



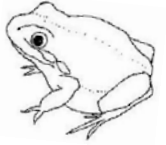
moonee ponds creek
co-ordination committee

Ponderings

Winter 2008

Issue 22

Seasonal Newsletter of the Moonee Ponds
Creek Co-ordination Committee Inc



advocate

educate

interpret

participate

rehabilitate

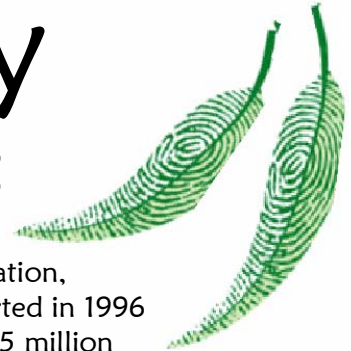
revegetate

National Tree Day

Sunday 27th July 2008



National Tree Day, proudly sponsored by Toyota and the AMP Foundation, is Australia's biggest community tree planting event. Since Tree Day started in 1996 across Australia, more than 1.5 million volunteers have planted over 11.5 million native trees and shrubs.



Come and join us at The Tarnuk!

The Tarnuk in Westmeadows will be the focus for the Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee staff National Tree Day activities. The Tarnuk has some magnificent ancient red gums scattered across the site—like this one—and the area is a significant habitat for a variety of species.

There will be tree planting, fun activities for the kids, Indigenous grass-weaving workshop with Dorothy Lovett and a BBQ lunch.



Everyone is welcome

The site is at the end of Wright St, Westmeadows. Melways Map 5 G6
More Information required? Please visit the Planet Ark site at www.planetark.com.au or ring Stephanie Spathis at MPCCC on (03) 9333 2406 or steph@mpccc.org



Welcome to MelAir

MPCCC would like to take this opportunity to thank MelAir and staff for their enthusiasm in adopting a site along the Moonee Ponds Creek. MelAir is responsible for the management of all facilities at Melbourne Airport and plan to become involved in the restoration, revegetation and management of an area of land adjacent to the Moonee Ponds Creek. MelAir will be encouraging their staff and families to become involved in this site.



NEW 2008 Winter Planting Calendar

Would you like to participate in the restoration of the Moonee Ponds Creek? Check out our planting calendar on the back page to find out how you can make a difference.

The Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee gratefully acknowledge the financial support of these Councils.





Welcome to the newsletter of the Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee Inc (MPCCC).

We are a not-for-profit, environmentally-based, community organisation that acts as a champion

for the Moonee Ponds Creek and its tributaries. Members of the MPCCC include the Cities of Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Moreland and Hume; the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek; and representatives from the community.

The Moonee Ponds Creek flows 68km from Yuroke in Melbourne's north-western suburbs past Melbourne Airport through the municipalities of Hume, Moreland, Moonee Valley and Melbourne, along the Tullamarine Freeway, through the Docklands and into the Yarra River to Port Phillip Bay. The five tributaries of the Moonee Ponds Creek are Greenvale, Attwood, Yuroke, Westbreen and Five Mile Creeks.

Our aim is to encourage an understanding and connection to the Moonee Ponds Creek and its tributaries; to highlight its values through education, interpretation and hands-on participation; and to revegetate and rehabilitate the Creek and its tributaries.

The MPCCC co-ordinates various programs. "Creating Creek Communities" invites and encourages the community to become involved in revegetation and other fun activities along the banks of the Creek. "CityLink Creek Connections" aims to engage and inform groups that don't traditionally get involved in environmental education. The Bushland Team maintain, restore and rehabilitate various revegetation and remnant sites along the Moonee Ponds Creek within the City of Moreland. The MPCCC also participates in Clean Up Australia Day and community festivals.

Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee Inc

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President: Cr Gary Jungwirth
Vice President: Terry Mundy
Vice President: Eamonn Fennessy
Secretary: Michelle Gooding
Treasurer: Joe Ficarra
Public Officer: Karen Wilson
Members: Vince Aitkin, David Dunstan, Rob Ellis, Cr Mark Higginbotham, Cr Rose Iser, Frank Kinnersley and Julie Law

This newsletter is printed on 100% Recycled paper.

This newsletter is kindly printed at the electorate office of Kelvin Thomson MP, Member for Wills

Feedback regarding *Ponderings*, contributions for future issues, mailing list and editorial enquires are welcome anytime. Contact Newsletter Publisher on (03) 9333 2406 or ponderings@mpccc.org



Welcome

The Staff and Committee would like to welcome Stella Blay who is our new Greening & Administration Assistant. Stella will be working with Stephanie out in the field and helping out on planting days, so I am sure you will all be meeting her soon. Stella will also be writing our newsletter and providing some assistance to Bronwyn, Stephanie and Heather. Stella has recently moved from Mosman in Sydney and comes to us with 15 years of bush regeneration experience.



MPCCC have recently upgraded their computers and now have 2 computers and 4 screens for sale.

1 x Celeron 735MHz, 384MB RAM, 40GB HDD

1 x Celeron 1.3GHz, 760MB RAM, 40GB HDD

Both computers are in working order, with keyboard and mouse, but you will need your own software

4 x 17" screens

If you would like either of these computers please make us an offer by 20th June 2008.

If you want more information, contact Heather on (03) 933 2406

If you would like to receive *Ponderings* in colour, please let us know and we can email the newsletter to you. This will also help save paper and lower our costs.

MPCCC Inc Member Newsletters and Contacts



City of Melbourne

The Green Leaflet, available quarterly, please contact City of Melbourne on (03) 9658 9658. For environmental and sustainability queries, please contact Gabrielle Stannus, Community Sustainability Officer at gabsta@melbourne.vic.gov.au or (03) 9658 8557.



Moonee Valley City Council

Valley View available every six weeks, please contact Moonee Valley City Council on (03) 9243 8888. For environmental and sustainability queries please contact Moonee Valley City Council on (03) 9243 9142.



Moreland City Council

The Moreland City Council website offers numerous tips and information sources on environmental and sustainability issues. Please contact (03) 9240 1167 or info@moreland.vic.gov.au



Hume City Council

Eco-Tracks Environment Newsletter, available quarterly, please contact Anna Kruk, Environment Administration Officer at annak@hume.vic.gov.au or (03) 9205 2473. For environmental and sustainability queries please contact Anna Kruk as above.

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

Established in 1997, the Friends Group contribute to the management, protection, development and use of the Moonee Ponds Creek. Contact the President, Kelvin Thomson at Kelvin.Thomson.mp@aph.gov.au.

Cruel Vine — a Weed to watch out for

Although it isn't listed as a weed of national or state significance, Cruel Vine is certainly a garden foe. It's also known as moth vine, kapok vine, white bladder or *Araujia sericifera* and originates from South America.

It looks a bit like a choko vine, with grey-green stems, lance shaped green leaves — whitish green underside and a prominent vein down the middle. In summer, it has pale pink, tubular flowers with 5 petals. From the outside, the fruit is similar to a choko, pear shaped and green-grey. But inside are prolific fluffy seeds which disperse in autumn — the 'moths' that give it one of its names.



Out of control infestations of Cruel Vine can smother vegetation, climbing through trees, shrubs and fencing, pulling them down and preventing other vegetation from growing. It grows particularly well in creek side vegetation and gardens.



The vine produces a waxy latex from cut stems and leaves which can cause severe irritation to human skin and possibly pets. For small infestations the best method of removing it is by digging it out, but make sure that you cover up with gloves and long clothing. Follow up control will be needed because it will likely grow back from remaining roots and seed in following years.

For more information about garden weeds including Cruel Vine, check out the Moonee Valley City Council Sustainable Gardening brochure on line at www.mvcc.vic.gov.au or contact council for a hard copy.

Sightings

Fauna observations along the Moonee Ponds Creek. If you see anything interesting contact the newsletter publisher on (03) 9333 2406 or ponderings@mpccc.org

There have been some really 'exciting sightings' since the last issue!

A **Rufous fantail** visited Karen Wilson's garden in February. These pretty little birds live on the east coast, round to Melbourne, and migrate north for the winter.



Bronwyn Riddell saw this magnificent **Wedge tail Eagle** or as the Kulan Nation know him: **Bunjil** — in the Woodlands Historic Park at the beginning of April.



Mari Ward tells us of seeing a **Rakali** or **Water Rat** between Macaulay Road and Arden Street at the southern end of the creek

—what tough little creatures these are to live in that area under the freeway!

Mari also sent us this picture of a young **Egret** she saw on the creek.



BAT COUNT



At the bat count in April, around 16,000 bats were seen to leave the Yarra Bend camp! In May it was down to 12,000.

The next count is on 18 June at 4.45 pm. Everyone is welcome to join. For further information please contact Dr Rodney van der Ree, on (03) 8344 3661 or 0412 562 429

Friends of Royal Park—Winter Bird Survey — Sunday 22 June, 9am-11am

Would you like to help with bird surveys in Royal Park ?

Then please contact Gabrielle Stannus on (AH) 9329 2801 or gabstar3003@yahoo.com

Meet at the car park adjacent to Trin Warren Tam-boore (Royal Park Wetlands) Manningham St, Parkville (Melways 29 C12)

Autumn Planting Season Highlights

There have been five planting days so far this season, during which over 1,500 plants have been planted — a fantastic effort — so a big ‘thank you’ to everyone who came along!

This is what we have been doing ...



Travancore Residents

This was the first planting day of the season, it was a great day with ten people, including Cr Rose Iser from Moonee Valley City Council (MVCC) and Michelle Gooding, MVCC Environment Officer. Over 350 plants were given a new home, a mixture of shrubs, herbs and monocots. After which the Community Garden gazebo provided a delightful place for lunch.

Friends of Strathmore Ponds

A small group of five people, planted a selection of shrubs. We welcomed Ben and Jenny for their first planting day. The planting went very smoothly, and 81 plants were staked and guarded by lunchtime.

Gowanbrae Residents

What a fabulous day! Beautiful autumn weather, great company, great conversation and hard work. A group of 26 people achieved the fantastic total of 686 plants in the ground! The day ended with a kids soccer game. The site has a new bench seat, so in the months to come passers-by will be able to sit and admire all that effort.

Essendon Residents

Five people came to help out and 150 plants were planted. It was great to see that the plantings from last year are doing well, including the clematis which is beginning to climb the fence and was covered in flower buds. A highlight of the morning was the sighting of an Australian Hobby. The Hobby is a small bird of prey, with long wings and slender body, grey above and ‘rufous’ underparts.

Friends of Westbreen Creek

Another big day, with 13 volunteers planting 275 tube-stock, a mixture of shrubs, grasses and other monocots. A creek scavenger hunt was enjoyed by Emma, Sophie & Aaron, who found some insect casings which looked really interesting under the microscope, and they also had fun rolling down the hill and playing ball with Charles the black labrador/retriever.

Friends of Jacana Wetlands

To celebrate World Environment Day, 21 people came along to plant a variety of trees and shrubs. It was great to see so many people—including a Conservation Volunteers Australia team and lots of children. A welcome return was Luis, who came all the way from Ferntree Gully to take part—he had such a great time last year! With fabulous team work, we planted staked and guarded 165 plants



Clean Up Australia Day



MPCCC supported seven sites for Clean Up Australia Day this year, with everyone meeting for an African BBQ lunch and celebrations at the Flemington Community Centre.

Celebrations started with a traditional Welcome to Country and a smoking ceremony by Wurundjeri Elder, Ian Hunter. The African women provided a traditional Ethiopian and Oromo coffee ceremony and Danny Charters an Essendon Football player came along to help clean up and also signed autographs. The kids enjoyed asking lots of questions of the Victorian Police Officers who were present, and especially loved sitting in the Police car and switching on the sirens. Another highlight for the kids was the Waterwatch activities. There were also displays from Moonee Valley City Council, Doutta Galla, and people could also look through the Community Gardens at Flemington.

Moonee Valley City Council represented by Cr Rose Iser and Cr Jim Cusack, presented the Flemington Community with reusable bowls, plates, cups and utensils for use at community functions. These came in handy for the African BBQ lunch which was served.



320 Volunteers
385 Bags of Rubbish
8m³ of hard rubbish



THANK YOU
to everyone who came along to clean up
and
THANK YOU
to all the organisations and agencies who provided support and activities



Clean Up Australia Day

Reports from the volunteers!



Cross Keys Reserve, Essendon, from Ginny Moylan

At 9.30 am as I set up the table for the volunteers to sign on at the Koori art site at Cross Keys reserve in Essendon, I prepared about 4 or 5 bags for recycled garbage by spraying them with a purple triangle.

The area looked surprisingly clean (on the surface as it turned out), so if about 4 or 5 people turn up that'll be fine. But what if no-one does?

First to arrive were some friends from a Telco community group and a young woman who'd travelled a long distance by bike, then a young family.

Then there was a wave of folk, and all up 32 adults and 13 children attended. They collected 44 bags of rubbish from as far as the Five Mile Creek (right of Government Rd) to the second pedestrian bridge over Moonee Ponds Creek, not far from Strathmore High School, a huge loop.

What a great community effort. Well done!! Melbourne water collected a bike and a fire extinguisher and will return to get a Bathtub and several shopping trolleys from both creek beds.

So thanks to all the volunteers, to the African community for a delicious lunch and Steph and Bronwyn from MPCCC for organising it all.

Westmeadows Creek side from Julie Law and Kim Westcombe

Thanks to everyone who turned up on such a beautiful morning to help with Clean Up Australia Day.

There were 15 volunteers that collected 11 bags of rubbish. Volunteers were enthusiastic and are looking forward to next year and possibly working on a different site within the township.



Thanks for all your help!!

Essendon Bushwalking Club, Union St, Brunswick from Robert Hughes

This is the second year that the Essendon Bushwalking club have been involved in Clean Up Aus day at this site.

As in previous years the common items collected included junk food wrappers, plastic bottles, foam cups and foam packaging and most annoyingly cigarette butts.

Everyone had a great day, with a total of 9 bags collected.



Kensington and North Melbourne Creek side, from Gabrielle Stannus

Thirty three Sustainability Street members and other volunteers collected approximately 32 clean up bags full of rubbish and recyclables from the banks of Moonee Ponds Creek north and south of Macaulay Station. The most common items found were Styrofoam crates and cups, cigarette butts, plastic bags, other plastic items and all sorts of bottles.

On a more positive note, a big thanks to Russell Bourke at the Kensington Garden Centre who graciously allowed us to access the creek via his business and to store rubbish for later collection. Russell has previously granted us access to his water for our planting days. If you haven't already done so, check out this local nursery which is accredited by Sustainable Gardening Australia

(www.sgaonline.org.au). The nursery is located on the corner of Stubbs Rd and Macaulay Rd, Kensington (Melways Ref: 2A B5).



Bush walking

Nearly 80 people of different nationalities (African, Vietnamese and Chinese) from the Flemington Housing Estate came to visit Woodlands Historic Park. This day was run in conjunction with Bushwalking Victoria through their “Go further” project and was aimed at getting people active and visiting the many beautiful parks that are in and around Melbourne. Many of the women and children from the Estate have never ventured outside of Flemington and inner Melbourne so the walk through Woodlands Historic Park was a huge delight for everyone. Also of interest was the vegetation, the smell and texture of the leaves and bark, the birds and the potential to see Kangaroos, although on this day, none were to be found. After the walk everyone enjoyed a BBQ lunch before returning to Flemington. A big thanks to Victoria Police for providing buses to get everyone there.



Queenscliff Camp

With a Parks Victoria Community Grant, a group of Oromo women and their children went for a weekend camping trip to Queenscliff. The women and children enjoyed their time at the beach, for many their first time, and also learnt about the Australian environment and in particular our marine life at the Marine Discovery Centre in Queenscliff.



World Environment Day—Royal Park

To celebrate World Environment Day the City of Melbourne hosted a multicultural day at Royal Park. Nearly 100 people participated on the day and enjoyed tree planting, environmental education activities, and cultural sharing. The African women prepared a coffee ceremony and traditional African food while there was also a selection of Australian sweets such as anzac biscuits and lamingtons. Participants were also encouraged to do some hands-on education activities using modeling clay to create their own invertebrates or water bugs and insects.

