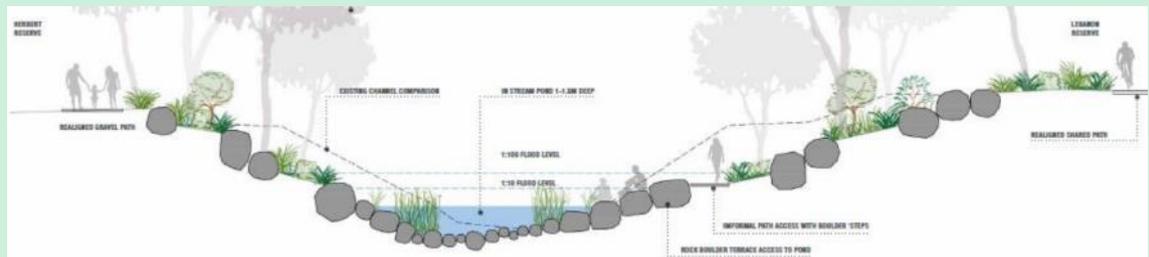
Other common elements between the three designs:

- Stronger water presence with rockwork and cascades of water.
- Improve tracks to allow greater creek access.
- The installation of six rock weirs.
- Rocks and native vegetation in the channel.
- Bank revegetation and increased canopy cover.
- Formal bench and informal rock seating.
- Possible realignment of the shared path to provide a separation of cyclists and pedestrians.

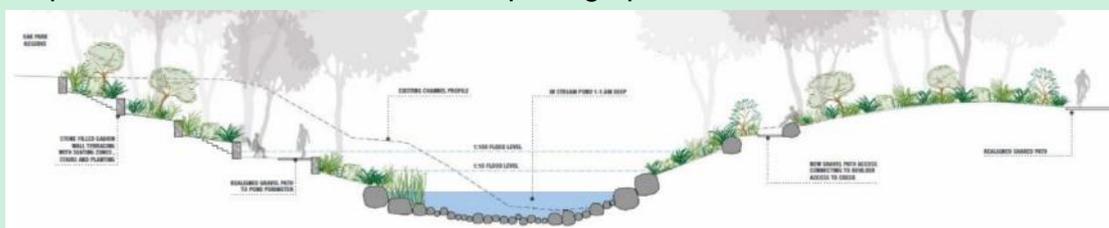


**Design Concept A** includes an upgrade of the creek channel from where the concrete starts to beyond Marks Street. The design involves limited re-engineering of the channel, replicating the current creek layout. However this option creates 650m length of naturalised waterway as opposed to 500m for options B and C.

**Design Concept B** includes an upgrade of the creek channel between Margaret Street Bridge and Herbert Reserve. This design includes improvements to the biodiversity zone at Herbert Reserve and enhancing recreational opportunities through a picnic/viewing node. The design features the construction of a pond about 1m in depth near Herbert Reserve and greater re-engineering to naturalise the creek channel. The dashed line shows the current creek profile.



**Design Concept C** includes an upgrade of the creek channel between Ethel Street Reserve and Herbert Street Bridge (excluding Herbert Reserve). Key features include the construction of a pond about 1m in depth near Oak Park Reserve and opening up the Oak Park stormwater drain in a more natural way of



managing stormwater, rather than using an enclosed pipe. The dashed line at left shows the current creek profile.

[Click here to have your say before September 5th](#)



# CHAIN OF PONDS

Transforming the Moonee Ponds Creek



## Brosnan Crescent Naturalisation

Round 2 Engagement of Reimagining Your Moonee Ponds Creek is under way – you get to chose the design! See previous page for details, survey closes Sunday, September 5th.



## Upper Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Trail

We couldn't have asked for a better day for a walk in the upper catchment to explore the potential starting and finishing point for the new trail.

On Thursday 1st July, the Project Group welcomed Wurundjeri Elders, Aunty Gail Smith and Aunty Julieanne Axford, and members of the community to explore the top section of the potential shared trail.

Starting at the Somerton Road picnic area of Woodlands Historic Park, the group completed the Murrup Gurrong Yan (Spiritual Creek Walk), winding through stunning woodland forest with river red gums over six hundred years old, scar trees, and kangaroos and eastern barred bandicoots just over the fence!

Aunty Gail and Aunty Julieanne support the development of the trail and have offered some fantastic concepts and advice to make it an even better experience for the community. We look forward to inviting them back when the trail is complete. The Concept Plan – developed by Thompson Berrill Landscape Design—will be released in September.



## Environmental Significance Overlays

The Chain of Ponds Collaboration is working towards greater protection of the MPC and surrounds. This work aligns with the State Government's interest in strengthening waterway protection along our waterways.

Following advocacy from the CoP and Melbourne Water, the Waterways of the West (WoW) listed the MPC as a principal waterway. The WoW have prepared an Action Plan for these important waterways of western Melbourne, and the Plan is currently under review by the State Government.

Key elements of the draft Action Plan included greater consideration of cultural heritage values and involvement of traditional owners in planning. There is also the possibility that interim planning controls are introduced through a Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) to improve protection of the waterway. The Working Group's position is that we would prefer an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) due to its potential to be an effective planning control provision.

Moreland's ESO review provides valuable lessons for improving planning controls along the waterway. The Working Group will need to continue to advocate to DELWP and the WoW to resource and support stronger planning controls. We will also advocate for interim ESOs for the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor with appropriate guidance and decision guidelines.

## News in Brief

- Strategic Review of the Chain of Ponds with recommendations to be returned to the Governance Group in October. Signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding in November.
- The 2nd Project Meeting of **Bunjil/ Bandicoots on the Flight Path Project** has been held.
- Melbourne University Intern Emma Harvey has commenced 1 day/week to advance the Catchment Litter Project. We are working on a grant for 2 day/week Project Manager to gather further litter data from Councils and narrow down our options.
- There will be Wurundjeri Cultural Awareness Training for all Governance Group Members on 14 September.



## Hume City's Gardens for Wildlife

by Anna Lanigan

Despite Covid lock down, **Gardens for Wildlife** has continued to progress in Hume City. With face-to-face meetings prevented, I was still able to attend some lively Zoom meetings with wonderful presentations by Melissa Doherty, Hume's Urban Biodiversity Officer. Melissa has created wonderful resources—not only relevant to Hume residents, but for the wider community—committed to creating havens for wildlife in their gardens. Her presentations were jam packed with links to websites that educate, celebrate and inspire. The three 90 minute sessions are being run again online, starting on Thursday 2 September at 11 am, and you can book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/151296059587>

You'll find resources via the Hume City Council Website. Open the Citizen Science PDF link and prepare to be amazed!

[Discover Nature in Hume - Hume City Council](#)

Melissa has also championed iNaturalist by creating a Hume City Council Project that collates all the images taken in the municipality:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/hume-city-s-wildlife>

My next goal will be to set up a Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Project on iNaturalist.

## Online Community Engagement

Workshops will be run by the Hume City Council to discuss the development of its Land and Biodiversity Plan 2021-26. For details, see:

<https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Home>



## Wright St Westmeadows Rezoning Update

by Anna Lanigan, Kaye Oddie & Helen van den Berg

In our Winter Ponderings, Friends of MPC were asked to seriously consider Hume Council's proposed amendment to its planning scheme, which sought to rezone a parcel of land in Westmeadows (bounded by Western Ave, Wright St and the Moonee Ponds Creek) from Rural to Industrial and General Residential.

The Hume Rezoning Amendment C250 was driven by MAB Corporation's proposal to develop the "open space" buffer zone between the residential streets of Westmeadows and the now closed but still contaminated Cleanaway prescribed hazardous Waste Landfill, with a mix of 41 industrial sites and 225 residential sites. Consultation meetings arranged by MAB and Hume Council were notable for the statement by MAB that they NEVER take on a proposal that they can't win!

The proposal created a huge response from the Community. An impressive 320 objections were received by Hume Council including a detailed response by the FoMPC and individual members' submissions. Objections included the proximity of the contaminated landfill site, future toxicity problems, overdevelopment of the site, inconsistency with existing Westmeadows built form, traffic issues, and detrimental impact on the significant natural values of the MPC.

A request for an update from Council had this response from Hume's Senior Strategic Planner, Andrea Taylor:

*"Council officers are currently working through all submissions received to the amendment and a report will only be put to Council once this work is complete. Given the volume of submissions received, and the complexity of issues raised, it is likely that Council will not be making a decision on the amendment until late 2021 - early 2022. Once we have a confirmed a Council meeting date we will notify all submitters with information on how they can attend and speak to their submission if they wish."*

It is likely three options will be considered: (1) Acceptance with modification; (2) Abandonment of the proposal; (3) Referral to a Planning Panel. Congratulations to all of us who objected, but opposition should be maintained - anyone living in Hume should keep their Councillors informed of their opposition.

## Nursery Corner Master Plan— Draft released for Community Consultation

The Nursery Corner Reserve site, about two hectares in size, was previously leased to a private wholesale nursery, and the lease for this business expired in 2017. The Moonee Ponds Creek Trail Shared Path passes through the site – an assessment of the trail identified dangerous bends creating sight line issues and potential conflicts between cyclists and walkers. It also contains a narrow pinch point between large Poplar trees and the edge of a steep embankment.

The report recommends moving the trail to a more direct route, while the lower grassed track will be retained for walkers to amble along the creek’s edge.

Features of the Master plan (labelled below) include:

1. CULTURAL HERITAGE a. Celebrate Wurundjeri culture with new name: ‘Ngawe Burrung’. b. Central gathering/ceremonial space. c. Proposed Bush Food Garden for Indigenous plants. d. Create stronger connection to the Creek with seating pockets. e. Connection to Creek using terraced rockwork.

2. WATER AND THE CREEK a. Retain and enhance existing Frog Bog b. New stormwater treatment wetland incorporating wetland outlet control. c. Grassed areas to be irrigated by the wetland through a wicking system. d. Wetland lookouts with seating.
3. ECOLOGY: Dedicate majority of the site to revegetation to enhance biodiversity. Retain dead trees for habitat. Include bee hotels to support native bees
4. ARRIVAL a. New Trail shared path. b. Lift the shared path to reduce steepness at the entry. c. Provide formal pedestrian crossings across the path. d. Internal concrete pathway circuit. e. Retain existing concrete section for internal pedestrian circuit, f. Informal gravel paths. g. Retain existing access track.
5. ADVENTURE PLAY a. Adventure rope course playground. b. Toddlers play area with nature play. c. Potential rock climbing wall or art mural. d. Senior exercise equipment for active ageing.
6. LEARNING AND GATHERING a. Terraced stone amphitheatre space for outdoor classes, workshops and performances. b. Harvest Garden with fruit trees and productive edible plants. c. Hard paved picnic area with small shelter, BBQ, bins, drinking fountain & tables.
7. VEHICLE ACCESS a. Retain existing driveway and carpark. Improve access and functionality with a sealed surface and a new pathway connecting the building to the reserve. b. Include barriers to prevent parking on parkland areas. c. Plant beneath trees to protect critical root zones d. Provide bicycle hoops at park entrances.

[Click here to have your say!](#)





**Woodlands Park — A Black Swan Seal of Approval**

by Anna, pics by Anna & Maurice

Wouldn't you love to get inside the heads of a pair of Black Swans as they flew over Woodlands Park, Essendon not so long ago:

*"Oh look darling, that looks like a nice spot, why don't we settle there".*

You have to admit they have good taste!

The wetland development at Woodlands Park is a masterpiece and just two years have elapsed since the renovation team drained, reshaped and reengineered the site.

The Swans—now with a delightful family of cygnets—are a sensational seal of approval for the Woodlands Park development. We wish them well on their perilous journey to adulthood!



By Lori Arthur

COVID has again caused the cancellation of a number of our planned community planting events this year, but our contractors have been busy getting the plants in the ground before the weather warms up. Over 5000 plants have been sown along the Westbreen Creek and a similar amount along the Moonee Ponds Creek at various sites.



Earth works for the Gavin Park wetland along the Westbreen Creek corridor commenced in July but unfortunately uncovered a significant amount of asbestos. This caused a month-long delay in the program while the site was made safe and an asbestos management plan implemented. Clean up works are nearing completion and it is still anticipated to have the major construction elements completed by December.



The bridge crossing and shared paths at Brunswick West/ Essendon have also been significantly delayed by COVID. The bridge is a largely prefabricated structure being manufactured in one of the lockdown areas in Sydney. Site preparation works and planting south of the bridge site have recently been completed in anticipation.



Informal bike riding and track construction at the florally significant Union Street escarpment in Brunswick West has become increasingly problematic during lockdowns. We recently implemented remediation works and signage and have offered to work with riders on a more appropriate site.



Westbreen Creek

by Anna

The Westbreen Creek Masterplan is well underway. Joyce Reserve has a new wide sealed shared path between Northumberland and Cornwall Roads and the gravel track on the north bank of the creek has been upgraded. There has been extensive planting that hopefully will soften the expanse of concrete path.



Djirri Djirri Community Planting Cancelled

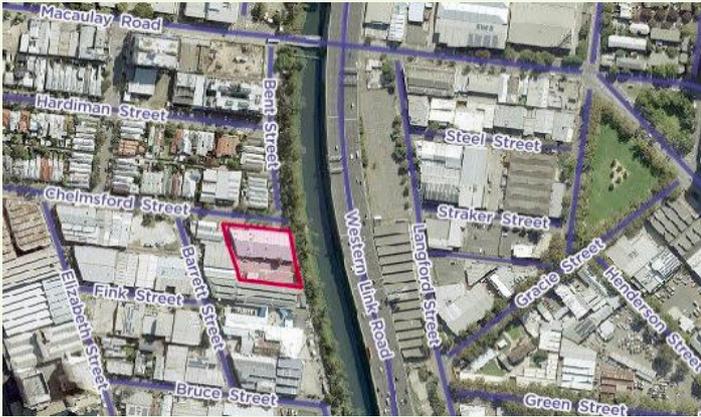
by Kaye

Covid, damned Covid! Lockdowns thwarted the community from sowing 1200 plants at Djirri Djirri Reserve, Outlook Drive, Glenroy. Because it was important they be planted before the winter finished, so they could become established before the summer months, contractors finally had to be employed to undertake the task.

The signs at the site have been installed and depict indigenous plants that grew along the Creek and were used by Traditional Owners for food, medicine, fibres and tools. It is such typical plants that were planted as part of the FoMPC's **Communities Environment Program** grant project at the site.



### Kensington Land Purchase by Kaye



The City of Melbourne has purchased 3650 square metres along the Moonee Ponds Creek in Kensington (70-90 Chelmsford St) – formerly an industrial site – that was originally acquired for the now abandoned East West Link.

The Council plans to transform it into public open space, serving local communities and complementing the Macaulay and Arden urban renewal areas. The FoMPC welcomes this latest addition of open space to the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor and congratulates and thanks the Melbourne City Council!



70-90 Chelmsford St, Kensington, current Street View

Kensington Embankment of the MPC



### Frogging101 – Get Started as a Frog Monitor!

by James Frazer, Waterwatch Coordinator

Spring is just around the corner. Rising temperatures and high rainfall mean this is a peak time for frogging. If you are new to frog monitoring and have a spare 30 mins (hard in this time of lockdowns and remote schooling, I know!), be sure to watch this [Frogging101 webinar video](#). You'll learn all the whys and whats of getting started as a frog monitor.

### Healthy Waterways Strategy Update

We continue working towards delivery of the Healthy Waterways Strategy (HWS). Our members are committed to delivering on the bold objectives of the strategy and achieving our long term targets and vision.

[The 2020 annual report](#) gave the group a chance to reflect on achievements to date and the focus areas to concentrate our efforts. One clear focus that has emerged is stormwater, in particular infiltration targets.



## Green Student Team performs Ecological Health Check on MPC by Julia Cirillo

Oak Park Primary School's Green Team, Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) and the City of Moreland have been working together to collect Citizen Science data to get an idea of water quality in the Moonee Ponds Creek.

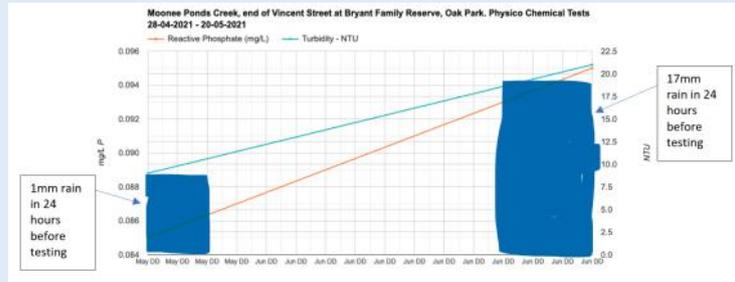
Every Wednesday at lunchtime over four weeks, the Green Team (approximately 10-15 students from Years 3 to 6 interested in sustainability projects) met MCMC Waterwatch Coordinator Julia Cirillo down at the Creek.

The students, along with their enthusiastic Sustainability Teacher John Hughes, collected water samples from the creek and undertook water quality tests. These included temperature, pH, salinity, phosphate (nutrients) and turbidity (water clarity or muddiness).

Results have been added to the **Waterwatch** Victoria community data portal [www.vic.waterwatch.org.au](http://www.vic.waterwatch.org.au) (codes YMO160 & 165).



We discovered that the water quality can change drastically after rainfall. More than a few millimetres of rain in the surrounding area, which makes its way to the creek via stormwater drains, changes the results from quite good water quality to poor. For example, turbidity increased dramatically from one week of 9 (excellent) to 21 (poor) and nutrients also increased. Within that week over 16 mm fell within 24 hours before the sample was taken (refer to the graph below). This indicated that large amounts of soil and other organic matter (dust, leaves etc) are making their way into stormwater drains and into the creek.





## Waterwatch Workshop Goes Online!

Twice annually, the Citizen Science Water Quality program, **MCMC Waterwatch**, offers free workshops to train new volunteers interested in keeping an eye on the health of the MPC and other local waterways.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, part of this workshop on 17 June was run online. This workshop was recorded and is now available as a [two part training webinar](#).

Participants who watch the webinar and fill in the [feedback form](#) can join us for the fieldwork component, which, once completed, makes them fully-fledged *Waterwatch* monitors.

### The online component of the Workshop covered:

- Introduction to the Waterwatch program,
- An overview of the different water quality parameters, or tests, that volunteers do and the equipment used,
- Major issues of water quality degradation and pollution in our urban streams, in particular the Merri Creek,
- Identifying the fascinating water bugs—aquatic creatures that tell us so much about the ecological health of our waterways by their presence or absence.

To be kept informed of when the in-person field component of this *Waterwatch* training will be run, please subscribe to the MCMC "events like Waterwatch training" subscription list here:

<https://www.mcmc.org.au/get-involved/subscribe>

To find out where local *Waterwatch* groups are monitoring and to contact them, see our [Citizen Science water monitoring page](#) (Table 1).

*The Waterwatch workshops are proudly funded by Melbourne Water and the Cities of Darebin, Moreland and Yarra.*

## MOONEE PONDS CREEK COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Sunday 10 October, 10am-12noon  
Location: Holbrook Reserve, Brunswick West



Sunday 10 October, 10am-12noon

## Holbrook Reserve, Brunswick West

Come join MCMC and the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek as we safely remove litter from the creek banks and surrounding areas. Help us collect important citizen science litter data in order to reduce the amount of litter entering the creek. This event is suitable for the whole family! Limited parking in the reserve or in nearby Jewell Crescent. Easy to cycle along the Moonee Ponds Creek trail.

Equipment supplied, but please wear long pants, sturdy covered shoes and BYO drink bottle and gloves - if you have them. For further information contact Pamela Lloyd, FoMPC, on 0408 507 557.



In this free webinar, learn the art of **plirding** - bird watching while picking up litter! Suitable for all ages.

Saturday September 4, 11am to 12 Noon

Bookings at [www.mcmc.org.au](http://www.mcmc.org.au)

[Registration link is here](#)



In November 2001, a new four-page A4 newsletter appeared under the name “Moonee Ponds Creek News”. This was the first edition of a publication created by the Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Community (MPCCC) to champion community and agency works along the Creek. Involving four council areas—Hume, Moreland, Moonee Valley and Melbourne—MPCCC was formed in 1998 to aid community engagement with the creek.

The appointment of Gavin O’Neill, the first MPC Coordinator, was thanks to MPCCC successfully lobbying the four councils to jointly fund this position. Before leaving MPCCC, Gavin successfully headhunted a new Creek Coordinator, Horticulturalist Melanie Taube, who was previously employed by Hume City Council.

Gavin had been operating out of the old Hume Council offices in Broadmeadows. Once Melanie took on the role, she quickly set up a new team of three additional staff: Elissa Simmons, Madeline Bisits and Nicolette Vaszolyi.

The new team set up in MPCCC’s new premises in the disused **Parks Victoria Depot** in Woodlands Historic Park. Previously the depot offices were used as storage, so after cleaning possum wee stains off the walls, chasing out the mice and rats, and adding a fresh coat of paint, an electric fan for Summer and using the existing wood fire stove as heating for winter, the new team were ready for action!

It was during a brainstorming session that Melanie hit upon the newsletter’s new name, **Ponderings**. The Newsletter was created using Publisher and printed out on MP Kelvin Thompson’s photocopier machine in his Coburg office. It was on a big table in the Parks Depot that the staff gathered four times a year to fold up the 300 copies of ‘Ponderings’ ready for mailing. Later, when 1000 copies were being printed, volunteer labour from Strathmore North Primary School was used!

Local residents generously provided notes on wildlife sightings, memories and citizen science articles.

Melanie Taube - MPCCC Coordinator—was responsible for liaising with Melbourne Water and the four councils. She provided reports and applied for grants to fund community revegetation and education programs along the length of the creek.

Elissa Simmons, formerly of the Hume Council Greening Team, joined MPCCC to facilitate the Community and Schools Revegetation Program. Elissa had already worked with Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek, Friends of the Sacred Kingfisher, FoMPC and the Friends of Woodlands Historic Park.

Through connecting with the community and passionate residents along the creek, a further ten friends groups were set up through MPCCC: *Boeing Reserve Troopers, Strath-Oak planters, Gowanbrae Residents, Friends of Lower Moonee Ponds Creek, Friends of Jacana Wetlands, Friends of Westbreen Creek, Friends of Strathmore Ponds, Travancore Residents, Essendon Residents of Hopetoun Ave and Bass Street Residents.*

Existing community groups such as Brunswick SW Planters, Friends of Attwood Creek and Friends of Strathnaver Grasslands gained welcome new-found support through MPCCC’s greening program, which ran weekend community planting days up and down the length of the creek and its tributaries, with all of the other 17 Friends and residents groups. MPCCC staff would arrive towing a trailer filled with indigenous plants, tools and buckets. After the plants went in, there’d be a cuppa with BBQ sausages and falafel burgers, or fresh sandwiches to share.



Who is behind all of this? meet the Faces of MPCCC...



Simply Dedicated: Julie Law never stops caring for the creek (above) & Bob Steadman (below) just keeps on watering





# Ponderings — How it all Began (continued)

The plantings and Clean up Australia days would be both publicised and celebrated in **Ponderings**. It was a great way for all the residents along the creek to feel connected and supported. And, to drum up more community interest, just prior to a planting day or event, there would always be a good old fashioned letterbox drop.

MPCCC also worked with many schools to revegetate the creek. Penola Catholic College science teacher, Carolyn Layton, was inspired to start the fantastic **Source to Sea** year 9 program which is featured in the Summer 2005-06 'Ponderings'. Penola then went on to develop their own wetlands on their campus in Broadmeadows.

Madeleine Bisits, a Horticulturalist with desktop publishing skills, joined MPCCC to write revegetation and strategic plans, and she was responsible for compiling 'Ponderings'. Maddie wrote in her Ponderings introduction: "I do love to get out too and get my hands dirty for the odd planting day. Living at the 'dirty' end of the Moonee Ponds Creek in West Melbourne, I can really appreciate what a difference a few groups of passionate people can make to the creek— frankly it's inspiring!"

Nicolette Vaszolyi - employed through the Transurban funded 'Keep it Clean' program - used her community engagement and events organising skills to promote a litter-free creek. The 'Ponderings' logo featuring the beautiful purple swamp hen was originally designed as part of the *Keep it Clean* program.

In 'Ponderings' Nicolette explained that she had "finally decided to follow my true passion – rubbish! Yes, it's true - I'm obsessed! As Education & Promotion coordinator of the Keep it Clean Project, my role is to develop litter education campaigns and activities, promote awareness of stormwater issues and the health of the creek!"

Although MPCCC no longer exists, it does leave behind two amazing legacies:

Firstly, the sense of community and camaraderie along the whole length of the creek and its tributaries. Community empowerment was the goal of the MPCCC, as well as setting up a framework to ensure ongoing communication and cooperation between the community and land agencies such as Melbourne Water and the four councils. Luckily, the Friends of MPC has taken on this vitally important role. It's a huge task and it's worth remembering that they are all volunteers.

The second legacy is the survival of 'Ponderings' newsletter— after Maddie, MPCCC employees Deb Farmer and Stella Blay became editors of Ponderings, followed by volunteers Nina, Anna, Ray and David. It really is to be applauded in this age of social media where even local community papers are sadly being killed off. It goes to show the importance of community sticking together and creating their own communication platforms.

If you are keen to look up back-issues of Ponderings they are all here: <http://www.mooneeponds creek.org.au/ponderings/>

Happy 20th Birthday Ponderings! And may this fabulous newsletter continue to provide a reassuring and powerful local voice, inspiring its community to share, protect and enjoy the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment.

*Thank you and best wishes on behalf of the original 'Ponderings' team!*

*Elissa Simmons and Melanie Husada (née Taube)*

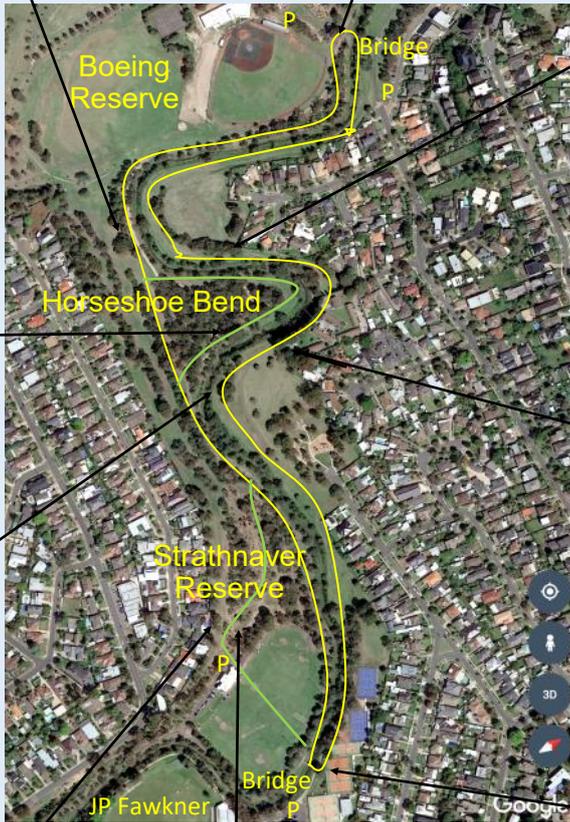


# Between the Bridges — Circuit Walking the MPC

## Part 1—Boeing Reserve to Oak Park Tennis Centre, 2.5 to 3km

This is a lovely walk along the semi-natural section of the creek between Boeing Reserve and JP Fawcner Reserve. Highlights include the Strathnaver Grasslands, Horseshoe Bend and the track along the Eastern side. Just a note of warning — much of the east side is dirt and grass only and can get a bit boggy in the winter months or after rain! Main route in yellow, alternatives in green. P - Parking.

FoMPC Walking Maps online: [walkingmaps.com.au/walk/5140](http://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/5140)





# Spring!

Images by Nina,  
Maurice, Anna,  
Poppy and David.







Pacific Black Duck by Maurice



Wood Duck by Maurice



Magpie by Maurice



Sulphur Crested Cockatoo by Maurice



Black Swans with cygnets by Maurice



Australasian Grebe by Maurice

# Sightings



Rakali (native water rat) by Dennis Hocking



Little Pied Cormorant by Maurice



Frog by Jason O' Doyle



Corella by Maurice



Pacific Black Ducks by Maurice



Tawny Frogmouths by Anna



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo by Maurice



Superb Fairy Wren by Maurice



Sulphur Crested Cockatoo by Maurice

# MPC History Page

Anyone taking a walk along the creek near the escarpment at West Brunswick/ Moonee Ponds in the early years of the Twentieth Century might have had to look out for flying bullets!

This was the location of a rifle range on the creek, which was popular with women shooters, being the home of the *Essendon and Flemington Ladies' Rifle Club*, as seen in these pictures from the *Australasian Magazine* of 31 May 1902, titled "*The Opening Match at the Moonee Ponds Range, May 23*".



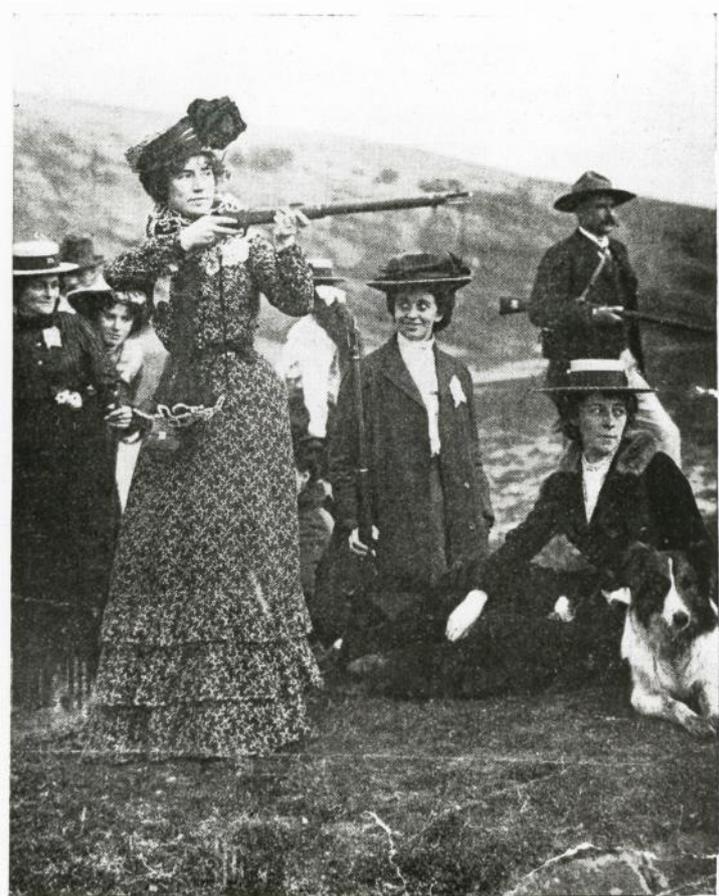
THE RANGE ON MOONEE PONDS CREEK.



LOADING.



MRS. GUINN FIRING FIRST SHOT OF THE OPENING MATCH OF THE SEASON.



AT FIFTY YARDS.





Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

PO Box 54, ESSENDON 3040

[www.mooneepondscreek.org.au](http://www.mooneepondscreek.org.au)

[friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au](mailto:friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au)

[friendsofmooneepondscreek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofmooneepondscreek@gmail.com)

## FoMPC News by Carolyn Layton

### Membership Renewals

Vice President Frank Kinnersley reported that there are currently 80 financial members. He pointed out that memberships are due in the middle of the year, coinciding with the financial year. Those who need to renew are sent an email, so no need to renew unless you get the email. President John Kavanagh suggested that if anyone is unsure of their financial status they should email Frank. Frank added that a significant proportion of the FoMPC membership fee (\$11.50 of \$20) goes towards our membership of Landcare Victoria Inc, through which we obtain the Public Liability insurance cover for our activities.

## Lionsville/Ryman Redevelopment

Darren Hartnett reported on developments at the Lionsville Retirement Village site on the corner of Moreland and Pascoe Vale Roads, Essendon. The site abuts the Moonee Ponds Creek along its lower boundary. Darren expressed his concern over preliminary plans to develop the site with multiple tall buildings, built close to boundaries and with little open space between them. He reported that one resident had been given until Christmas to leave and the resident was worried about where he would go. The meeting was also told of some removal of vegetation; its extent and location in relation to the Creek was discussed.

Tim Read MP stated that in a General Residential Zone the height limit was 11 metres—but when a residential development includes ‘aged care on hand’ it can go to 16 metres. Kaye Oddie expressed concerns about overshadowing of the Creek by tall buildings and said that the development should have a buffer between it and the Creek corridor. Kelvin Thomson suggested that the FoMPC write to the MVCC about the tree clearing, its permit status and any consultation with local residents and the FoMPC, who were involved in past discussions about developments at the Lionsville site. John has now written to Council about this. It is understood that no planning permit has yet been issued for the proposed Ryman redevelopment of the site.

## Join the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek for \$20 per year

Help protect and enhance 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

# CALENDAR

(Given the uncertainties around the current Lockdown, no events are listed for September)

When	Event and Location:	Contact/ Link
Sunday 10th October 10am-12noon	Clean up event at Holbrook Reserve, Brunswick West.	Pamela Lloyd 0408 507 557
Monday, 18th October 6.30pm	FoMPC AGM Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds.	<a href="http://mooneepondscreek.org.au">mooneepondscreek.org.au</a>
Monday, 20th December 6.30pm	FoMPC meeting Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds.	<a href="http://mooneepondscreek.org.au">mooneepondscreek.org.au</a>

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

Contributions to Ponderings are welcome!

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