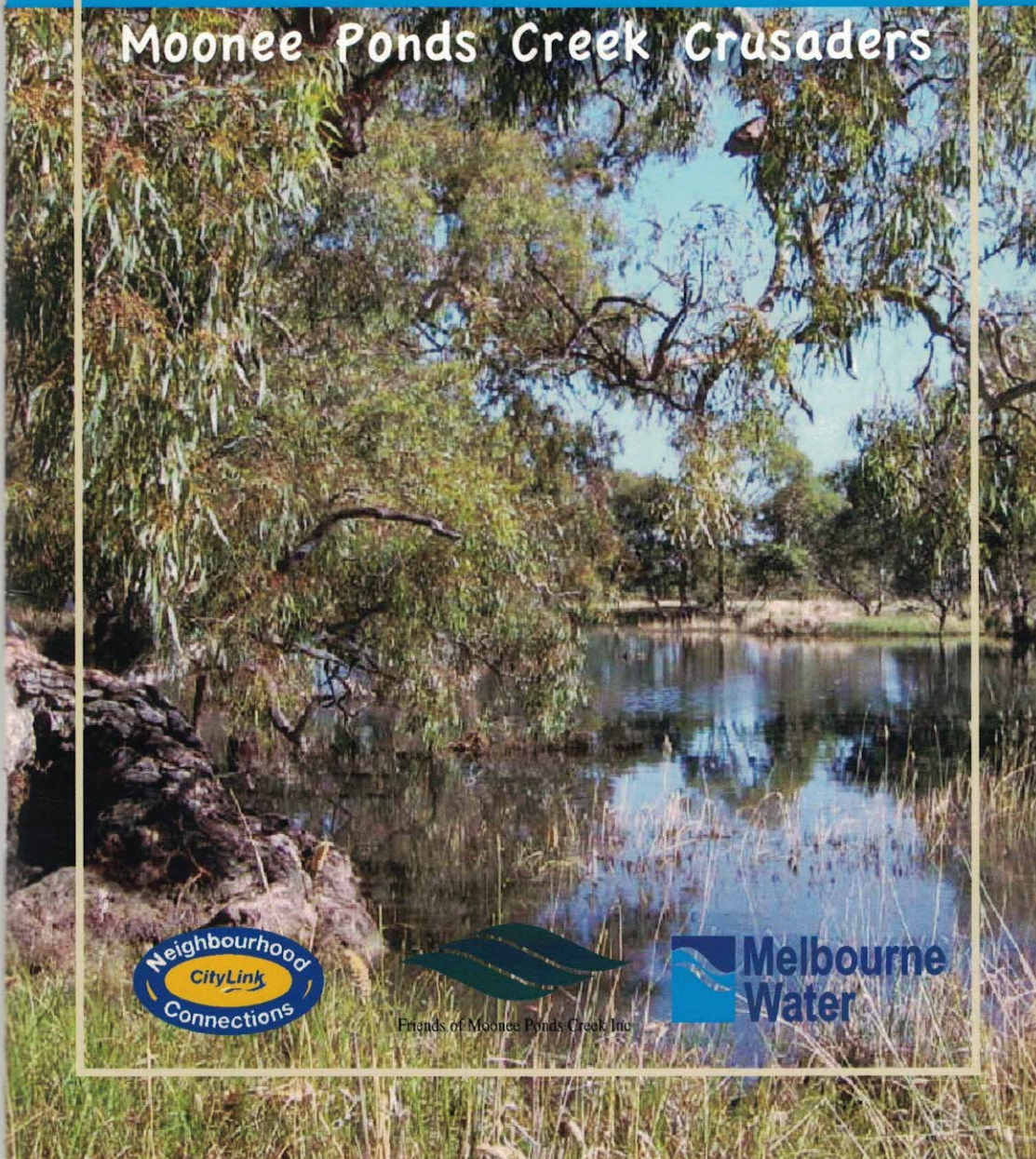


More than a Concrete Channel

Moonee Ponds Creek Crusaders



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc



Acknowledgements

Prepared by Bronwyn Riddell, Stella Blay

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And to all of those who participate in the preservation of the creek

Dick Millott



Not So Long Ago

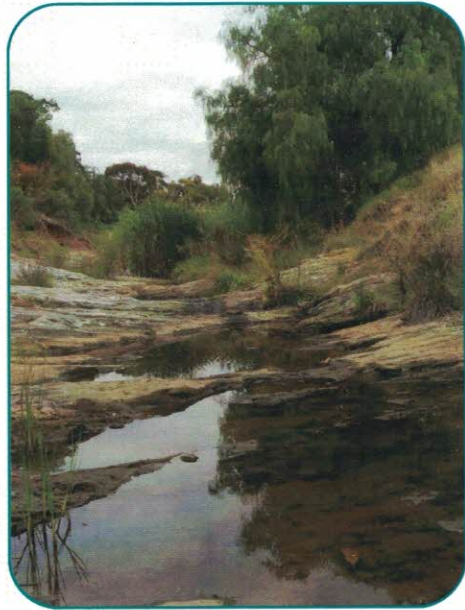
Through what we now know as Melbourne's north-western suburbs, there once flowed a dynamic waterway. The physical landscape we see today is not what the Moonee Ponds Creek was originally.

The Moonee Ponds Creek begins its journey from an intrusion in granite hills north of Woodlands Historic Park. It is one of the watercourses that drain into the Yarra River providing a corridor between the mountains and the Bay, for both Aboriginal people and fauna. The creek had shallow ponds of water that formed a chain along the length of the watercourse, isolated in drier times of the year, and flowing in the wetter months after heavy rains.

The Creek and Woiworung (Woy wur rung) the Wurundjeri people

These environments would have provided a water source as well as abundant plant and wildlife resources. Eels and Murnong (Yam Daisy) appear to have been prominent resources along the creek. As well as these food resources, there were camp locations on the nutrient-rich floodplains that, at certain times of the year would have encouraged Aboriginal people to take advantage of its seasonal bounty.

When Europeans first settled the Port Phillip region it was already occupied by five Aboriginal language groups. These groups spoke a related language and were part of the Kulin (Koolin) Nation of peoples.



**The Creek at
Woodlands Historic Park**



The Tarnuk Westmeadows

Not So Long Ago

These peoples were:

Eastern Kulin Language Group

Woiworung (Woy wur rung)
the Wurundjeri people

Boonwurrong (Boon er rong)
the Boonwurrong people

Taungurong (Tung ger rong)
the Taungurong people

Dja Dja Wrung (Jar Jar Wrung)
the Jaara people

Western Kulin Language Group
Wathaurung (Wath er rong)
the Wathaurung people

Each of these language groups consisted of up to six or more land-caring units, called clans, that spoke a related language and were connected through cultural and mutual interests, totems, trading initiatives and marital ties. The local clan, the Gunung Willam Balluk (meaning "creek dwelling people"), were connected to the Moonee Ponds Creek and other waterways in the area.

There is still evidence of Aboriginal occupation at Woodlands Historic Park. Scattered through the park are scarred trees and surface stone tool scatters; and an occupation site is also listed in the park. Other resources within the park which would have been used by the Aborigines include kangaroos and possums, birdlife including water fowl, and plant foods such as Yam Daisy, tubers and gum resins. ⁽¹⁾

In 1840 Lady Mary Greene Stawell described the native inhabitants in her diary: *'When we first took up our abode at Woodlands, a tribe of Aborigines*

used to camp on the creek (Moonee Ponds Creek) that ran through our property. Their colour was a rich dark brown, their figures slight and graceful; they had fine eyes and splendid teeth, and thick black hair. They were very intelligent soon learning to understand English, and laughing heartily at anything that amused them... They were wonderfully athletic and agile, and it was a fine sight to see them throw their spears and boomerangs. In their games they used light reed spears, and it was remarkable how, with almost imperceptible movements, they avoided an opponent's spear. They danced in their corrobarees at night, and it was picturesque to see these dark figures with the light from the large fires playing round them. Their only shelter from the weather were the "miamias" – mere windbreaks, made of branches of trees or, in winter, of bark; they lived a really open-air life and a most healthy one it was. They were different then from what they became afterwards, when they had learnt to drink, smoke and wear European clothes'. ⁽²⁾

European Settlement

In December 1824, after some 36 years of settlement at Botany Bay/Port Jackson, the first white men came overland to the Port Phillip area from New South Wales, a party led by Hamilton Hume and William Hilton Hovell.

In June 1835 John Batman brought a party from Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). He appears to have crossed the district from the west to the east; his

Not So Long Ago

route most probably took him closer than Hume and Hovell to the Broadmeadows area as he travelled over the plains. Through treaties with the local Aborigines, he laid claim to a vast area of land to the north and west of Port Phillip Bay, some 240,000 ha, on behalf of the Port Phillip Association. Batman chose for himself an area extending from Deep Creek (Maribyrnong River) to the Merri Creek, incorporating most of the Broadmeadows area. On 2 September 1835, the Governor of the Colony of NSW (which then incorporated Port Phillip) repudiated Batman's and others' claims, and proclaimed the treaties void and the settlers to be trespassers. The region was taken under formal government control.⁽¹⁾

In July-August 1835, an advance party sent by John Pascoe Fawkner from Van Diemen's Land also arrived in the Port Phillip area.⁽²⁾ The Government Surveyor, Richard Hoddle, began surveying the Port Phillip area, dividing it into parishes each of approximately 65 square km, which were further subdivided. Hoddle's parishes in the Broadmeadows area included Jika Jika (taking in the area south of Rhodes Parade, Glenroy and east of the Moonee Ponds Creek); Doutta Galla (which included the Strathmore area); Will Will Rook (north of Rhodes Parade to north of Barry Road, and east-west from the Merri Creek to the Moonee Ponds Creek); and Tullamarine. The names were derived from Aboriginal names.⁽²⁾

The first land sales in the area of Strathmore on Moonee Ponds Creek were made in 1843 and 1845.

Early Development of the Lower Reaches of the Creek

Near its entry to the Yarra River, the creek formed a series of marshy ponds on the flood plain, with extensive salt marshes known as Batman's lagoon. With rapid development of Melbourne due to the Victorian gold rush in the 1850s, the swamp quickly became a receptacle for waste waters from Flemington, North Melbourne and Parkville.

In 1879 Batman lagoon was drained and filled to make way for the North Melbourne railway yards at its northern end. In the southern area, the filled-in marshes were called Dudley Flats, where, during the 1930s depression, impoverished people scrounged building material from the land-fill tip to build shelters and huts.

In the 1890s the lower Moonee Ponds Creek was used as a canal access for coal for railway locomotives.

(1) Lemon, A., 1982, *Broadmeadows: a Forgotten History*; Hargreen Publishing Company.

(2) Lennon, J., 1993, *Red Gums and Riders: a History of Gellibrand Hill Park*, Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources.

(3) Hunt, A., 1993, *Broadmeadows: A Concise History*, Broadmeadows Historical Society.

Moonee Ponds

The Creek becomes a Drain

Between 1940 and the 1980s the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, now called Melbourne Water, realigned and concreted the creek from Strathmore to Flemington Road, in an attempt to stop periodical flooding. The modifications were part of extensive urban development of the lower floodplain. For much of its length through the northern suburbs it is now characterised as a concrete stormwater drain that parallels the Tullamarine Freeway.



The Creek in flood in 2005

Moonee Ponds - The Name

There are many different theories of the origins of the name 'Moonee Ponds'. Nobody really knows.

According to the Argus newspaper on 1st September 1934, Moonee Ponds was first known as Moonee Moonee Ponds which meant plenty of small flats. The same paper quoted Marl I. Meagher as saying the name derived from John Long Moonee, a British soldier who was a Crown grantee of allotments in and around Moonee Valley.

It is also claimed that Moonee Moonee was an Aborigine attached to the mounted police. Moonee Moonee, or Mooney Mooney was headman of the Balluk willam clan arrested at the same time as Tullamareena, (see the story below).

The 1918 Victoria railways list of stations and names supports this derivation. Another source says the Moonee Ponds area of Essendon almost certainly derived its name from a corruption of the name of Captain Mooney, who was a large land holder in the area.

It is considered most likely that the name was derived from the Aboriginal name for the Moonee Ponds creek rather than the name of any of the early European settlers. A form of the name first appeared in the surveyor Robert Hoddle's Field Book in 1837 when he referred to the "Mone Mone Chain of Ponds". This reference is very early in the Settlement of the Port Phillip area. Subsequent maps of the period show the name of the creek as "Moonee Moonee Chain of Ponds". The use of double word construction "Moonee Moonee" in the name is also typical of Aboriginal names as adopted by the European colonists.

(Source: www.enet.org.au/historyonline/suburb/suburbnames.htm)

Tullamarine

Tullamarine derives from the Indigenous name Tullamareena

Tullamareena was a Woi wurrung man who escaped from the first Melbourne jail by burning it down, in a dramatic act of resistance against White authority.

The background to the incident reveals much about how the white intruders overtaxed the hospitality of the Kulin peoples. By early 1838, Europeans had already taken over the best country around Melbourne, and sheep were spreading up and down the river valleys in plague proportions. Displaced from their traditional food-gathering areas, many Kulin took refuge in the town.

At first, the only provision made for them in town was the Government Mission, near the present site of the Botanic Gardens, but it could not cope with the hundreds who flocked in. Tullamareena was a regular visitor there, and George Langhorne, the missionary, described him as 'a steady, industrious man'. He would have needed to be, given the regime at the mission, where people were expected to work long hours in the fields for very little return. When supplies at the mission ran short, the Kulin turned to other sources of food, among them a potato field beside the Yarra owned by one John Gardiner. One night in April 1838 a watchman saw a party of Aboriginal men, including Tullameerna, digging up potatoes. When he accosted them, a man pointed a gun at him. The threat of violence was averted by Tullamareena, who persuaded his companion to lower his weapon. For a moment, this seemed to resolve the issue. The watchman and the potato-diggers shook hands, and the terrified

watchman said he would not tell Gardiner they were there.

Then, as soon as their backs were turned, he ran home to raise the alarm. Gardiner's men rushed out, brandishing their weapons, and the potato-diggers fled. Most swam across the Yarra to safety, but Tullamareena was knocked down with the butt of a rifle, tied up, forced into a boat and taken to the jail, along with another man known to the Europeans as Jin Jin.

When news of the incident reached the mission, there was a panic. Residents were asking what would happen to Tullamareena and Jin Jin. Fearing retribution all but 30 of the people headed for the hills. Tullamareena soon followed them, much to the authorities' surprise. His method of escape was ingenious. The jail was a crude structure with wooden walls and a thatched roof. Tullamareena pulled a long straw from the thatch and worked it through a chink in the wall into the guard room, where he held it over a candle until it caught alight. He then used the burning straw to set fire to the roof and escaped in the ensuing confusion.

In May 1839 the Assistant Protector William Thomas recorded the death of Tullamareena's wife, who was among the many Kulin to succumb to diseases introduced by the white settlers. She was buried next to her husband, who had died some six months earlier.

Further reading:

Alastair Campbell, John Batman and the Aborigines, Kibble Press, 1987, p. 208; Historical Records of Victoria. Volume 2A: 'The Aborigines of Port Phillip, 1835-1839', pp. 213ff

Plants

The Moonee Ponds Creek was a supermarket

The importance of protecting local plants and habitats

What is a weed, native and indigenous plants.

The different parts that make up a plant

Background Information:

Plants are an important part of the land. Their roots help to hold the banks of rivers and creeks together and stop them from eroding. Plants also help to keep the watertable down, provide shelter for birds and animals as well as providing food for them.

Indigenous plants are local plants that are best suited to the soil and climate of their local area and provide the best habitat for local animals.



The indigenous Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) found in many local grasslands

Native plants can come from anywhere in Australia and do not necessarily suit local soil types and climate. A Western Australian plant, such as the Kangaroo Paw would be classified as a weed along the Moonee Ponds Creek.



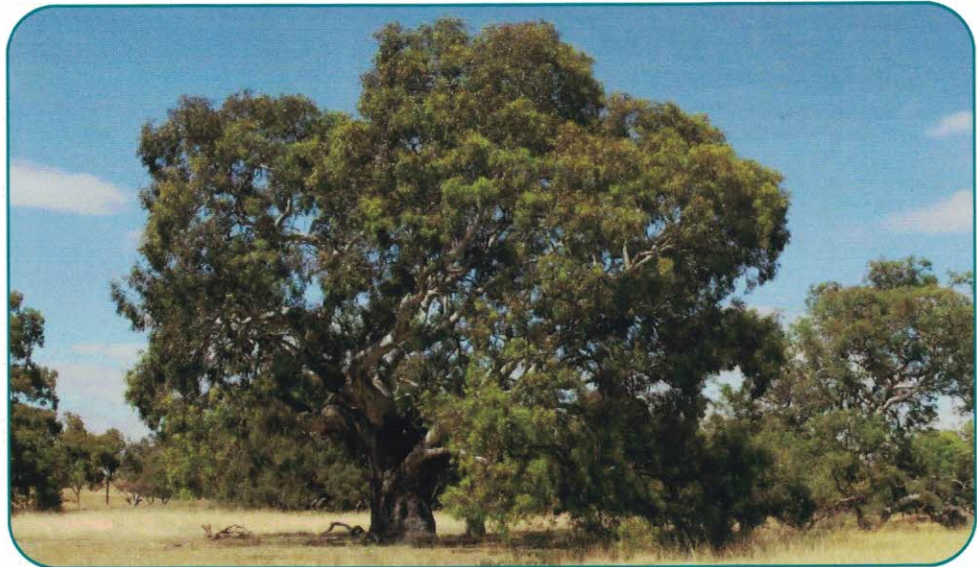
Kangaroo Paw from Western Australia

Introduced plants are from other parts of the world, also known as weeds.



Arum Lily, originally from South Africa found a local creek

Plants



River Red Gums

(*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*)
(Kulin language – Biel) is an iconic indigenous species of the Moonee Ponds catchment. Some individual trees found along the creek in Woodlands Historic Park are around 400 years old. These trees provide homes to possums, birds, owls and micro bats, as well as many, many different insects and invertebrates.

River Red Gum has distinct fruiting capsules which look like cones. The leaves are often infested by insect larva called lerps which are sweet and were eaten by Indigenous people.

To the Indigenous people the River Red Gum is symbolic of the entire community and access to the land and its resources.



Yam Daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*) (Kulin language – Murnong)

The non-starchy roots could be eaten raw or cooked. Cooked in the earth ovens the roots produce a dark sweet juice called Minne



Plants

Austral Crane's Bill

(*Geranium solanderi*)

(Kulin language – Terrat)

A native herb, Indigenous people cooked and ate the starchy root. It was also used to treat diarrhoea.



Hop Goodenia (*Goodenia ovata*)

When the leaves and twigs are infused together they are reported to have anti-diabetic capabilities. The plant was used to help children sleep on a long journey.



Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum aviculare*)

can be found at various points along the creek.

The leaf shape looks like the footprint of a Kangaroo.



Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)

(Kulin language – Woorike)

The flowering cones were soaked in water in tarnuks to extract the sweet nectar to make drinks. The dry cones were also used as strainers.



The ripe (red) berries (photo below) were eaten by the Indigenous people of the area.



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

Plants

Mat rush (*Lomandra longifolia*) (Kulin language – Karawun)

The long leaves were used as to make baskets and fibre was scraped out of the leaves to make string-bags (called Warrak/Belang). The roots were usually eaten roasted, seeds were collected and ground to make a flour, and the soft base of the leaves could be eaten as a snack while travelling.



Drooping She-oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*)

(Kulin language – Wayetuck)

The young shoots and cones were eaten. The wood of the she-oak was used to make wonguims also known as 'boomerangs'; and other implements.



Pig face (*Carpobrotus modestus*) (Kulin language – Keeng)

When the fruit is ripe in summer it can be eaten raw. The green leaves can also be eaten cooked or uncooked.



Spreading Wattle (*Acacia genistifolia*) (Kulin language – Burn nar look)

Many Acacia's had different uses. The Gum would be collected and soaked in water to make a sweet drink. It was also used as a glue.

The bark after being soaked in hot water was used to treat indigestion and for tanning.

The seeds were ground to make flour, and the wood was used to make tools.



Plants

Fungi

There are many types of fungi in the Australian landscape. Some can have beneficial relationships with other plants (mycorrhizal) and others decay the remains of other organisms (saprotrophic).



Water Plants

Water Ribbon (*Triglochin procerum*)
The tuberous roots were roasted, part of the stems were eaten like celery



Cumbungi (*Typha domingensis*)

Baskets were made from the leaves. The roots were steamed in earth ovens then peeled, then chewed until the potato tasting starch was gone. The fibre which remained was used to make string.



Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*)
The roots were eaten. The stems were used to make light spears, woven baskets and necklaces



Plants

Nardoo (*Marsilea drummondii*)
(Kulin language – Dullum-Dullum)

Nardoo grows in water and floodplains. Women roasted and ground the brown spore-cases, and the hard dark spores are separated from the whitish spores. The spores swell when in water and were made into a cake and cooked



Reading Materials:

Gott B, Conran J, 1991, *Victorian Koorie Plants*, printed by Program Print, Hamilton Victoria Australia.

Lassak E.V, McCarthy T, 1987, *Australian Medical Plants*, published by Methuen Australia, North Ryde New South Wales Australia.

Leiper G, Howser J, 1985, *Mutooroo Plant use by Australian Aboriginal People*, printed by Assembly Press, Queensland Australia.

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Education Service, Teachers Kit - Aboriginal Resources Trail

Zola N, Gott B, 1996, *Koorie Plants Koorie People - Traditional Aboriginal Food, Fibre and Healing Plants of Victoria*, printed by Brown Prior Anderson, Melbourne Australia.



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Creek Habitat

What is a catchment?

A closer look at the Moonee Pond Creek

What is a catchment?

A **catchment** is an area of land from which all rain water runs into the same low point, creating a creek or river.

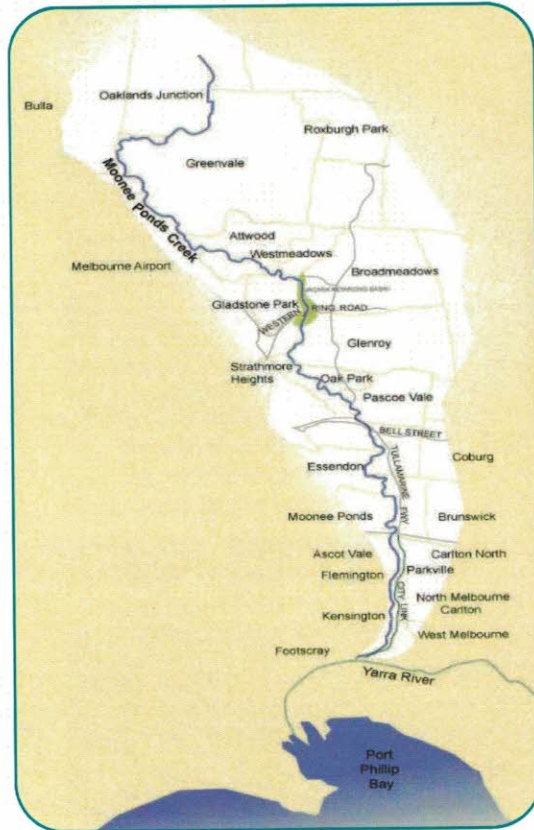
Moonee Ponds Creek drains an area of approximately 145 square Kilometers. The catchment extends from Gellibrand Hill Park & Attwood, through parts of Broadmeadows, Glenroy, Essendon and Moonee Ponds, before flowing southward into the Yarra River. The catchment is almost totally urbanised and housing developments continue to expand across the remaining pastoral land in the upper catchment.

Essendon Airport and approximately half of Tullamarine Airport are also located within the Moonee Ponds catchment.

Work during the 1950's to increase flood protection resulted in the removal of bank vegetation and in-stream debris in conjunction with the concrete lining of much of the lower reaches of the creek.

The construction of the Tullamarine Freeway in the late 1960's into the early 1970's saw large sections of the creek realigned and concreted to improve the stream flow capacity and to prevent erosion.

Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment



Moonee Ponds Catchment Map:
The lighter area represents the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment. Rain that falls within this area drains into Moonee Ponds Creek.

Creek Habitat

A Closer Look at the Moonee Ponds Creek

Taking a journey down the Moonee Ponds Creek, there is so much to discover along the way. In the upper reaches, through Woodlands Historic Park, it weaves its way passed the ancient River Red Gums that bear the scars of the **Gunung Willam Balluk** people who lived on this land.

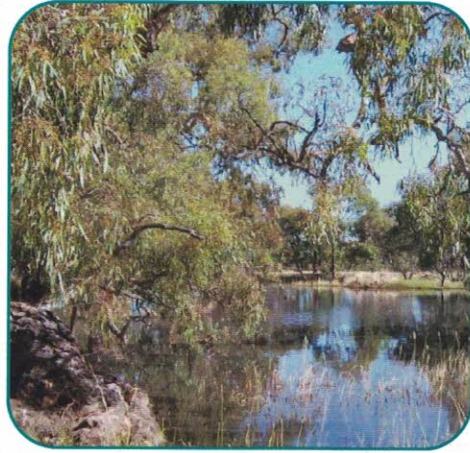
The hills in Woodlands Historic Park retain their mixture of gum trees and Drooping Sheoak, in the remnant Grey Box, River Red Gum and Yellow Box woodland.

The Park also contains valuable remnants of grassy woodland open forest. Plants that grow on these basalt plains consist mainly of grasses and herbs, with mostly River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) trees. (www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) *Melway Map 5*



Scar Tree at Woodlands Historic Park

Winding down to the lower part of the park, the creek pauses at majestic billabongs. After good rains, the billabongs fill and come alive with plants and animals.



The Billabongs at Woodlands Historic Park



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc



Creek Habitat

Woodlands Historic homestead is a rare example of an early prefabricated building. It was designed in Britain, shipped here and was built in 1840, by the Greene family.

Magnolias at the Homestead are the oldest recorded garden plants in Victoria. Its outbuildings and gardens were extensively restored in 1983 and 1984.

The homestead is now leased by Living Legends. You can visit it and meet retired race horses in the park.

The park also contains the ruins of two other 19th century homesteads, Cumberland and Dun Donald.



**Basalt rocks near the
Tullamarine Landfill site,**



Creek Habitat

South of Woodlands Park the creek flows through The Tarnuk. 'Tarnuk' literally means 'water bowl'. These vessels were fashioned by the local Gullum Willam Balluk tribe, from gnarled growths on the River Red Gums that line the Moonee Ponds Creek.



Surrounded by residential housing The Tarnuk is considered a site of floral and faunal significance. Many of the original types and groups of plants still grow in this area. These are classed as grassy woodland, riparian woodland, riparian scrub and aquatic plants. However The Tarnuk is under threat from weeds and erosion. *Melway 5 H6, J6*



The Tarnuk, Westmeadows

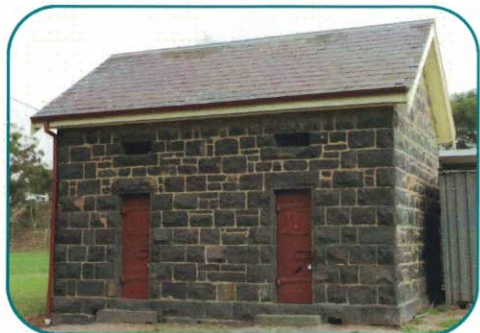
Now the creek winds through historic Westmeadows, under this stone bridge which was built in 1869. The bridge is registered by the National Trust, and is on the Australian and Victorian registers of historic sites.

Melway 6 A6



Bluestone and granite bridge
Westmeadows

This is the old police lockup, built in 1859, in Westmeadows. It was mostly used to lock drunken and disorderly people up overnight. See if you can find it in the Westmeadows village



Westmeadows old police lock-up

Creek Habitat

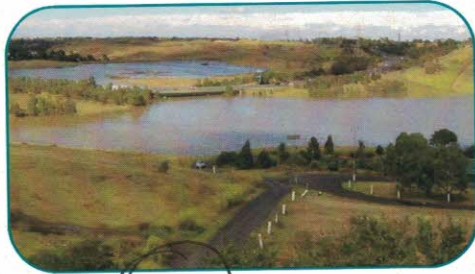
Yuroke Creek drains parts of the suburbs of Broadmeadows, Coolaroo and Westmeadows. It enters Moonee Ponds Creek from the North at Westmeadows. *Melway 6 D8*

Moonee Ponds Creek in flood in 2004, at the junction with Yuroke Creek. Gellibrand Hill in the distance.



The flood water then flows down to **Jacana Wetlands**. Here, a barrier has been built to delay the flood water in its journey downstream.

The Jacana Wetlands were created by Melbourne Water in 2002. It now supports frog populations including the endangered Growling Grass Frog. It is used by many birds. Many unusual birds have been seen in these wetlands especially migrating birds that use it as a stopping point. *Melway 6 D9, D11*



Above Janaca Wetlands in the flood of 2004. Right In 2005. Go and look now and see the difference five years of planting and growth have made



Creek Habitat

The Creek's journey now takes it south through **Gowanbrae**, and under the railway trestle bridge. Trains to the north and Sydney travel over this bridge. The bridge was constructed in 1929, but the railway line was narrow gauge, and travellers to Sydney had to change trains at Broadmeadows. In 1962, a wider gauge line was installed next to the old tracks. Now passengers could travel from Melbourne to Sydney without changing trains. *Melway 16 C3*



Planting at Boeing Reserve, above the creek, with the trestle bridge in the background

Strathnaver Grassland sits alongside the Moonee Ponds Creek in Strathmore Heights. This small but significant site contains remnants of the vegetation that once grew in the area. Indigenous grass species grow over much of the site and amongst other wildflowers, a large population of common Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*) puts on a dazzling yellow display in spring.

Melway 16 E6



The ABC Gardening Australia comes to Strathnaver Grasslands, in 2004

The site also contains a silcrete rock formation that would have been used by Koories as a quarry for tools.

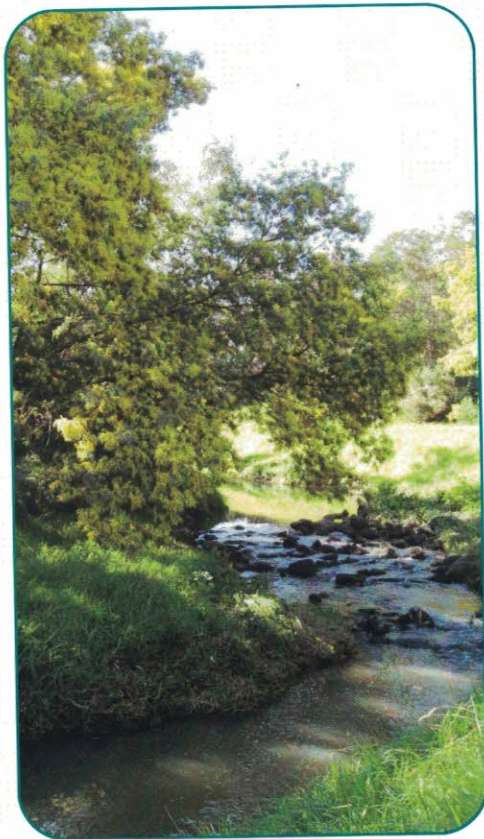
These rocks provide nooks and crannies for Lichens and Mosses to grow on, and create important micro climates for other plants to germinate in.



Lichen nestling in a rock crevice

Creek Habitat

At **John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve**, the creek flows between banks of lovely wattles and Tree Violets (*Melicytus dentata*). *Melway 16 F7*



A riffle in the creek at John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve

South of **Oak Park**, the creek yields to the pressures of urbanisation and has become a concrete-lined drain. Houses press close to its banks but this does not stop work being done to create a green buffer and habitat for flora and fauna.

Melway 16 G8



The creek near Margaret Street Oak Park

Westbreen Creek flows into Moonee Ponds Creek in Pascoe Vale. This little creek is home to many bird and frog species, including the Growling Grass frog. The creek drains parts of the suburb of Pascoe Vale. *Melway 16 K9*



Westbreen Creek

Creek Habitat

At **Cross Keys Reserve**, a section of the concrete lining has been removed and a natural meander is allowed in the creek.

Bends and meanders occur naturally in creeks and rivers as water flows to the lowest point in the landscape. *Melway 29 A1*



The CityLink Crossing – Indigenous reflections of the Moonee Ponds Creek were created by Artists Mandy Nicholson (Wurundjeri), Treahna Hamm (Yorta Yorta) and Annette Sax (Taungurung). They were commissioned by CityLink to create artworks on the freeway sound wall and the bridge over the creek between Talbot Road and Wallace Crescent. *Melway 29 A1*

The images reflect and recognise the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation and the concepts of *Country*, *Creation*, *Relationship* and *Connection*, as well as the *Past*, *Present* and *Future* life of the Moonee Ponds Creek.



The connection to *Country* (land) is represented by the contour design surrounding the Moonee Ponds Creek, and the Bogong Moth with two larvae. The Moonee Ponds Creek and the Bogong Moth were both important to the people of the Kulin Nation as a water and food source. The concept of *Creation* is captured through the image of a Wedge-tail Eagle's wing. Bunjil, the Wedge-tail Eagle is the Creator Spirit of the land, the people and their language. Two Sky panels denote *Relationship*, (symbolized by a cockatoo feather) and *Connection*, (symbolized by the leaf), to the community of the Moonee Ponds Creek. The two water images depict the *Past* (spiral designs), *Present* and *Future* (wavy spiral designs) life of the Moonee Ponds



Creek Habitat

From the west, the **Five Mile Creek** joins Moonee Ponds Creek at Essendon. *Melway 28 J2*



The junction of Moonee Ponds Creek and Five Mile Creek

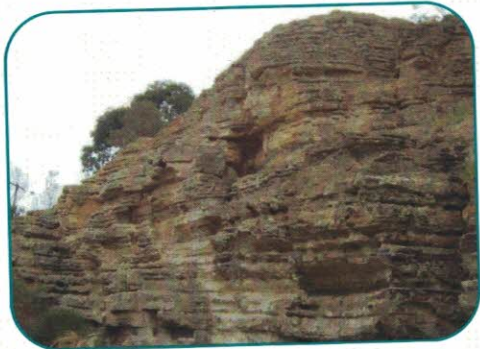
South of Albion Road, the Tullamarine Freeway uses the corridor of the Moonee Ponds Creek. Despite the creek in many places being overshadowed by the freeway, at every opportunity, trees, shrubs, grasses and other plants have been established next to it. This is one example of a pocket of urban forest next to the freeway.

Melway 29 B8



Urban forest created by Brunswick South-West Planters

At **Union Street in Brunswick** the creek passes an interesting rocky outcrop. This is an example of a sedimentary rock as can be seen by the many layers. There are small hollows in this rock where European honey bees have made their nest. This section also has a small collection of remnant vegetation, where there are lots of plants of state and regional significance. *Melway 29 B9*



Sedimentary rock outcrop at Union Street Brunswick

Nature quietly takes a hold where ever it can. Red Gums naturally germinate along creeks and rivers after floods wash their seeds downstream.



River Red Gum clinging to life in a crack in the concrete channel

Creek Habitat

As you travel along the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail, during planting season you may see active restoration being carried out by Creek Crusaders.

In **Delhi Reserve**, Travencore Park (Flemington), art panels hang on the concrete wall of the freeway sound barrier. *Melway 29 A8*



Creek Crusaders volunteers hard at work in Delhi Reserve

The **CityLink Ornamental Pond**, serves many purposes. It provides habitat, it is a slow point for the creek, enabling silt to settle out of the water, and creates a reflective surface for the red sculptural poles. Silt is cleaned out of the pond each year to make sure that the water quality is maintained.

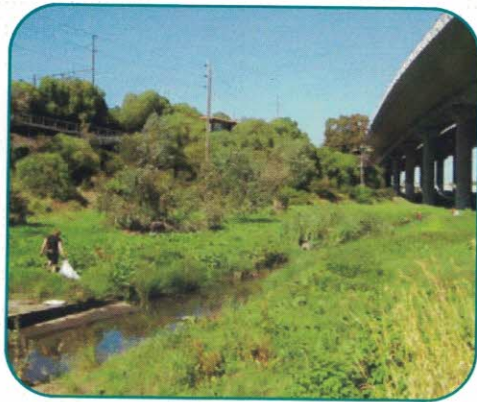
Melway 29 C12



Red sculptural poles reflected in the CityLink Ornamental Pond

All the way along the creek, Creek Crusaders are out in force each year, for Clean Up Australia Day.

At **Flemington** in Debney Park, this day is a great opportunity to connect people who live and work along the creek. By sharing knowledge of the creek, food and music, we come together to celebrate our diverse community. *Melway 29 B12*



Creek Crusaders at work along the creek for Clean Up Australia day

All the way along the creek, Creek Crusaders are out in force each year, for Clean Up Australia Day.

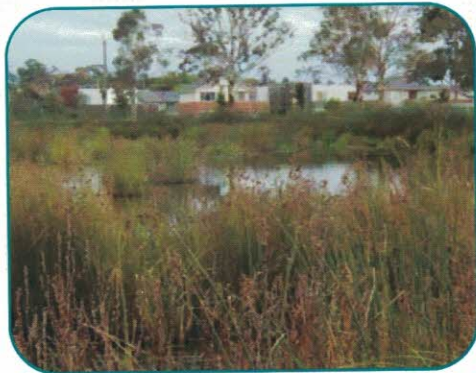
The last 4 years CityLink Neighbourhood Connections Program has co-ordinated Clean-Up at Flemington in Debney Park, this day is a great opportunity to connect people who live and work along the creek.

By sharing knowledge of the creek, food and music, we come together to celebrate our diverse community.

Melway 28B12

Creek Habitat

At **Royal Park**, the creek is joined by water from the Royal Park Wetlands: Trin Warren Tam-boore (Bellbird waterhole). These wetlands were created as part of the development of the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village. Through the natural, biological action of native plants, stormwater from the village is treated and filtered before flowing into the creek. The plants, rocks and water form a home for birds, frogs, snakes and a wide range of aquatic animals. *Melway 29 D12*



Trin Warren Tam-boore, Royal Park Wetlands



Water flows from the Royal Park Drain into the Wetlands where it is filtered before flowing into Moonee Ponds Creek

Near **Macaulay station**, the concrete lining has been removed, allowing the creek to flow more naturally for the rest of its journey to the Yarra River. Here the creek broadens out and is influenced by tidal flows.

Melway 43 B3



Across the creek from Macaulay station

Creek Crusaders are working to restore the natural vegetation along the banks. The creek now flows amongst industrial sites, rail yards and the freeway. This area was once marshland. *Melway 43 A6*



Creek Crusaders planting along the bank of the creek

Creek Habitat

Black Swans nest in this area. You may be lucky enough to see some sitting on a nest or cygnets with their parents in this stretch of the creek.



A black swan and cygnet below Dynon Road

Just before the creek reaches its final destination, there is a site near **Footscray Road**, belonging to Mainco. Vic Tracks staff and their CEO spent a warm afternoon planting over 600 plants and trees on this site as part of the Keep Australia Beautiful Week. This group are enthusiastic Creek Crusaders, keen to restore a degraded industrial site along the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail.



Vic-Tracks staff with one of the trees they planted

Moonee Ponds Creek reaches the Yarra River at Docklands. *Melway 42 J8*



Moonee Ponds Creek in flood in 2004 where it reaches the Yarra at Docklands



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc

All along the creek there are people who have devoted their time and energy to the creek.

Great friendships have been formed while participating in the restoration of the creek and its environs for all to enjoy.

In trying to undo some of the damage humans have done to this waterway, they have contributed to retaining sites of remnant vegetation and restoring habitats for the wild life that once inhabited the area.

Thanks to their efforts birds such as the New Holland Honeyeater and Reed Warbler, and animals such as the Rakali, (Water Rat) that had become rare in the area, can now be seen or heard in many parts of the creek.

Here are some of the people who form the friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and what they like about the creek.



Kelvin Thomson MP

Kelvin spent his childhood playing along the creek with his brother, and has many memories of the adventures of a wild open space and untamed creek. These experiences spurred him on to protect the creek he loved. For the past 21 years he has campaigned for the creek.

He established the Moonee Ponds Creek Association, which became the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek in 1989. Kelvin still actively participates in and chairs the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, despite many other demands on his time as a Federal Member of Parliament for Wills.

'The thing I like most is riding my bike along the creek and being able to see the results of the work of many committed volunteers such as the Jacana Wetlands, the Strathnaver Grasslands, and the Five-Mile Creek.'

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

John Hughes

John has lived alongside the creek since he was about 12 (26 years) in various locations from Essendon to Gowanbrae.

He plants trees, removes rubbish and weeds, and more than anything he encourages the students and families at his school to get involved in the creek and appreciate it as a great place to play, rest, exercise or contemplate.

'I like the idea of improving the surrounds for the residents, making the place more inviting for birds and other local creatures, and hopefully doing something towards returning the creek to its former glory.'

I used to love watching the water rats swimming around near the bridge at Cross Keys Reserve, but perhaps the most amazing thing I ever saw in the creek was the massive flood back about 5 years ago. Seeing the Jacana wetlands and all the surrounding areas full like that was amazing. The houses along the creek in Gowanbrae were all sandbagging their houses - just amazing'



Nina Eason

Nina has lived along the creek for 27 years. As a child she lived in a house that backed on to the creek, and for the last 15 years she has lived in a house that faces the creek.

Nina has been involved with the creek as a volunteer for about six years, and she really likes seeing how the creek has improved over the years

Nina and her family love to go to the rocks near Nursery Corner, where the kids play on the rocks while the dog sits in the water.

'I have fond memories of the creek near Strathnaver Reserve. As a child, the grass was so long it was almost above our heads. One of us kids would hold our dog and all the kids in the neighbourhood would hide in the grass. We would then release the dog and it would have to find all the kids all by sniffing its way through the long grass. We would spend hours down the creek, it was great fun.'



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek



Kaye Oddie

Kaye's involvement with the Creek started in 1999 after the construction of City Link had left the lower section of the Creek between Macaulay Rd and Dynon Rd denuded and the rehab revegetation plantings had failed.

After two years, Transurban organised with Greening Australia, the MPCCC and local residents for the replanting of the banks on the western, Kensington side of the Creek. To continue this Kaye was instrumental in the formation of the Friends of Lower Moonee Ponds Creek and she very much enjoys working together with the wider community to green the lower Moonee Ponds Creek.

'What has been most rewarding is seeing the replanted banks of the Creek grow so they provide habitat for the birds and create a pleasant open space area for local residents to enjoy, as well as a nice view for cyclists using the bike path on the opposite side of the Creek. It's good to know that our small sections of reveg are part of the wider objective to create a green (habitat) corridor the full length of the Creek, from its source above Woodlands to where it joins the Yarra River.'

Elissa Simmons

Elissa has been involved with the creek since she was 15 when she used to "hang out" in the Westmeadows region of the creek with her pals. Since 1996 she has been employed as a horticulturalist working with community on the revegetation of the creek. In 2006 she became a volunteer on the creek, as have members of her family.

She likes many things about working on the creek – the satisfaction of seeing revegetated areas flourish and function as wildlife habitats.

I especially treasure the bonds and friendships formed with other creek community members and past MPCCC staff. Although I know most parts of the creek, I love the upper regions with the River red gums the best. As Glenroy locals my family and I enjoy our Jacana Wetlands section - the birdlife is fantastic! I have fond memories of sitting under a yellow gum nursing my baby daughter and listening to the pobblebongs and a growling grass frog. But there are also sad times like when an arsonist set fire to the Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek planting area-even though it was devastating, the friends group folk have never given up.



Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

Here are some other friends of Moonee Ponds Creek at planting events along the creek. They bring together corporate groups, community groups, scouts, conservation groups, students from schools and colleges.



Keeping the Creek Clean

How pollutants enter the water.

How we minimise the impact on our local creeks.

Drains

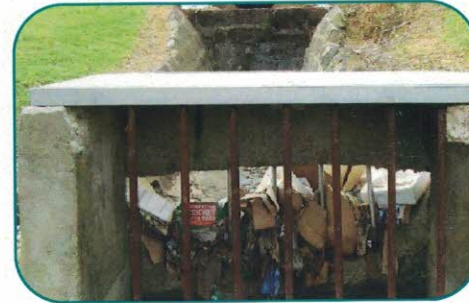
In urban environments stormwater is the main cause of pollution in our creeks. After a rain event the water from gutters and rooves, from streets and hard surfaces, flows down stormwater drains and drains on the side of the road. The drains lead directly to local creeks, but the water carries with it any pollution that it picks up along the way, including sand, animal faeces, soils, chemicals, detergents and litter.



Stormwater does not include sewage. Sewage is wastewater from our bathrooms, kitchens and laundries that flows down any of the drains inside our homes and businesses, whereas stormwater is water from outside.

Sewage and stormwater use different pipe systems. Sewage goes to a treatment facility, stormwater flows into creeks.

Pictured are some of the stormwater drains and litter traps along the creek.





CityLink Neighbourhood Connections program provides Hands on Approach to environmental sustainability.

The program philosophy is formulated on the **4H Pedagogy: Hand, Heart, Head and Health**. We learn best about our environment by connecting initially through hands-on activities; significant lifelong learning occurs through the feelings and has to become meaningful to us (heart) before we are inspired to take the learning further (head) to encourage a (healthy) active lifestyle. Its' activities instil a strong connection to place; changing behaviour and creating passion for environmental protection.

The **CityLink Neighbourhood Connections** program has successfully connected with those in the community that have a barrier to becoming involved in environmental education experiences. Such groups have included schools, the elderly, Non English Speaking Background groups and Cultural and Linguistically Diverse groups (of which there are many in the catchment, especially in the Flemington/ Kensington /North Melbourne area). It is committed to strengthen ongoing relationships with these local groups, raising awareness of their local environment and other landscapes, fostering stewardship and improving their quality of life.

AIMS

The program aims to achieve the following with targeted groups:

- **raise awareness of the Moonee Ponds Creek and surrounding Parks with local residents and CityLink/Transurban employees**
- **develop a local connection with and ownership of the whole creek environment**
- **introduce key catchment health concepts (stormwater pollution, habitat corridors, local wildlife, indigenous plants)**
- **contribute to the development of a sense of belonging and pride in local environment, enhancing quality of life**

The Program educates community by providing outings to various types of Park settings, supports community events through implementing sustainable actions, coordinates Clean Up Australia Day and Greening Up along the Moonee Ponds Creek in conjunction with the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek.

Education is the key to establishing solutions and making a difference to environmental and social outcomes on the ground. The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek have an important role to play in environmental education at a local level.