

FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

MINUTES OF MEETINGS 2022 – 2024



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc
PO Box 54, ESSENDON, Victoria, 3040
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facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek

To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2022, 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

PRESENT

John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Alison Cook, Vince Aitkin, Maurice Austin, Anne Black, Kaye Oddie, Ray Hehr, Kelvin Thomson, Peter Scully, Tony Smith, Anna Lanigan, Joanna Dietrich, Laurel Frank, Liz Barber

APOLOGIES

Greg Hunt, Carolyn Layton, Darryn Hartnett, Darren McClelland, David Widdowson, Chris Cook, Rachel Lopes, Gary Manefield

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

John read: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

WELCOME

John welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed recently joined new members: Lindsay Morrison, John Tusler, Melissa Sieradzki, James Fahey, Robert Lovick, Hugh Halliday, Tenaya Jamieson, Catherine Schmidt.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on Dec 20, 2021 – proposed KO/seconded FK/approved.

John reiterated the dates set for meetings for 2022, noting some changes due to public holidays: Mondays, 6:30pm: April 11, June 20, Aug 22, Oct 17 (AGM), Dec 12.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Vince Aitkin read out the account balances as at 20/2/22. Current Bank Balance is \$37,405.57. It was moved that the report be accepted VA/seconded (?)/approved.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Lionsville

John Kavanagh reported on behalf of Darryn Hartnett works at Lionsville as part of the masterplan. These include strengthening the retaining wall. Part 1A already built; Part 1B permit (4-6 storeys) has been approved; works closer to Five Mile Creek and the Moonee Ponds Creek not yet permitted. John noted that 3rd party appeal rights mean further works will be subject to community

input. The new owners are Ryman, whose purpose is to provide aged care and retirement living; it is considered that the development at Lionsville will see an increase in numbers.

2. Kernan Street Reserve, Pascoe Vale

Ray Hehr reported that the plantings undertaken in 2019 in this small reserve abutting the Creek at the end of Kernan Ave as a project of Moreland Council and FoMPC are doing very well, but the weeds are out of control. He proposes a FoMPC working bee to tackle the weeds – with suggested dates of Sun May 1 or alternative Sun May 15, from 10am-12noon ... to be confirmed with Lori Arthur, Moreland's Natural Resource Management Officer. FoMPC would provide morning tea.

3. Arden Structure Plan and Planning Scheme Amendment C407

Kaye provided update on this urban renewal project that abuts the Creek in North Melbourne. The Victorian Planning Authority and City of Melbourne's plan is for mid-rise commercial, retail, residential and institutional development around the new Arden Metro Station. A Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) is currently holding hearings and round table discussions on the Structure Plan and Amendment. The FoMPC made a presentation to the SAC about its concerns: that the proposed built form controls will result in increased development density, impacting on the quantity, quality and functionality of the proposed open space. Open space is proposed to be part of integrated water management (IWM) - necessary to address flood and drainage issues because Arden is on a flood plain. Open space also encompasses the Creek corridor and the FoMPC also submitted concerns about proposed measures that could detrimentally impact on the existing planted Kensington embankment. The SAC is expected to finalise its report later this year.

4. Hume Amendment C250 for Westmeadows Development

This amendment proposes to rezone and develop 26ha of land in Western Ave/Wright St, Westmeadows for 41 light industrial lots and 227 residential. The land is abuts the Moonee Ponds Creek, linking Woodlands Historic Park and The Tarnuk wetlands. The land also functions as a buffer between the Tullamarine toxic Landfill site and existing residential area of Westmeadows. Many objections were lodged to the proposal and on Feb 16 Hume City Council held a special meeting to hear from objectors and the proponent, MAB Corporation. FoMPC members Kaye Oddie, Anna Lanigan and Julie Law spoke about the significant natural attributes of this part of the Creek (retaining its original topography, chain of ponds, rocks, River Red Gums and other vegetation) and the detrimental impacts from the proposed (over)development close by. Helen van den Berg presented on behalf of the Terminate Tulla Toxic Dump Action Group, citing the leaking of dangerous toxic substances into the ground water, spreading beneath the development site. Other objectors raised traffic, substandard contamination assessments, denial of planning justice should the development proceed. Hume Council will now consider three options: make changes to the amendment; refer it for consideration by Planning Panels Victoria; or abandon the amendment.

5. Memberships

Vice-president Frank Kinnersley maintains the Membership List and also the Ponderings email list. He said about five new members join each month. Current membership is 130. This includes members who have paid their fees within past two years. Those who haven't renewed their membership in 2+ years are culled from the FoMPC membership list (but remain on the Ponderings list).

A recent payment into our bank account was received from 'S.J McQuire' for 'Wendy Orams', however no address or contact details were provided. Frank called for assistance from anyone who may know these people.

6. Wandering trad Trial – John St, Oak Park

Local residents Greg Hunt and Carolyn Layton have initiated a trial to control infestations of the exotic weed 'Wandering trad' (= *Tradescantia fluminensis*) along embankments of the Creek close to John St Reserve, Oak Park. This is being done in conjunction with CSIRO. Secretary Alison Cook read a report on behalf of Greg in his absence.

The CSIRO has been researching biological control agents for this weed. A type of fungus called a smut, scientific name *Kordyana brasiliensis*, has been found to knock the weed around enough that manual control becomes possible. We were provided with smut-infected Wandering trad and, in early November, planted it in twenty-one sites on the creek bank, approximately 80 metres downstream from the John Street Reserve. While there are indications that the infection is taking hold, the advice is that it could take up to two years before there is significant change in host plants. Further releases of infected material at designated sites on the creek will take place in the next few months to establish the best times for successful Wandering trad control. Results are

being relayed back to CSIRO through the Dandenong Community Weed Alliance while Moreland City Council and Melbourne Water are being kept informed. For further information, Greg or Carolyn can be contacted via friends@mooneepondcreek.org.au

7. Other business

- **Chain of Ponds Collaboration**

The recommitment ceremony planned for Mar 10 has been postponed. This was to re-sign the Memorandum of Understanding and approve a revised Prospectus. CEO's, heads of the CoP members will shortly be forwarded the updated documents.

- **Life Membership for Bob Steadman**

FoMPC Committee decided to institute Life Memberships of the FoMPC and will formally establish by means of a Special Resolution at the AGM in October. However the Committee also agreed to be able to issue Life Memberships outside the time of the AGM ... and has awarded Bob Steadman the first Life Membership. John Kavanagh showed the special plaque that had been prepared and will be presented to Bob. The citation reads:
'For many years of exemplary service to both the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc. and to the Moonee Ponds Creek itself.'

Kelvin commented that Bob was a great contributor in past years; he was a great 'hands on' person; others also provided anecdotes about Bob and his many years' involvement with the FoMPC.

- **Buruli ulcer in Moonee Ponds**

Darren raised concern about reports of the occurrence of the Buruli ulcer in Essendon and Moonee Ponds – originally occurring on the Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas. Kaye replied that it appears to be spread by mosquito from infected possums, however, it is treatable by antibiotics.

- **iNaturalist**

Anna reported the great success of iNaturalist for the Moonee Ponds Creek. There have been 1000 observations added since the launch of the MPC, with another 500 added by Dennis Hocking, especially relating to wetlands and the Jacana Wetlands. Two entomologists have joined, which should be useful for insect identification.

- **Flemington Hub Project**

Anna reported that she and Lori Arthur had assisted Rosa Mar Tel Ortega with her Flemington Community Hub project depicting plants and wildlife associated with the Creek on panels associated with the new building.

Dates for your Diary

Next FoMPC Meeting: Monday 11 April, 6:30 pm, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds (location tbc). All welcome.

Community Litter Clean-up, Thurs 21 April, 10am-12noon, Brunswick West. Co-organisers are Julia Cirillio and Pam Lloyd. Register at:
<https://www.mcmc.org.au/29-front-page/front-page-blurb/1102-friends-of-moonee-ponds-creek-community-litter-clean-up-2022>



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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 11 APRIL 2022, 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

PRESENT

Frank Kinnersley, Alison Cook, Anna Lanigan, Maurice Austin, Kaye Oddie, Joan Beaumont, Peter Scully, Tony Smith, Chris Cook, Kelvin Thomson

APOLOGIES

John Kavanagh, Vince Aitkin, Carolyn Layton, Greg Hunt, Zoe Jellie, Darren McClelland, Nina Eason, Helen van den Berg, Darryn Hartnett, Ray Hehr

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Frank (Chair) read: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

WELCOME

Frank welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed recently joined new members: Christine Czajko, Kirsten Fagerli, Marcus Keam, Peter Barbetti (lapsed member re-joining), Emma Gee

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on Feb 21, 2022 – proposed
KO/seconded KT/approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Frank presented the Treasurer's Report in Vince's absence. Frank moved that the report be accepted, seconded by Kelvin and approved.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Nursery Corner fauna survey

Anna Lanigan presented photos from the recent works at Nursery Corner. Anna and local resident James met with the Wildlife Ecology team on the first day and were shown two of the Blue-tongued Lizards rescued for relocation. Frogs, geckos, and a possum had also been relocated. Anna raised major concerns over limited consultation regarding habitat trees prior to pruning and removal of some trees, particularly dead trees that were cut back such that perches and nesting spaces were removed. Anna hopes the Ecology Specialists will be retained for the next phase of clearing. Anna was attending the site daily to ask for habitat trees to be retained. Additionally, Anna reported truckloads of potentially unsafe building debris were brought into the site by the previous tenant and still remain on the site, though now covered in weeds. These mounds are close to the fence near the creek.

Anna has asked that FoMPC write to council requesting the full fauna report that was done prior to commencement of clearing, and for details on the relocation of fauna. Anna and Kaye will draft this letter.

2. Talk to the EHS on the bridges over Moonee Ponds Creek

Anna has been asked to give a talk to the Essendon Historical Society on April 26th about the bridges over Moonee Ponds Creek. She presented some images already collected. Of interest is any information known about the Wilson St Bridge it seems demolished to make way for the Tullamarine Freeway. Frank suggested Municipal records.

3. iNaturalist update, and the upcoming City Nature Challenge

Anna reported that the iNaturalist website now has almost 13,000 observations recorded for the Moonee Ponds Creek area. She mentioned the upcoming City Nature Challenge, in which cities around the world compete to see who can record the most observations. Hume City Council has an upcoming webinar explaining how the City Nature Challenge works. Anna will provide details on the challenge and webinar, which will be distributed to members and placed on Facebook.

4. West Gate Tunnel Project – Bridge 90 tree and vegetation impacts

Frank and Kaye met with the works team responsible for constructing Bridge 90 on April 1, who are arguing that more trees need to be removed to enable heavy equipment to access the site. Initially 30 trees were slated for removal, but the proposal is now to remove more than 80 trees from a revegetated area with many significant trees to make way for the construction of crane pads. Kaye also noticed that many trees in the target area had not been properly surveyed. Following the meeting, FoMPC has requested CPB-John Holland/WGTP to:

- Undertake an engineering review and provide justification for extension of the project boundary to support crane/piling pads
- Requested CPB-John Holland Environment Team and arborists to review Tree 3320 and 3321 for retention as they fall outside the surveyed crane pad area.

Kaye asked the meeting to endorse FoMPC lodging an objection to DELWP against expanding the boundary of the tree removal area. Kaye will draft this and send it to the committee.

Kaye also contacted Melbourne City Council and asked them to visit the site.

5. Assistance requested for Yarra Valley Water Group Weeding Bee

Kaye called for available FoMPC members to assist on Friday 13 May, 9am-1pm at the Kensington Embankment.

6. Announcement – petition calling for an environmental impact assessment regarding the planned third runway at Melbourne Airport

Alison shared that a petition calling for an environmental impact assessment regarding the planned third runway at Melbourne Airport, due to impacts on grey box forest, is available for anyone who would like to sign it: <http://www.no3rdtullarunway.net.au/portfolios/sign-the-petition/>

7. Thank you to Anna for speaking to the Nature Stewards group

Frank thanked Anna for speaking with the Nature Stewards group. Anna said she enjoyed giving the talk, and reported that the group consisted of people of a broad age range. She has placed her presentation as a pdf file on the FoMPC Facebook group, and will also send this to the Secretary to be emailed to members.

8. Bob Steadman's life membership

Frank shared that Bob Steadman received his life membership certificate from Vince and was pleased to receive it.

9. Other business

• Item 1: Lionsville

Frank, Vince and Darryn met onsite with the owners (Ryman Healthcare) and were given a presentation on the plans for the site (but were not allowed to have a copy of the presentation). Plans include 3 structures covering 3 stages of retirement living/healthcare on one site. Frank, Vince and Darryn expressed concerns re structures overshadowing the creek, and took the Ryman reps for a walk on the creek path, which they hadn't previously seen. Ryman reps were able to see advantages for their clients of making a path at the corner of MPC/5 Mile Creek for recreation use (would also avoid elderly mixing with commuter cyclists). A planning permit application should be in soon, and Darryn is monitoring this. Kelvin has emailed MVCC requesting a copy of plans when lodged (and received a positive response from council). Kaye suggests circulating the planning permit no. when known, so that individuals can lodge their own objections if desired.

• Item 2: Meeting with Shadow Minister for the Environment

Anna and Vince met the Shadow Minister for the Environment, who advised a further 5 million dollars in funding for the Creek if Labor wins the federal election.

- **Item 3: Cleanaway Tullamarine Landfill Community Consultation Group Meeting, 23 March**

Kaye shared a diagram of the site and summarised the key findings from the 2021 Environmental Audit of the Tullamarine Landfill Site:

- Capping reducing leachate levels
- Methane gas emissions reducing
- Leachates spreading through groundwater at lower levels
- Groundwater rising in test wells close to Moonee Ponds Creek
- 'Chemicals of Interest' spreading in most directions from the site
- Constructed Ponds (to capture stormwater) storage exceeded and stormwater flowing into Rock Pond close to the Creek
- Elevated PFAS levels in Rock Ponds, 20m from MPC, and in adjacent Creek

Environmental Audit Recommendations

- Priority preparation of a stormwater management plan
- Implement a Sampling and Quality Analysis plan for PFAS

- **Item 4: Hume Amendment C250 (proposed re-zoning/development of site adjacent to Tullamarine Landfill Site)**

Kaye summarised the proposed development and why it is inappropriate. AmC250 was refused at the Hume City Council meeting on February 16. FoMPC to consider making a request to the Minister for Planning to rezone the land so it can never be developed, but retained as buffer to the adjoining toxic, contaminated Tullamarine Landfill Site. Kaye and Kelvin to draft and consider also sending to local MP.

- **Item 5: Hopetoun Ave Bridge**

Frank is trying to be involved in the design and push for improvements in the path in the general area.

- **Item 6: Chain of Ponds Collaboration update**

Formation of a bandicoot in grassland, using old roofing tin and plantings, at Woodlands Historic Park, that will be visible from planes flying into Melbourne Airport, is in early stages.

Naturalisation of the Creek ('Reimagining the Creek') project at Brosnan Cres/Oak Park: Design drawings to be finalised this month; in-stream works (pond, rock terraces) to commence in October, planting plan being finalised; completion date estimated 2023.

Essendon/West Brunswick new pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the Creek has been completed along with approach paths; further works, fence removal and plantings to be finished this month; anticipated launch in June.

The CoP Planning Group is supporting a Significant Landscape Overlay for the whole Creek as proposed by DELWP, however would like to see consideration of a different Environmental Significance Overlay and has written to the Ministers for Planning and Water in this regard. (Kelvin noted that the FoMPC have been trying to achieve such protection for 30 years and the preparation of the 1992 Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan.)

- **Item 7: Weeding Bee at Kernan St Reserve, Pascoe Vale South**

Weeding Bee to be held at Kernan St Reserve, Pascoe Vale South – Alison to contact Ray Hehr to confirm Sunday 1 May as the date, and confirm the time.

Dates for your Diary

Next FoMPC Meeting: Monday 20th June, 6:30 pm, TBC but most likely at the Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds. All welcome.

Community Litter Clean-up, Thurs 21 April, 10am-12noon, Brunswick West. Co-organisers are Julia Cirillio and Pam Lloyd. Register at: <https://www.mcmc.org.au/29-front-page/front-page-blurb/1102-friends-of-moonee-ponds-creek-community-litter-clean-up-2022>

Weeding Bee, Sunday 1 May, Kernan St Reserve, Pascoe Vale South, 10:30am-12:30pm

Planting Bee, Sat 7 May, 10am-12noon

The Brunswick Communities for Nature (C4N) are holding a planting bee at Holbrook Reserve, Brunswick West – for details see:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1132303577336811/?ref=newsfeed>

Yarra Valley Water Group Weeding Bee along Kensington Embankment of the Creek on **Friday 13 May, 9am-1pm** (contact Kaye for details at friendsofmooneepondscreek@gmail.com)



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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 20 June 2022, 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

ATTENDANCE

John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Kaye Oddie, Carolyn Layton, Anna Lanigan, Ray Hehr, David Widdowson, Peter Scully, Tony Smith, Michael Rigby, Joan Beaumont

APOLOGIES

Maurice Austin, Zoe Jellie, Vince Aitkin, Greg Hunt, Alison Cook.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held on April 11th 2022. Moved: FK That the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded: AL Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Treasurer, Vince Aitkin on 19th June 2022. The report was summarised by John. There were only small changes in the accounts since the last meeting.

Moved JK: That the report be accepted. Seconded: CL Carried.

John also reported that Vince has moved to Wodonga to live. Vince has suggested another member be invited to take on the role of Treasurer, as he will be unable to attend meetings.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Welcome to new members. John welcomed our new members: Chris Morton, Kathleen Kean and Isobelle Henry.
2. Lionsville site update: Darren reported that a permit had been recently lodged by Ryman with the Moonee Valley Council for the Lionsville site. He reported that work is already being done on site. Darren, Frank and Vince had recently met with two representatives of Ryman; their "in-house builder" and a planner. They were shown some slides about the development but no details about the permit were given, despite being sought. A walk around the site was conducted.
Darren reported that the development, from the plans briefly seen on the slides, appeared to be very extensive, with major buildings across the site. Darren suggested there could be other uses planned for the site, not just Aged Care. Although a permit has been applied for, no details are being made available to the public.
There is currently no information on the permit application, for example, whether it relates to whole or part of the site, whether there will be a public consultation process, or whether

neighbours are being informed. Darren noted there was no signage on the site. However, it was stated that Ryman have apparently approached some Moonee Valley Councillors.

Darren expressed concern that there could be a very small window between when any public consultation is announced and when Council makes a decision on the permit application. Apart from the apparent lack of a public consultation process, "astounding for a development of this size", there are real concerns about the fire safety of the proposed development (lack of through access for trucks in the event of a fire) and its closeness to the Moonee Ponds Creek and the potential for impact on the Creek corridor.

Kaye suggested that a letter be sent to the CEO of CMV asking questions about the planning process for this site, including public consultation and 3d Party Appeal Rights. Darren agreed this was a good idea and highlighted the urgency of the matter.

John agreed to write the letter as soon as possible and Darren offered to assist. It was suggested the letter be cc'd to the Moreland City Council. It was confirmed that Moreland Council was following this with interest as well.

3. **WGTP Bridge 90 Update:** Kaye reported on concerns regarding the Footscray Road Bridge over the Moonee Ponds Creek, part of the West Gate Tunnel Project. She reported that the contractors need more space for the bridge footprint and intend to cut down 55 more trees. Kaye put in a formal objection to this through DWELP and has been told that FoMPC will be told nothing about this. The WGTP people claim they don't need a permit to cut down the trees. They found out that the plantings were done 30 years ago by Melbourne Water and they told Kaye they can get Melb Water permission to cut them down. Apparently someone in Melb Water signed off on this without any consultation. So far the process appears to be stalled; there has been no assessment of the trees carried out. FOMPC is meant to be involved in what happens with this, but appears to be being excluded.
4. **South Dynon train facility:** Kaye reported that she had been approached by the Level Crossing Removal Authority about their plans to change their buildings, including moving the carpark closer to the creek. She referred to the Strategic Opportunities Plan for the Moonee Ponds Creek which promotes the idea of more space for the Moonee Ponds Creek. However, she reported that they want more car space and there will be no room for trees. Kaye said that she is asking them to at least make a buffer of vegetation between the carpark and the Creek.
5. **Landcare Grants:** John mentioned there are Landcare Grants available and anyone interested should speak with Alison.
6. **Strathnaver Reserve carpark:** Nina reported that after much work to get the 'h clause' clause removed from the proposal, it appears it is on the agenda again i.e. a reversal of the previous decision to not have the carpark on Mascoma near entrance to the Soccer ground. Importantly, the land claimed for a carpark wasn't in the Masterplan for the Soccer Club works. A comment was made about the distinction between 'public open space' and 'vacant land' which doesn't seem to be understood by the proponents of the renewed move to have the carpark on Mascoma St. Concern was expressed that this would set a precedent for car parks on public land. Suggestions for action were made by Anna; such as writing to councillors to get their reasons for reactivating the carpark issue or inviting councillors to a FoMPC meeting to explain themselves.
Motion "Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek endorse the actions of Nina and others in protecting the open space in Strathnaver Reserve. We oppose turning public open space into car parking."
Moved: John Seconded: Nina. Carried.
7. **Nina gave an update on the issue of the Hammerhead turn and difficulty for cars and trucks to turn at the end of the Brosnan Crescent near the Strathmore Nth Primary School entrance, near the Creek.** She expressed concerns that land would be taken from the Creek reserve to fix the problem. She suggested for example, a key be given to rubbish truck to enable them to use the land inside the school gates to turn. Nina will keep us updated.
8. **Beginning of Works Ceremony Brosnan Crescent:** Frank gave an update on the Brosnan Cres Naturalisation Project work and on a celebration event that occurred on the creek at the end of Ethel St Oak Park Friday 3rd June. The event started with a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony from Dane which was very well received. There were addresses from various representatives of the Chain of Ponds stakeholders and Federal Member for Wills Peter Khalil,

State Member for Essendon Danny Pearson, the Mayors of Moonee Valley and Moreland Councils. Following was a recommitment ceremony with the stakeholder reps of the 18 organisations (including FoMPC) in the Chain of Ponds Collaboration re-signing the charter (as it had expired). Next was the "Turning of the Sod" Ceremony and many photos. Also in attendance were students and staff from Strathmore North Primary School and members of Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, including our past president Kelvin Thomson.

John commented that he thought that there was commitment to the \$5mill promised to extend the Brosnan Naturalisation Project before the federal election by Federal Member Maribyrnong Bill Shorten. Where the extra work would be carried out was up for discussion.

9. John reported that recent events including weeding of Holbrook Reserve in May plus the planting along Mascoma Street went very well. He reported that 964 plants were put in at Mascoma St by the large numbers who attended.

10. John acknowledged a donation of \$100 from Bob Steadman.

11. Committee Matters:

Vince our Treasurer has moved to Wodonga to live. He said it would be better if another member took on the role due to his inability to attend meetings. Alison who is currently our Secretary has indicated that due to her very busy work role she will be stepping down from the position of secretary, but that she would continue until October when the AGM takes place.

12. John thanked David for the recent edition of Ponderings

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. Anna updated us on iNaturalist and highlighted the over 14,000 observations that have been made to date. She spoke about Victorian Biodiversity Atlas and the Atlas of Living Australia and their relative merits in the context of their use when biodiversity reports are being commissioned by Councils and developers. iNaturalist observations are forwarded to both the ALA and VBA. While the ALA accepts the

Research Grade verification on Naturalist the VBA does an additional verification by their own staff and this can lead to considerable delays. The VBA appears to be the gold standard for developers and Councils but it doesn't always have the latest data compared with the ALA. Kaye suggested a letter be written to Lily Ambrosia to seek clarification of the preference for the VBA and suggest that at least both should be consulted in planning decisions. Anna agreed to draft the letter.

14. Ray Hehr passed on that Lori Arthur said the Kernan St parkland does not as yet have a name. Max Marshall Reserve has been suggested as Max did a lot of planting there. Kelvin will be writing a letter to put to the next meeting.
15. Anna reported she noticed that the Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek (headed by Julie Law) was missing from the list of Chain of Ponds Stakeholders at the signing off on three more years for the Chain of Ponds Collaboration. She expressed her view that we need as a group to acknowledge the enormous contribution Julie has made over many decades not just for the Upper Moonee Ponds Creek but for the Friends all along the MPC. (We will miss her legendary scones too!!). Anna suggested that formal presentations need to be made acknowledging both Vince and Julie.

John thanked us all for coming to the meeting, which ended at 8pm.

NOTICES: Nil

NEXT FOMPC MEETING: Monday 22nd* August 2022 in the Sam Merrifield Library, Moonee Ponds



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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 22 August 2022, 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

President John Kavanagh welcomed members to the meeting and acknowledged the Wurundjeri people as Traditional Owners of the land and waterways.

PRESENT: John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Isabelle Henry, Anne Moule, Peter Scully, David Widdowson, Richard Smith, Maurice Austin, Anna Lanigan, Darryn Hartnett.

APOLOGIES: Ray Hehr, Alison Cook, Joan Beaumont, Carolyn Layton, Nina Eason, Chris Cook.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Meeting held on June 20, 2022. Proposed/seconded JK/FK/approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Treasurer Vince Aitkin, presented by JK. Total bank balance \$37,927.90.

Vince advises that he has now relocated to Wodonga, and will be standing down as Treasurer at the AGM.

Frank advises that there is an outstanding membership bank deposit for which there is no accompanying application form for Anika Stobart. If anyone knows this person, please let Frank know.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Welcome to new member: Richard Smith

2. Galada at Strathmore North Primary School.

Anna glowingly described the opening of the new library at Strathmore North Primary School praising the architects K2LD (chief architect Ian Davidson) with their imaginative and detailed design replicating the Moonee Ponds Creek chain of ponds winding its way along the floor of the building; large windows and a ceiling painted blue with clouds and a timber verandah to provide a tree connection and complete the Moonee Ponds Creek imagery. Anna has made a short power point document showing the new Library. To request a copy, email friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au

3. Westbreen Creek - National Tree Day Community Planting

Anna reported on the successful community planting day to celebrate National Tree Day held at KW Joyce Reserve, which abuts Westbreen Creek in Pascoe Vale. 1600 plants comprising an extensive list of different species – aimed at attracting small birds and native bees. A nice addition was bee hotels built by a Council staff member. Earlier, 85 students from Pascoe Vale Girls College planted 900 plants along the shared path in the Reserve close to the school fence line. The plantings will enhance the Reserve providing good open space for many - including students, elderly citizens and local residents. Congratulations to Moreland Council for the successful event and for yet another environmental project along the creeks.

4. Gavin Park Wetlands.

Anna provided notice of the forthcoming formal opening of Gavin Park Wetlands at 42-46 Northumberland Rd, Pascoe Vale on Sept 8, 10-11am. The new wetlands is a joint Melbourne Water and Moreland City Council project that will improve stormwater quality, restore habitat and biodiversity

and enhance the recreational value of the open space. To RSVP, go to civicevents@moreland.vic.gov.au by 1 Sept

5. The Inter-cultural Framework

Anna attended the Moonee Valley Sustainability – Caring for Country event last weekend. Guest speaker Mark Yettica-Paulson, an indigenous leader from south-east Queensland, led a yarn session about his Inter-cultural Framework, a powerful interactive learning strategy that explores how our diverse backgrounds can be brought together by sharing our deep memories and by participating in teachings and activities. See Appendix 1 for the handout.

6. iNaturalist progress.

Anna reported that the Moonee Ponds Creek/iNaturalist now has 14,928, covering all natural flora and fauna (excluding people). There are some issues with casual non-wildlife observations that she will find out how to best manage. Anna reiterated the process for entering observations, their verification and validation to research status.

7. WGTP Bridge 90 Revegetation Plan

Kaye provided update on the Bridge 90 works to install a new shared path on southern side of the bridge (Footscray Rd, Docklands) and that required removal of 55+ extra trees from an established area of vegetation along the lower Moonee Ponds Creek. It was a less-than-satisfactory planning process with the end result being use of a clause in the planning scheme that allowed the funder of the original planting (approx. 25 years ago) to authorise the removal of the trees. This was Melbourne Water. It was unfortunate that MW undertook no consultation as part of the process – that possibly could have seen a better outcome. The trees have now been removed. The FoMPC and Melbourne City Council are working with the CPB-JH landscape team on the revegetation plan.

8. WGTP Bridge 75 Veloway

Another update. Kaye stated the plan to remove the fanciful 'U' from the Veloway and use the disused rail bridge (Bridge 75) over the MPC just north of Footscray Rd, that has been well supported and was supposedly awaiting Ministerial approval, has now been set back as Transurban does not want to accept responsibility for maintaining the bridge, as part of the revised Veloway project.

9. Melbourne Metro Intake Substation (ISS)

High voltage cables from the West Melbourne AusNet Terminal will run under the MPC to a new substation on the eastern side of the Creek, south of Arden St Bridge. The area is visually desolate with rail lines, overhead CityLink, substations, no vegetation. Melbourne Metro have proposed a pink fence alongside the new ISS. The colour will reflect the purple noon flower that historically grew in the area. Initial reaction from many was No! to the colour but on reflection, this changed to acceptance, enjoying the whimsy, recognising the historical connection and introduction of interest and colour to the bleak site. In approving the 'pink' fencing, the meeting also recommended the noon flower be planted in the lower verge between the path and the waterway.

Kaye also mentioned landscaping of the opposite side of the Creek, where HV cables had been laid as part of the ISS, will shortly be subject to final discussions.

10. Docklands Summit

The City of Melbourne is presently organising a series of workshops and a summit (Sept 2) to discuss issues relating to Docklands –including residential, commercial, social, environmental, political. Many stakeholders have been invited, including the FoMPC which has a long history of involvement in this part of the lower MPC. Frank, Kaye and Tom Civil are representing the FoMPC. Our major aim is to have the shared path, closed off by the Docklands Film Studios large Sound Stage, reinstated and open space along the Creek returned.

11. Montague Street new shared path/boardwalk

Frank provides background to this long-called-for project. The current boardwalk/shared path is ageing and consultants have prepared new designs for a new structure (est. \$2-3m). Frank outlined several concerns, including unnecessary fencing along the property line and lack of acknowledgement of the input from bicycle users, FoMPC about the design. It was suggested ward councillors be invited to an on-site meeting and the meeting agreed for JK to write to the councillors.

12. Further Naturalisation of the Creek

The Federal election saw \$7.5m promised to undertake further naturalisation of the Creek. The Chain of Ponds Collaboration is starting to investigate proposals; one of which is to drill cores into the

concrete side walls of the Creek channel and insert plants that would remove contaminants, such as pfas.

13. A musical interlude

Following on from students' involvement in events along the Creek, earlier spoken about at the meeting, John played a recording of his Grade 4 students at St. Matthew's, North Fawkner, singing a song they had written about the Moonee Ponds Creek. It was much admired and much enjoyed and we hope a YouTube clip will be made and it can be put on our website. See the song in Appendix 2.

14. Lionsville Redevelopment

Darryn provided a brief history of the proposed redevelopment of the Lionsville site in Moreland Rd by Ryman Healthcare for a retirement village and update to the planning process. Difficult to obtain information about the plans for the 2.5ha site, which backs onto Five Mile and Moonee Ponds Creeks. One permit has been issued, with a second application (MV-269-2022) submitted, but not yet publicly advertised. Concerns about acquisition of crown land for the development, additional to the freehold land holding, and impacts on the creek interfaces.

15. Laneways in Oak Park

Another planning issue in Oak Park – a developer seeks vehicle access using the lanes in residential areas off Winifred St that were established to provide pedestrian access to JP Fawkner Reserve and the MPC because a path along Creek was not feasible due to close property boundaries. Moreland Council had previously wanted to make the lanes permanently off-road. Further information to be sought regarding this development proposal.

16. Naming Kernan Street reserve 'Max Marshall Reserve

Item held over to next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

17. Frog data entry into databases

A reply has been received from Environment Minister Lily D'Ambrosio's office in response to FoMPC letter about the unacceptable delay(years!) in transferring frog observations from Melbourne Water's Frog Census to the State Government's official flora and fauna data base – the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA), that is used for government and consultant reports and projects.

"I am pleased to inform you that the backlog of Frog Census records will be expedited into the VBA as soon as practical. Future iterations of the Frog Census program shall also be uploaded to the VBA in a timely manner."

18. Electronic score boards at MVCC reserves

Relayed from Nina, concern about MVCC's approval of installing electronic scoreboards with advertising at council sports grounds.

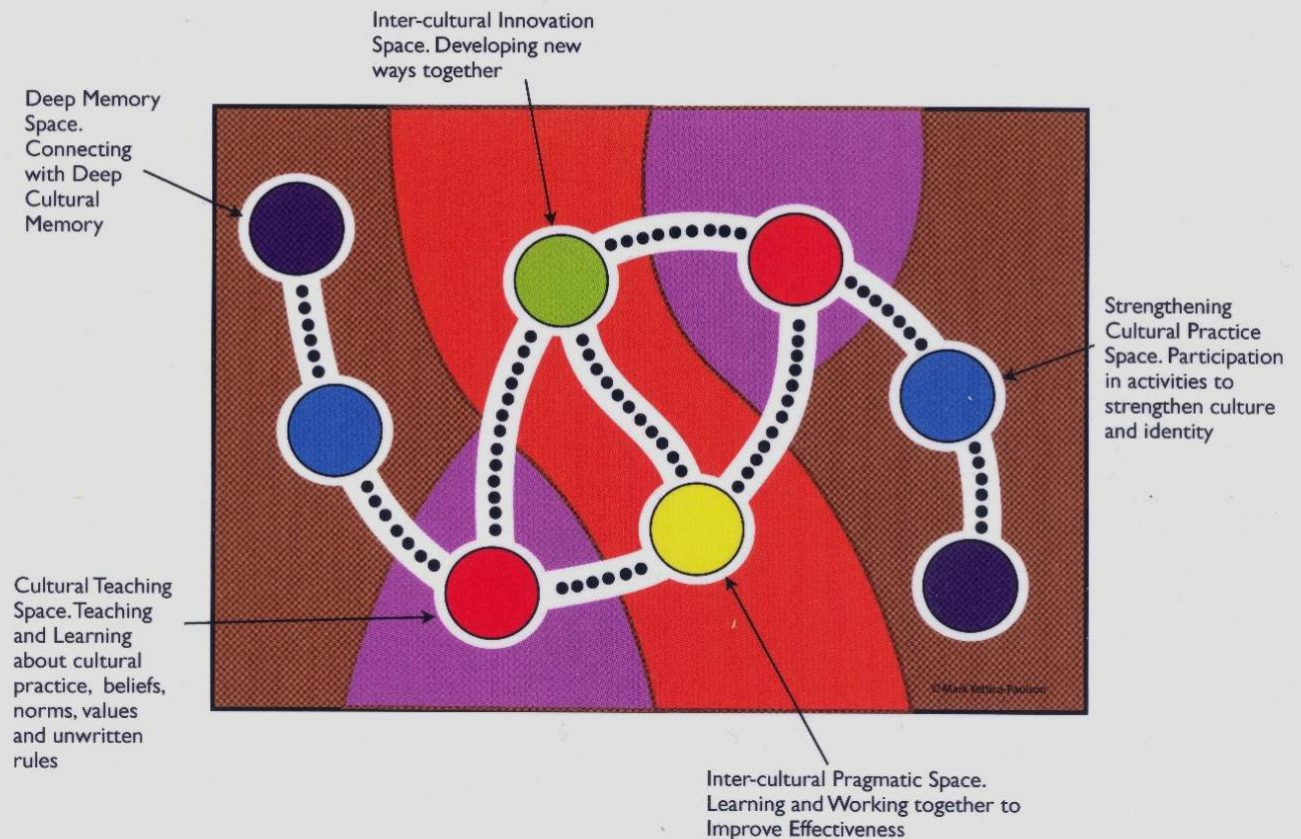
COMMITTEE MATTERS

- John stated that we are in search of a new Treasurer and Secretary, with both Vince (Treasurer) and Alison (Secretary) standing down at the forthcoming AGM. Alison has prepared a secretary's role list.
- Suggestions were called for a guest speaker at the AGM.

DATES OF NEXT MEETING:

Next FoMPC Meeting (AGM): Monday 17th October, 6:30pm, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds

THE INTER-CULTURAL FRAMEWORK



WORKING WITH THE INTER-CULTURAL FRAMEWORK

Working with other cultures can be tricky sometimes. There are many challenges to working well together.

One of the keys to success is being able to be more clear on the intent and purpose of engagement and interaction with other cultures.

In the Inter-cultural Framework identifies various Cultural Spaces and recognises their value and significance.

The Deep Purple Space serves to connect cultures to deep memory. This is where mythologies and legends are connected to our modern reality. The Purpose and Intent of this space is to re-affirm connectedness, belonging and to gain wisdom.

The Blue Space serves to gather people together to participate in activities to strengthen identity and belonging. The Intent and Purpose of this space is to activate cultural expression and affirm distinctiveness.

The Red Space serves to teach others about culture. The Intent and Purpose of this space is to transfer knowledge about culture.

The Yellow Space serves to foster pragmatic work alongside each other's culture. The Purpose and Intent of this space is to gain enough knowledge and respect to work efficiently and effectively together.

The Green Space serves to cultivate innovation in practice and ideas for cultures to work together. The Intent and Purpose of this space is to challenge current conventions and explore new ideas, options and practices.

Working through these spaces, it is possible to improve your understanding of cultural dynamics at team, organisation and stakeholder levels.

It can be applied to various forms of difference and cultural expression.

Appendix 2. Song written and sung by St. Mathew's School, North Fawkner Grade 4 students

**Can you believe what happened to our creek?
All filled up with cold, grey concrete,
Covering a world below**

**Can you remember
Walking on the warm grass in the sun?
Playing with the pebbles and the stones?
Seeing little lizards splash and run?
Where are the waterfalls?**

**Will you ever sing again?
Can we save our creek?**

(WE CAN DO IT!!!!)

**We can make a change
Dig up all the concrete
We can rearrange
Tip and spread the soil**

**We know we could do it if we tried
See our creek now dancing in the sunlight**

**Our little creek
Our lovely creek
Our narrow creek
Moonee Ponds Creek!**



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To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022, 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

Welcome and Acknowledgement

President John Kavanagh welcomed attendees to the AGM and he acknowledged the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung, the Traditional Owners of the land.

Present

John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Liz Forbes, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Anna Lanigan, Darren McClelland, Peter Scully, Kelvin Thomson, Rhonda Oliver, David Widdowson

Apologies

Zoe Jellie, Nina Eason, Maurice Austin, Vince Aitkin, Carolyn Layton

Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held on Oct 18, 2021 (Zoom)

Confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Kaye; seconded by Frank; approved by the meeting.

President's Report

See attached report

Financial Report for Year ended 30 June 2022

John summarised the Financial Report prepared by Treasurer Vince Aitkin#:

Total income \$2775.60

Total expenditure \$5593.71

Total assets* \$38066.57

Current liabilities Nil

* comprising: Bank operating accounts \$4157.57

Bank term deposits (2) plus Allan Thomson Scholarship term deposit \$33909.00

It was moved that the Financial Report be accepted: Frank Kinnersley; seconded Darren McClelland; approved.

It was also moved that the Allan Thomson Environment Scholarship fund be listed in future financial reports as a separate asset, rather than included in the overall total of assets. Moved KO/seconded JK/approved.

Vince Aitkin has relocated to Wodonga and resigns as Treasurer as of this AGM.

Election of Office Bearers for 2022-2023

Kelvin Thomson took the chair and declared all positions vacant and called for nominations for the Officer Bearer positions.

One nomination had been received for each of the positions of President and Vice-President and they were duly declared elected. No nominations were received for the positions of Treasurer and Secretary and they remain vacant.

President

John Kavanagh

Vice-President	Frank Kinnersley
Treasurer	vacant
Secretary & Public Officer	vacant

Appointment of Minutes Secretary/ies: Although not an elected position(s), Carolyn Layton has agreed to continue in this role and Darren McClellan offered to assist.

Kelvin, as temporary chair, took the opportunity to thank John Kavanagh for his great work as President over the past year; he also thanked Frank Kinnersley as Vice-President, particularly, for his work and taking on extra duties during the year, calling him a 'great asset' to the FoMPC. Kelvin also acknowledged the excellent FoMPC Facebook page and Ponderings newsletter, both encouraging interest from the broader community.

Kelvin thanked John Kavanagh for his kind words in recognition of his father, Allan Thomson, who recently passed away, and who was an early advocate for taking a whole-of-catchment environmental approach to our creeks.

Other business

- Annual membership fee: It was resolved that the annual membership fee of \$10 be continued. Moved FK; seconded KT; approved.

Close of AGM



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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2022, (following the A.G.M.)

MINUTES

PRESENT/APOLOGIES: See AGM Minutes

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on Aug 22, 2022. It was moved that they be accepted/seconded: John Kavanagh/Kaye Oddie. Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prepared by Treasurer (up until AGM) Vince Aitkin and reported by John Kavanagh. Balance at 13/10/22 was \$38158.97. This includes the Allan Thomson Scholarship Fund of \$10219.50. It was moved that the treasurer's report be accepted/seconded: John Kavanagh/Liz Forbes. Approved.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. **Welcome to new members**, Anika Stobart and Vanessa Webster were welcomed and thanked for their memberships.
2. **Update on Lionsville development**
Darryn Hartnett provided update on works at the former Lionsville site, now being developed by Ryman predominantly for a retirement village. Demolition and vegetation clearances taking place. Concern about the memorial garden (apparently with graves and ashes of former residents) on the site, with no communication being undertaken with relatives. To date, no formal plans have been submitted for the redevelopment. Kelvin recommended writing to MVCC asking it to investigate the memorial garden, its history and actions taken to protect. Moved KT/seconded DH/approved.
3. **Aussie Bird Count 17-23rd October** <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>
Anna will try to get snapshot of counts along the MPC catchment. KO suggested forwarding to Ponderings.
4. **iNaturalist**
Anna reported 16,049 observations recorded to date for the MPC catchment area. Dennis Hocking was welcomed coming 'on board'; Anna also encouraging Maurice Austin to add his great collection of photos. Michael Rigby is helping get entries up to date. Anna called for an 'expert' to identify the 4000-5000 flora photos.
5. **Tawny Frogmouth & BBC update**
Anna reported the BBC researcher is supposed to visit again to see how the Tawny fledglings are faring.
6. **Docklands Summit**
Kaye reported on the well-attended half-day summit held on Sept 2; organised by the City of Melbourne with wide representation of government, business, developers, residents, community groups, AFL, with 100 attendees. Frank, Kaye and Tom Sivil attended on behalf of the FoMPC.

Workshop groups discussed issues, nominated short, mid and long-term actions and a panel further discussed issues and way forward.

Key issues raised were the 'unfriendly' built form and setting of Docklands ('grey, windy, lack of sunlight'); inactive ground floor tenancies; lack of facilities for office workers returning post-Covid; Marvel Stadium seen as large 'occupier' within Docklands, but not relating to Docklands; lack of open space, difficulty of access, poor connectivity to rest of city, concerns re Central Pier, poor recognition of Moonee Ponds Creek as open space.

7. Update on Moonee Ponds Creek shared path, Docklands

At the above Docklands Summit, it was good to make contact with Development Victoria's Acting Group Head, Precincts, and raise the issue of reinstatement of the shared path; an officer from DV subsequently telephoned KO and said they were ascertaining the complicated stakeholders/land owners/managers for the area and it is hoped to set up a meeting in the new year.

8. Naming Kernan Street reserve Pascoe Vale

John asked Kelvin to draft a submission to the Moreland Council seeking to name the above reserve after 'Max Marshall', who lived in the house abutting the reserve and undertook a number of plantings. Many of the trees are now mature and subsequent plantings of shrub and lower storey plants have been organised by local resident Ray Hehr, FoMPC with Moreland Council, forming a pleasant local pocket park along the MPC. Kelvin will seek advice of Lori Arthur, Moreland and follow up naming request.

Other Business

9. Tony Smith reported of VCAT refusal for a permanent market at Oaklands Junction, which is a green wedge zone
10. Kaye reported on weeding bee along the Kensington Embankment held on Oct 8, that made good inroads into the extensive weed growth around the infill plantings. An application will be made for another Melbourne Water grant for further plantings at this site.
Thanks were expressed to Bruce Anderson who has kindly made another donation of \$200 for our work along the Embankment.
11. Anna expressed concerns about what is happening/lack of information at Nursery Corner and its open space redevelopment.
12. Helen van den Berg raised two items: Outcome of the Waterways of the West report is consideration of a planning scheme Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) ? for the MPC, Maribyrnong River (check) and the establishment of a Maribyrnong Waterways Network.
Tony Smith also mentioned the Maribyrnong Defence Site has a Facebook page.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Gavin Park Wetlands Opening Celebration Tuesday October 25th 10 am – 11am

- Tentative FoMPC meeting dates for 2023: February 20th, April 17th, June 19th, August 21st, October 16th (including AGM), December 11th. (All Mondays 6.30 pm)

- Next FoMPC Meeting: Monday December 12th 6:30pm.



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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2022 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

PRESENT

John Kavanagh (JK), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Kaye Oddie (KO), Nell Butler, Richard Smith, Kelvin Thomson (KT), Darryn Hartnett (DH), Anna Lanigan (AL), Carolyn Layton (CL), Ray Hehr (RH), Darren McClelland (Minutes)

APOLOGIES

Liz Forbes, Peter Scully, Zoe Jellie, Nina Ninucha (NN), Anne Black, Anthony Cianflone MP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

JK read: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

WELCOME

JK welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly new member Nell Barber. Nicole Richards has also joined FoMPC.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on October 2022.

To be held over to the February 2023 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JK circulated and presented the Treasurer's Report showing total funds held at the Bendigo Bank as \$38,222.92 as at 9/12/22. Moved JK: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Seconded RH. Carried.

KT reported that he has made new arrangements for allocation of the Alan Thompson Fund. He has contacted four local schools, inviting students to write an essay on the impact of plastic on local waterways. Best five entries will receive \$100 scholarships.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Update on the reinstatement of the shared path along the Creek at Docklands (KL)

KO and FK arranged a meeting on-site with stakeholders.

Action: KO to draft a letter to Development Victoria with a proposed solution, noting that the City of Melbourne does not appear to have any jurisdiction in the matter.

2. Update on the Western Ave/Wright St, Westmeadows clearing (KL)

MAB has been seeking the rezoning of land to allow for mixed use. They have applied to Hume CC to clean up asbestos on-site.

3. iNaturalist Update (AL)

Moonee Ponds Creek group now has over 17,000 observations, many of research grade. Moreland and Royal Park groups have over 7,000 and 4,000 observations respectively.

4. Report on recent meeting of Moonee Valley City Council's (MVCC) Conservation Community Groups Catch Up (AL)

AL, NN and KT attended. A good representation across the groups. Moonee Valley and Merri-bek Councils are to run a Nature Stewards program at a cost of \$350, though scholarships may be available.

5. Nursery Corner, Strathmore Update (AL)

Not much to report. Vegetation and asbestos removal appears to have been completed.

6. Committee Matters

JK reminded attendees that the Committee is still looking for a secretary and treasurer.

7. Lionsville Planning Application (JK and DH)

JK explained that he made a submission to MVCC on behalf of the group noting the submission deadline in some communications was 9 December.

KT congratulated JK on the submission. Motion by KT that we endorse JK's submission with some additions to be made in coming days. Seconded KO. Carried.

The following points are to be addressed in a further submission:

- Inconsistent closing dates for objections: 9 December and 15 December
- Planning documentation disappearing from MVCC's website at random times and incomplete (eg. Cultural assessment missing)
- Many residents in nearby Parkstone Ave do not appear to have received notification of the application in their mailboxes
- Given above, need to extend submission deadline and consultation period well clear of summer holiday period
- Development is being presented as an aged-care facility when most of it is 50yo+ retirement apartment living
- Question over whether the caveat on some of the titles requiring the development to meet aged care facilities should be extended to the whole development
- Limited access for emergency vehicles and associated dangers given proximity to a busy intersection
- Potential destruction of embankment and catastrophic impact on the integrity of the creek.
- Less than thirty per cent green space on the development and overshadowing of a waterway, contrary to State Government policies.

Action: JK to make further submission to MVCC and make contact with Melbourne Water to raise our concerns.

8. Other business

- Hopetoun St bridge: KO is meeting with a representative of Merri-bek Council re further works associated with the path.
- Kensington embankment: KO reported that VicTrack has asked her to apply for a lease to facilitate one day of volunteer work per year.
- Oak Park laneway closure to vehicles: JK thanked everyone who was involved in bringing this about.
- Sports advertising: AL reported that MVCC are to consider changes to its policy at the 13/12 meeting that would appear to water down the existing requirements.
- KT has had a discussion with a Merri-bek contact and found that there is no impediment to a reserve being named after Max Marshall.
Motion by JK that KT put forward a proposition that Kernan St reserve be named the Max Marshall reserve.
Seconded AL Carried.

Action: KT to write to Merri-bek Council.

NEXT FoMPC MEETING: To be held Monday 20th February 2023, 6:30 p.m.



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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2023 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

PRESENT

John Kavanagh (JK), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Kaye Oddie (KO), Kelvin Thomson (KT), Anne Moule, Liz Forbes, Richard Smith, Darren McClelland (Minutes)

APOLOGIES

Chris Cook, Joan Beaumont, Nina Ninucha (NN), Carolyn Layton (CL).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

JK read: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

WELCOME

JK welcomed everyone to the meeting particularly new member Nell Barber. Nicole Richards has also joined FoMPC. He noted we are still looking for a Secretary and Treasurer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETINGS held on 17 October 2022 and 12 December 2022. Moved KO, seconded KT. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

JK circulated and presented the Treasurer's Report showing total funds held at the Bendigo Bank as \$37,054.92 as at 18/2/23. He explained expenses incurred for Lori Arthur's farewell event and the transfer of the post office box to Moonee Ponds. \$1,100 for Alan Thompson scholarships will be paid back in August.

KT reported that he received 11 entries in the school essay competition under the Alan Thompson Fund. He decided to allocate \$100 scholarships to each of the 11 participants. KT has presented certificates to the 8 participants from Pascoe Vale Girls and is arranging presentations to the balance from Glenroy Secondary College.

JK acknowledged KT's efforts on the scholarship and Lionsville development. At KO's suggestion, an article on the scholarships is to be placed in the next edition of *Ponderings*.

Action: KT to provide article to Ponderings editor.

Moved JK: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Seconded KO. Carried.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Welcome to new members

FK reported there are five new members (including one lapsed). Welcome to Yasmin Kelsall, Caz Garvey, Alan Gardner, Melanie Tempest and Lee-Ann Monk. It is estimated there are currently 140-150 members.

JK acknowledged Bob Steadman's passing.

2. Lionsville development

JK reported the application is on hold for further review by the applicant. 1,400 leaflets were distributed to local residents by our group. Many have indicated they were unaware of the proposed development. Merri-bek Council considered the issue at a recent meeting. Ten councillors voted against the council officer's recommendation to endorse the plans.

KT has been chasing up Moonee Valley councillors to enquire why objections can't be received on the website while the application is on hold.

Action: JK to write to the CEO of MVCC to raise our concerns that objections cannot be currently accepted on-line.

3. Chain of Ponds naturalisation project

JK noted good media coverage of the first stage of this project.

4. Kensington embankment

KO discussed the change of ownership from Melbourne Water to VicTrack, who have asked for an annual lease to be taken out in order to conduct a couple of working bees each year. KO is making some progress with Julie, Community Liaison Officer at VicTrack to resolve this issue. She has obtained permission to undertake some in-fill planting and accordingly Melbourne Water has approved a grant.

5. Docklands shared path

KO and KT met with Development Victoria and the City of Melbourne regarding the reinstatement of the path to the Yarra River. City of Melbourne is to develop some feasibility studies.

6. Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC) sportsground signage policy

JK, NN, FK and James Williams met MVCC on 2 February. Officers seemed genuinely interested to take on board our concerns about what is proposed. No resolution to date.

7. 7. Other business

KT has set up a Moonee Ponds Creek Litter Plan Facebook page that will promote upcoming events at Five Mile Creek and Westbreen Creek on Clean Up Australia Day (5th March).

K reported there is a proposed amendment to the Victorian Government's Planning Scheme VC201 through to 31/12/2026, to provide for stronger recognition of significant waterways including the Waterways of the West (eg. Moonee Ponds Creek).

NEXT FoMPC MEETING: To be held Monday 17th April 2023, 6:30 p.m.



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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 17 APRIL 2023 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

PRESENT

Frank Kinnersley (FK) (Chair), Kaye Oddie (KO), Kelvin Thomson (KT), Anne Moule (AM), Liz Forbes, Richard Smith (RS), Darryn Hartnett (DH), Darren McClelland (DM) (Minutes)

APOLOGIES

John Kavanagh (JK), Zoe Jellie, Nina Ninucha (NN), Carolyn Layton (CL), Anthony Cianflone MP, Anna Lanigan (AL), Robyn Wenholtz

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

FK read: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

WELCOME

FK welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Richard Smith for taking on the role of Treasurer. We are still looking for a Secretary. Three new applications for membership have been received from Ada Castle, Robyn Wenholtz and Ruby Campbell-Beschorner. A further two applications have been received without payment. It was agreed that these will be discarded if payment is not received in the next month.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on 20 February 2023. Moved DM, seconded KO. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

RS circulated and presented the Treasurer's Report showing total funds held at the Bendigo Bank as \$37,207 as at 17/4/23.

LIONSVILLE DEVELOPMENT

DH provided an update, noting there is a consultation meeting to be held at 5.15pm this Wednesday 19th April. This is not ideal as it will exclude some community members from participation.

DH and JK 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.
- Objection process fraught with IT issues, eg. Missing or incomplete documentation online. Some residents who have objected, do not appear to have received notification of the 19/4 meeting.

CHAIN OF PONDS NATURALISATION PROJECT

FK gave an update. Project seems to be progressing well. There was positive media coverage recently in The Age.

KENSINGTON EMBANKMENT/ CHILD SAFETY POLICY

KO said a grant has been approved for further vegetation works. She would like to arrange a working bee in the near future once our Public Liability Insurance (PIL) cover has been confirmed through compliance with Landcare's Child Safety policy. KO notes that our PIL may now be void if we fail to adopt this policy, as changes made to the insurance arrangements made old child safety policies null and void. She notes it is more practical than the approach Parks Vic is taking, that requires everyone to have a Working With Children check.

Action: Committee to review, ratify and implement Landcare Child Safety policy.

MOONEE VALLEY CITY COUNCIL SPORTSGROUND SIGNAGE POLICY

NN has provided an update. FK read some notes provided by NN in relation to Moonee Valley Council Signage Policy where officers appear to have not followed Councillor intentions on this matter. Discussions continue. Another site meeting with MVCC is expected late April 2023.

WESTMEADOWS MAB REZONING

KO alerted the group that MAB has written to the Minister for Planning, to seek that its land be rezoned to "Light Industrial". This follows three attempts to re-categorise this buffer zone through Hume CC. AM asked Hume City Council to consider purchasing the land, but the councillor she spoke with showed no interest.

MVCC COMMUNITY GRANTS

KO noted that these are now open for applications.

MOONEE PONDS CREEK COORDINATING COMMITTEE (MPCCC) RECORDS AT LIVING MUSEUM OF THE WEST

KO advised FoMPC email address has replaced Tony Smith as the contact. Records appear to be secure (Maribyrnong Council holds the key) and unaffected by the floods. A big job for someone to sort through several boxes of records at some future time.

OTHER BUSINESS

- NN is trying to seek an update from MVCC on the status of the plans for the Nursery Corner redevelopment.
- NN and AL have been engaging with VicRoads regarding the coordination of clean-ups on VicRoads land in the vicinity of the Boeing Reserve to ensure rubbish collection before mowing activity.
- NN and AL have been opposing a proposed hammerhead turn to be built for refuse vehicles next to the Strathmore North Primary School.
- NN is doing a video with Merri-bek Council on the naturalisation project.

NEXT FoMPC MEETING: To be held Monday 19th June 2023, 6:30 p.m.



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 19 JUNE 2023 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

Attendees: John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Richard Smith, Kaye Oddie, Phillip Elkins, Chris Cook, Anna Lanigan, Terri Hopkins, Anne Black, Peter Scully, Ray Hehr, Kelvin Thomson, David Widdowson, Darryn Hartnett

Apologies: Carolyn Layton, Joan Beaumont, Nina Eason, Anthony Cianflone, Anne Moule, Darren McClelland

Condolences: John expressed condolences to Anna Lanigan on the recent loss of her 101-year-old father. Anna thanked John for his kind words.

Memberships:

Frank notified 3 new memberships. He mentioned a problem has developed with the processing of the online membership application/renewal form – no longer being automatically forwarded to our email address. Membership fees are being processed correctly into our bank account. This has affected three applications to date. Also, one membership application received but no payment made. Kaye suggested contacting the website person used by the Friends of Royal Park to check the problem; will forward details.

Frank also notified that annual memberships expire on 30/6/23; but he will notify members individually about their exact renewal date.

Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on April 17th, 2023. Proposed KO/seconded Darryn Hartnett/approved. Kelvin raised a matter arising from the minutes in regard to the Western Ave, Westmeadows rezoning and development proposal. He will forward the contact details of an academic at Deakin University with toxic chemicals expertise to those involved in the latest rezoning/development ministerial application.

Treasurer's Report:

Richard presented the financial report as at 18 June. Current balance is \$44,031 comprising membership subscriptions, term deposits, the Allan Thomson Scholarship Fund. Income of \$120 in membership fees and \$6714 for the Melbourne Water grant. He will try for higher interest rates for the term deposits. It was proposed the report be accepted RS/seconded FK/approved.

Items of Business:

- **Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct**

Richard reported that the Committee had endorsed (13/6/23) the Landcare Victoria Inc Child Safety Policy through our membership of Landcare and also because our public liability insurance is held through Landcare. It is recommended that members responsible for organising FoMPC activities also sign the Code of Conduct and obtain Working with Children Police Checks.

- Statement of Support of local waterways in State Parliament by Anthony Cianflone MP (Pascoe Vale)**
 John played the speech made by Anthony to Parliament requesting the Minister for Water provide an update on the work of the Government and Melbourne Water to improve environmental sustainability and biodiversity outcomes across local waterways in Pascoe Vale, Coburg and Brunswick West. The speech can be accessed:
[https://hansard.parliament.vic.gov.au/?IW_INDEX=Hansard-2023-1&IW_FIELD_TEXT=SpeechIdKey%20CONTAINS%20\(31-05-2023_assembly_2305311329\)%20AND%20OrderId%20CONTAINS%20\(0\)&LDMS=Y](https://hansard.parliament.vic.gov.au/?IW_INDEX=Hansard-2023-1&IW_FIELD_TEXT=SpeechIdKey%20CONTAINS%20(31-05-2023_assembly_2305311329)%20AND%20OrderId%20CONTAINS%20(0)&LDMS=Y)
 It was noted that Danny Pearson (MP Essendon) also has an active climate group. Frank provided a brief update on the Reimagining the Creek Naturalisation Stage 1 project – progressing as can be observed at the site; there are some issues regarding the installation of the bridge.
- Feedback on Lionsville Consultation Meeting and next steps**
 Darryn expressed dissatisfaction with the online consultation meeting MVCC held for objectors; some objectors did not receive notification or had difficulties in accessing the link; 30 mins was too short a time; Ryman spokesperson only had 3 mins to address the many issues raised. John reported that amended plans have subsequently been lodged; discussion ensued how to access and whether others can lodge objections [answer-yes]. Suggested that another meeting be sought with Danny Pearson.
- Planting & Weeding Bees**
 Kaye proposed dates for two projects:
 - Westmeadows planting of 20 *Eucalyptus studleyensis* trees propagated by Lex Thomson from Woodlands Historic Park [Wed 28 June]
 - Kensington Embankment weeding bee [Sun 2 July] and planting bee [Aug 5/6 or 12/13]. Planting date to be confirmed.
- The President's OAM**
 Kelvin congratulated President John Kavanagh on his being awarded an OAM in the King's Birthday honours.
- The Airport Bandicoot project**
 Concerns raised by Kelvin about the 'artificial' representation of nature was addressed by Kaye – the on-ground tin Bandicoot is to block the weeds prior to the shape being infill planted with indigenous species – similar to the bandicoot created at Iramoo Grasslands.
- Litter Clean-ups**
 Kelvin reported that the litter clean-ups are proceeding well – the latest being the good turn up on 18 June at Westbreen Creek. Chain of Ponds Collaboration Litter Group Lead, Neil Sutton, and Moonee Valley Sustainability doing a great job. Next dates are Sun July 2 at Cross Keys and Sun Aug 6 at Five Mile Creek.
- Nearmap**
 Anna reported that Nearmap is much better than Google Earth maps, however it is expensive to subscribe to (\$3500). She will approach the Councils seeking permission for community access to their copies.
- Frog Census**
 Anna reported that the new Melbourne Water contact is Teresa Mackintosh, and seeking new ideas.
- Synthetic Turf at Quinn Grove (Keilor East)**
 John reported on this matter on behalf of Nina Eason, who in turn was forwarding the concerns of Moonee Valley Sustainability regarding MVCC's consideration of the replacement of natural grass ovals with synthetic turf at Quinn Grove, Keilor East. Following discussion about the problems and undesirability of synthetic turf and potential precedent for other ovals in Moonee Valley, it was resolved that a letter opposing the synthetic turf proposal be written to MVCC: proposed Anna Lanigan/seconded Anne Black/approved.
- Merri-bek Open Space Strategy**

A Discussion Paper has been prepared by Merri-bek and Kathryn Skidmore, Open Space Strategy Lead, is seeking to meet for initial input from FoMPC. Zoom meeting to be held on Thurs 22 June.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Meeting Dates for FOMPC in 2023 at Sam Merrifield Library at Moonee Ponds at 6:30 pm:

- **Monday August 21st** (Meeting Room 1)
 - **Monday October 16th (AGM followed by General Meeting)** (Meeting Room 1 & 2)
 - **Monday December 11th** (Meeting Room 1)
- Minute taker: Kaye Oddie



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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 21 AUGUST 2023 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

John welcomed everyone then read the following:

Acknowledgement of country

We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

Present John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Kaye Oddie, Darren McClellan, Terri Hopkins, David Widdowson, Joan Beaumont, Anne Moule, Richard Smith, Carolyn Layton, Ray Hehr, Darryl Hartnett.

Apologies Kelvin Thomson, Liz Forbes, Greg Hunt

Welcome new members Frank welcomed two new members, Julia Lees and Ella Poustie. He reported that there have also been membership payments from Ira Francis, Mark Tice and Olivia Chin but they have not submitted their details on the online form (some difficulties with online form being addressed see below). Frank asked if anyone knows them to have them contact Frank Kinnersley. He reported that there had also been a good response to the emails sent to members regarding membership renewal, with \$880 in the Membership Account.

Matters arising from the general meeting held on June 19th, 2023

Website-problems with membership forms and layout. David proposed to involve a recommended website consultant 'Websplash' to fix the problems. Quote for work: \$330.00 John told David to proceed with the consultant. John reported that he had followed up with a letter to Moonee Valley Council regarding the unsatisfactory Lionsville process. He has received only a "standard response." Regarding the letter sent to all Moonee Valley Councillors re: the synthetic surfaces, John reported he had received 2 responses only; a "reasonable" response from the Mayor and a "dismissive" response from Cr John Sipek.

Confirmation of minutes of general meeting. Meeting held on June 19th, 2023. There was a question about a meeting with Danny Pearson mentioned in the Minutes. John reported that Kelvin and Darryl will be meeting with Danny Pearson re Lionsville this Friday 25th Aug. With no further questions it was put to the vote. Moved: Kaye Seconded Richard. The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Treasurer's report: Prepared by Treasurer Richard Smith. Richard tabled a summary of transactions and balances in the accounts as at 18th June 2023: Total funds held, \$41,533, including General Account, Term Deposits and Allan Thomson Scholarship fund. Some notable transactions were highlighted, such as payments for goods and services associated with the Kensington Embankment Planting, FY24 Landcare Victoria insurance premium and end of FY23 membership renewals transferred from membership account. Richard noted that 2 of the Term Deposits would be maturing soon and would accrue interest at that time. He was on the look-out for better interest rates for these term deposits.

Items of business

Lionsville Development application: scheduled to go before Moonee Valley Council in September

According to the Manager of Planning at Moonee Valley, a decision will be made at the council meeting on 12th Sept. John noted our dissatisfaction “all the way through” the process undertaken by Moonee Valley Council. He described how information from the Council on matters, such as whether a copy of updated plans was available, whether there will be a charge to obtain a copy, when a decision will be made, depended on which council officer was contacted. A copy of the updated plans was obtained by Richard. According to John it is difficult to see any substantial changes. He noted some differences in the presentation but not the substance of the plans, with the same number of units being proposed. The development will still have major impacts on the Creek corridor. John suggested that individual members contact the Moonee Valley Council with their concerns and state that they reject the proposal, before the council meets to decide. He will send out a separate email to the membership with details, including the email addresses of Councillors. There was discussion around the above points.

It was noted that Darryn Hartnett and Kelvin are meeting with Danny Pearson at 11am this Friday.

Other agenda items

- **Post Office Box.** John reported that the Australia Post redirection of mail to our new mailbox address P.O. Box 1092 Moonee Ponds 3039 will cease soon. To continue redirection for a further 12 months would cost \$1244. John noted the small amount of mail received and announced that mail redirection would not be continued.
- **Fencing works adjacent to the Creek at Boeing Reserve and implications more generally** Frank reported that separate sections of fencing had begun to appear along the shared path along the Creek, most in the Moonee Valley council area. (He noted that there are no records of the number of people who end up in the creek) There are now plans for fencing in Boeing Reserve, where the path is less than 5m from the Creek. Frank reported that the longer term MV plan is to rebuild the path and move it away from the Creek where possible, so that fencing is not required. However, it has been noted that there are fence sections which have appeared without path rebuilding and he suspects this is when community members have reported an issue. There was discussion around guidelines and the various types of fencing materials and designs being used, safety design considerations such as avoiding handlebars catching, and the degree to which they do not enhance our experience of the Creek/ path. Joan pointed out there are some very steep sided and even collapsing sections close to the creek that do need some treatment. However, it does not appear that there are consistent fencing guidelines being applied. Richard suggested that a council collaboration on this issue was needed. Kaye extended this idea and suggested this was an opportunity, for example, the Chain of Ponds Collaboration to look at what the design guidelines actually are and to come up with recommendations for a consistent whole catchment approach. Frank and Kaye are our members on the Chain of Ponds Collaboration group.
- **Future Grant Applications** Richard reported that we have only one active grant application at the moment; the Kensington Embankment project. He noted that there are opportunities for Landcare Vic grants through Melb Water and also Community Grants through councils. He urged members to think of a project and step up to manage a grant. Some discussion followed on a possible art project suggested by Joan.
- Melbourne Water (<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/services/grants/liveable-communities-liveable-waterways-program>) and also grants through councils below.
- Moonee Valley (<https://mvcc.vic.gov.au/biannual-grants-program-is-open>) Richard noted they are interested in promoting wildlife corridors, nature strip reveg, Art, reveg on private land and in diversifying away from ‘just plantings’.
- Merri-bek (<https://www.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/my-council/grants-and-awards/community-grants-program/applying-for-community-grants/#autoAnchor0>)
- Hume (<https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Grants-awards-and-funds>)
- **Kensington Embankment Report on 5th Aug planting day.** Kaye reported that 350 plants were put in by 30 volunteers. There was a hiccup just before the event when the Melbourne City

Council contractor required to transport materials to the site pulled out. Kaye thanked the Committee for agreeing to provide the \$600 (not in grant) required to hire another contractor. John thanked Kaye for all the work she had put into the event.

- **Expression of thanks to Ryan van den Hove longstanding Waterways and Land Officer, at**

Melbourne Water, Michelle Gooding and Gavin O'Neill

Kaye spoke about Ryan's long service to the Creek and the personal qualities that made him a pleasure to work with and a very effective contributor in his work role. She also mentioned that Michelle Gooding, a Conservation Officer at Moonee Valley Council, was retiring, and again, a long-term contributor to many projects FoMPC was involved with along the Creek. Richard reported that Gavin O'Neill, who has made a major contribution over 16 years at Melbourne Water but previously worked with Kelvin Thomson, and who was the first Coordinator of the MPCCC, is also moving on. Kelvin has offered to write a letter of thanks to Gavin and Kaye will write letters for Ryan and Michelle on behalf of the FoMPC. 'Thanks' and 'Farewells' will be included in the forthcoming issue of Ponderings.

- **Advance notice of confirmation of money for Stage 2 of naturalization of Moonee Ponds Creek**

John reported that we are still waiting for confirmation re \$2.1 mill from Peter Khalil and \$2.8 mill Bill Shorten pledges to extend the naturalization beyond Brosnan Crescent. Negotiations are still being finalised regarding the plans and location(s), but John pointed out that combining the grants would give "more bang for your buck."

- **Update on 2A John St Oak Park** Kaye reported confirmation from Merri-bek Council (Kath Skidmore) that this land will be kept as public open space. An amount of \$128,000 has been allocated for works including the demolition of the buildings on the property.

Dates for your diary

Meeting dates for FoMPC in 2023 at Sam Merrifield Library Moonee Ponds at 6.30pm

- **Next FoMPC Meeting: Monday October 16th (AGM followed by General Meeting, Meeting Room 1&2)**
- **Monday Dec 11th (Meeting Room 1)**
- **Call for items for September issue of Ponderings;** email to Editor David Widdowson fompc.ponderings@gmail.com by 1st September.

Minute taker: Carolyn Layton



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2023 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country President John Kavanagh welcomed attendees and acknowledged the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, the Traditional owners of the land, on which we were meeting.

Present John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Richard Smith, Darren McClelland, Peter Scully, Kelvin Thomson, Terri Hopkins, David Widdowson, Liz Forbes, Carolyn Layton, Greg Hunt, Peter Vasil (visitor)

Apologies Kaye Oddie, Joan Beaumont, Nina Franchesci, Peter Whelan, Anne Moule

Membership The following new members were welcomed: Mark Tice, Olivia Chin, Ira Francis, Julie Vulin, Sarah Weber, Lucy Campbell, Annie Savage, Larissa Werbiuk and Ruth Singh. Frank reported that there were 170 members of whom 100 are financial.

Guest Speaker: Rosemary West (Green Wedges Coalition) Rosemary's address was postponed.

Confirmation of Minutes of AGM held on October 17th, 2022.

As there were no questions, the motion that the Minutes represent an accurate record of the meeting was put. Moved: Frank. Seconded Kelvin. Carried.

Life Memberships John announced the four nominees for Life Membership: Kelvin Thomson, Kaye Oddie, Vince Aitkin, and Anna Lanigan. He stated that the acknowledgements were long overdue and very well-deserved. John read from text he had written in support of each nominee. This set out the impressive contributions each nominee had made to the Moonee Ponds Creek, over a very long period. John invited attendees to add to his words and the comments made strongly supported John's sentiments. See attached document: Nominations for Life Membership.

The meeting voted on the appropriateness of each nomination in turn. Each motion to accept the nominee as a Life Member of FoMPC, passed unanimously (mover, seconder): Kelvin Thomson (John, David) Kaye Oddie (John, Carolyn) Vince Aitkin (John, Frank) Anna Lanigan (John, Greg). John reported that there will be a presentation made to Kelvin, Kaye, Vince, and Anna at the next meeting.

President's Report: A copy of the President's Report is attached with these Minutes of the AGM.

Financial Report for Year ended 30th June 2023 Prepared by: Treasurer, Richard Smith

Richard highlighted the opening balance of \$38,066.57 and closing balance of \$43,491.14 (including Allan Thomson Scholarship fund account \$10,219.50). He noted the significant incoming and outgoing transactions. For the details, refer to the Financial Report which is attached with the Minutes. John thanked Richard again for "a mighty job." The motion to accept the Report was moved by Richard and seconded by Darren. Carried unanimously.

Greg noted that for a small Not for Profit there was a large bank balance. He commented that the work of FoMPC appeared to be focused on making up deficits, and that there was scope for positive actions that boosted the community's understanding of the Creek. John acknowledged his comment as a "fair point."

Election of Office Bearers President John handed over to ex- President Kelvin to conduct the election of office bearers for 23/24. Kelvin took the opportunity, on behalf of FoMPC, to thank the outgoing office bearers and shared his view that it had been an "outstanding year for the Creek" – to see the Naturalisation project happening had been a "shot in the arm," work on the MP Creek is known "far and wide." He noted his involvement with the Moonee Ponds Creek Litter Team and that he'd met a brand-new FoMPC member who had taken it upon herself to organise some clean-ups along the creek. He commented that this augured well for the future. Kelvin then noted the nominator and seconder (nominator, seconder) for each nomination. As there were no other nominations, the following members were declared as our office bearers for FY 23/24

President: John Kavanagh (Frank, Richard)

Vice President: Frank Kinnersley (Richard, John)

Treasurer: Richard Smith (Frank, John)

Secretary: No nomination as yet

Appointment of Minute Secretary: Carolyn and Darren to share the role.

Other business

Frank, in his role as Membership Secretary, confirmed that the Annual Membership fee would remain at \$20. He noted that this covered costs. The vote on the motion to keep membership costs the same was moved by Frank and seconded by Richard Smith. Carried.

Next General Meeting Before closing the AGM, President John indicated that Rosemary West our guest speaker would be contacted and invited to the next General Meeting on 11th Dec 2023.

Members were thanked for their attendance and the AGM was declared closed at 7.10pm



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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2023 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

Acknowledgement of Country was completed in the AGM which immediately preceded this meeting.

Present John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Richard Smith, Darren McClelland, Peter Scully, Kelvin Thomson, Terri Hopkins, David Widdowson, Liz Forbes, Carolyn Layton, Greg Hunt.

Apologies Kaye Oddie, Joan Beaumont, Nina Franchesci, Peter Whelan, Anne Moule

Minutes of General Meeting held on August 23rd, 2023. Moved John. Seconded Darren. Carried. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, with noted correction to spelling of Darren's surname.

Treasurer's Report. Prepared by Treasurer: Richard Smith. Richard tabled the report and briefly summarised. Total funds in accounts, held at the Bendigo Bank Strathmore, were \$41,532.92 of which \$10,219.50 was the Allan Thomson Scholarship fund.

Main outgoings were payments in relation to the Kensington Embankment planting (Melbourne Water Liveable Communities Liveable Waterways Fund) and the cost of website hosting and membership webform error fix. He noted that the tail end of membership renewals, some new memberships and a small donation had come in since the last report.

To increase the likelihood of donations from the corporate and philanthropic sector, Richard reported that DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status available to NFPs (Not for Profits) was being sought. As there were no further questions, the motion was moved by the Treasurer and seconded by Kelvin before John declared it carried.

Items of Business:

Lionsville Site. Discussion of Moonee Valley Council's Decision on 12th September.

John summarised the MVC meeting process as "quite weak." Questions had to be submitted the day before the meeting and then nothing else could be said by attendees during the meeting. The CEO read out a prepared response to the questions received. The proposal was approved with minor changes. John reported that there was likely to be a decrease of 25-35 units in the overall development. However, there appeared to be no changes along the Creek frontage which might reduce the impact of this development on the Creek. John explained why the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek would not be appealing this decision. Some reasons were the high cost for NFP to appeal compared with individuals and uncertainty as to likelihood of getting concessions from the Council.

John had earlier introduced Peter Vassal, as someone who lived close to the proposed development site, who was an opponent of the proposed plans and who intended to appeal against the decision to approve the plans. Peter outlined his relevant work qualifications and experience which had led him to appeal the Lionsville site decision. He requested help from FoMPC with funding his appeal. He indicated he had enlisted 2 others to each share 25% of the cost. Kelvin spoke in support of Peter's request, and pointed out that it was a worthy cause, and that "the funds were there." A motion was

moved by Kelvin and seconded by John that FoMPC would contribute \$350 in support Peter's appeal. This was carried.

Moonee Valley Council's Sportsground Signage Update

Frank reported that Councillor Rose Iser put a motion supporting the MVC Officers recommendation including a 30 m setback. However, during discussion it became clear it would not be supported, and she withdrew it. During a council meeting last week, a compromise was reached based on the fact that some sports clubs would be hard done by with the 30m rule but that a lot would not be affected. The details of the compromise will be sought.

Other agenda items: Moonee Ponds Creek Litter Cleanup Team

Kelvin spoke very positively about the clean-up efforts of the team. He also reported bumping into a young person along the Creek who had spontaneously organized some cleanups. It turned out she was one of our newest members, Larissa Werbiuk.

Dates for your diary

Friday 27th Oct. 12-3pm Westbreen Creek clean up involving Vic Uni.

Sunday 5th Nov 10am 5 Mile Creek Reserve. Meet at the south end of Government Rd Essendon.

Wednesday Nov 15th Coburg Library 8pm. Kelvin will be speaking on the 'History of Moonee Ponds Creek.'

Sunday 12th Nov 10am Barry Road (Otway Crescent Drain) Westmeadows.

Nov 1st -12th Ocean Crusader events in Melbourne See www.OceanCrusaders.Eventbrite.com for details. Follow prompts on website to receive notification of events.

Next FoMPC Meeting at Sam Merrifield Library Moonee Ponds at 6.30pm

Monday Dec 11th (Meeting Room 1) Included will be a presentation to Life Members.

Minute taker: Carolyn Layton



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GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

Acknowledgement of Country John read an acknowledgement of country.

Present John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Vince Aitkin, Anna Lannigan, Kaye Oddie, Kelvin Thomson Joan Beaumont, Terri Hopkins, Anne Black, Rupe Kahlar, Ray Hehr, Carolyn Layton.

Apologies Malcolm Wrest, Peter Scully, Zoe Jellie, Richard Smith, Darren Hartnett, Greg Hunt.

Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on October 16th, 2023. Moved: Carolyn. Seconded Terri. Carried. The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Membership Report: Frank reminded us that memberships follow the financial year and that emails are sent to individual members when renewal is due. Frank welcomed new members: Ann Coutts, Susan Lowish, Lajla Hugrass and Andreas Sekaris

Treasurer's Report. In Richard's absence, John tabled Richard's financial report. He pointed out that there had been little movement (-\$384) since the last treasurer's report on Oct 16th. Outgoings included a contribution to the appeal to VCAT regarding MVCC's approval of Ryman's planning application for the former Lionsville site in Essendon, annual incorporation fees and library room bookings fees. Incomings included: interest payments and membership renewals. The Treasure's Report was moved: Kaye and seconded: Frank. Carried.

Kelvin updated the meeting on the Scholarship Fund. He reported that he wrote to the Pascoe Vale Girls and John Fawkner Colleges regarding the topic, an essay on Plastic Pollution. Mercy College has indicated they not interested in participating.

Items of Business:

Secretary Position. John explained that there would be two people sharing this role. An 'Associate Secretary' and a 'Communications Secretary.'. The meeting was referred to the attachment to the Minutes of the Oct 16th General Meeting, 'Committee Structure and Roles', including the newly named Association Secretary and Communications Secretary roles. Kaye suggested that the simpler names of Secretary and Assistant Secretary be used

instead. These are the terms used on documentation required, for example, on CAV and grant applications.

Grant Applications-updates on 4 possible grant applications

- A revegetation opportunity exists north of the M80 Ring Road. John has had a meeting with Chain of Ponds Lead Rachel Lopes, who contacted Melissa Doherty at Hume City Council. This project is not yet ready to go, so the application will not be done immediately.
- Moreland Road-Hopetoun Avenue-Van Berg Bridge area. According to Merri-Bek Council, this one is “already in the pipeline.” Joan expressed some scepticism that this was the case. She spoke about the fence needing to be removed and with it, removal of some vegetation, which she reported was being opposed by those residents opposite the fence. Kay relayed that the concept plan had been approved some time ago and that an on-site meeting was held last year (KO, FK) with Lori Arthur and Melbourne Water rep to discuss outstanding works. It is understood from Vince Adreana at Merri-bek that there have been some issues in getting the necessary approvals but the fence removal, path and reveg. works are still as planned.
- Westmeadows Meander. Melbourne Water has approved and funded the removal of the weir; however, Hume Council will wait until this is completed before working on the meander’s ownership/Titles/approvals and on a planting plan for the island and meander. So, any grant application by FoMPC is on hold until the above is finalised. John mentioned we could apply for a Melbourne Water Grant later.
- Turnbull Crescent, downstream section to City Link Overpass. Kaye explained that the northern bank has significant mature woody weeds, including Prickly pear, Ash and Box Thorn that need removing before infill revegetation can occur. Richard is writing the submission for a State Government Green Links Grant (\$20-\$200,000 available). Project Plan was worked up with local residents, Laurel Frank and Zoe Jellie, and Merri- bek’s Charlotte Napper and Vince Adreana. Grant application deadline is Dec ‘23, outcome Mar ‘24. Timeframes mean woody weed removals could be done late ‘24 with infill plantings in winter ‘25.

Updates

- **Lionsville Development** John reported that a VCAT “Practice Day Hearing” would take place on Dec 15th. Ryman is objecting to the conditions on the permit. John said that there are two objectors participating in the VCAT hearing, including Peter Vassal who has some financial support from FoMPC. The hearing is due Late April-early May. John reported that Moonee Valley Council will have representation at the hearing. He pointed out that for the FoMPC to be a party at VCAT on its own, would have cost \$2000 (proportional to the \$200 million Development.)
- **70-90 Chelmsford St North Melbourne Open Space** Kaye welcomed this land acquisition. Just as Merri-bek Council has done with 2A John Street Oak Park and Outlook Drive Glenroy, the Melbourne City Council bought a former warehouse at 70- 90 Chelmsford St North Melbourne, which is adjacent to the Moonee Ponds Creek. This warehouse will be demolished and the 3,600 square metre site converted to open space. Consultation is being undertaken, with FoMPC lodging a submission- emphasising that the new open space be

linked to the Creek corridor. A draft plan is expected next year. This it was agreed, was a good news story.

O Moonee Valley Draft Open Space Strategy John called for discussion of the strategy whose deadline had been extended to 31st Dec. General comments were made, including, that it was not very detailed and that the Moonee Ponds Creek didn't feature much in the strategy. Frank shared his observation that the Creek had "fallen between the cracks" re-funding and he could not recall any money being spent on the Creek, for example, for land acquisition. Kaye urged that the strategy needed to work to combat climate change, for example, revegetation with indigenous species rather than exotics along the Creek. She shared her view that weeds and other threats also needed addressing in the strategy. In other comments from the floor, Moonee Valley Council land along the Creek was compared unfavourably for example, with regard to revegetation and infill plantings, compared to the opposite, Merri-bek side. It is noted that the whole of the Creek corridor is now covered by an ESO (Environmental significance Overlay). Frank reported that the Moonee Valley sustainability group had asked FoMPC to cosign their submission on the Strategy. Joan shared her view that the Moonee Valley Racecourse development should enable access to the Creek from the houses in the development. John agreed to write a submission on behalf of FoMPC, by the extended deadline of 31st December 23.

Presentation of Life Memberships to- Kelvin, Kaye, Vince and Anna

For each Life Member, John read out a brief history of their most significant contributions and mentioned personal attributes displayed in their dedicated work for the Moonee Ponds Creek over a long period of time. Each was warmly congratulated by those present and a photo taken of each with their framed certificate, alongside President of FoMPC, John. A detailed description of their contributions can be found in Ponderings (reference.) In responding each expressed in some form their thanks and the sense of gratitude they felt receiving the life membership. Some other points based on each of their responses follow.

O Kelvin reflected on how much harder it was in earlier days with fights to stop things happening. He suggested that it was "those earlier fights that have enabled us to enjoy the successes we are having now." He gave as an example of the success, the Re- Imagining the Creek naturalisation project. He acknowledged the work of other members not receiving life membership this time, including Frank and John. Kelvin mentioned his current involvement with the Litter Clean-Up group and his current strong interest in research on the pressing issue of Noisy miners and their impact on small bush birds along the Creek.

O Kaye told us that she started her community activism as a new resident in North Melbourne in the late 1970s and her Creek involvement in the late 1990s with the construction of City Link. She emphasised her view that her life membership represents what has been a team effort on behalf of the Creek and that it had been a great pleasure to work with fellow FoMPC members, Councils and Melbourne Water in achieving much good work along the Creek.

O Vince said it was great working with committee members such as Kaye and Anna on the many projects he was involved with along the Creek, from about the 1990s. He was also Treasurer for 18 years. He recalled the Creek being once lined with Boxthorn from one end to the other and it taking a whole day to ride to the Bay. He said it was Councillors Blair and Redwin from Moonee Valley who came up with the idea for a bike path in the 1980s.

○ **Anna** Began in her typically self-effacing way, saying “others were more worthy than me.” She thanked the committee for their work supporting the Moonee Ponds Creek. She commented that she felt as if she was being rewarded “for my birding along the Creek, which I love doing.” Anna’s work with Frogs, local Primary Schools and her promotion of iNaturalist, are other things she has loved doing.

Other business

○ John reported that at a recent Melbourne City Council Meeting, Greens Councillor Rohan Leppert asked for an update on the reinstatement of the shared path at Docklands, which was closed off for the Docklands Studios expansion for their Sound Stage 6. This was among a number of projects relating to the Lower Moonee Ponds Creek, for which Cr Leppert was seeking updates. John intends to write an email of thanks to Cr Leppert on behalf of FoMPC. A motion to this effect was moved: Kaye seconded: Joan. Kelvin commented that the shared path reinstalment was very important and emphasised that this needed to be followed up.

○ Kelvin reported that he spoke with the Mayor of Hume, Cr Naim Kurt about his idea for the Merlynston Creek being highlighted. He said it was a very positive meeting. Kelvin suggested inviting Mayor Kurt to a FoMPC meeting.

○ Kaye raised the Re-imagining the Creek naturalisation project Stage 2. Kelvin described the history of community opposition to the concreting of the Creek in the mid-1970s, with the Strathmore Progress Association playing an important role in stopping the concreting proceeding beyond the Strathmore North Primary School.

Dates for your diary

FoMPC Meetings 2024: Feb 12th, April 15th, June 17th, August 12th, October 14th (AGM and General Meeting), Dec 9th

Next FoMPC Meeting: Monday Feb 12th at Sam Merrifield Library Moonee Ponds at 6.30pm.

Next issue of Ponderings: copy to fompc.ponderings@gmail.com
by February 24th 2024

Minute taker: Carolyn Layton



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2024 6:30PM Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

Acknowledgement of Country John read an acknowledgement of country.

Present John Kavanagh, Frank Kinnersley, Richard Smith, Kaye Oddie, Kelvin Thomson, Terri Hopkins, Rupe Kahlon, Ray Hehr, Greg Hunt, Anne Moule, Peter Scully, Darryn Hartnett, Darren Mc Clelland, Carolyn Layton. Visitors: Rosemary West (Guest Speaker-Green Wedges Coalition), David Chandler, Gwen Chandler (Green Wedges supporters)

Apologies Anna Lanigan, Anne Black, Joan Beaumont

Passing of David Widdowson John led a minute's silence in memory of David, whom he described as a very talented and good person, who made a great contribution to the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, particularly as editor of Ponderings, and who will be greatly missed. The next issue of Ponderings will be in memory of David.

Proxies for the Special Resolution John reported that three proxies had been received (Amanda Grace, Nina Eason and Joan Beaumont). He noted that a minimum of nine members needed to vote (out of eighty-six eligible members) and that this requirement was easily met with the twelve members present at the time of the voting.

Special Resolution The purpose of the resolution is to (1) create two newly titled secretarial positions on the Committee and then (2) if approved, to elect two members to join the committee under these titles.

John explained that the role of Secretary was a very large one and that FOMPC had struggled to find someone for the role. With the splitting of the Secretary role, it meant that each part was not too all-consuming a task for a member who wanted to contribute to the organisation.

Part 1. Moved John, Seconded Kaye: That the position of Secretary be divided into two: Secretary-Association and Secretary-Communications, and that each role may be undertaken by separate individuals. Carried.

Part 2. Nomination and Election of Secretary-Association and Secretary-Communications

John reported that there was one nomination for Secretary -Association, nomination by Joan Beaumont for Terri Hopkins. John declared that Terri was elected unopposed. Similarly, there was one nomination for Secretary-Communications. Nomination by Terri Hopkins for Jean

Beaumont. John declared Joan was elected unopposed. Terri and Joan were congratulated by the meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on December 11th, 2023. Note: correction to Rupe's surname, to Kahlon. Moved: Kelvin. Seconded Rupe. Carried. The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Kaye pointed out that the FoMPC meetings listed for 2024 are not exactly every two months, due to factors such as the room availability, avoiding school holidays and proximity to Christmas (Dec meeting).

Treasurer's Report. Richard tabled his February 2024 Treasurer's Report. He pointed out that there was little change in total funds held in the accounts since the last report in December 2023. He noted income via memberships and the proposal to return \$2,719.72 in unused funds from our 2020 Federal government C82258 grant. Richard noted that the return of funds would appear in the April '24 Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's Report was put to the vote. Moved Darren. Seconded Greg. Carried.

A further motion was moved by Richard and seconded by Kaye: That FoMPC returns \$2,719.72 in funds to DEECEW for CEP 82258 grant monies not spent because activities could not proceed as intended due to Covid restrictions. This payment finalises the acquittal of the grant, noting the long delay at the Federal Government end.

Items of Business

1.Welcome new members. Anthony Polich, Andrew Cossey Helen Cooper, Jodie Thomson were welcomed. Frank reminded us that memberships follow the financial year and that emails are sent to individual members when renewal is due.

2.Guest Speaker: Rosemary West Green Wedges Coalition

Kelvin introduced Rosemary as, "someone who had done a fantastic job for decades protecting green spaces on Melbourne's fringes, which have been subject to continual assault." He welcomed her and said that it was very good that she has been able to come along and speak to our meeting. He also welcomed Green Wedge Coalition supporters Gwen and David Chandler from Deep Creek Mickleham.

Rosemary began by pointing out that FoMPC was one of the 164 foundation groups of the Green Wedge Coalition.

She took us through a brief history of her activism leading to her becoming involved in the Green Wedges movement, initially as a journalist doing some research on the then 9 Green Wedges groups in Victoria. It was the late Harry Van Moorst who proposed that the Green Wedges groups unite to form the "Green Wedges Coalition."

The story of protecting the Green Wedges brings to mind Monty Python's Black Knight trying to protect his land against King Arthur. There have been many "flesh wounds," involving great loss, such as the 500,000 hectares of grassland including 50,000 hectares of "the best example of Themeda grasslands" lost, but the Green Wedges Coalition has kept fighting the good fight despite further losses, through changes of governments, to protect what remains of the Green Wedges against ongoing threats. The major threats she noted were residential developments and church and school developments.

One of the wins for the Green Wedges Coalition close to us was against a massive market development close to the source of the Moonee Ponds Creek near Oaklands Junction-Yuroke.

This was approved by Hume City Council but Green Wedges Coalition successfully led an appeal against this development.

According to Rosemary, the big issues currently include:

- the proposed rail link with infrastructure to be built on land promised as a “chain of parks,”
- a proposal for 150 hectares for a battery on land near Calder Park, with fifty hectares of this over threatened lizard habitat,
- State government planning amendments in which party rights will be removed for developments over \$50 million that could be approved and waved through as ‘state significant developments’ possibly on green wedges,
- and the planning policy that secondary dwelling are allowed on green wedges.

Rosemary mentioned how important the support of groups such as the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek has been. She particularly mentioned the valuable support she received from Kelvin Thomson.

John proposed a motion: “That FoMPC reaffirm our commitment to and support of the Green Wedges Coalition.” Rosemary was thanked for her excellent presentation and was given a small gift in appreciation.

3. The sudden passing of David Widdowson. John reported that he had contacted David’s sister and she had appreciated hearing how much his many contributions, such as his editorship and production of Ponderings, had been valued by FoMPC. Comments from the floor referred, for example to his many talents and also his wit. John said that the next issue of Ponderings would be a limited edition, in honour of David. Kaye suggested it would be good to continue Ponderings and pointed out that David built the mailing list up to six hundred people. She appealed for anyone with publishing skills to step forward. John also asked for any suggestions anyone may have on how to memorialise David. John added, “He was a thorough gentleman and will be missed.”

4. Grants update Richard reported that there are several grants open now, closing in April. He said, “We are after good ideas and project managers and there’s plenty of experience and support in the group to help anyone who wants to have a go at writing a grant application and managing a project.” Richard has passed on the following 1. List of potential FoMPC events and activities and 2. Grants that could be considered for funding these.

1. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jgQjloU6Qw5n0s1GiCR6TZFVjEquVXbpLT8q0oagnw/edit?usp=sharing>

2. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1splIBbVUo63xxac2wSZoyV3I_hQLB49/edit?usp=sharing&oid=104939827559751421793&rtpof=true&sd=true

Richard noted that the events and activities link is intended to be live so that members can peruse and add to them. He suggested that at a future FoMPC meeting we could develop a list of priority projects.

5. Update on Lionsville Development.

(As Amended at 15/04/2024 GM, Moved Greg Hunt, seconded Kelvin Thompson)

Darryn Hartnett reported that a Compulsory Conference will be held on March 27 before the full VCAT hearing May (dates to be provided). He told us that there is a “sobering list of issues

connected to this site, from admin to environmental issues, it's all there." At its Council Meeting, Moonee Valley Council did reduce the allowable height of the buildings proposed along the Creek as well as a small increase in building setback from the Creek from the original plans. Ryman has also appealed to VCAT. The hearing for the two appeals to VCAT have been brought together into a single five-day hearing. He said most of the trees from the site have been removed, with only some historic and significant trees remaining. Some latter plans seem to potentially obliterate many of these remaining trees. Darryn shared his view that this development has the ability to set a lot of precedents and it is important that we show support. Darryn will let us know the dates of hearings when they are available. **Update: Full hearing dates: 27-31 May 10-4.30pm VCAT Melbourne.**

6. Merri-bek draft Open Space Strategy and Action Plan. Kaye reminded people again to add their comments on-line to this plan.

Other Business

- **Allan Thomson Scholarship Fund.** Kelvin reported that one school, Pascoe Vale Girls, accepted the invitation to be involved and that he'd received six entries on the topic of 'Plastic Pollution of our Waterways,' all of which would receive a scholarship.
- **Moonee Valley Sustainability presentation.** Kelvin reported enthusiastically on the presentation by Gio Fitzpatrick, "Constructing Urban Environments to Support a Diversity of Animals."
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsQzOz6KLoc&ab_channel=MaroondahCityCouncil In the video of the presentation, Gio explains the issue of decline in bush birds due to Noisy miners. He provides some strategies, based on research, for modifying open green spaces so that they better provide for the needs of bush birds, and also reduce the impact of Noisy miners on them. Well worth watching.
- **Effect of artificial light on humans and wildlife.** Kelvin commented on a presentation at a Planet Ark seminar last Sunday by Assoc Professor Sean Cain on the issue of artificial light at night and the negative impacts on humans and wildlife. Humans associate lights with safety, but the reality could be that lights show where you are and could alert predators. For further information see:
<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/campaign/light-pollution#:~:text=Light%20pollution%20harms%20wildlife%20and,disturbed%20sleep%20and%20circadian%20rhythms>
- **Audit of contents of Automatic River Cleaner "Geoff" litter collection on the Lower MP Creek** Kelvin reported that bans on single use plastics and soft plastics as well as recycling seem to be having an effect.
- **2A John St update.** Carolyn reported that an information poster including the concept plan for the site is displayed at the site. See attachment. Features include planting along the northern fence line of the block adjoining residences, and construction of a new gravel path/maintenance track leading from a planned 'gathering area' at the front of the block along the new vegetated area to join the existing gravel path further along the Creek. This would mean bikes and prams could more easily reach the Creek path (rather than going down the existing steps leading to the Creek.) The demolition is to be completed over 5 days sometime in the next 2 weeks, according to Vince Adreana (Merri-bek's Natural Resources Management Officer). Note: Asbestos removal from the site has already taken place.
- **European carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) in the Moonee Ponds Creek.** Greg updated the meeting on progress so far. Carp, a noxious species that causes damage for aquatic life, occur in various reaches of the creek. An aquatic ecologist told us that there

would be benefit for the creek in removing even a small percentage of them. He suggested that taking large females would give benefit, particularly if it was done at successive intervals. Consequently, we are investigating the possibility of a campaign, perhaps a Carp Muster, to catch and remove them from the creek. They are fun to catch as they do give good sport and many communities have run successful carp removal activities. There are a number of stakeholders, including VRFish and Melbourne Water, with whom to liaise before such a program and there will be more information as it comes to hand.

Dates for the diary

- **25th February 10am-12pm** Weeding Bee Kensington embankment (off Bent St, Kensington).
- **Sunday March 3rd Clean-up Australia:**
Woodlands Park 10am-12pm, Meet at the northern end of Winifred St. Logan Shield
Queens Park 12-1pm, Meet at the Café.
Boeing Reserve 8.30am-12.30pm Meet near the Boeing Reserve car park. Paul bird
- **Monday April 15th 6.30pm** Next FoMPC meeting at Sam Merrifield Library Moonee Ponds.
- **May 2nd Glenroy Library 7pm** Kelvin Thomson will speak on the History of the Moonee Ponds Creek.
- FoMPC Meetings 2024: June 17th, August 12th, October 14th (AGM and General Meeting), Dec 9th.

Minute taker: Carolyn Layton



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 15th April 2024

Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

PRESENT

John Kavanagh (JK) (Chair), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Kaye Oddie (KO), Kelvin Thomson (KT), Richard Smith (RS), Darren McClelland (DM) (Minutes), Nina Franceslli (NF), Carolyn Layton (CL), Sarah Webber (SW), Joan Beaumont (JB), Greg Hunt (GH), Olivia Chin (OC)

APOLOGIES

Terri Hopkins, Anna Lanigan, Darryn Hartnett (DH),

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

JK read: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

WELCOME

JK welcomed everyone to the meeting including a special welcome to Olivia Chin who has been engaged by MVCC for its arts program.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Two new applications have been received from Anastasia Kashkinova and Adrian Jones.

FK reminded all to not renew on your anniversary of joining but to instead wait for an email notification.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on 12 February 2024. DH requested the following amendment to Item 5:

Update on Lionsville Development.

Darryn Hartnett reported that a Compulsory Conference will be held on March 27 before the full VCAT hearing May (dates to be provided). He told us that there is a "sobering list of issues connected to this site, from admin to environmental issues, it's all there." At its Council Meeting, Moonee Valley Council did reduce the allowable height of the buildings proposed along the Creek as well as a small increase in building setback from the Creek from the original plans. Ryman has also appealed to VCAT. The hearing for the two appeals to VCAT have been brought together into a single five-day hearing. He said most of the trees from the site have been removed, with only some historic and significant trees remaining. Some latter plans seem to potentially obliterate many of these remaining trees. Darryn shared his view that this development has the ability to set a lot of precedents and it is important that we show support. Darryn will let us know the dates of hearings when they are available.

Update: Full hearing dates: 27-31 May 10-4.30pm VCAT Melbourne.

Moved with amendment as read GH, seconded KT. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

RS circulated and presented the Treasurer's Report showing total funds held at the Bendigo Bank. Term deposit due to be renewed. Some discussion about whether there is a requirement for two accounts for ACNC purposes. RS moved that his report be accepted, seconded JB, Carried.

MVCC ARTS PROGRAM (Guest speaker Olivia Chin)

OC explained that she is conduct workshops in October with an "on-creek" location along with a session at the Incinerator Gallery. Target audience initially is 12-25 year olds. Purpose is to develop works such as a collage, about the creek to be included in exhibition at the Incinerator from 6 December.

OC invited members to submit useful materials, e.g. bird noise recordings. Some discussion about best locations for the on-creek component and who she might engage with on particular aspects of the creek. She can be contacted by email: oliviaclaire.chin@gmail.com.

LIONSVILLE DEVELOPMENT

JK read out an update provided by DH. DH reported that a Compulsory Conference will be held at VCAT on 27 March. The Full Hearing is to be held on 27-31 May. JK expressed that it would be beneficial if as many as possible FoMPC members attended the full hearing – even for a short time – to show their objection to this proposal.

CHAIN OF PONDS LITTER PROJECT

Neil Sutton has been employed part-time on the Litter Project. KT said Neil has done an excellent job engaging with community members but unfortunately is taking up a new full-time role at Gardiner's Creek. Chain of Ponds is looking to fill his role. Motion JK that we write a letter of thanks for his contribution, seconded KT, carried.

KENSINGTON EMBANKMENT

KO thanked RH and children, TH, JB, Simon Lam and Liz Forbes for their weekly efforts in recently hand watering the plantings due to the dry conditions over late summer.

GRANTS

RH provided the following update:

- Green Links grant: we have secured a grant to do revegetation in West Brunswick in the vicinity of Turnbull Court next year, post work on site preparation.
- Essendon Fields grant: we have made a successful application for a grant from Essendon Fields and Richard Smith is leading this.
- Richard Smith was thanked for his efforts in securing these grants.

OTHER BUSINESS

- NF noted that frustratingly the MVCC has agreed to yet another shipping container being placed in the land being occupied by Strathmore's Men's Shed, for their usage.
- NF said Boeing Reserve has been put forward to MVCC as a site for National Tree Day planting. However, MVCC want to secure funding to do some water run-off amelioration works before proceeding.
- Some discussion about concreting and fencing works at Brosnan Crescent associated with the protection of an old tree. JK agreed to write to MVCC to express our concern about the lack of consultation and to attempt to ascertain the logic for this.
- RH noted MVCC's BioLink project which is related to its environmental theme of "connections". Its intention is to link nature corridors, primarily through nature strip plantings.
- 2A John St Oak Park: CL reported that the house has been removed and progress is being made to turn this property into a parklet/community space following MBCC's purchase.
- GH and CL attended a 'Carp Muster' and are currently attempting to engage with local angling groups to do a future fishing activity on the creek. Information on the how to catch carp can be found here: <https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/victorias-top-fishing-destinations/lake-eildon/what-to-catch/carp>

- Cat Management Draft Strategy: KO and NF suggested our membership be emailed a link to the consultation web page and asked to make a submission. JK agreed to arrange this.
- Hi Vis Safety Vests with our branding: NF to make enquiries with Moonee Valley Sustainability about where they purchased theirs.
- KT to meet Edgars Creek group on 28/4 at 2.00pm to show them the COPC works with a view to them doing similar on their creek.

NEXT FoMPC GENERAL MEETING: To be held Monday 17th June 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Minute taker: Darren McClelland



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To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 17 June 2024

Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

PRESENT

John Kavanagh (JK) (Chair), Kaye Oddie (KO), Maurice Austin (MA), Terri Hopkins (TH), Ray Hehr (RH), Joan Beaumont (JB), Ada Castle (AC), Peter Vasil (PV), Linda Stanley (LS), Richard Smith (RS), Kelvin Thomson (KT), Anna Lanigan (AL), Sarah Webber (SW)

APOLOGIES

Anthony Cianflone (MP for Pascoe Vale), Darryn Hartnett, Frank Kinnersley, Darren McClelland, Carolyn Layton, Ann Black, Anne Moule

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

JK read: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT One new application has been received from Linda Stanley (LS), who was welcomed to this her first meeting.

JK reminded members to not attempt to renew their membership on the anniversary of their joining, but to instead wait for an email notification from Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FoMPC).

TREASURER'S REPORT

RS circulated and presented the Treasurer's Report showing total funds held at Bendigo Bank, Strathmore. RS moved that his report be accepted, with the amendment to the Allan Thomson Scholarship Fund to read \$1,700. Seconded JB. Carried.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on 15 April 2024. KT requested an amendment from Chain of Ponds Naturalisation Collaboration (CPNC) to Chain of Ponds Litter Project. Moved with amendment JK, seconded KT. Carried.

ACTIONS FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. JK sent a letter to Neil Sutton thanking him for his contribution to the Litter Project. JK read Neil's response to Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FoMPC).

KT reported on other War on Plastic events: the Moonee Ponds Creek Litter Clean-Up at Boeing Reserve, Moonee Valley Sustainability Litter Clean Up at Cross Keys Reserve, and the Chain of Ponds / Westbreen PS Litterarti Pickup Party.

2. JK outlined that he had written to MVCC expressing our concern about the lack of consultation in relation to concreting and fencing works at Brosnan Crescent.

3. KT reported on the success of the meeting with the Edgars Creek group.

4. TH reported that the committee is in the process of looking at quotes for Hi Vis Safety Vests with FoMPC branding for members and volunteers when involved in FoMPC activities.

Action: FoMPC to complete purchase of Hi Vis vests prior to next general meeting

LIONSVILLE DEVELOPMENT

PV reported that he and Darryn Hartnett had attended the VCAT Hearing held on 27 May. It would be 4-8 weeks before VCAT came to a decision, and that they had raised a number of issues for VCAT's consideration, including:

- the need for a full site investigation into the fact that the Lionsville site may be contaminated. VCAT agreed to a partial assessment, but if the result shows the site is contaminated, the clean-up process could take considerable time
- the minimum set back distances from the top of the bank of the Moonee Ponds Creek should be 30m, not the 12m which Ryman had submitted
- the Lionsville proposal is totally incompatible with the neighbourhood character
- the lack of adequate consultation with the community and other interested groups
- the sale of the Lionsville site to a profit-making entity, given covenants on the site, as public land

JK thanked PV and DH for all their work on this issue. There was a lively discussion about what further action FoMPC could take.

Action: KO to draft a letter to Melbourne Water from FoMPC in relation to the suspected contamination on the Lionsville site, potential water pollution and minimum set back distances from the Moonee Ponds Creek.

RH commented that the Moonee Ponds Creek embankment below the Lionsville site could do with weeding and then some new plantings.

Action: Further discussion for such an activity to be on the Agenda for August General Meeting.

FUTURE MELBOURNE COMMITTEE

Port of Melbourne Planning Boundary – Amendment GC187

The Melbourne City Council Future Melbourne Committee at its April 23 meeting was asked to consider an amendment put forward by the State Government to change planning jurisdiction from the Melbourne Planning Scheme to the Port of Melbourne's planning scheme for a section of Port land to the east of the Moonee Ponds Creek at Docklands.

This would have had implications for open space and connectivity along the Creek corridor in that the Port of Melbourne planning scheme focus is on industrial and transport activity. The Future Melbourne Committee resolved that this should not occur until two outstanding matters for this section of the Creek corridor are resolved, being

- (1) the reinstatement of the shared path along this section of the Creek that was closed off by Development Victoria in 2020 and
- (2) the Minister's approval of the comprehensive Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan.

MOONEE VALLEY COUNCIL NATURE CORRIDOR COLLABORATION

TH noted that the MVCC Nature Corridor Collaboration (known in the past as the BioLink project, also as the Connectivity Project) which its intention to link nature corridors, primarily through nature strip plantings, does not have a formal representative from Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FoMPC). Various FoMPC members have in the past been invited and/or attended the project meetings, through an invitation from Millie Burke (MVCC). KT volunteered to represent FoMPC on that project. Moved JK, seconded SW. Carried.

Action: TH to contact Millie Burke (MVCC) requesting that KT be our representative on the project, for all future communication.

DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN for CHELMSFORD ST OPEN SPACE

KO reported on her meeting at Chelmsford St Kensington with City of Melbourne officers to discuss the Draft Concept Plan. KO brought her concerns to the meeting that the Draft Plan fails to address a number of issues, including disabled access, location of toilets, removal of plantings, environmental aspects of a proposed path and of the space in general. The City of Melbourne has provided FoMPC an extension in time for community input into the plan, to allow the plan to be discussed at this, our general meeting on 17 June.

Action: KO to draft a formal response from FoMPC to the City of Melbourne outlining FoMPC concerns.

2A JOHN ST OAK PARK COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY

JK confirmed that the Community Planting Day at 2A John St, Oak Park will be Saturday 10 August, 10.00 am – 12.00 pm and all members are invited.

FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK (FoMPC) WEBSITE RE-DESIGN

RS reported that Bendigo Bank – Strathmore Community Bank Branch has provided funding to assist us with our web re-design. Suggestions from the meeting for improvements included: new content and photos, working links, a calendar with notification of updates, use of QR Codes, galleries for wildlife and events, an active map of MP Creek. SW offered to help with the re-design of the website.

UPDATE ON PONDERINGS NEWSLETTER

JK was thanked for his excellent publication of the FoMPC Ponderings Winter Issue. RH volunteered to undertake the Desktop Publishing process for future issues if another member pulled the content together. TH volunteered to be the contact person to collect and collate the content prior to publishing. **Action:** JK, RH and TH to meet in relation to the publication of future Ponderings newsletters.

FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK (FoMPC) PROMOTIONAL PAMPHLET

The meeting considered that a pamphlet promoting the FoMPC could be used to raise awareness of, and encourage participation in, our activities. KT advised that a FoMPC pamphlet was developed a few years ago and could be a reference point for the new leaflet. It was noted that the new pamphlet should have the look and feel of the redesigned website.

Action: KT and JK to search for copies of old FoMPC promotional pamphlets.

OTHER BUSINESS

- KT advised that he would be delivering a talk on “A History of the Moonee Ponds Creek and its Friends” at Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds, on Thursday, 19 September at 6.00 pm.
- KT asked that a bird watching ‘walk and talk’ to be held in mid to late September at Wright St, Westmeadows, be included in the next Ponderings, inviting members.
- KT noted that Shane Hird was interested in a discussion with FoMPC re Five Mile Creek.
Action: KT to provide JK with details for contact.
- JB asked whether FoMPC had received any communication from Merri-bek Council about the status of works around Hopetoun Ave.
Action: JK to contact Merri-bek Council officers for a status report on Hopetoun Ave.
- KO spoke about the online information session from Melbourne Water which reported on the mid-term review of the Victorian State Government’s *Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018-2028* for the Port Phillip and Westernport Region. A series of live information sessions and Catchment Forums to discuss the findings of the review will be held during July.
- MA brought to the attention of the meeting the issue of a large number of light towers at a baseball field in Strathmore and the effect so much lighting at the reserve might have on fauna in the area.
Action: JK to do research on the use of 10 light towers at the Baseball Sporting Ground, located at Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights.

NEXT FoMPC GENERAL MEETING: To be held Monday 12 August 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Minute taker: Terri Hopkins



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 12 August 2024

Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

PRESENT

John Kavanagh (JK) (Chair), Kaye Oddie (KO), Rupe Kahlon, Terri Hopkins (TH), Joan Beaumont, Frank Kinnersley (FK), Ray Hehr (RH), Anna Lanigan (AL), Anne Moule, Eamonn Briggs (EB), Nina Franceschi (NF), Richard Smith (RS), Kelvin Thomson (KT), Anthony Cianflone (AC) (Guest Speaker)

APOLOGIES

Darren McClelland, Carolyn Layton, Greg Hunt, Ann Black

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

JK read: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FK reported that there are four new members of Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FoMPC) since the last meeting, these being Hayden and Jeanette Williams, Sam Wallman and Eamonn Briggs, the latter was welcomed to this his first meeting. FK noted that about 120 membership renewal notices had been emailed, and about a third of these had renewed to date.

TREASURER'S REPORT

RS circulated and presented the Treasurer's Report showing total funds held at Bendigo Bank, Strathmore. RS commented on the receipt of the second part of the DEECA Green Links Grant and the need to spend these funds within the next 18 months, with the planting events in Brunswick West between Turnbull Court and CityLink occurring prior to May 2025. RS moved that his report be accepted. Seconded KT. Carried.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on 17 June 2024.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

1. JK contacted Merri-bek Council re status of Hopetoun Ave works along the Creek. Not a positive response from Council about moving forward, as there are delays in obtaining permits and approvals from landowners. Council will advise FoMPC when situation changes.

2. Lionsville Development – JK reported that Peter Vasil had received the decision from the VCAT Hearing held on 27 May, and that it was disappointing that VCAT had granted the permit to Ryman Healthcare to develop the Lionsville site, with only some minor conditions.

3. 2A John St Oak Park Community Planting Day
AL reported on a very successful morning at John St, with around 60 volunteers planting about 852 plants, including small to medium plants and ground cover – a superb way to restore a vacant house lot, which now forms part of our urban green space. It was noted that FoMPC members could be on the lookout for potential green spaces in vacant blocks or house lots that could be revegetated. JK stated that a report on the success of the day should be included in the Spring Ponderings.

4. Chelmsford St Open Space – Concept Plan
KO spoke to the submission which FoMPC made to the City of Melbourne for its 20 August 2024 meeting, on Chelmsford St Kensington, Draft Open Space Concept Plan. Specifically in relation to access to the Creek via the floodwall at that site.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. GUEST SPEAKER – ANTHONY CIANFLONE (Member for Pascoe Vale)

JK introduced Anthony Cianflone (AC) and welcomed him to the meeting. AC thanked FoMPC members for their ongoing commitment, and made a special mention of the dedication to the environment shown over such a long period of time by the Thomson family. AC spoke to the meeting about whole-of-government initiatives to improve environmental outcomes, with a focus on renewable energy, cessation of native forest logging, container deposit scheme, planning controls around creek corridors, making grants available for community access, and joining with councils to deliver projects such as Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek.

A lively discussion followed in regard to current planning controls and their expiry in 2026; the importance of a joint approach on conservation with his federal colleagues; and the issue of litter accumulating via freeways and making its way to our waterways. AC mentioned that CityLink is currently providing access to community grants for which FoMPC may want to apply. AC to send JK the link to the grants application process. The meeting thanked AC for his ongoing support of the FoMPC and of the Moonee Ponds Creek.

2. GENERAL GRANTS UPDATE

RS reported on the status of our two current grant projects: *Green Links Grant*, managed by RS himself and the *Kensington Embankment (MW Healthy Waterways) Grant*, managed by KO. There is a possibility that we may apply for a CityLink grant as suggested by AC earlier.

RS noted that the FoMPC maintains two grant opportunity spreadsheets: one lists priority sites needing improvement, the other lists funding bodies that provide grants. RS is happy to circulate the spreadsheets to interested members but explained that the difficulty for our group is not in the application process but in the identification of FoMPC members who are willing to run a project funded by a grant. RS reiterated that without project managers, grants can't be implemented.

3. REZONING OF SURPLUS LAND (rear CARAVELLE CRESC STRATHMORE HEIGHTS)

JK spoke about the letter received from Department of Transport and Planning in relation to the proposed planning controls and planning permits at the rear of 45-55 Caravelle Crescent, Strathmore Heights. The proposed changes include rezoning of land from Transport Zone to General Residential, subdividing land to create 23 lots, reserving land for public open space, and removing native vegetation. After discussion the following action was agreed.

Action: JK to write to Government Land Planning about a lack of community consultation, the need to properly advertise the 23 lots, the availability of a map of existing zoning and the proposed zoning, any proposed plans for vehicular access, for maximisation of public open space and for the removal of native vegetation. Submission must be received by 16 Aug.

4. WEEDING AT MOONEE PONDS EMBANKMENT – LIONSVILLE SITE

RH spoke to his proposal that the Moonee Ponds Creek embankment below the Lionsville site could do with weeding and then some new plantings, and to what extent FoMPC could be involved. After discussion the following action was agreed.

Action: JK to write to MVCC about the state of the embankment and ask who is responsible for controlling the weeds, and that the FoMPC would be willing to assist with their removal.

5. REIMAGINING MOONEE PONDS CREEK PROJECT

Melbourne Water advised that it is running an event on Saturday 30 November, 11.00 am – 2.00 pm at Ethel Street Reserve, Oak Park to celebrate Stage 1 of the project. It is expected that there will be food stalls, activities and entertainment. Melbourne Water was keen for some input from FoMPC on the day. Any suggestions from members are welcome, and should be communicated to JK or NF.

6. MERRI-BEK OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

The meeting noted that FoMPC had previously provided a submission for this strategy, but that individual members affected by the amendment could still provide submissions to the Council by 19 August.

7. BOEING RESERVE / STRATHMORE PRECINCT

7i. Moonee Ponds Creek Trail Shared Path

FK spoke about his communication with Angus McAlister and his frustration with the latter's failure to include relevant councillors and other people who were copied into the original communication, so that all were aware of the MVCC responses to the issues raised. His communication with the council about the proposed barrier fence along the shared path, included the 5m buffer zone that the council was adopting, the minimum 500mm distance of the fence from the shared path, moving the path away from the foliage near the main baseball field, and the relocation of the vehicle entry gate to the Boeing Reserve baseball field.

7ii Shared Path Fence at Boeing Reserve

NF delivered a presentation to the meeting on the proposal by MVCC to build 515 metres of barrier fencing along Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Path in the Boeing Reserve area. NF advised that there had been no consultation with the community on the make-up of the fence, it being too high for the location as it would block the view of the Creek escarpment. NF questioned why there is a need for a shared path on both sides of the Creek at this location. NF requested the meeting to support her opposition to the fence in a tangible way by writing to the MVCC. KO moved that a letter be sent to MVCC with the options outlined in NF's presentation. Seconded NF. Carried.

Action: JK to write to MVCC proposing 2 viable options as alternatives. NF to send JK and KO her presentation so that KO can draft letter for JK.

8. WYKROOK-NGULUK DARRANG (formerly SHELLEY HILLOCK)

KO raised for consideration a problem with the reserve known as Wykrook-nguluk Darrang, formerly 'Shelley Hillock', alongside the Moonee Ponds Creek. The hillock which was isolated when CityLink was built, was revegetated in 2017 with a CLTW/Landcare grant in conjunction with MVCC and FoMPC as a biodiversity/habitat area. Since 2021 when the site was trashed with extensive bike jumps and ditches, MVCC has not considered any plans to revegetate the area. There now appears to be three quite extensive makeshift camps with large amounts of accumulated rubbish on the site.

Discussion at the meeting focused on both the camp residents' need for housing, and the undertaking to return the area to its former biodiversity/habitat status. KO proposed that FoMPC write a letter to MVCC outlining the issue and asking what action the Council is undertaking. EB stated that he believed the main focus of the letter should be the housing issue rather than the revegetation concern. After discussion the following action was agreed.

Action: KO to draft a letter for JK to MVCC asking what action is being taken by the Council to address the housing needs of the homeless who are currently living in the itinerant camps at the site.

9. MACAULAY STRUCTURE PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C417

There was discussion on what appears to be a lack of planning controls around setbacks from the Creek when developers are planning multi-storey buildings. This is particularly relevant to the Macaulay Structure Plan. It is unclear whether Amendment C417 will address the issue of the impact which a lack of setbacks has on the Creek. The following action was agreed.

Action: KO to draft a letter for JK to City of Melbourne outlining the need for bigger setbacks from the Creek and a commitment to respecting the Creek corridor.

10. FoMPC Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The meeting agreed that a guest speaker should be invited to speak at our AGM on 14 October 2024. After discussion the following action was agreed.

Action: JK to invite Alex English to be a guest speaker at the FoMPC AGM.

11. UPDATE ON 'PONDERINGS' NEWLETTER

RH was thanked for volunteering to be the new editor of Ponderings and also TH for assisting with the collection and editing of articles.

OTHER BUSINESS

FK reported on an invitation from the City of Melbourne for FoMPC to participate in the 'Moonee Ponds Creek Forum – Opportunities for Community Advocacy'. The forum will focus on bringing community stakeholders together to hear about recent projects and discuss opportunities to strengthen advocacy efforts. FK asked for two volunteers to attend the first meeting on 4 September 2024. RH volunteered to attend, and KO reported that Liz Forbes, a FoMPC member, would also be interested.

NEXT FoMPC GENERAL MEETING & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM):

To be held Monday 14 October 2024, 6:30 p.m. All members welcome.

Minute taker: Terri Hopkins



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 14 October 2024
Sam Merrifield Library
762 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds

MINUTES

PRESENT

John Kavanagh (JK), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Richard Smith (RS), Kaye Oddie (KO), Peter Scully, Kelvin Thomson (KT), Terri Hopkins, Anne Black, Anna Lanigan, Greg Lanigan, Hayden William, Ray Hehr, Alex English

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

President John Kavanagh welcomed attendees and acknowledged the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we were meeting.

APOLOGIES

Joan Beaumont, Darren McClelland, Carolyn Layton, Greg Hunt, Anne Moule, Maurice Austin, Darryn Hartnett

GUEST SPEAKER

Alex English, who is one of our members and works at Merri-bek City Council, gave a very interesting and inspiring presentation on *"The Pebble Effect: activating and restoring waterways in Korea"*. Alex noted that we could learn from Korea's approach to initiating and promoting waterways projects. The emphasis being on the implementation of really substantial major projects which bring the community along with them and from there create a ripple effect, resulting in other waterways projects being planned and implemented.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2023

The motion that the Minutes represented an accurate record of the 2023 AGM was put. Moved KT, Seconded FK. Carried.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

JK announced that the Committee had put forward a nomination for Frank Kinnersley for Life Membership. JK set out the impressive contribution that FK had made to the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc over a very long period. JK mentioned that two and a half years ago we awarded our first Life Membership, in 2023 we promoted four more members who had given many years of dedicated service, and that it was entirely fitting that FK be elevated to become the sixth member of our esteemed group of Life Members. The motion to award Frank Kinnersley a Life Membership was carried unanimously. Moved JK, Seconded KO.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A copy of the President's Report is attached to these Minutes of the AGM.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Financial Report for Year ended 30 June 2024, prepared by the Treasurer, Richard Smith, was presented to the meeting. For details, refer to the Financial Report which is attached to these Minutes.

RS highlighted the healthy carryover of \$64,401 from Financial Year 2024 (FY24) into FY25. He noted that the significant difference from one year to the next was due to receipt of funds from two sizeable grants, one worth \$3,320 and the other one for \$25,473, which are to be carried into FY25. RS commented that being in such a resilient financial position meant that it was an opportunity for FoMPC to run some good activities over the next 12 months.

The motion to accept the Report was moved by RS and seconded by KO. Carried.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JK vacated the Chair. KT took over the role in order to conduct the election of Committee Members for 24/25. KT thanked Alex for his excellent presentation and also thanked the outgoing Committee. KT raised a number of issues for future consideration before proceeding with the election. These matters were:

- the need for FoMPC to do some work in relation to advocating for a path to run north from the Hopetoun Avenue bridge
- the need for FoMPC to return to its role as a planning referral authority as it used to be in the past
- the need to focus on promoting substantial funding for projects that will improve the Moonee Ponds Creek, in spite of some criticism within the community about the amount of money that has gone into the Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek Project. KT noted that, as per Alex's earlier presentation, it's through major projects such as these that we can hope to grab the community's attention about the state of the creek, and to advocate for further action.

KT noted the following nominations had been received for the five positions on the Committee:

President:	John Kavanagh (FK nominated)
Vice President:	Frank Kinnersley (JK nominated)
Treasurer:	Richard Smith (JK nominated)
Association Secretary:	Terri Hopkins (FK nominated)
Communications Secretary:	Joan Beaumont (JK nominated)

As there were no other nominations for any of the positions, and all five members had accepted their nominations, they were elected as the new Committee Members for 24/25. After the election of the Committee, KT handed the role of Chair back to JK.

Other business

FK recommended that the Annual Membership fee remain at \$20. He noted that this fee more than covered our costs. JK agreed and said that with the present cost of living, it made sense to keep the fee at the same level. There was no opposition to this.

Members were thanked for their attendance, and the AGM was declared closed at 7.40 pm

Minute taker: Terri Hopkins

President's Report 2024 AGM

Just like the life of any individual, the life of an organisation has its high points and its low points, its time of celebration, its quiet periods and its periods of sorrow. The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek is no exception. Just as the creek itself has periods of flowing fiercely and with force, and other periods of struggle, so it is with us.

For me the sudden death of our editor of 'Ponderings', David Widdowson, in January was a terrible low point. He was a fiercely committed, intelligent, talented man who gave so much to this group and asked for nothing in return. His loss was obviously felt most profoundly by his family, and we take a moment in this AGM to acknowledge and thank him for his contribution. For David, and for all other FOMPC members who we have lost over the last twelve months, can I ask that we all stand and observe a minute's silence ... thank you.

This group has had a very busy twelve months. The committee meets a few weeks before each general meeting to map out an agenda for upcoming meetings and even when for a few fleeting moments you think that there are limited items, without exception, several significant issues emerge that require the attention of the members.

Our vision states:

To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

And I believe we have remained true to that over the last 12 months.

We maintain an excellent working relationship with all the creek's stakeholders, whether they be local governments, Melbourne Water, Greater Western Water and of course, the Chain of Ponds Collaboration. Of course, there are times when we have differing viewpoints but we manage to disagree respectfully, and have very positive relationships and are viewed by all as an important stakeholder.

At the beginning of this year the committee was strengthened by the election of Terri Hopkins as Association Secretary and Joan Beaumont as Communications Secretary. They have made an important contribution to the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek since their election. They have brought a new lens to our group and their contributions have been invaluable and on behalf of all members, I thank them sincerely for adding so much to our group since their election to the committee.

Of course, we have two other committee members who have continued to give invaluable service to FOMPC. We have our treasurer, Richard Smith, who not only masterfully looks after our finances but is always on the lookout for any funding opportunities. I remember our former President, the Honourable Kelvin Thomson, when speaking of our former treasurer saying how vital that role is, and what a relief it is when the finances are in dependable hands. I have now seen firsthand how true those words are both for Richard, and our previous treasurer, Vince. I know that Richard's day job is a high-pressure one and we are so appreciative of your efforts outside of working hours, Richard.

I'm hopeful that I am speaking about our Vice President after he has received Life Membership of FOMPC. If so, it is a fitting recognition for many years of volunteer service.

Specifically, over the last 12 months Frank's efforts have been so valued by me. I know that people talk about intellectual property and Frank certainly has that. As well as being an excellent Vice President and looking after membership matters, it's extremely valuable to have Frank place the historical context of different matters as they come before the committee. Other committee members, including myself, don't have that longevity and it's an invaluable asset that Frank brings to the committee.

Our sincere thanks go to Ray Hehr. Ray has stepped up by volunteering to be the new editor of 'Ponderings'. His first effort on this was the Spring edition and what a triumph it was. Ray is a graphic designer by trade and the Spring 'Ponderings' was so impressive. We are so appreciative of your efforts, Ray.

Although Kaye Oddie is no longer officially a committee member, her continued support of the committee remains invaluable. She works feverishly in the background and is the best writer of a submission I've witnessed. Thanks so much Kaye.

To Nina and Anna who continue to administer our Facebook page thank you so much.

To Carolyn and Greg who help in so many different ways, thank you. To so many of our members who give of their time and their talents be assured all your contributions we are deeply appreciative.

One of the most exciting activities this year is the reimagining of the section of the Moonee Ponds Creek currently taking place in Strathmore. This is progressing very well, and it was wonderful to visit it a couple of weeks ago. I think we had every politician north of the Yarra. It was a perfect embodiment of the saying 'Success has many fathers, whilst failure is an orphan.' Those who have gone before us, can take a bow as years of advocacy is seeing its rewards before our eyes. Obviously, it is just the beginning but the announcement a couple of weeks ago shows that it is progressing even further south of Stage One.

What does continue to surprise me is that the creek needs us, and others, to continue advocating for it. Some battles are small but important and I often wonder what the creek would look like if not for the formation of this group in 1989. I'm sure it would be greatly deficient to what it is today and because of this we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have advocated for the creek for the last forty-five years.

I thank each and every member of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek for continuing to support the creek in so many ways. Whether it is by being proactive in paying your yearly membership subscriptions, right through to being willingly to swing into civic action, when called upon to do so, I am grateful to all members. Thank you

John Kavanagh

President, Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc (FOMPC)



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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Financial Report for Year ended 30 June 2024

Prepared by:

Richard Smith, Treasurer

Table 1: Reconciled Bank Balances ^A

	Opening Balance 30 Jun 2023 ^B	Credits ^C	Debits ^D	Interest ^E	Closing Balance 30 Jun 2024 ^F	Change ^G
General Account	\$9,406.73	\$32,658.00	-\$11,468.78	\$-	\$30,595.95	\$21,189.22
Membership Subscriptions a/c	\$-	\$1,705.00	-\$1,605.00	\$-	\$100.00	\$100.00
Term Deposit 1.	\$8,139.33	\$-	\$-	\$195.68	\$8,335.01	\$195.68
Term Deposit 2.	\$15,725.58	\$-	\$-	\$591.02	\$16,316.60	\$591.02
Allan Thomson Scholarship Fund	\$10,219.50	\$-	-\$1,700.00	\$533.56	\$9,053.06	-\$1,166.44
Annual Total	\$43,491	\$34,363	-\$14,774	\$1,320	\$64,401	\$20,909

Notes to Table 1

A: Accounts held with Bendigo Bank, Strathmore

B: FoMPC carried over **\$43,491** from FY23 into FY24

C: Total FoMPC cash income for FY24 was **\$31,058** (note this excludes internal transfers between accounts which are shown as 'credits' in table above). Major transactions during the year were:

- Receipt of Friends of the Fields grant from Essendon Fields for litter projects (+\$3,320)
- Receipt of DEECA Green Links Grant for infill revegetation in Brunswick West (+\$25,473)
- Membership fees and donations (+\$1,705)

D: Total FoMPC outgoings for FY24 were **\$11,469**. (note this excludes internal transfers between accounts which are shown as 'debits' in table above) Major transactions during the year included:

- Award of Allan Thomson Scholarship Fund (-\$600)
- Mutual agreement to discharge of residual Outlook Drive Project funds under CEP82258 (-\$2,720)
- Completion of Kensington Embankment Project under LCLW-1552-P-3440 (-\$6,714)

E: Interest on term deposits during FY24 was **\$1,320**

F: FoMPC carried over **\$64,401** from FY24 into FY25. This includes Friends of the Fields and Green Links grants to be dispersed in FY25

G: The net movement in FoMPC's accounts over FY24 was **\$20,909**



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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GENERAL MEETING

Monday 14 October 2024

Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

PRESENT

John Kavanagh (JK), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Richard Smith (RS), Kaye Oddie (KO), Peter Scully, Kelvin Thomson (KT), Terri Hopkins, Anne Black (AB), Anna Lanigan, Greg Lanigan, Hayden William, Ray Hehr (RH), Alex English

APOLOGIES

Joan Beaumont, Darren McClelland, Carolyn Layton, Greg Hunt, Anne Moule, Maurice Austin, Darryn Hartnett

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

FK reported that there are six new members of Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FoMPC) since the August General Meeting, these being Catrina Sofo, Amir Sadrinia, Cal Gleeson, Felicity Watson, Rohan Leppert and Sam Blake. FK noted that there may be two other new membership applications, but one had not paid the fee and the other had paid a fee but not submitted an application.

TREASURER'S REPORT

RS circulated and presented the Treasurer's Report showing total funds held at Bendigo Bank, Strathmore. RS commented on the increase in total funds being due to membership subscriptions. RS moved that his report be accepted. Seconded JK. Carried.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on 12 August 2024. KT moved that the Minutes be accepted, seconded RS. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Ryman Lionsville Development – KT reported that Darryn Hartnett had contacted him to inform us that following the VCAT decision, it is our understanding that the EPA has requested an extensive investigation into soil and other contamination at the Lionsville site. This means no development of the site whilst this occurs.
- Major changes to the Moonee Ponds Creek Shared Path and proposed construction of 515 metres of barrier fencing in the Boeing Reserve area – JK reported that following the last meeting he wrote to the planning department and then to the CEO at Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC). The result of that correspondence with Council is that JK has been invited to attend a meeting at the site with a Council officer. The outcome of this meeting will be reported at the December FoMPC general meeting.
- Wykrook-nguluk Darrang Reserve, formerly 'Shelley Hillock', alongside the Moonee Ponds Creek – JK reported that following his letter to MVCC after the last meeting, the Council has advised that the makeshift camps have been abandoned and that the site has been cleaned up. As yet, no plans for revegetating the site have been put forward. KO and RS discussed the matter of applying for grants or

for funding within the Council's budget in order to develop a project of revegetation of the Shelley Hillock site.

Action: JK to seek a meeting with Milly Burke from MVCC to gain advice about a process for funding and planning for this project.

- Macaulay Structure Plan and Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C417 – KO raised the matter about the impact that a lack of setbacks and overshadowing multi-storey buildings have on the Creek. JK noted that we provided a submission in August to the City of Melbourne on the Amendment, and we should wait for a response.
- Moonee Valley Nature Corridor Collaboration Project – KT, representing FoMPC on this project, reported that MVCC has sent out 500 letters to households around Napier Park encouraging them to participate in plantings between Napier Park and the Creek. 50 households have already responded positively and will be provided with plants and guidelines about where and how to do the plantings.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. The late Steve Irwin and the Moonee Ponds Creek – KT reported that at his September talk at the Sam Merrifield Library on *"The Moonee Ponds Creek and its Friends"* which was attended by around 80 people, it was raised that Steve Irwin had a connection with the Creek and that it should be acknowledged in some way. KO and AB questioned whether that was in fact true, and KT said that he would do some research on the matter.

2. Report on Moonee Ponds Creek Community Forum – FK reported that the Forum which was held in Kensington on 4 September was well attended by about 40 people. The focus of the meeting was to provide a statement emphasising that the lower Moonee Ponds Creek (MPC) had been ignored for a long time. Specifically that the Moonee Ponds Creek Implementation Plan needed to be approved and that the MPC trail in Docklands should be reinstated. FK stated that the FoMPC had agreed to being a signatory to that Joint Statement to the Victorian Government.

3. Update on proposed weeding activity at creek embankment below Ryman Lionsville site – JK reported that he had been in contact with Milly Burke at MVCC and that she is working on identifying who has ownership and/or responsibility for this part of the Creek, and how we can be involved in the weeding/planting project. JK thanked RH for the work he had already put into taking photos of the site, and identifying the amounts and types of weeds involved.

Action: JK to follow up on previous discussions with Milly Burke from MVCC.

4. Funding announcement for Reimagining Moonee Ponds Creek: Stage 2 – JK reported on an announcement that \$16.4M had been allocated to the next stage of this project, this involved a contribution from Melbourne Water of \$11.4M and \$5M awarded to the Chain of Ponds Collaboration by the State Government.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Westgate Tunnel design and its effect on the MPC. KO raised the issue of how the Westgate Tunnel project will impact on the Creek, specifically by building barriers that block the line of vision to the Creek, as has happened along other sections of the Creek. The discussion was hampered by a lack of knowledge about the actual design of the Tunnel.

Action: KO to draft a letter from JK to Transurban requesting to see the design of the Westgate Tunnel to assess what impact barriers that are built may have on the Creek.

- KO proposed that following the Council elections, FoMPC sit down with new councillors at MVCC to discuss what is happening along the Creek and to advocate for a more supportive response to FoMPC issues than what we have found in the past.

JK closed the meeting at 8.15pm by thanking all present and especially Alex English for his outstanding presentation.

NEXT FoMPC GENERAL MEETING

To be held Monday 9 December 2024, 6:30 p.m. All members welcome.

Minute taker: Terri Hopkins



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

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To ensure the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

GENERAL MEETING

Monday 9 December 2024

Sam Merrifield Library

MINUTES

PRESENT

John Kavanagh (JK) (Chair), Kaye Oddie (KO), Terri Hopkins (TH), Anne Moule, Kelvin Thomson (KT), Cal Gleeson, Darren McClelland (DM)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

JK read: *We acknowledge and respect the Wurundjeri people, the Traditional Owners, as the original custodians of the land and waters, including the Moonee Ponds Creek. We acknowledge their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it. We honour their Elders, past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.*

APOLOGIES

Joan Beaumont, Carolyn Layton, Greg Hunt, Ann Black, Darryn Hartnett, Richard Smith (RS), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Maurice Austin, Anna Lanigan, Ray Hehr

PRESENTATION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP

JK informed the meeting that Frank Kinnersley (FK) was not in attendance because he had suffered a fall from his bike and so the presentation of Life Membership to Frank would be postponed until the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

JK reported that given FK's absence there would be no Membership Report for this meeting. A new member, Cal Gleeson, was welcomed to his first general meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to the absence of Richard Smith (RS) because of a family function, JK circulated the Treasurer's Report showing total funds held at Bendigo Bank, Strathmore. JK commented on a few membership renewals, the \$1000 compensation from Jemena for the damage caused at John St Reserve, and the \$1000 from Bendigo Bank for website redesign.

KT took the opportunity to comment on the Allan Thomson Scholarship Fund. It is now down to one school, Pascoe Vale Girls College, which takes an ongoing interest in the scholarship. There were eight entries on the topic of "Impact of plastic on oceans and waterways". It was decided that all entrants would be receiving a \$100 award, moved by KT, seconded JK. KT to discuss the provision of the funds to the students with RS.

KO raised the possibility of KT inviting the eight girls to view some of the exhibitions of litter art being produced by artist Catherine van Wilgenburg who is working with Chain of Ponds and local schools, in order to give students a more positive spin on dealing with litter.

KT moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Seconded DM. Carried.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on 14 October 2024. JK asked that Darryn Hartnett be added to the Apologies for the AGM and GM of 14 October. He also requested a slight correction to the Minutes, this being that the report on Ryman Lionsville Development read: "KT reported that Darryn Hartnett had contacted him to inform us that following the VCAT decision, it is our understanding that the EPA has requested an extensive investigation into soil and other contamination at the Lionsville site. This means no development of the site whilst this occurs."

KT moved that the Minutes be accepted with this amendment, seconded KO. Carried.

CHAIN OF PONDS REPORT

KO reported on a meeting of the Governance Group and the redrafting of the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with the current one expiring in 2025. KO outlined a few issues that needed to be addressed in the new MOU. KT asked whether Rachel Lopes could be invited to the next meeting, KO suggested that we wait until we have a timeframe for the completion of the MOU.

Action: JK to email Rachel Lopes and invite her to one of our 2025 general meetings once we have a timeframe for the signing of the MOU.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Update on discussions with Milly Burke (MB) from MVCC: Revegetation of Wykrook-nguluk Darrang – KO reported that she had been in communication about a proposal from MAZ Group, a construction company which has offered to supply and participate in the planting and maintenance of a 'large number' of plants, as carbon credits for their organisation. KO and MB are still in discussion about the suitability of the Wykrook-nguluk Darrang site for this project, and of putting an MOU together for the project. JK stated that in principle we would be very interested in supporting a project where MAZ Group provides resources for a community planting day.

KT commented that the use of corporations' carbon credits might be a potential way to get mass plantings in the Creek's Broadmeadows valley, upstream of the Metropolitan Ring Road, and he would be interested in talking to MAZ Group about the possibilities of supporting large scale plantings.

DM noted that Friends of Maribyrnong Valley has had discussions with 'The Great Eastern Ranges', a tree-planting organisation, about different projects they could be involved in. KT said that he would be interested in talking to them also.

JK commented that there is still no further communications or advice re weeding on the Creek embankment below the Lionsville site, to be kept on the agenda for 2025.

2. Meeting with Council officers on 31 October, re shared path at Boeing Reserve – JK reported on a meeting which FK and he attended with Council Officers, Chain of Ponds Collaboration Lead, and Melbourne Water Waterway Officer. The Council discussed the restrictions needed due to the guidelines and the space available. There seemed to be little room for further negotiation from the Council and FoMPC reiterated the importance of fence design and the need for placing fencing only where critically needed. No further communication since that day.
3. Update on reinstatement of Moonee Ponds Creek Trail Shared Path at Docklands – KT stated that there is an upcoming onsite meeting relating to Chain of Ponds Litter Clean Up Group and the replacement of "Jeff", the litter trap. At that onsite meeting there will be a representative from Docklands Studios which has not reinstated the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail shared path nor the open space, now being the car park for Docklands Studios. At that meeting KT will be stating unreservedly that FoMPC would like to see the open space and the shared path at Docklands returned for community use, and flagging that this meeting will be the start of our campaign for its reinstatement.
4. Report of damage at John St Reserve by Jemena – KO reported that Carolyn Layton (CL) had discovered that Jemena had caused damage to the John St Reserve during a power pole replacement. The reserve had been the focus of community plantings organised by Merri-bek Council and assisted by FoMPC over a number of years. Subsequent to the complaint made to Jemena, and after discussions between Vince Adreana – from Merri-bek City Council, Jemena, CL and KO, a donation of \$1000 was

made by Jemena to FoMPC to secure more plants for another community planting during the next planting season in Autumn 2025.

5. Correspondence with Transurban re the design of barriers that overlook the Moonee Ponds Creek blocking the view to the Creek. KO reported that City of Melbourne had responded to FoMPC query about barriers and confirmed that the new shared path bridges (Br 90 and Br 75) will have more standard height balustrading/cladding than those higher barriers at Dynon Rd. The question now is what is happening to revegetation of these areas.

Action: KO to follow up with Eloise McGunn at Melbourne City Council and determine who the right people are to communicate with at Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP) about plans for revegetation following work on Transurban's West Gate Tunnel Project.

6. Report on redevelopment of FoMPC website – TH reported that the redevelopment was going well and that there were still a few changes needing to be incorporated. TH had circulated an online link to the draft website to the Committee and to KO and KT, who are authors of a lot of its content. Feedback from this meeting will go back to the developers, this included removal of the photo of the rabbit at the Creek and the inclusion of a section that lists the names of FoMPC Life Members.

7. 2025 Meeting Dates were announced by JK, these being:
Monday 17 February, Tuesday 22 April, Monday 16 June, Monday 18 August, Monday 20 October (including AGM), Monday 15 December.

8. A 2025 FoMPC Gathering – All members, their families and friends are invited
Date: Sunday 2 February, starting at 12 noon – BYO picnic
Location: Five Mile Creek Reserve, 2 Government Road, Essendon

Action: JK to contact Ginny Moylan as a possible guest speaker for the gathering to give a 5-minute talk on the history of the Five Mile Creek

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Mooney Valley City Council (MVCC) Consultation on Shared Path Upgrades located:
 - Between Wheeler St and Woodland St Pascoe Vale South
 - Near Pattison St Moonee Ponds
 - Near Strathmore Secondary College

JK reported that MVCC has asked FoMPC for input on the plans for shared path upgrades on the above sites. KO commented that we should question the need for fencing and that it should be minimal, the type of surface to be used (asphalt is preferred), plans for landscaping and revegetating in those areas and the need to be respectful of the Creek in any of the planning and works.

Action: JK to provide feedback to Council along these lines.

2. KT reported that he had communication from Iwan Walters, State Labor Member for Greenvale, who is very interested in the history of the Moonee Ponds Creek, would like to attend a meeting of FoMPC in 2025 and to be added to our mailing list.

Action: KO to add Mr Iwan Walters, State Labor Member for Greenvale, to the FoMPC mailing list.

3. KO requested some funding for purchase of Archive Boxes. It was approved and KO to discuss with RS.

JK closed the meeting at 8.15 pm by thanking all present.

NEXT FoMPC GENERAL MEETING

To be held Monday 17 February 2025, 6:30 p.m. All members welcome.

Minute taker: Terri Hopkins