



# Ponderings

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

AUTUMN 2021 | ISSUE 70

advocate    educate    interpret    participate    rehabilitate    revegetate



## High Water



# Light at the end of the Tunnel?

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water... here we go again! COVID-19 Lockdown number three forced the cancellation of the FoMPC February meeting, pushing it back to March 15<sup>th</sup>.



At least we were able to hold our outdoor AGM and BBQ on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Riverside Park, Gowanbrae, when we could elect our new president, John Kavanagh. Memberships have increased quite significantly during the year of lockdowns in 2020, so it will be good to hold a 'real' meeting for the old and the many new members. And who knows, later in the year we can get back to planting and other activities!



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Thanks to Kaye Oddie, Anna Lanigan, Lori Arthur, Milly Burke, Melissa Doherty and Julia Cirillo for their assistance with this issue.

Cover images of the late January 2021 deluge by Sharon Weedon, Joanne Dietrich, Barbara Czech, Julia Cirillo, Jo Connellan and Roger McMillan.

Editor: David Widdowson.

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### LITTER ASSESSMENT REPORT by Kaye Oddie

Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, saw the launch of the **Chain of Ponds's Litter Report** at the Macaulay Bridge, Kensington. City West Water MD Richard Brown introduced the event, CoP Lead Rachel Lopes launched the Report and Dr. Kavitha Chinathamby described RMIT's Litter Tracker research, followed by three Tracker bottles being released into the Creek.

The Litter Assessment Report was commissioned by the Chain of Ponds with major funding from Melbourne Water. Its aim was to investigate litter and rubbish dumping in the MPC catchment and to draft a litter action plan that would move away from collection and removal of litter, toward its prevention.

Questions to be addressed were: where is the litter coming from? How is it transported and where does it accumulate? What are the highest risk litter types? The aim was to identify effective solutions to reduce and manage litter.

**Alluvium** consultants were engaged and they completed the report in December 2020. Analysis of the litter surveys undertaken by Moreland Council, found that Polystyrene and 'street' litter (including plastic drinking bottles, bags and food containers, cigarette litter, and aluminium cans) comprised the highest volume of litter, with most impact on the environment.

Data collected by Ocean Crusaders in their community clean-up events at the lower end of the MPC at Docklands (2018 data) confirmed polystyrene was the most significant litter (55%) followed by plastic (35%).

Key sources of polystyrene litter were from bulk goods packaging, broken fragments and balls, drink and food packaging, insulation and construction waffle pods. Polystyrene balls have a devastating effect on aquatic life because they do not get caught in the gross pollutant traps of our drainage systems.

Plastics, the second highest litter component, are an unnecessary and avoidable component. Much could be addressed by a Victorian drink container deposit scheme (now set back to 2023) and hopefully will be addressed by the just announced ban (also from 2023) on single-use plastic items, such as plates, cutlery, straws and polystyrene take-away food containers.

The Litter Report recommended a number of actions to address litter. For polystyrene: education and behavioural changes, by targeting producers and users (e.g. retailers); and the incorporation of appropriate delivery, storage, use and recycling of polystyrene in permits for construction and building sites. For 'street' litter, 10 regional hotspots and 12 local hotspots were identified and the report provides a map and list. Large commercial shopping areas with many take-away outlets and transport stops are major litter hotspots. Schools, smaller shopping strips, public open space are lower order regional litter hotspots.

[Read the full Report here.](#)



### LITTER TRACKER PROJECT

RMIT University, in collaboration with Melbourne Water and the Chain of Ponds, has been undertaking a project to track litter from creeks and river catchments feeding into Port Philip Bay – to demonstrate how far litter travels once discarded.

Dr. Kavitha Chinathamby, scientist from the Aquatic Environmental Stress Research Group at RMIT, has been working with Professor Vincent Pettigrove and Jacki Myers since 2019 on the Litter Trackers project. The Moonee Ponds Creek is the latest of 20 sites across catchments where over 100 tracker bottles have been released and tracked.

The trackers are watertight, shock-proof devices placed in plastic bottles; they connect to the Global Navigation Satellite System and transmit locational data via mobile 4G network. Litter Tracker bottles can travel long distances; in an earlier study, one travelled 68km across Port Philip Bay over 4 days. Factors that can affect the movement of the bottles are tides, high water flow events, bottlenecks, and entanglement in vegetation. The five bottles in the MPC will be tracked for up to one month.



## Gardens for Wildlife by Melissa Doherty

More and more people want to deepen their connection with nature and help save Australian wildlife. You can easily do that in your garden! A wildlife gardener supports a variety of native animals by providing them with food, water, shelter, and nesting materials.

Hume City is starting a **Gardens for Wildlife** program in 2021, joining a network of other communities across Victoria who have popular programs. There'll be a celebratory program launch on World Environment Day, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June, at Sunbury Fields.

Households, schools and business in Hume City can participate. Volunteer Garden Guides do garden visits, for up to an hour. You'll have a friendly chat about wildlife habitat gardening. You'll then receive a garden report with information suited to your space and interests.

Come along to workshops to develop your garden plans and wildlife skills. Participate at community planting events to get some free seedlings.

You may even consider volunteering, where Garden Guides share their passion for gardening, nature, or native plants and animals with other people.

### **Visit the Council Web Page to get involved**

Upcoming online information sessions will give more details about the program.

Tuesday 16 March, 2021, 7:30pm to 8:30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gardens-for-wildlife-in-hume-city-information-session-tickets-141771401077>

Saturday 27 March, 2021, 10:30am to 11:30am

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/gardens-for-wildlife-in-hume-city-information-session-repeat-of-16-mar-tickets-141934326391>

## Hume City's Wildlife • iNaturalist

Come along to this citizen science information session and help monitor nature. Thursday 8 April, 2021, 7:30pm to 8:30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/hume-citys-wildlife-inaturalist-information-session-tickets-141933854981>



Andrew Haysom

## Hume City's Wildlife

To demonstrate that programs like Gardens for Wildlife do help to conserve our precious biodiversity, Hume City is encouraging people to get involved with citizen science. The iNaturalist platform enables people with smart phones to easily take and upload photos of animals, plants and fungi. Then the iNaturalist community tries to help to identify these observations.

Get the iNaturalist app and join Hume City's Wildlife project.

## For Webinars, Click here.

### 4 March Attracting Frogs to your Garden

Frogs are an important part of the eco-system and with a few simple additions to your garden, you can attract them to your place.

**This webinar** gives you a jump start on frogs, including some of the local species and the changes to the environment that are threatening them. Learn about what frogs and tadpoles need, and how to add these elements to your garden to support them.

### 11 March Growing Veggies in a Wildlife Garden

Growing veggies when you are trying to attract wildlife into your garden can be a challenge.

**This webinar** provides approaches to integrate produce and wildlife gardening. Hear about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and low impact pest management strategies, reducing reliance on harsh synthetic garden chemicals and get some ideas to help reduce crop losses to wildlife.

### 18 March Weeds - A Dance with Nature

Weeds are the bane of the home gardener but also a serious threat to native flora and fauna. Whether in private or public gardens, or in the natural environment, weeds compete with preferred plants for space, light, nutrients and water. They often win the battle.

**This webinar** shows how to identify and control weeds using an integrated approach that minimises negative impacts on the environment.

### WORKING FOR VICTORIA by Stephanie Corkill

G'day from the Moonee Valley 'Working for Victoria' (WV) crew! You may have spotted us working along the Moonee Ponds Creek or in a park nearby. We are a dynamic team of 12 Waterway and Land Management Officers with backgrounds in conservation, ecology, pyrogeography, environmental engineering, horticulture, carpentry and agriculture (to name a few!). We're off to a cracking start and are now halfway through our six-month project. We are proud to share with you a snapshot of our progress.

There's been a vast amount to learn, with recent focus on project management, native and invasive plant identification, mulching, erosion control, woody weed removal, native seed collection, and bird surveying.

Some of our structural work, particularly erosion control projects can be seen in Aberfeldie Reserve, Five Mile Creek Reserve, and Afton Street Reserve. As many of you are aware (see Summer Ponderings) mountain biking trails have caused some damage to conservation zones which we're doing our best to mitigate. These measures are being put in place as foundations to support long-term planting projects. We'll continue to upgrade these areas for the remainder of our contract and protect them from further damage.

As we move into the cooler months we'll be focusing on planting. As well as the structural preparation, we've learnt about indigenous grasses and shrubs so that we can increase the under- and mid-storey beneath the tree canopies. A particular highlight for the team has been working in remnant grassland and wildflower patches scattered throughout the municipality, acting as a dynamic outdoor classroom.



Sandra and Raphael create a 'Lizard Lounge' doubling as a water divert in Aberfeldie Reserve.

We're also looking forward to working with the Narrap Team in the coming weeks, to gain a deeper understanding of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung lands upon which we work and help to care for. Learning from the traditional custodians and gaining insight into their extensive ecological knowledge will help guide us in the completion of our projects.

The WFV program has been a fantastic opportunity to care for precious parks and remnant nature reserves in the local area, and there's still much to be done before we say goodbye! Look out for signs in the coming weeks where we have ongoing works or finished projects, we hope you enjoy them!



Above; Native seed collected from reserves, pictured here in a planting 'mix', includes *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle), *Solanum aviculare* (Kangaroo Apple), *Dodonea viscosa* (Sticky Hop Bush), *Cassinia longifolia* (Shiny Cassinia) and *Rhagodia parabolica* (Fragrant Saltbush).

Below: Jeff and James plant native grass seed under matting for erosion control in Aberfeldie Reserve.



Another WFV team led by Julie Francis, MVCC, is undertaking a project to walk along the length of MPC with tablets to map assets - e.g. bridges, lights, seats, playgrounds, etc. This information will steer future works - planning, delivery and consistency - along the Creek, consistent with the CoP Collaboration report 'Trails, Transport and Connectivity'.



## WORKING FOR VICTORIA

Our Working for Victoria teams finished up in early February after a fantastic six months of work along our creeks. The teams undertook a range of works including lots of hand weeding, pruning, black plastic removal, mulching and planting. In their last days, the crew were involved in some exciting fieldwork with local entomologist, Luis Mata, monitoring the range of insects that are returning to JP Fawkner Reserve following its transformation from mown parkland into grassy woodland. We await Luis's report and will provide further information on the findings in a later newsletter.



Path works are underway at KW Joyce Reserve along the Westbreen Creek in Pascoe Vale. The works include a new east-west shared path connection along the northern boundary and an upgrade to an informal walking trail alongside the creek, improving safety and accessibility.

The design for Gavin Park wetland is nearly complete with final approvals from Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water underway. It is hoped that construction works will commence in the next couple of months.

The parkland at 1-33 Outlook Road, Glenroy (which Council purchased from VicTrack in 2018) has been officially named **Djirri Djirri Reserve** which means Willie Wagtail in Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung language. Work has begun on design and artwork to celebrate this special place and name.

Planning and site preparation is underway for this year's plantings. Community plantings will be dependent on COVID restrictions, but it is hoped we can get our hands dirty again this year!

## COMMUNITY VISION

Moreland is in the early stages of developing a new Community Vision and is seeking thoughts and ideas from the community:

- What do you imagine the future of Moreland to look like?
- What are your hopes, dreams and aspirations?
- How would you like to shape our city as we move towards a post-covid world?

These ideas will help shape a Community Vision document that sets Council's priorities for the next four years and beyond. This Community Vision will guide other Council documents including the 4-year Council Plan, 4-year Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, 10-year Asset Plan and 10-year Financial Plan.

*Have your say here: [Imagine Moreland](#)*



## UPDATE ON DJIRRI DJIRRI PROJECT by Kaye

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek's project to enhance the native vegetation along the Moonee Ponds Creek on the land at Outlook Drive, Glenroy (now Djirri Djirri Reserve) has been recommenced following the coronavirus curtailment of any activities in 2020.

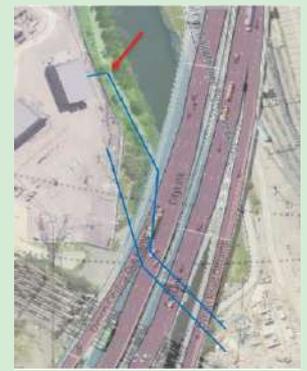
The project has been funded by a Federal Government **Communities Environment Program** grant, through MP Peter Khalil's Wills electorate, supported by Moreland City Council, and working with the Narrap Rangers. We plan to extend existing vegetation beds and plant them with native species associated with the culture of Traditional Owners (e.g. food sources, fibres, medicines and tools) and to provide interpretive signage. One of the special plants will be the Yam Daisy or Murnong (*Microseris walteri*, shown above).

Preparation work has begun with spraying out shrub bed extensions and a hilltop grove for planting She-oak (*Allocasuarina*). 1000 plants have been ordered from **Western Plains Flora**. Community planting days are planned for July/August. It will be good to see the project come to fruition and to again hold activities the local community can participate in.

by Kaye Oddie



Previous alignment



New alignment

The Metro Tunnel Project will build twin nine kilometre long rail tunnels from Kensington to South Yarra, as part of a new end-to-end Sunshine to Dandenong line. Five new underground stations will be built at Arden, Parkville, Domain and in the CBD. Tunnelling is over 50% completed and the underground stations are being built. The \$13.7bn project is due to be completed by 2025.

### METRO TUNNEL - A WIN FOR THE CREEK

Melbourne's Metro Tunnel Project team has amended the route for its high voltage cable along the western embankment of the Moonee Ponds Creek, near Arden St, Kensington.

The HV cabling is required to supply power from the AusNet West Melbourne Terminal to a new Metro Tunnel intake electric substation being built on the opposite side of the Creek. Original plans would have seen the western embankment have most tree and shrub vegetation removed along its length to cater for two underground trenches, plus several large junction pits and only reduced, low cover replacement vegetation. This relatively isolated section along the Creek was a habitat haven for superb fairy wrens and other small birds.

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek opposed this loss of valued habitat and Creekside vegetation and argued strongly for alternative, less environmentally damaging options for the HV cable routing. So, the 'good news' is that Metro Tunnel contractors – Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP)'s engineers have revised the design; they have significantly reduced the extent of the trenching, halving the number of trenches, shortened the length, moved it away from the Creekside vegetation and deleted the junction pits. Cabling under the creek bed to connect with the new substation opposite will remain unchanged.

So, a great win for the Creek's open space corridor, habitat and biodiversity and many thanks are expressed to Metro Tunnel and CYP for listening to community concerns and working to change the design.

Information and diagrams courtesy CYP and FoMPC.



### LARGE TREE HAZARD

When the creek was in full flood at the end of January, a large fallen tree was washed up and was lying across the creek, causing debris to build up and creating a potential flooding hazard just north of the Racecourse Road bridge on Moonee Ponds Creek.

The tree was successfully cut up and removed by Melbourne Water in early February using a Bob Cat. No significant damage was done to the banks during this process. - Zoe Samson, photo by Roger McMillan

by Julia Cirillo,  
MCMC



### Litter Data Project by Katherine Sampson

During the height of the pandemic, for six months from August 2020 to February 2021, Moreland Council employed a Litter Data team to examine the state of litter and its sources across the municipality. The State Government funded the project through the Working for Victoria Scheme, and the Merri Creek Management Committee provided supervision.

Recommendations made from the project results will be used to inform targeted education campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of street litter ending up in stormwater and reducing litter in waterways.

The audits were conducted around several different sites, including the Merri, Moonee Ponds and Westbreen Creeks, and more built-up areas such as activity centres like Sydney Road.

The project was a short one, and COVID-19 restrictions imposed limitations on the data collection timing. Still, overall it was a worthwhile and rewarding project. Through the project, the team developed a tested methodology for auditing a range of site types, and the findings will provide recommendations for critical areas for focus in designing education on source reduction and locations for infrastructure interventions.

Personally, I have loved being involved in this project. It was a privilege to go out into the community (once permitted, of course), to gather litter data, and make a positive contribution to my community.

My job highlights were: increasing my understanding of Local Government's role and council workers' role; working outside with my team; building partnerships with MCMC, and being part of a supportive team, during a pretty tough time.

Working in the role prompted me to talk more to my Five year old about our responsibility around litter. On the importance of source reduction, caring for our creeks, and the practical things we can do. She took ownership of litter clean-up days on our daily hour of exercise and has become an advocate for looking after our local creek and neighbourhood.

As a community, we know the value and importance of local green space and natural resources such as parks and waterways - more than ever having lived with such severe restrictions on our movements.

I hope that this project's recommendations will contribute to education that builds on the sense of responsibility and care residents and businesses have for Moreland's parks and waterways.



## WATERWATCH VOLUNTEER MONITORING TRAINING WORKSHOP

Do you love taking a stroll your local waterway? Why not give back to our creeks and help monitor the health of our waterways? Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) are hosting a FREE training session for new Waterwatch volunteers. By becoming a citizen science Waterwatch volunteer, you'll learn how to collect water samples and test water quality, learn about the current ecological health of our Creek and carry out habitat assessments safely. Long-term data from this program assists with monitoring waterway health.

Proudly funded by **Melbourne Water**.

- When – Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021
- Time : 10.00am–3pm
- Where – Ceres Community Environment Park, Van Raay Centre Rooms 2& 3, Cnr Roberts and Stewarts Streets, East Brunswick.
- Cost - FREE
- RSVP – Bookings essential at: [www.mcmc.org.au](http://www.mcmc.org.au)

**Questions? [JuliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au](mailto:JuliaCirillo@mcmc.org.au)**

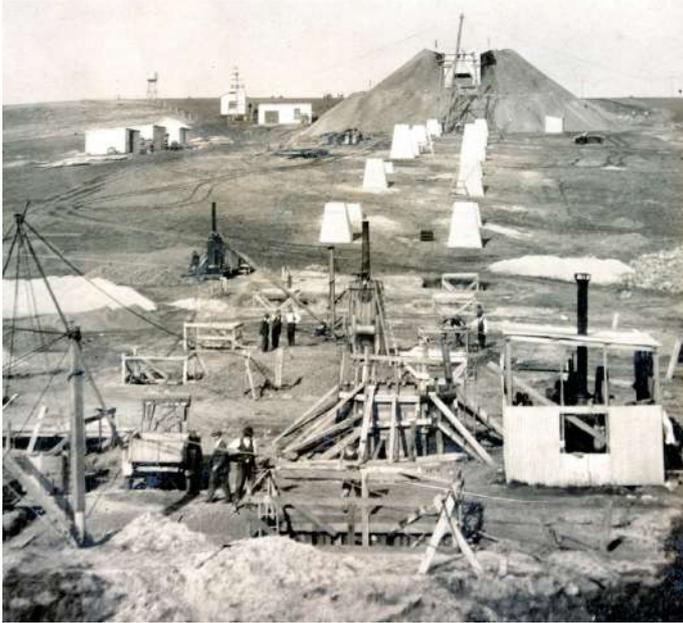
# MPC History

## Building the Trestle Bridge

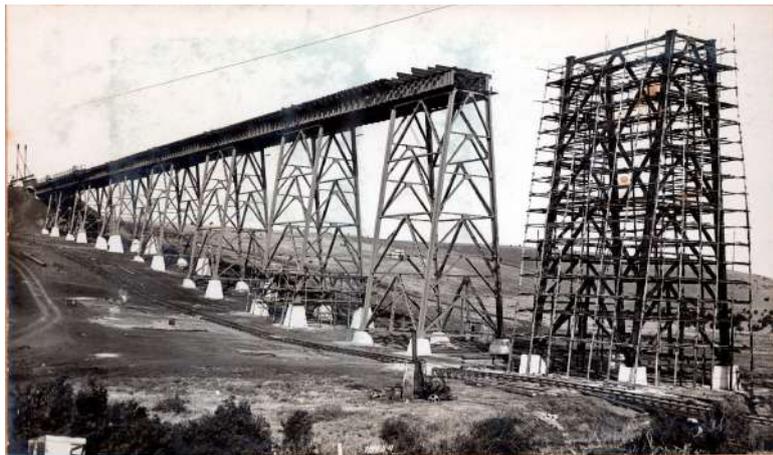
In 1929, the famous "Trestle Bridge" was constructed over the creek at Glenroy to allow the Albion to Broadmeadows railway to be built. Archive images.



The undeveloped site, looking north up Creek Valley



Adding the spans





## BBC Tawny Frogmouth Project

We are hoping to film the nesting and hunting behaviour of **Tawny frogmouths**, in and around Melbourne in November 2021 for the upcoming wildlife documentary series **Planet Earth III** from the BBC Natural History Unit in the UK.

To help us plan the best areas to film in, we would like to build a map of previous frogmouth nests and areas where they hunt insects around street and garden lights.

***If you have previously sighted frogmouths, we would be grateful if you could email us at: [niall.stopford@bbc.co.uk](mailto:niall.stopford@bbc.co.uk) with the subject title: FROGMOUTH.***



Photos by  
Andrew Haysom  
and Poppy Bell

The viability of Tawny Frogmouths (*Podargus strigoides*) is threatened when habitat changes result in the removal of any one of their life supports. Tawny Frogmouth population numbers appear to be in decline in some Melbourne suburbs. Urgent action is required to manage Tawny Frogmouth population recovery to avoid local extinction. Tawny Frogmouths are a nocturnal native Australian bird species which typically inhabits Woodland ecosystems. Their habitat requirements are dictated by their physical size and shape, diet and their social structure. They live continuously within a territory where the territory size is dictated by the availability of what they need in daily food supplies, and suitable mature Australian native trees for daily roosting branches, foraging perch branches and seasonal nest sites. Tawny Frogmouths do not migrate. - CSIRO



# Brosnan Crescent Naturalisation

by Rachel Lopes and Nina



On 10 December 2020, geotechnical investigation works commenced on the Brosnan Crescent Naturalisation project. The project is a key priority for the Chain of Ponds Collaboration and involves the naturalisation of a section of the creek next to Brosnan Crescent, Strathmore. These works were completed in late December.

The project site presents a unique set of challenges including managing flood risk to the community, erosion and potential land contamination. These are being investigated and will inform the ultimate project feasibility and design.

The State Government has contributed \$5 million towards the project, which is being managed by Melbourne Water in close collaboration with Moreland City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, the Friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Melbourne Water plan to present the findings of the geotechnical investigations to the Chain of Ponds Collaboration group and other key stakeholders in the second quarter of 2021. There will be broader community engagement on options once they have been designed.





Australian Reed Warbler



Little Pied Cormorant by Maurice Austin



Weebill



Nankeen Night-heron

# Sightings

by Anna Lanigan unless indicated



Blue-tongue by Brad Tregear



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike



Crested Pigeon



Superb Fairywren



Rainbow Lorikeet



Australasian Grebe



Tree Martin



White-necked Heron

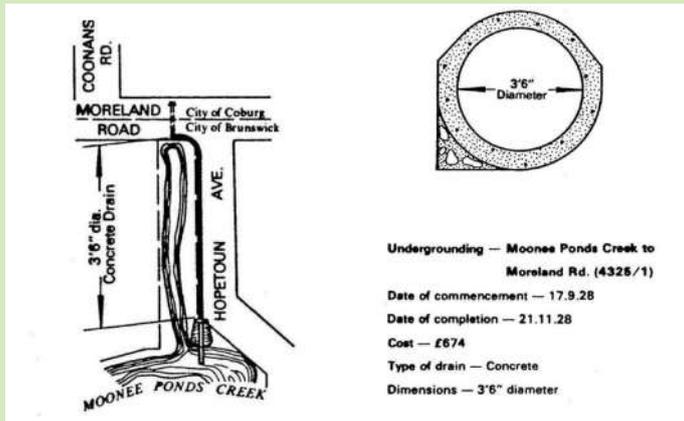
# Down the Drain - Lost Tributaries of the MPC

## Part 10: Coonan's Creek by David Widdowson

Coonan's Creek was a short tributary of the Moonee Ponds Creek in Pascoe Vale South. A number of features in the area - including Coonan's Hill and Coonan's Road - were named after Michael Coonan, an Irish farmer who owned forty acres of land that was originally part of the Moreland Estate, subdivided in 1858. Coonan's Creek generally followed the line of the original Coonan's Road, finally joining the Moonee Ponds Creek with this impressively eroded gully, named - you guessed it - Coonan's Valley!



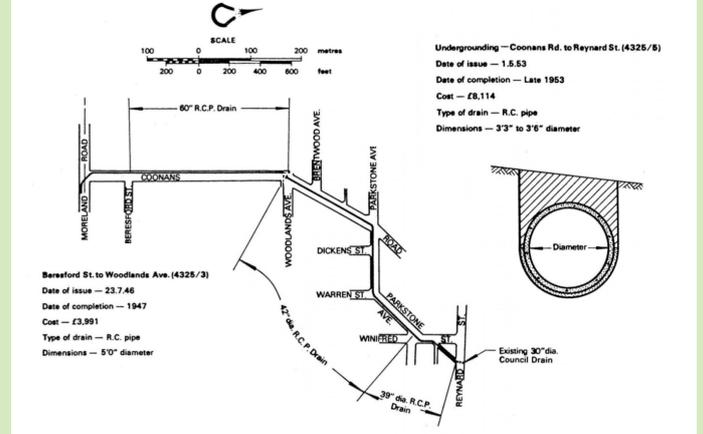
Of course, when it came to undergrounding the creek, the valley was the first to go - it was turned into a drain in 1928, as shown below. Note the original paths of Coonan's Road and Hopetoun Avenue which were both changed when the freeway was built through the area.



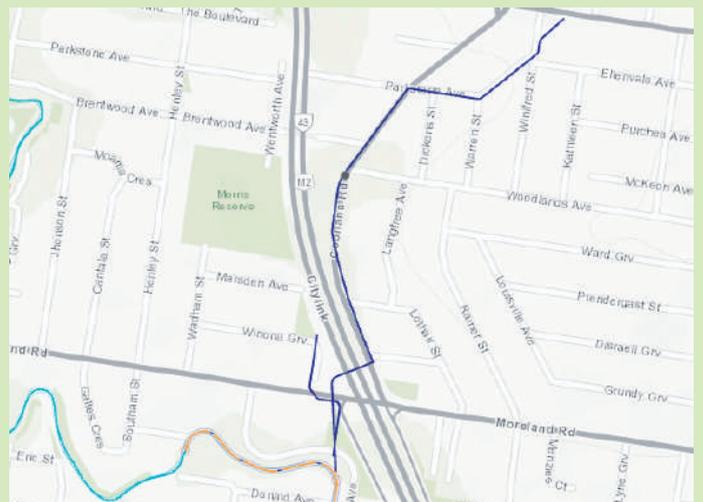
The Melbourne 1945 aerial view shows little development of the area by this time. Some sign of the creek can be seen, where it diverts from Coonan's Road:



Work proceeded on the upper sections of the creek from 1946. The construction work generally followed a pattern, with first open ditches being installed, but then quickly being replaced by underground drains. The following diagrams show undergrounding in 1947 (at left) and 1953. Smaller diameter pipes were used on the upper sections.



The MMBW 1981 book states: "between Woodlands Avenue and Reynard Street, the watercourse was ill-defined, and floodwaters spread out over the valley floor. In late 1949, complaints were received from local residents concerning flooding and the foul state of the watercourse... by 1951 the watercourse had further deteriorated, particularly in the Reynard Street and Winifred Street areas. The Board's Planning Engineer for Sewers and Main Drains visited the latter area and commented that "The streets are not made, and the drain, having filled up, water spreads over the area forming an insanitary quagmire, receiving drainage from an almost fully built-on area of 150 acres upstream."



This completed the work until the construction of the Tullamarine Freeway in 1968 necessitated the realignment of the undergrounded Coonans Road Main Drain between Moonee Ponds Creek and a point on Coonans Road midway between Lothian Street and Woodlands Avenue, creating the current Main Drain 4325, shown above in dark blue. The only remaining sign of the creek is the pipe where it enters the MPC near the bend in Hopetoun Avenue.

**Next time: Bent St Essendon**

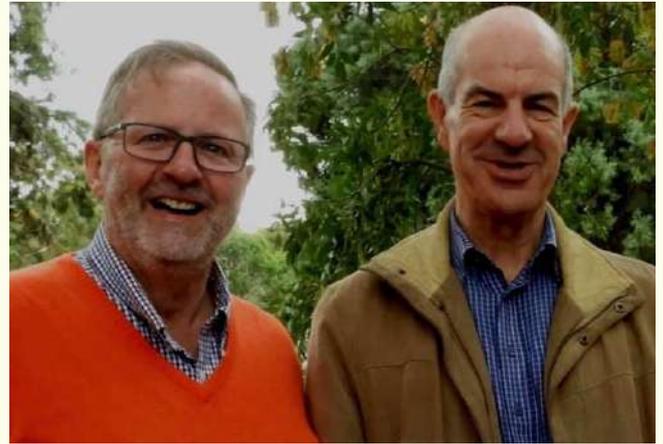
## AGM and BBQ by Anna



The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and New Year Celebration Picnic took place beside the Creek at Gowanbrae on January 17<sup>th</sup>. A good friend of Moonee Ponds Creek, John Kavanagh was elected as our new President. Continuing in their roles, stalwarts Frank Kinnersley and Vince Aitken retained their positions of Vice President and Treasurer and Carolyn Layton is the Minutes Secretary. No nominations for the position of Secretary were received prior to the meeting and it remains unfilled. Negotiations are in place and will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Peter Scully, who gave a thoughtful history of the Creek and the dedication of Friends, was thanked for taking the helm of the FoMPC during a difficult year. Kelvin Thomson's brother Lex had brought along their dad Allan - a reminder of the enormous contribution their family has made over the decades.

New President John Kavanagh is well known to many in the Creek Community for his years on the Moreland City Council (including stints as Mayor) and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role as President.



New President John Kavanagh & Kelvin Thomson

## March General Meeting

The next general meeting will be held on Monday 15 March, at 6:30pm in Meeting Rooms 1&2, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds (near the Junction and Clocktower Centre).

The Agenda will include:

- o Project updates
- o Chain of Ponds updates
- o Issues/Actions:

The Committee is determined to ensure that issues we pursue, the actions of the group and topics covered at our meetings reflect the interests and aspirations of our membership base. To the end in this part of the meeting we would like attendees to feel free to share their thoughts with the committee. This could include possible future agenda items, guest speakers and the like.

Other items:

1. Film maker James Ruse has received a Moreland City Council grant to make a short film that will feature the Moonee Ponds Creek. He is seeking interviewees with stories of the Creek. He can be contacted at: [voices.urban@gmail.com](mailto:voices.urban@gmail.com).

2. Call for support artists (paid positions) for mural project along the Creek/Debneys Park – see:

<https://mvcc.vic.gov.au/flemington-mural-pillars-art-project/>

DATES OF 2021 MEETINGS:

- April 19
- June 21
- August 16
- October 18 (& AGM)
- December 20

## Presidents' Reports



### From John Kavanagh, new President

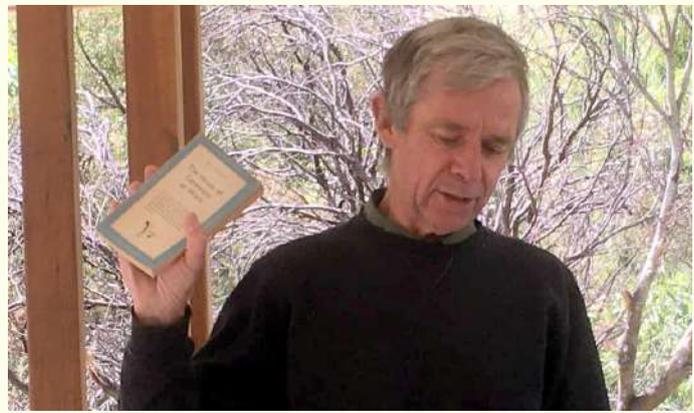
It is with much delight that I introduce myself to the readers of 'Ponderings'. I am thrilled to be elected President of the Friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek. I have always admired the work of this marvellous community group and the people who have worked so diligently to protect and enhance our wonderful natural asset. Since the group's inception in 1989 so many have given so much and I'm grateful to all of them, but special recognition needs to go to the Honourable Kelvin Thomson and the Thomson family.

As a Moreland City Councillor from 2004 till 2020, I witnessed first hand the work of the group. At the time of the state government sale of land adjacent to Moonee Ponds Creek in Outlook Drive, Glenroy, I was Mayor of Moreland and I proudly actively pursued the purchase of that land by Moreland Council to ensure it remained open space in perpetuity. I was also the Moreland Signatory on the Chain of Ponds Memorandum of Understanding.

I come to this role grateful for all those who have contributed in the past and to the current committee members and supporters. I'm also grateful to David Widdowson for his efforts in editing such a wonderful newsletter as 'Ponderings'.

I look forward to working with all stakeholders to make this beautiful waterway and its surrounds even more special. I welcome input and can be contacted at:

[johnmichaelkavanagh@gmail.com](mailto:johnmichaelkavanagh@gmail.com)



### Year 2019/2020 by Peter Scully

The FoMPC annual general meeting was held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the Sam Merrifield library. A detailed informative report was presented by the outgoing president of long-standing, Kelvin Thomson and special recognition was given to Anna Lanigan for her contributions to FoMPC over many years.

The celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FoMPC was held at the Oak Park Sports Pavilion on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. The event was a great success and fitting tribute to all of the work carried out over those 30 years. The quality of the information on display and the enthusiasm of the speakers clearly demonstrated the long-standing strength of the group.

The February meeting was addressed by Lori Arthur. The involvement of Moreland Council illustrates its commitment to put into action its environmental policies. Unfortunately this was to be the last meeting in 2020 to be attended by members.

By early February, the Moonee Valley Council had prepared its draft Memorandum of Understanding between council and FoMPC for 2020. The draft included some provisions which remain unresolved and it has not been signed, so it will probably need to be re-drafted in 2021.

So at the end of my extended "year" with the FoMPC; our schedule of bi-monthly meetings had to be abandoned due to the COVID-19; our promising list of guest speakers were not to be called upon; and several attempts were made to arrange activities along the creek but none could proceed due to limits on outdoor gatherings. It may take some careful negotiations with the relevant councils to establish a protocol for limited numbers of members to recommence some Creekside maintenance, weeding and planting activities for 2021.

The Year for me as president has been enlightening and disappointing in equal measure. Enlightening for the insight into the breadth of knowledge and depth of experience among the members, and disappointing for the lost opportunity of being able to participate in the year's program of planned activities which had to be abandoned.

Thank you for the opportunity to hold the position of President for the year 2020.

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

For information and to join, go to: [mooneepondscreek.org.au/join-us/](http://mooneepondscreek.org.au/join-us/)

# Woodlands Park News



Moonee Valley City Council conducted a safety audit of the trees in Woodlands Park Essendon. As a result one small tree was completely removed and three were cut back to habitat trunks. A further nine trees were set for lighter pruning of suspect branches. These were safety measures with some of the large Eucalypts having a history of losing large branches. Additional measures have been to replace some areas of grass under the trees with mulch and will be allocated for some understorey plantings. The park is a bit light on for small bird habitat. Meanwhile the wetland renovation is coming along nicely with the netting removed from the floating habitat rafts. Woodlands Park now has its own Friends Facebook page with members doing regular clean-up operations and generally looking out for the welfare of the Park. Woodlands Park is a much loved and important habitat on the Moonee Ponds Creek Flyway. Photos by Anna Lanigan and Maurice Austin.



## CAST CALLOUT

### SEEKING LOCAL RESIDENTS FOR SHORT DOCUMENTARY

Jimmy Flicks productions are calling for ANYONE with an interest in film to participate in an experimental documentary project that explores residents' connection to Moreland parks, urban landscapes and the intersections in between.

We wish TO CELEBRATE THE RICH DIVERSITY OF MORELAND and find out what is your perspective on our local landscapes in this moment of time. Have you had more connection or interaction with your local parks or suburbs throughout the COVID -19 lockdown? Do you love your local parks or feel like there could be some improvement to local green spaces? We're looking for people of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds who are interested in appearing on camera and participating in the filmmaking process. This is an improvised short film project that will involve 1 shoot day and 1 rehearsal day. We strongly encourage participants to be themselves and bring their own thoughts and ideas to the table.

We will be conducting interviews in the coming month, please contact us to express your interest - [voices.urban@gmail.com](mailto:voices.urban@gmail.com)

