



Ponderings

Seasonal newsletter of the
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek
Spring 2017 | Issue 56

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate

MISSILE MYSTERY

Tucked away among the trees beside the Moonee Ponds Creek in Pascoe Vale there is a structure affectionately known as “The Missile”.

We discovered that “The Missile” located at end of Bass St, Pascoe Vale, is the vent outlet of the Moonee Ponds Interceptor Air Treatment Facility, at the upstream end of the Northern Diversion Sewer project completed in 2011. It is a deep tunnel sewer starting with a diameter of 1.6m and increasing to 2.5m which captures the sewage from the northern and western suburbs. Beside the vent, there is an 6m diameter access shaft, covered with concrete slabs, which was the entry point for one of the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM).

“Gemma”, a four metre diameter TBM, commenced tunnelling in a southerly direction in May 2008 at the same time as “Victoria”, a three metre TBM began tunnelling north-west. These two TBM’s achieved a tunnelling double-header, breaking through into their respective shafts within two days of each other. Another ground breaking feature is the tunnel lining, a corrosion-resistant glass fibre reinforced with plastic.

This large deep sewer meanders its way under the northern suburbs, with an additional large sewer from the north east connected at the reserve on the corner of Bell and Heliopolis Sts, Pascoe Vale South, where there was another large manhole for access to the TBM, and ultimately heading to the Melbourne Water Treatment Plant at Werribee.



Melbourne Water purchased a property nearby specifically for the installation the underground Air Treatment Facility. The facade of the above ground component was designed to look like a normal residential property to best fit in with the local area. As sewage begins to decompose it produces gases which if not treated can spell disaster to a sewer. This Facility extracts foul air from the sewer, treats it and then releases it through the vent stack.

The vent’s shape has been a point of interest in the community. Information from Melbourne Water indicated the reason for its shape is that at the base there is a silencer. The innovative acoustic sheds over the three main shaft sites were installed to reduce any impact of noise to the community.

After the 4.5 years of construction the Northern Sewerage Project was fully commissioned on 11 November 2011. Environmental sustainability was central to the project’s design – a key goal being to virtually eliminate sewage overflows into the Merri and Moonee Ponds creeks after heavy rain. Hailed as one of the largest and most complex wastewater tunnelling projects in recent Australian history, the Facility provides capacity for 70,000 new homes across northern Melbourne and was finished \$135 million under budget and six months ahead of schedule winning an Australian Construction Achievement Award.

Sources: Rachel Cullen (MW) and Bruce Davison (YVW), Northern Sewerage Project – The Quiet Achiever by Mike Filby and David Elliot, www.darzin.com/case-studies/john-holland-case-study



HERBERT STREET LIVING STREAM PROJECT LAUNCHED

The Herbert St Living Stream Project in Pascoe Vale was officially launched by the Mayor of Moreland, Cr Helen Davidson, on a sparkling morning in August. Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek were joined by locals planting several hundred shrubs, flowers and grasses around the pond. Mayor Davidson praised the fine partnership between the Council Staff and volunteers and President of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Kelvin Thomson acknowledged the financial support of Melbourne Water. The Living Stream will provide a wonderful habitat for the local wildlife, plant communities, birds and frogs.



Join the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek for \$10 per year

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MORELAND'S PARKLAND IMPROVEMENTS



The Arboriculture team on their way to creating a great bird habitat



Moreland Council's annual planting program has concluded for 2017 with over 5000 trees, shrubs and grasses being planted along the Moonee Ponds and Westbreen Creeks. A big shout out of thanks to all the volunteers that contributed just shy of 200 volunteer hours and to supporters, Melbourne Water, who contributed funding to a number of the planting projects.

The Arboriculture team have been undertaking some professional development in pruning for habitat over recent months. The team put theory into practice on some trees in KW Joyce Reserve in Pascoe Vale on the Westbreen Creek earlier this month. The trees had died of natural causes but rather than be removed, they have been pruned back to 'stag' trees and some artificial hollows have been created. The team reported a real sense of joy at doing something positive for local wildlife and have been keeping an eye on what may choose to move in.

The new playground at JP Fawcner Reserve in Oak Park is now open for play. Funding in the 2017-18 financial year has also been allocated for new carpark lighting and the construction of two new courts (one netball court and one multi court) at the Reserve and these works are currently being scoped.

Playground and minor park upgrades are scheduled for Bryant Family and Kelvin Thomson Reserves this financial year. Keep an eye out for community consultation opportunities for these over the coming months.



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GOWANBRAE EDGE REVEGETATION SITE

BY KAYE ODDIE

MORELAND NEWS

A Melbourne Water 2017 Community Grant enabled the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, working with Moreland Council, to revegetate a bare patch of land at Gowanbrae, close to the Moonee Ponds Creek and the Jacana Retarding Basin. Lots of native grasses were planted along the edge of a low basaltic outcrop and two beds of trees and shrubs planted nearby. A working bee and two community plantings successfully saw jute matting laid and over 1000 plants planted.



Local residents and friends helped on the working bee and planting days.



Three generations of the Thomson family helped lay the jute matting.



A large contingent of members from the Church of God from Doncaster participated in one of the community planting days.

MOONEE VALLEY NEWS

MOONEE VALLEY SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

The Moonee Valley Significant Tree Register 2017 draft document will soon be available for public comment. A five week consultation process is being planned and targeted for October and November. It will include letters to residents where significant trees have been identified, several drop-in sessions and opportunity for one-on-one meetings, comprehensive information on the Council website and notices and promotional material in the local media.

The 2017 review has identified 248 new trees or groups of trees as being suitable and worthy of inclusion into the updated Significant Tree Register. A total of 459 records, 211 from 2014 and 248 from 2017 are now recommended for inclusion in a completed Significant Tree Register.

Updates will be posted on Facebook.



GREENING MOONEE VALLEY

In total through Moonee Valley Conservation Team planted 27,954 indigenous plants this year.

At Five Mile Creek and nearby along the Moonee Ponds Creek the Green Army and Friends Groups put in 700 plants in a mix of trees, shrubs and grasses.

In a huge project at Ormond Park a Landcare arranged a planting of 8585 plants. A staff World Environment Day event at Montgomery Park accounted for another 4500.

The Green Army in one of their final plantings put in 373 plants at KT Smith Reserve. Moonee Valley acknowledges the fine efforts of these young people and we will miss seeing them along our Creek. It was the final year of that great program.

National Tree Day in Moonee Valley was celebrated at Fairbairn Park on the Maribyrnong River with a planting of 4300 plants, an enormous effort.



LANDCARE PROJECTS ALONG THE CREEK

BY KAYE ODDIE

Two revegetation projects - at 'Shelley Hillock', Moonee Ponds and Brady Reserve, Brunswick West - were welcomed along the Moonee Ponds Creek as offsets for the CityLinkTullamarineWidening project, which saw extensive vegetation removals and Creek corridor land excised.

Landcare Australia organised the projects on behalf of CityLink/Transurban. Detailed vegetation management plans were drawn up following consultation with key stakeholders, including Moonee Valley and Moreland Councils, Melbourne Water, community organisations including the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek. Land use history, geology, hydrology and existing vegetation were assessed. Site preparation at Shelley Hillock involved removal of woody and grassy weeds, which included elm tree suckers and extensive Chilean needle grass. At Brady Reserve, weed removals included kikuya and galenia. Revegetation species were selected according to Riparian Woodland EVC 641. At Shelley Hillock over 8500 plants - native trees, shrubs, low growing plants and many grasses were planted in two planting days - by community and by Transurban staff. At Brady Reserve, 800 plants were planted. Follow-up maintenance for three years is part of the plan.



JOIN OUR "Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek" Facebook Group to keep up with planting dates, events and creek news.



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

On 6 August at Moonee Ponds Creek Westmeadows, despite a gloomy weather forecast, the rain stopped, the sun came out and a huge group from the Church of God made light work of the 700 plants. Julie (maker of the famous scones) remembered fondly the first plantings along here, and was thrilled today's planting included the creek edge. The results will be stunning.

In other exciting news, funds were secured for another 2000 copies of the Birds of Hume booklet. It's the 4th reprint of this hugely successful resource. Plans are underway for a companion Fauna of Hume field guide (Mammals, Reptiles, Frogs etc). A list is being compiled and once that is confirmed, a request will go out for photos. Progress updates will be placed on the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Facebook.



EVENT EVENT EVENT

FROGS & WATERBUGS OF WESTMEADOWS

Location: Moonee Ponds Creek, Westmeadows Reserve off Ardlie Street, Westmeadows

Date: 6.00 – 8.00pm, Thurs 9 November 2017

Summary: Join Melbourne Water's Waterwatch team to investigate some of the small animals that call the Moonee Ponds Creek home. Take a closer look at the waterbugs living in the creek and help identify and record what we find. Join a guided walk to learn about frogs and how they indicate how healthy our waterways are. Bring along your smart phone to learn how to take live recordings of frog calls and participate in the Frog Census program.

RSVP: Free event. All welcome. Please RSVP to waterwatch@melbournewater.com.au or on 131 722 for catering purposes.

Light dinner provided. Registrations also accepted at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/frogs-waterbugs-of-westmeadows-tickets-37989167623



JACANA WETLANDS UPGRADE

Melbourne Water is upgrading both the Southern and Northern Jacana Wetlands to enable better maintenance and improve the performance of the wetlands in treating stormwater entering local waterways, including the Moonee Ponds Creek.

Works will involve:

- Upgrading the sediment ponds
- Improving the control of stormwater flowing in and out of the wetlands
- Some vegetation removal and revegetation to improve stormwater treatment
- Removing some old equipment
- Reshaping some areas of the wetlands
- Modifications to improve maintenance access
- Reinstatement of disturbed areas, including a section of the Western Ring Road shared use path to the south of the Broadmeadows Sporting Club

Melbourne Water's July Community Bulletin can be found on our Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Facebook under "Files".

Works commence at the South Jacana Wetland



The South Jacana Wetland was temporarily drained to prepare the outlet work site

North Jacana Wetland fencing in place at the upstream end



Frog fence in place

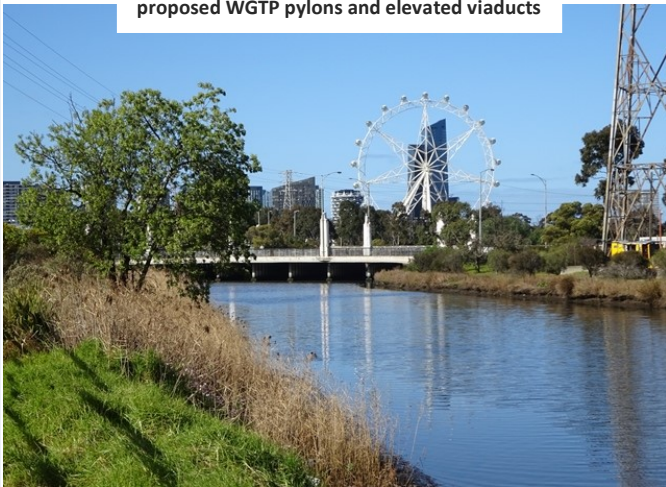
WEST GATE TUNNEL PROJECT BY KAYE ODDIE

There is a freeway project originally proposed by the State Gov't, the 'Western Distributor', as a Port of Melbourne freight link, taking heavy trucks off local inner western suburbs streets. Transurban then approached the Government with a significantly expanded proposal to duplicate Footscray Road with an elevated roadway above it and ramp connections to CityLink, to construct an elevated viaduct ('Dynon Road Connection') into the city, to extend Wurundjeri Way as an elevated viaduct from Dudley St to Dynon Rd, in addition to widening the West Gate Freeway and building a crossing across the Maribyrnong River. Tolls would be applied.



Open spaces and waterway threatened by proposed WGTP pylons and elevated viaducts

The enlarged project was called the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) and has undergone public consultation, preparation of an Environment Effect Statement, several rounds of submissions and most recently, hearings by an independent Inquiry and Advisory Committee. The Committee's report will be considered by the State Government and a final decision will be made on the project's design and construction. Members of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, other community organisations, companies and individuals, statutory authorities and Melbourne, Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay Councils have participated in the many stages to date.

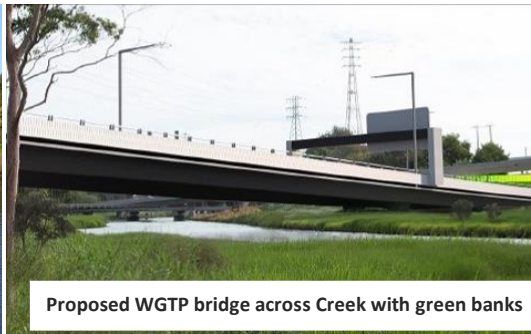


Of specific concern in regard to the Moonee Ponds Creek are the detrimental and destructive impacts of (1) the 'Dynon Road Connection' bridge/viaduct across a prime open space section of the lower Moonee Ponds Creek, the former Railway Coal Canal, adjacent to E-Gate and (2) the pylons in the Creek and elevated viaducts, as part of the proposed Wurundjeri Way Extension, also destroying open space areas on either side of the Creek.

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek stressed in its submissions that the aim for the Creek is to enhance its function as an open space corridor, as linked linear parklands, enhancing biodiversity, habitat and recreational values ... not negatively as the WGTP proposes, by destroying prime open spaces and pre-empting the opportunities to expand and enhance these open spaces.



Existing Railway Coal Canal



Proposed WGTP bridge across Creek with green banks



.... but more likely outcome!

CREEKY LINKS

mooneepondscreek.org.au
facebook.com/groups/friendsofmooneepondscreek
friendsofmerricreek.org.au/
foec.org.au
facebook.com/FriendsOfSteeleCreekInc
facebook.com/groups/1541338476087146
fmvonline.com
bowerbird.org.au/projects/5249
whp.altervista.org/
werribeeriver.org.au

Contact us if you have any other links to share

CREEK WATCH

Rapid change of water levels or discolouration of problems along the creek that need to be reported:

- ◇ High water flows coming out of drains during a period of no rain could indicate a leaking water main or underground burst pipe. To report this, contact **Yarra Valley Water** for the east side of the bank and **City West Water** for the west side of the bank.
- ◇ If the creek water is yellow or white or otherwise discoloured, this could indicate trade waste being dumped into the creek. This needs to be **urgently reported to the EPA.**

Sightings



Eastern Rosella: Brosnan Crescent, Strathmore
Spitfires and Possum: Nursery Corner, Strathmore and Oak Park
New Holland Honeyeater: Bass Street Park, Pascoe Vale
Photos by Nina



White-faced Heron: Westmeadows
Spotted Pardalote and Crimson Rosella: Woodlands Historic Park
Grey Fantail: Tarnuk
Chestnut Teal: Herbert Street Living Stream Pond
Photos by Anna



Contributions to Ponderings welcome.
Please send your images and stories to ponderings@mpccc.org

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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

Bimonthly meetings

Held on the following date at the Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds commencing at 6.30pm:
16 October 2017

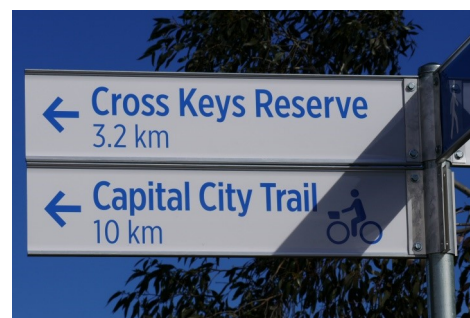
MOONEE PONDS CREEK CATCHMENT COLLABORATION

The Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Collaboration has been running for just over six months now. There have been eight workshops and several site visits, most recently at Woodlands Historic Park and Strathmore. The group is now looking to formalise the collaboration, and will work on creating terms of reference and details of roles of group members, to ensure a more formal collaboration, and seek greater buy in. The group will also explore how it can facilitate a catchment coordination role, including development of a central database of research and information about the Creek and catchment, and opportunities such as creation of urban design guidelines to influence development in the catchment, particularly in relation to the environmental aspects of the Creek. Access to the west bank of the Creek in Kensington was raised as an issue early in the process, and a Melbourne Water gateway will soon be modified to improve pedestrian access to the Creek bank there. Discussions will continue on what other modifications could facilitate access and use along this section. Parks Victoria hosted a site visit at Woodlands Historic Park on 31 August with 16 members of the Collaboration group and Cities of Moonee Valley and Moreland hosted a visit to Strathmore in July with a similar number of participants. The site visits are proving very popular and the group has reflected on the value of these in building relationships and knowledge amongst the group. Melbourne Water has recently completed filming aerial imagery of the creek, and this will be turned into short summary videos in coming weeks. Several of the group members have been in communication regarding the West Gate Tunnel Project reports and submissions and impacts of this freeway project on the Moonee Ponds Creek. (Photos by Tony Smith)



DID YOU KNOW?

THERE ARE NICE NEW WAY-FINDING SIGNS ALONG THE CREEK.



WE NEED YOU!



COME ALONG TO THE
MOONEE VALLEY
VOLUNTEER EXPO
AND MEET LOCAL
COMMUNITY GROUPS
READY TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT
VOLUNTEERING.

BE SURE TO VISIT
THE HUMAN
LIBRARY TO HEAR
ABOUT VOLUNTEER
EXPERIENCES
FIRSTHAND

SAM MERRIFIELD LIBRARY
762 MOUNT ALEXANDER ROAD
MOONEE PONDS
TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER
2-7 PM

VOLUNTEERING



*Supported by a
Moonee Valley
City Council grant*

WAVING THE MOONEE PONDS CREEK FLAG

The Moonee Valley Volunteer Expo will provide an opportunity to promote the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek. As an organisation, we depend entirely on volunteers to achieve the goals on the Ponderings banner ... advocate, educate, interpret, participate, rehabilitate, revegetate. The skills that volunteers can offer Friends Groups extend far beyond the many hands appreciated on planting days along the Creek.

We intend to provide volunteering opportunities for people with an interest in local history, people with website and social media skills, people with skills in archiving photographic and map collections to name a few. Send us an email if you can spare an hour or two to assist on the day and pop the date in your diaries.

ponderings@mpccc.org

Produced by Anna Lanigan and Nina Franceschi Eason

