



Ponderings

Seasonal newsletter of the
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek
Winter 2023 | Issue 79

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate



**Concrete
Steps to a
More
Natural
Creek!**



Concrete Removal Under Way!

Great to see more progress with the Naturalisation Project in Strathmore North. We report on this and the future of the project in this issue. It's amazing to see sections that were previously just a concrete drain gradually being transformed into areas that are much more pleasant to the eye!

The sheer cost of the project makes me think that something less expensive needs to be done if a **lot more** of the concrete is going to be covered in the future, for instance drilling holes in the concrete walls and planting with suitable plants to create a vegetated cover. Hopefully the lessons learned from this project will help in the future to naturalise longer sections while spending less money.

Anyway it's great to see a start has been made and valuable lessons are being learned for future efforts to give the Creek a more natural appearance!

David Widdowson, Editor

Thanks to Kaye Oddie, Rachel Lopes, Nina Franceschi, Anna Lanigan, Milly Burke, Charlotte Napper, Julia Cirillo and Kelvin Thomson for their assistance with the production of this issue.

Cover images by David Widdowson and Joanne Dietrich.

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Progress with Naturalisation Project



Rockwork upstream of Margaret Street bridge



Rockwork downstream of Margaret Street bridge

Project update

We're gradually removing the concrete walls along both sides of the creek and replacing them with rockwork.

So far, we've completed more than 300 metres of rockwork along the northern side of the creek, and just over 300 metres on the southern side.

Once this is complete, the concrete base of the channel will also be covered with rockwork to create a meandering creek, to slow down flows and give it a more 'natural' look and feel.

What's next?

We're excited that the planting of more than 43,000 native trees and shrubs is commencing from 19 May 2023! This is a significant milestone in the delivery of the project.

The Brosnan Crescent shared path works (Moonee Valley Council side) will start from 18 May 2023 and will take approximately three weeks to complete (weather permitting).

From 23 June to 10 July 2023 (school holidays), an additional detour will be in place via Odin Street and Mascoma Street while we renew a small section of Moonee Ponds Creek Trail next to Strathmore North Primary School.

Thank you for your patience and understanding of these short-term inconveniences as we work to improve your shared path network.

Why only 360 metres of the creek?

The naturalisation of large concrete channels like Moonee Ponds Creek can unfortunately be very costly, as we are learning along the way. This is mainly due to the amount of excavation required to remove the concrete and reshape the waterway into a more natural form. After an extensive collaborative design process for this project, the community chose to transform a smaller length of creek but include a deep pond and more open space for people to better enjoy the creek and its surrounds, rather than focusing on a longer section of creek with no ponds or community spaces.

Why can't the concrete be completely removed?

Due to low levels of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the soil beneath the concrete base of the creek channel (something we've always known about), a decision was made to leave the concrete base in place, essentially locking the PFAS in place. By installing rockwork on top of the concrete base, rather than removing the concrete, a similar 'naturalised' look can still be achieved.

What's being done with the concrete?

The concrete is being taken to a recycling facility where it will be crushed and then undergo a process called 'thermal desorption', which removes the PFAS through heat. The resultant clean concrete will then be able to be re-purposed and used for other projects that need concrete.

By Rachel Lopes



Automatic River Cleaner

The Chain of Ponds team visited 'Geoff' the automatic river cleaner on 12 May with Parks Victoria and fellow River and Bay Keepers and discussed extending the trial beyond the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers to Moonee Ponds Creek and Werribee Rivers. We also discussed the idea of a single agency or body accountable for litter management to ensure a more strategic and systematic response — and we're looking forward to continuing these discussions.



Uncle Andrew Gardiner from Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation welcomed us on country and joined mid-project celebrations and planting on the Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek project.

Kathleen Matthews-Ward MP—representing Water Minister Harriet Shing—also joined us and spoke beautifully about her lifelong connections to the creek and the important role it plays in her life. We're so thankful to have a great breadth of partners and supporters on this project and we can't wait to do more! Watch this space.

The **Bandicoot Flight Path** Brief and Costings have been prepared and are now live on the [Chain of Ponds website](#). If you'd like to support this project as a sponsor or know someone who would, please get in touch.



Litter Clean-ups by Neil Sutton

(With data uploaded to [Litterwatch.org.au](https://litterwatch.org.au))

- Five Mile Creek, Moonee Ponds: Most recent clean undertaken on May 7th with volunteers from **Moonee Valley Sustainability** and the **Moonee Ponds Creek Litter Clean-up Team**. With 12 volunteers, we had 17 people in total, 18 bags of rubbish and a total litter count of 2,315 items. Polystyrene and soft plastic were the major items with 1,689 and 441 cleaned up, respectively. That's a lot of rubbish that is now not making its way down to Port Phillip Bay.
- Stubbs St, Kensington (Moonee Ponds Creek south of Racecourse Rd): Most recent clean undertaken on May 13th with volunteers from the Greens Community group, Moonee Ponds Creek Litter Clean-up Team and members of the City of Melbourne Council. With 7 volunteers this was a swiftly organised clean to remove litter on the grassy area next to the creek prior to mowing contractors shredding the litter. A total of 13 bags were collected with an impressive total litter count of 3,416. Soft plastic, bottles, aluminium cans, plastic food wrappers and polystyrene were the leading categories with 1,259, 598, 516, 389 and 290, respectively. Bottles and cans surprisingly over-indexed at this site in comparison with polystyrene.

As part of Phase 1 of the Chain of Ponds Litter Action Plan, we are currently gathering data for litter accumulation sites linked to major litter hotspots such as Glenroy, Roxburgh Park and Keilor Rd shopping precincts. Our next phase is to pilot a litter reduction education program in these hotspots, starting with West Street (linked to Westbreen Creek). We are always on the lookout for volunteers, if you are interested, join the Moonee Ponds Creek Litter Clean up Team Facebook group here (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/678903923918248>) or feel free to email me: neil.sutton@gww.com.au

Litter Clean-up Team Update

By Kelvin Thomson



The Moonee Ponds Creek Litter Clean-up team has engaged in a number of successful clean ups over the last three months.

On **Clean Up Australia Day**, 5th of March, there were clean-ups at the Five Mile Creek reserve Essendon, Boeing Reserve, Westbreen Creek, Brady Reserve Brunswick West, and in Kensington. These clean-ups were highly successful and well supported by local residents (see next page).

On the 2nd of April, **Moonee Valley Sustainability** and Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek cleaned up parkland along the Creek and around Strathnaver and John Pascoe Fawkner Reserves. Once again there was strong support for our clean-up and a lot of rubbish was collected. Neil Sutton is doing great work analysing the litter being collected to enable us to better understand the sources of the litter problem, so we can take effective preventative action. At Strathnaver Reserve, food and beverage wrappers and packaging constituted the majority of the litter.



On the 7th of May we had a community clean-up at **Five Mile Creek**, going back to the site of the major clean-up on Clean Up Australia Day. It was somewhat disappointing to see how quickly litter had accumulated since our previous clean-up.

A clean-up was also held in the lower reaches of the Moonee Ponds Creek, just south of **Flemington Bridge**, on Saturday 13th May. Further clean ups are planned for Five Mile Creek in August and November.

The analysis of the litter from the May clean-up in Five Mile Creek shows that plastics are the problem, in particular polystyrene and soft plastics.

Neil Sutton from the **Chain of Ponds** Collaboration says these are the items we are going to focus on with our source reduction initiatives upstream.

The **Kensington** clean-up collected an outstanding 3416 pieces of litter in less than two hours. This data has been uploaded to litterwatchvictoria.org and will be used to report on future source reduction tactics upstream.

The **Moonee Ponds Creek Litter Clean-up Team** has its own [Facebook page](#) which you can join, in order to be kept informed of future events. Thanks to Logan Shield and Neil Sutton for their organising work, and to all the local residents who are supporting our initiatives.





Kensington Kaye Oddie reported around 20 volunteers cleaned up along the lower MPC between Racecourse Rd and Macaulay Road. The haul included 21 assorted bags of rubbish, 4 bags of recyclables plus hard rubbish. A rusty dumped bicycle had to be left for later collection. Thanks to local MP Ellen Sandell for initiating this Clean-up Australia Day event and to Riley Allen from Ellen's office for organising a very successful morning.

Moonee Ponds Creek – Brunswick West This event was organized by Irene Bryan and took place in Brady Reserve. My visit next morning didn't locate the rubbish pile but I did get reports from locals that volunteers were seen leaving the reserve with large bags of rubbish, so well done Irene.



Five Mile Creek Reserve A huge turnout of 50+ volunteers collected and sorted over 100kg of rubbish at Five Mile Creek Reserve. The event brought together the combined forces of Moonee Valley Sustainability, FoMPC, Chain of Ponds Collaboration and Valley Youth. Organised by Logan Shield of MVS, it was a wonderful team effort. Moonee Valley City Council was represented by Mayor Pierce Tyson and Councillors Rose Iser and Ava Adams — not there just for the speeches but getting down to work with the team!



Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights In a wonderful example of dedication, Paul Bird organised his 12th Clean Up Australia Day event at Boeing Reserve. I missed seeing him and his crew this year but called by see the results of their labour.



Joyce Reserve, Pascoe Vale Charlotte Napper, Merri-bek's Conservation Programs Officer, supervised a group of volunteers in a clean up along Westbreen Creek in Joyce Reserve. Once again I did call by and found the evidence of a good morning's work and Joyce Reserve looking much the better for it!

Clean Ups Coming Up:

- Westbreen Creek, KW Joyce Reserve, Pascoe Vale: June, date currently TBA. FoMPC/Merri-bek Council.
- Otway Crescent Drain, Meadow Heights (South of Barry Rd, near Hume City Football Club): June/ July, date TBA.
- Cross Keys Oval/ Woodland St, Essendon: July 2nd, 10am. Moonee Valley Sustainability, Chain of Ponds, FoMPC.



Gardens for Wildlife – Round 3 Open

For people living or working in Hume City, you can apply to have a one-hour garden visit and receive advice on wildlife-friendly habitat gardens. Some 40 happy participants are now looking at their gardens with new perspectives on how to help native wildlife. People who have a garden visit, receive a small gift, detailed report, and become eligible to get some free indigenous seedlings. There are only a few spots left in Round 3 for more applications, which takes 15-20mins to complete; apply at <https://hume.smartygrants.com.au/G4W2023-R3>

For people in other local government areas, check out the Gardens for Wildlife Victoria network affiliates page to see if there is a program running near you [Programs and Affiliates – Gardens for Wildlife Victoria](#). Or contact your local government to encourage them to get involved.



City Nature Challenge 2023—Results

The Greater Melbourne collaboration of 28 local government areas and other environmental organisations made a tremendous effort to record nature for City Nature Challenge, that occurred from 28 April to 1 May. Just over 19,300 records of wild plants, animals and fungi were made, with 2,032 different species identified across Melbourne.

In this global citizen science competition, with over 450 cities involved, this placed Greater Melbourne 20th for number of observations made and 21st for number of species found; significantly improving on our 33rd place from 2022. While 949 people across Melbourne uploaded their photos and sound recordings to iNaturalist, giving us 13th place for number of people involved. You can check out the worldwide results at [City Nature Challenge 2023 · iNaturalist Australia \(ala.org.au\)](#) and amongst the various Victorian local governments at [City Nature Challenge 2023: Greater Melbourne umbrella · iNaturalist Australia \(ala.org.au\)](#). Hume City came a respectable 4th for number of observations and number of species found, but we need to lift numbers of people involved in 2024, coming 13th on that measure. There were lots of records of Brush-tailed Possums, Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Magpies, while we also got photos of the elusive Eastern Barred Bandicoot at Woodlands Historic Park. Next year's City Nature Challenge runs April 27-30, 2024 – put it on your calendar!

The great news is that iNaturalist can be used all year round to record nature along Moonee Ponds Creek, across your neighbourhood, and in your garden. All the biodiversity records created are automatically captured in the ongoing year-round projects set-up by Hume City ([Hume City's Wildlife · iNaturalist](#)) and the wonderful Anna Lanigan ([Moonee Ponds Creek Wildlife · iNaturalist](#)).





Valley Youth Grassroots Youth Summit

April holidays were filled with inspiring change makers at our Valley Youth Grassroots Youth Summit. Three action packed days included planting, wetlands water bug count, making seed bombs, an eco-art and leadership workshop before hosting a round table with some local leaders and Moonee Valley City Council Mayor, Cr. Tyson. Thank you to all our special guests, participants, Youth team and community leaders who came along and helped bring so many tangible examples of how our community can think globally and act locally.

Special mention goes to our intern, Adele Roeder. Adele's initiative, leadership and dedication made this event the success it was. As one of the founding members of Grassroots, it is inspiring to see Adele continuing to help build a connected and supportive young community of environmental change makers.



The Grassroots Group brings together community 12-25 who live, play, learn or work in Moonee Valley to support each other to being change makers and take local action for sustainability. To join in or learn more visit www.valleyyouth.org.au.



Congratulations to our New Nature Stewards

Congratulations to all the intrepid students who will be graduating as Nature Stewards on Saturday 3 July. We hope you have been inspired by your journey around the Moonee Ponds Creek and look forward to seeing your future stewardship for the environment.

Wildlife news

Pobblebonk sighting! The Moonee Valley City Council Parks crew undertook some planting in Delhi Reserve, Travancore and came across a lovely Pobblebonk frog! These frogs get their name from the characteristic 'bonk' sounds they make. Look out for these froggies when digging in the garden as they love to burrow into the ground and to help keep our waterways clean for both us and the frogs, be sure not to discard of waste or toxic liquids into drains and creeks.

Works complete!

Pop past Pattison Street, Moonee Ponds and Cross Keys Reserve, Essendon to check out the new facilities. See if you can guess the names of the three new animal friends at the Cross Keys playground (HINT: they are all local species). Answers on [page 16](#).

Upcoming events:

National Tree Day

We will be hosting National Tree Day at Rosehill Park in East Keilor on 30 July. Plant seedlings to help increase biodiversity around our newest wetland. This wetland joins Steele Creek and we will have lots of information about how Water Sensitive Urban Design helps keep our waterways healthy. More information visit:

www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/tree-day-23

Correction from last issue: It is important to clarify that there are no carp in the Woodlands Park ponds, that the native fish were successful, and that we have re-seeded the lake with new fingerlings.



By
Charlotte
Napper



Gavin Park Goldfish

We've had many concerned enquiries about the goldfish that had unfortunately been put in to the Gavin Park wetland. We've been really pleased to see this Little Pied Cormorant helping us out by finding its lunch. We'll keep checking for goldfish, but so far it looks like the cormorant has done a pretty thorough job of clearing them out!



Gowanbrae Path Works

Construction of a new section of pedestrian path to link Seggan Circle in Gowanbrae to the Moonee Ponds Creek shared trail has now been completed, providing improved access to the creek for Gowanbrae residents.

Outdoor Spaces and Places in Merri-bek

Merri-bek Council is seeking feedback for their new Open Space Strategy and want to hear directly from people who use the spaces and places around Merri-bek to make sure the city is liveable and green into the future. [Click on this link](#) to access a Discussion Paper and to provide input/join in conversations, workshops, surveys via our Community Engagement program.

Other News



Coburg Historical Society by Anna

The Bluestone Cottage Museum and Research Centre at 82 Bell St, Coburg is open from 2pm until 4.30 pm on the first Sunday of each month. The Society has helped the FoMPC by supplying historical images of the Creek over the years.

The Society is seeking volunteers to assist. If you can help out on any of the following dates: July 3, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5 or December 3, please email coburghistory@gmail.com This is a great chance to look at their Museum!



Overview	23,333 OBSERVATIONS	2,423 SPECIES	1,757 IDENTIFIERS
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iNaturalist Update

by Anna

The Moonee Ponds Creek Wildlife project continues to grow in numbers of observations and species, aided by events such as the recent City Nature Challenge. This is Citizen Science at its absolute best, encouraging people to focus on their surroundings and photograph the birds, animals, insects and native plants and placing the images on iNaturalist. So good to see others joining iNaturalist such as Caroline Mazurkiewicz, a regular photographer along Westbreen Creek. Check out the iNaturalist website: <https://www.inaturalist.org/> to explore or better still **join up** but be warned it is a little addictive!

[**Check out our project and prepare to be impressed!**](#)



Litter Report Shows Lots of Litter in Urban Creeks

MCMC has compiled the 2022 [litter report](#), from our [Rapid Response to Litter after Rainfall](#) (RRLR) program which began in 2018, thanks to a grant from the Port Phillip Bay Fund. The RRLR program has now extended to the Plenty River and Moonee Ponds catchments. Funding has enabled MCMC to provide residents and local groups with advice, equipment and support to organise their own clean-up events. Participants in clean-ups are also encouraged to document the types and quantities of litter found at their sites. This “litter data” is collated and available to view on the [LitterWatch Vic data portal](#).

2022 was a year of exceptionally high rainfall due to La Nina Climatic influences. The high rainfall led to increased flows in local waterways. After heavy rainfall events, a large amount of litter is deposited on the vegetation and the banks of the creeks. The increased visibility of this litter saw an unprecedented level of interest in participation in volunteer litter collection events.

Litter clearly has both amenity and ecological impacts. Over 2.5 billion pieces of litter and microplastics are estimated to flow into Port Phillip Bay each year from the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers. In MCMC’s experience, concern about levels of litter in Merri Creek is the most frequent ‘negative’ comment made about the condition of the creek by local community and other users of the Merri Creek Parklands.



This has been confirmed by Melbourne Water which has identified the reduction of litter as a key objective for improving the waterway values of Melbourne’s rivers and creeks. It has also established targets for relative ‘absence of litter’ in waterways.

The target for the [Moonee Ponds Creek](#) is to stay at the current ‘high absence of litter’. The 2022 data that MCMC submitted to the Litterwatch Vic data portal recorded 747 participants at 71 events. In total, 71 litter surveys were logged and volunteers collected 94,418 pieces of litter.

The three most common litter items collected at ALL sites, in order, were:

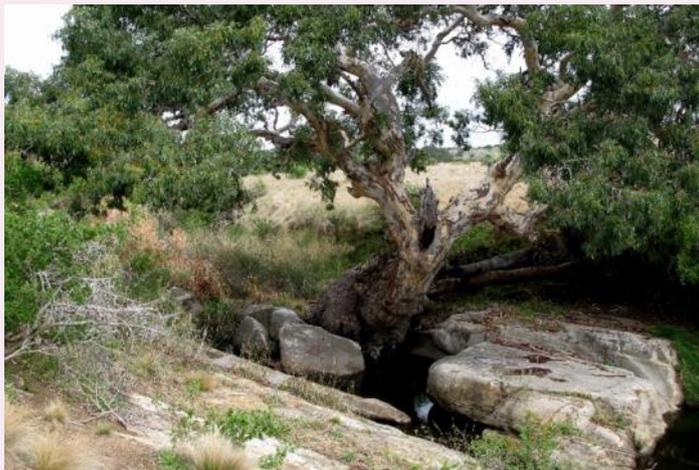
- Unidentifiable Plastic fragments and remnants (macro-plastics)
- Cigarette butts
- Single use food packaging / packets (chip, snack and lolly packets)

The overwhelming amount of litter collected at all sites was made up of plastics – single use plastic bags and plastic food packaging. These items are found as intact whole pieces and also as broken up smaller pieces, or remnants, also known as secondary macro plastics.

Waterwatch & Rapid Response to Litter after Rainfall Coordinator juliacirillo@mcmc.org.au

Tullamarine Landfill Site Buffer Land in Westmeadows Under Threat Again!

By Carolyn Layton and Kaye Oddie



Yet another application, 'Amendment C269 to the Hume Planning Scheme', to rezone and develop the buffer land next to the closed toxic waste dump Tullamarine Landfill Site in Western Avenue, Westmeadows has surfaced. This, despite similar proposals being knocked back by Hume City Council previously on health and environmental grounds.

This time the developer MAB has applied directly to the Minister for Planning for her to become the Responsible Authority and to have their application for rezoning fast-tracked under the Development Facilitation Program (part of the COVID response). This process excludes Hume City Council and the Community in determining the application, unlike normal planning procedures. In another departure from the normal planning process, the granting of permits will automatically follow the successful rezoning.

Whilst notionally a data centre and warehouse are on the draft plans, there are other 'units of land' marked for which a function is not provided (see Concept Plan). A further section of land facing Wright Street has been acquired by MAB but the sale, we understand, is subject to the Amendment C269 going ahead. This land was proposed to be developed as Residential under the last rejected amendment (AmC250) in 2021.

There are serious concerns about the safety for nearby residents and workers of developing the Western Avenue buffer land. Little is known about the impact of the toxic gases still emanating from the closed Tullamarine Landfill Site ('long-term toxic waste') and the effect of ground disturbance on the movement of contaminated ground water under the buffer zone. Inspection points for the regular monitoring are spread across the subject land but there is a perceived lack of transparency around the results.

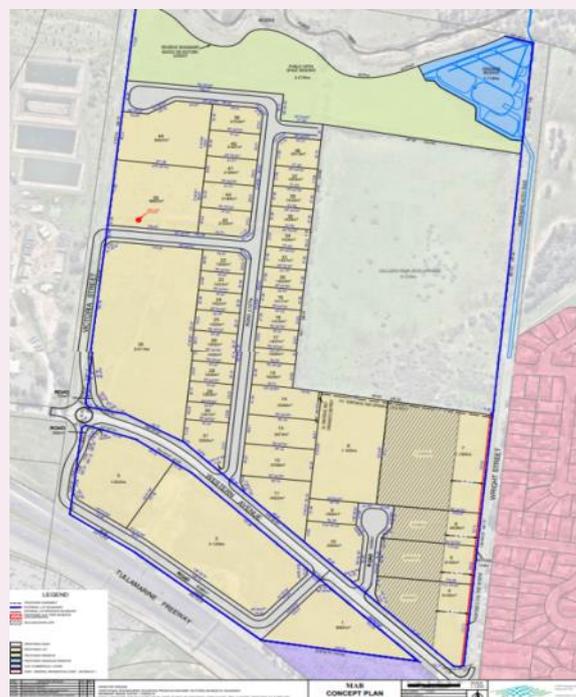
The site abuts the upper Moonee Ponds Creek - a section that is valued for its natural form, geology, high banks, old River Red Gums, biodiversity and cultural heritage - running between Woodlands Historic Park and the Tarnuk Wetlands. The land provides a buffer between the Tullamarine Landfill Site ('toxic waste dump') and the residential area along Wright St, Westmeadows.

The Hume Planning Scheme confirms the importance of the Moonee Ponds Creek as a 'site of particular note'. It is into this significant natural creek corridor and landscape that a high density industrial (and potentially later residential) development is intended, should the proposed amendment be approved.

As a result there are serious concerns for the impact of the proposed development on the adjacent Moonee Ponds Creek. Stormwater from low rainfall events would be treated by a bio-retention system, located on the edge of the Creek. This does not allay fears about overflows of contaminated stormwater from industrial activity flowing directly into the Creek and the Tarnuk Wetlands, during times of higher rainfall.

A proposed buffer of 30m to the Creek as part of the rezoning does little to protect the Creek. The expected future residential development of the Wright St land would also put unacceptable recreational pressure on the narrow open space and the adjoining Creek and threaten the preservation of its environmental and cultural values.

Recently Hume City council held a briefing prior to submissions being closed which was attended by Councillors and Council Officers plus reps of FoMPC, TTTDAG and Friends of Steel Creek. Objections closed on May 10th and the matter now lies with the Minister for Planning. Hume Council, in opposing the amendment, called for a Standing Advisory Committee to be set up to consider the proposal.





White-faced Heron



Little Pied Cormorant

Sightings

Images by
Maurice Austin



Rainbow Lorikeet



Chestnut Teals



White-faced Heron



Wood Ducks



White-faced Heron



Little Corella



Musk Lorikeet



Little Corella



Australasian Grebes



Rainbow Lorikeet



Chestnut Teal



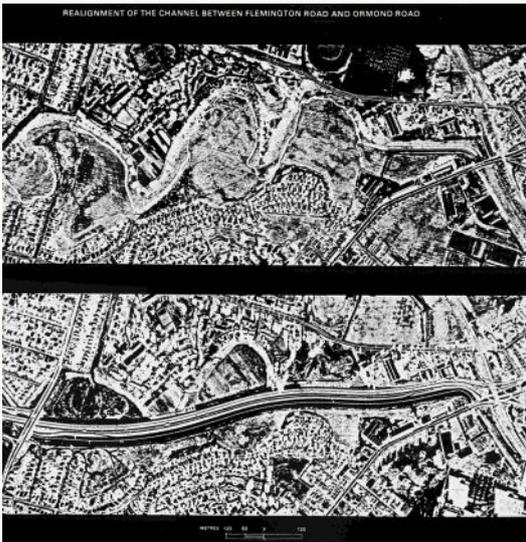
Autumn Fungi!

Images by
Maurice Austin, Kaye Oddie
and Pete Petinatos



MPC History Page — Mount Alexander Road Wide Channel

Most changes to this section of the creek occurred when the freeway was being built in 1968-1970.





Mystery surrounds the long term future of a parcel of land between Essendon Fields and Boeing Reserve.

Fed up with the rubbish accumulating along this open space, **Nina** organised an impromptu clean up of the site. The mess of litter was made worse by the contract mower shredding it into thousands of pieces, leaving a risk of it being blown or washed down into Moonee Ponds Creek.

The site is also targeted for illegal dumping of rubbish as shown in the images. It's an ongoing problem so **“who do we call”**?

Nina is liaising with Moonee Valley City Council to find out precisely who owns the land these days and who is responsible for its maintenance, as MVCC, Essendon Fields and VicRoads all deny responsibility for its maintenance.



[Image Source](#)





Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au

FoMPC News



Lionsville Redevelopment

Darryn Hartnett provided an update, noting MVCC held an online (Teams) consultation meeting on Wednesday 19th April. This was not ideal as it excluded some community members from participation. Darryn and John attended a Merri-bek Council meeting where the Council voted unanimously to **not** support the application.

Other current issues – some of which have been addressed in a second letter to MVCC - include:

- Herald-Sun published a story on 4 April on the development and noted that nine days had passed without Moonee Valley Council (MVCC) providing a response to its request for comments.
- Demolition of the memorial garden continues to upset some local residents.
- Flyer has been distributed by FoMPC to local residents asking them to make contact if they have concerns and to make an objection to MVCC.

Other Business

- **Naturalisation Project** Frank gave an update. Stage 1 of the project seems to be progressing well. There was positive media coverage recently in *The Age*. Stage 2 has received \$5m funding allocation from Federal Government MP's Bill Shorten (Maribyrnong) and Peter Khalil (Wills) and the CoP Collaboration is working on project options.
- **Kensington Embankment** Kaye reported that our Melbourne Water grant had been approved for further infill vegetation works along the 'Kensington Embankment' section of the lower Moonee Ponds Creek. The plants have been ordered and the site preparatory work lined up.
- **Child Safety Policy** The FoMPC Committee is considering the adoption of the Landcare Victoria Inc **Child Safety Policy** to replace our existing one. The decision will also ensure that we comply with our Landcare membership, through which we hold our public liability insurance. Once approved, a copy of the new Child Safety Policy will be sent to the membership.
- **MVCC Sportsground Signage** Nina, John, Frank, James, Anna and Kaye are meeting up with Council Officers in June to discuss signage within 30m of sensitive landscape areas. We aim to challenge Council's insistence that the rule will not impact the Creek.
- **Westmeadows MAB Rezoning**— Kaye alerted the group that developer MAB has written to the Minister for Planning, to seek its land along Western Ave/ Wright St, Westmeadows be rezoned to Industrial. This follows three attempts to re-categorise this buffer zone through earlier Hume City Council amendments.

Secretary Still Needed

Richard Smith has been welcomed as our new Treasurer, but we still very much need a new Secretary. Please contact President John Kavanagh, via friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au to find out more about how you could assist.

- **Answer from page 8:** Our newest friends are: **Microbat, Peacock spider, Pobblebonk frog, Ringtail possum and Tawny Frogmouth.**

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 and complete the membership form, or write to PO Box 1092, Moonee Ponds.

CALENDAR	Event and Location:	Contact/ Link
Monday, June 19 th , 6.30pm	FoMPC meeting, at Sam Merrifield Library	mooneepondscreek.org.au

Your Contributions to Ponderings are welcome!
Please send your images and stories to fompc.ponderings@gmail.com