



Ponderings

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

AUTUMN 2026 | ISSUE 90

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate

CHAIN OF PONDS

Update

TRANSFORMING THE MOONEE PONDS CREEK



Amazing 'Adopters' at a thank you barbeque at Boeing Reserve, 31 January, 2026.

Re-imagining Moonee Ponds Creek

We're excited to soon be sharing the first design ideas for the Re-imagining Moonee Ponds Creek - Stage 2 project with the community. Melbourne Water, their consultants, Merri-Bek and Moonee Valley City Councils have been working hard on a design that suits all the competing needs of the waterway and the waterway corridor, and there are many! Keep your eyes peeled for the plans and please get involved in providing feedback.

Cultural awareness training

Chain of Ponds Governance Group members have cultural awareness training each year and this year we're heading to Coranderrk in Healesville with Tahlia Tweedie, our Wurundjeri Liaison, Uncle Dave Wandin and Auntie Jacqui Wandin. While not in the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment, Coranderrk holds a significant place in the Wurundjeri people's recent history and we're excited to visit and learn more about Coranderrk from Wurundjeri Elders firsthand. For those who are curious, you can watch the *First Australians*, Episode 3 called *Freedom of our Lifetime*, on SBS On Demand, for Coranderrk specific information. >>

Woodlands Historic Park Cultural Trail

In January we met with Parks Victoria and Kelp Creative at Woodlands Historic Park (Greenvale) to discuss a potential upgrade of the Cultural Trail, including a seasonal calendar. With a Cultural Values Assessment soon to get underway at Woodlands Historic Park, we look forward to sharing more cultural information on this Trail.

Adopt-a-Creek Campaign

The Adopt-a-Creek Campaign has continued over the summer months, with more people and groups putting up their hands to help out and adopt sections of the creek. These have included the Pascoe Vale and Broadmeadows Rotary Clubs. A number of Kensington residents have stepped up to look after the Kensington section of the creek, and Yarra Trams employees are looking after the section between Footscray Road and Dynon Road on their lunch break, which is great. Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek stalwart Anne Black is looking after the Five Mile Creek tributary as it makes its way (underground) through Salmon Reserve in Essendon.

We now have nearly 40 sections of the Moonee Ponds Creek and its tributaries “adopted”, by individuals, families, groups and organisations. On Saturday 31 January the Chain of Ponds Collaboration, in partnership with Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, had a BBQ at Boeing Reserve, Strathmore. It was very successful, with around 35 people coming along – a great opportunity for creek adopters to meet each other and share experiences and compare notes. Many thanks to the Glenroy Lions for their help with the catering.

There are still plenty of sections of the creek which have not yet been “adopted”. If you want to adopt a section, or help out someone who already has, please email Kelvin Thompson at: KelvinT@hume.vic.gov.au.

Litter clean up

The Chain of Ponds Collaboration has had a litter clean up on Clean Up Australia Day, Sunday 1 March, at the Hopetoun Avenue Reserve, Hopetoun Avenue Brunswick West, between 10 am and 12 Noon. We hope you were able to come along and lend a hand. There were a number of other clean ups happening along the creek on Clean Up Australia Day – a church group cleaned the Five Mile Creek Reserve, where Five Mile Creek runs into the Moonee Ponds Creek, and the Pascoe Vale Rotary Club cleaned its adopted section in Pascoe Vale South, from Moreland Road upstream to the footbridge at the rear of the Cross Keys Hotel. The Hume Council organized a clean up in the Broadmeadows Valley Park at the Otway Crescent Drain, a tributary of the creek.

Together, we will clean up this creek!

Rachel Lopes and Kelvin Thompson. Chain of Ponds



CHAIN OF PONDS
Transforming the Moonee Ponds Creek

MOONEE PONDS CREEK ADOPT A CREEK

LITTER IS A PROBLEM FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

It is on the increase. Australia now produces 2.5 million tonnes of plastic waste each year; that is 100kg per person! 84% of that goes to landfill. It tends to end up in waterways, and in the case of Melbourne, in Port Phillip Bay. It is estimated that 99% of seabirds worldwide have ingested plastic.



IT IS ALSO A PROBLEM FOR PEOPLE

Areas of public open space with litter become unsightly, prone to more litter, graffiti and vandalism. They are less attractive, and feel less safe. On the other hand, cleaning up litter develops civic pride and community spirit – a sense that we value our public places, and we're all in this together.



As part of the Litter Action Plan for the Moonee Ponds Creek, we want to encourage people and groups to “Adopt a Creek” – to take responsibility for cleaning up, and keeping clean, a section of the creek near their home.

Individuals and families will likely be able to put creek rubbish in their own bins, but larger groups are likely to need Council support to take away the rubbish they collect. We can assist with that.

Already we have had individuals, families, and groups volunteer to look after sections of the creek.

To volunteer to look after a section of the creek, please email me at KelvinT@hume.vic.gov.au

Many hands make light work, and together, we're gonna clean up this creek!

Kelvin Thomson
Moonee Ponds Creek
Chain of Ponds Collaboration Litter Lead
Supported by Essendon Fields





ALLAN THOMSON ENVIRONMENT SCHOLARSHIP

On 3 February 2026, Kelvin Thomson presented the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FoMPC) Allan Thomson Environment Scholarships to students at Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College. The girls had written essays about the impact of plastic on our environment, particularly our marine life, as well as its impact on our own health.

Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College isn't just talking the talk; it's walking the walk! The school has joined the Moonee Ponds Creek 'Adopt a Creek Program' being organised by the Chain

of Ponds Collaboration. It is now helping to keep the east bank of the Westbreen Creek, north of Arndt Road, free from litter. Well done to all the girls and teachers involved, and a special thanks to your Principal Kay Peddle.

The late Allan Thomson, under whose name the Environment Scholarship is awarded annually, would have been delighted to see these young students following in his footsteps; helping keep this great area of parkland and open space free from litter.

Terri Hopkins, FoMPC



Walking a new path

A new gravel path section has been completed along the creek, extending the path from Bryant Family Reserve to the footbridge at Devereaux Street.

New wetlands

Council has prepared designs for new wetlands at Jacana Valley in Glenroy and a swale through Austin Crescent Reserve, Pascoe Vale. These projects will deliver improved storm water management, water quality and habitat for the Moonee Ponds Creek, and create a cooler, greener and more climate-resilient neighbourhood.

The designs can be reviewed on the Conversations Merri-bek website. <https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/wetlands>

Learning about how our community cares for local waterways

Late in 2025, Foundation and Grade 1 students at St Francis de Sales Primary School participated in studies on water and its management as part of their learning about how our community cares for local waterways.

The students took a tour of the Moonee Ponds Creek at Oak Park taking in the naturalised creek section and Wilami Wunmabil Trail and comparing this with the remaining concrete lined creek section.

The students enjoyed hearing Banjo frogs in the Herbert Street Living Stream, observing cormorants and ducks on the new rockwork and seeing the accumulated litter inside the Herbert Street gross pollutant trap.

FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

Update



Moonee Ponds Creek Wildlife



Overview

67,858
OBSERVATIONS

3,884
SPECIES

3,453
IDENTIFIERS

iNaturalist data a valuable and expansive resource

iNaturalist forges ahead due in no small part to a number of talented contributors who add hundreds of observations of insects and other creatures after a night or day out in the field.

The way posting to iNaturalist works is so simple. The outline of the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment is superimposed on an iNaturalist map on the website and any observations noted and recorded within our boundary are automatically included.

Over the years this has grown into an impressive data collection, especially within a city location with its vast areas of compromised landscapes. Take a look at our project and be amazed.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/moonee-ponds-creek-wildlife>

Anna Lanigan

Docklands Path - one small step?

Minister Harriet Shing, Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts, in a letter to the FoMPC (23/12/25,) has advised *“Development Victoria has completed due diligence work and is now undertaking design and cost planning work to inform the reinstatement of the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail in the area adjacent to Sound Stage 6 at the Docklands Studios. This work will be progressed with the City of Melbourne. Once the cost of construction is known, the focus will turn to confirming the delivery pathway and funding.”*

The FoMPC welcomed this notification in the long saga of the reinstatement of the shared path, since it was closed off in 2020 with the building of the Docklands Studio Sound Stage 6. There have been many starts but no progress in undertaking the process to date.

Linear connectivity along the length of the Creek has long been on the agenda.... since advocacy in the original *Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan* in 1992. And the *Chain of Ponds*

Moonee Ponds Creek Plan in 2018 stated: *The Creek corridor offers a continuous path of travel that is largely un-obstructed by roads, intersections and buildings and takes the form of a shared path ... and use of the shared path will rise as density and traffic congestion in the surrounding suburbs increase ... and good connectivity encourages people to walk and ride to their destinations.*

Then in 2021, the *Waterways of the West* report stated that: *ensuring waterways amenity is not only the health and naturalness of the waterway, but also access and infrastructure such as trails, signage and other facilities.*

The FoMPC strongly supports bringing to fruition the reinstatement of the shared path at Docklands and will welcome involvement in the next steps of the design and planning process.

Kaye Oddie

Ponderings

Send articles to: fompc.ponderings@gmail.com

Handy websites and Facebook links

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek/
Webpage: mooneepondscreek.org.au

Friends of Merri Creek:

friendsofmerricreek.org.au/

Friends of Edgars Creek:

foec.org.au

Friends of Steele Creek Facebook:

facebook.com/FriendsOfSteeleCreekInc

Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley:

fmvonline.com

Woodlands Historic Park:

whp.altervista.org/

Victorian Indigenous Plants Co-op (VINC):

<https://www.vinc.net.au>

Chain of Ponds:

<https://chainofponds.org>

Contact us if you have any other links to share



GUARDIAN STORAGE

Call 9374 1500

Get a quote

LOOKING FOR STORAGE?

Guardian Storage Essendon offers everything from boxes and packaging to business storage and household storage solutions. Want to know what our self storage costs? Call us to find out more about our full range of storage spaces for rent to see which of our storage options suit your storage rental needs.

Household storage



Need to declutter, moving house or renovating? Self storage is the perfect solution. From furniture to clothes our secure lock-up storage units ensure your items will be safe and sound.

Business storage



Guardian Storage Essendon provides flexible business and document storage solutions for storing your commercial stock and business records. Client files or excess and seasonal stock, we have a suitable storage solution to streamline your business and free up space.

Location / Trading hours

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

Weekdays: 8:00am – 5:30pm

Weekends: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Sightings

around the creek



Photos taken by **Maurice Austin** and reproduced with permission



Ponderings

Send articles to: fompc.ponderings@gmail.com

Diary Dates

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

Date/Time	What	Where
Monday 20 April, 2026 6:30pm	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek general meeting	Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds.
Monday 15 June, 2026 6:30pm	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek general meeting	Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds.
Sunday 26 July, 2026	Moonee Valley City Council National Tree Day Event	Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights.

FOR ALL MEMBERS WHO ATTEND SCHEDULED PLANTING DAYS, PLEASE BRING GLOVES AND DRINKING WATER, WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

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

Last minute cancellations and changes will be posted to our Facebook: facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneeponds creek/

HUME, MERRI-BEK AND MOONEE VALLEY CITY COUNCILS SOMETIMES PLACE PLANTING DAYS ON THEIR WEBSITE. THEY MAY PREFER YOU TO REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE TO ASSIST WITH RESOURCING AND CATERING.

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

Help protect and enhance the Moonee Ponds Creek's natural environment.

For information and to join, go to: mooneeponds creek.org.au and complete the membership form
or write to: **PO Box 1092, Moonee Ponds, Victoria 3039.**