



moonee ponds creek
co-ordination committee

Ponderings

Summer 2007-08 Issue 20

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

advocate

educate

interpret

participate

rehabilitate

revegetate

MPCCC Christmas Party!

Come and celebrate the achievements for 2007

The Staff and Committee members of Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee would like to invite you to our annual Christmas Party on

Friday 14th December
From 4:30pm onwards



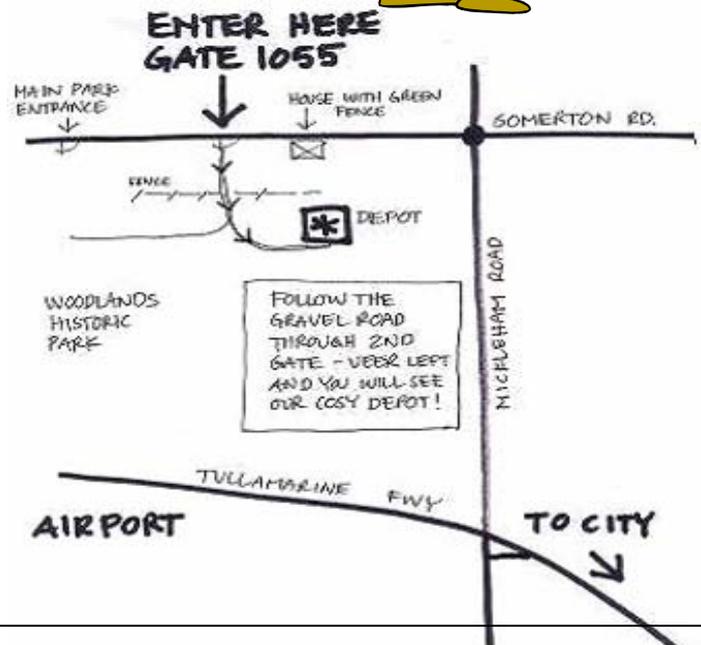
Let's celebrate this years achievements along the creek and also thank everyone who volunteered throughout the year and participated in the many planting activities.

Food and drink will be supplied so please come along to have a good time.

If you would like to bring a chair to sit on that would be great.

Where: MPCCC Office
Woodlands Historic Park
1055 Somerton Road
Oaklands Junction
Melways: 178 C6

RSVP by November 7th, 2007 to
9333 2406 or coordinator@mpccc.org



Clean Up Australia Day



Clean up Australia is to be held on Sunday 2nd of March, 2008. Last year we collected over 450 bags of rubbish, and are aiming higher this year. If you have a site you would like to nominate, please contact Stephanie Spathis, MPCCC Greening Officer on 9333 2406 or steph@mpccc.org. For Business and School clean up days please visit www.cleanup.com.au.

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

PO Box 2170, Greenvale 3059
Phone: (03) 9333 2406
Fax: (03) 9333 2413
Email: coordinator@mpccc.org
Website: www.mpccc.org

Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee Inc Staff

Co-ordinator: Heather Holder
Education & Interpretation Officer: Bronwyn Riddell
Greening Officer: Stephanie Spathis
Greening & Administration Assistant: Emily Box

Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee Inc Members

President: Cr Gary Jungwirth
Vice President: Terry Mundy
Vice President: Eamonn Fennessy
Secretary: Nigel Higgins
Treasurer: Joe Ficarra
Public Officer: Karen Wilson
Members: Julie Law, Cr Rose Iser, Cr Kathleen Matthews-Ward, David Dunstan, Rob Ellis, 2 to be confirmed

This newsletter is proudly printed on 100% Recycled paper. manufactured using a chlorine-free process

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 Emily Box on (03) 9333 2406 or ponderings@mpccc.org

Welcome

I would like to start by thanking all of the Committee members of MPCCC for their time and effort working on improving the Moonee Ponds Creek, it has been a great year of achievements and I think we are all looking forward to making the Committee a bigger and better organisation.

In particular I would like to thank Kelvin Thomson, who for many years has been our President. He has tirelessly worked with the Committee members and Staff as a champion of the Moonee Ponds Creek and we all appreciate his dedication, time and effort.

In an effort to become more sustainable we would like to send as many copies of ponderings via the internet. This save time, money and paper. If you have an email address and are currently receiving a copy via mail, please ring us on (03) 9333 2406 or email us at ponderings@mpccc.org so we can add you to the email database.

Within this newsletter you will be able to read about a few of the student projects that have occurred along the Moonee Ponds Creek this year. I would like to thank all the students for their interest in the Moonee Ponds Creek and thank them for the work they have put into their projects.

Our annual Christmas party will be held on the 14th December from 4:30pm onwards at the MPCCC Office and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Warm regards and Christmas Wishes
Heather Holder
Coordinator

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 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.

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

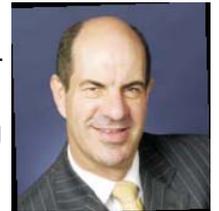
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Need You



Are you interested in helping to build your community, meeting new people and achieving some great outcomes for the community and environment of the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment? Then the Friends of Moonee Ponds invite you to our next meeting on Friday December 7 2007.

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek has achieved a lot over the past 18 years and have been involved in many environmental and community projects. Our members have diverse interests from bird watching, revegetation, community capacity building and participation, health, fitness, advocates for community open space and facilities such as the shared pathway, protection and enhancement of remnant vegetation, retaining biodiversity, both flora and fauna, sustainable living and many other social and environmental issues.

This is a great opportunity for you to take an active role in helping to shape and build your community for the future. The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek meet every 3-4 months, everyone is welcome to join as a member, please come along, I look forward to meeting you.



Kelvin Thomson
President

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Committee for their efforts and I look forward to working with you in the future. A special thank you to Vince Aitkin, who has taken on the roles of Treasurer and Public Officer, he has been doing a great job.

Meeting Date: 7th December 2007
Time: 6pm
Location: Kelvin Thomson's Office
3 Munro Street, Coburg



Sightings

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

James Gibbon recently saw a native bee next to Anderson Reserve, Broadmeadows. Native invertebrates are important pollinators for our indigenous plants.



Vince Aitkin recently sighted a Blue Tongue Lizard in his driveway. It is the first time he has seen the lizard in a number of months.



Damien Magnar from Melbourne Water spotted a turtle in one of the deep ponds at the Tarnuk in November. He could see it gliding through the water and poking its head up for a breath.

The Tawny Frogmouth is back for the 2nd year in a row at our Depot where it is nursing chicks in a ramshackle nest made out of Bursaria branches. It is another example as to why indigenous plants are so important within our ecosystem.



Graham Noble spotted two Black Tailed native hens and a sandpiper at the Jacana Wetlands late October-early November. Thank you to Graham for sending in photos of the two birds.



Stephanie Spathis saw a Sacred Kingfisher in the tall trees near Strathmore North Primary.



Virginia Moylan has seen a White faced Heron and a Blue Wren near Cross Keys Reserve.



Phyllis Angel has been enjoying a large flock of Rainbow Lorikeets feeding and canoodling in the tall gum trees near her Pascoe Vale house. This is the first time she has seen them in the garden.



On a spectacular sunny September morning, the Friends of Shanklands Wetlands spotted a small red-bellied black snake soaking in the sun on the shared pathway in Broadmeadows Valley Park. It was the first time Ali and her family had seen a snake in the park in their 8 years of using the parks.

Creek History

1959



2007



Thank you to Bob Chalmers for supplying us with copies of his 1959 photo from his window at Mascoma Street, Strathmore. Bob Chalmers has lived along the Moonee Ponds Creek in Strathmore for over 50 years. This photo, taken in 1959, shows us how the creek has changed dramatically over time.

If anyone has any old photos along the Moonee Ponds Creek we would love to have a look at them and obtain a digital image.

You can email them to ponderings@mpccc.org or phone us on (03) 9333 2406 to discuss further.

Weed Workshops

Four Plant Identification and Weed Workshops took place during September and October 2007 at the Strathnaver Grasslands. These workshops aimed to encourage and guide members of the community and Friends of Strathnaver Grasslands in identifying and then removing some of the common and threatening weed species throughout the Grasslands.

The workshops were delivered by Ben North from Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) as part of the joint MCMC, MPCCC and DCMC (Darebin Creek Management Committee) project funded through the Northern Nature Creek Connections Project, with funding provided by NHT.

Workshops were informal and relaxed and covered theories on weed control and different weeding methods as well as plant identification skills. Participants used newly learnt skills to remove weed species from the grassland thus reducing competition for water and nutrients for the indigenous grassland plants.

The 1st Strathmore Scouts also took part in one of the workshops, trying their hand at botanical drawings with Angela Foley from MCMC. The drawings were a good way to focus on the features of each plant and help identify them in the field. Members of the community also took part in this activity.

The participants have expressed an interest in continuing a hand weeding group at Strathnaver Grasslands to further their skills and assist in the management of the Grassland. If anyone is interested in joining in, please contact MPCCC Greening Officer Stephanie Spathis on (03) 9333 2406 or steph@mpccc.org



Many thanks to the staff from MCMC: Angela, Deb and Ben for their work organising and delivering the workshops. Most importantly, thank you to all the participants who took part.

Northern Nature - Creek Connections

Communities caring for the environment of the Moonee Ponds, Merri and Darebin Creeks

Natural Heritage Trust
Helping Communities Helping Australia
An Australian Government Initiative

Ben points out a Wallaby Grass, one of the Grassland species found on site.

Spring Planting Season Highlights



Friends of Jacana Wetlands

12 Volunteers, 200 Plants

Everyone enjoyed planting on a beautiful warm day. Frogs could be heard calling in the creek whilst volunteers reminisced about the 2005 floods at Jacana.

Friends of Westbreen Creek

18 Volunteers, 470 plants

Volunteers braved the rain and hail that the frogs seemed to be enjoying along the creek. Thank you to Cr Kathleen Matthews-Ward who sponsored and presented three Blue Wren mugs to Rachael Stratford, Lee Allen and Charlie Gatt for their consistent participation during the 2007 planting season.

Strath-Oak Planters

20 Volunteers, 110 Plants

The Girl Guides came down on this beautiful morning to lend a hand. Planting proved difficult in some places due to the wet ground and slope making slippery work. We successfully planted out the site prepared with jute mat to minimise weed growth and continued to replace plants that had not survived from other plantings. Chestnut Teal and Black ducks were spotted happily swimming in the creek.

Gowanbrae Residents

33 Volunteers, 110 Plants staked and guarded

Almost all Primula Boulevard residents who look over the planting site came along to join in the planting, proving to be more than useful with their advice on where to plant to avoid intruding into the open space used for local soccer matches. The 36 magnificent staked and guarded red gums will add a special touch to the site.

Brunswick South West Planters

10 Volunteers, 250 Plants

The group began the day with Kelvin Thomson presenting the group with a water pump and tools, purchased from a volunteer small equipment grant organised by Stephanie Spathis and Emily Box. The day continued with warm weather and a pleasant atmosphere whilst planting.

Boeing Reserve Troopers

17 Volunteers, 650 Plants

On the 1st day of Spring and beautiful weather, we were greeted by the Oak Park Scout group who proved to be green, keen planting machines! A yellow caterpillar and native cockroach were spotted with everyone marveling that the plants planted at the Bushes Bugs and Boomerang Festival were beginning to take shape.

Friends of Lower Moonee Ponds Creek

15 Volunteers, 200 Plants

Lots of children joined in the fun and lent a hand with the planting, as did volunteer's dogs who attended. The scavenger hunt and doughnuts were enjoyed by all.

Strath-Oak Planters

36 Volunteers, 100 Plants

The 1st Strathmore Scouts eagerly joined in the planting, everyone's enthusiasm leading to a speedy planting with the day finishing early. We were lucky to be visited by 10 ducklings and their mother.

Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek

34 Volunteers, 210 Plants

Despite the windy conditions, an inspiring number of people came on the last day of the planting season. The regular planters were happily outnumbered by the Carbon Credit Crowd courtesy of Kane Travis. Bike riders were pleased to have the tail wind for the ride home after a successful day.



Friends of Royal Park

The Friends of Royal Park were established in 2005 from a group of interested naturalists and local dog-walkers.

The aim of this Friends group is to protect local biodiversity in an inner-urban environment, while providing practical hands-on learning activities and experiences to participants that contribute to improving the environment of Royal Park, located in Parkville

During 2007, a calendar of events was developed with activities focusing on the Royal Park Wetlands, remnant vegetation along the bushland escarpment in Royal Park West, and the Australian Native Gardens. These activities have included:

- * Seed collecting
- * Planting and weeding
- * Bird surveys
- * Interpretative tours

During a recent seed-collecting activity by volunteers, Kangaroo Grass was found in the Royal Park West Remnant. A fire in the area last year has cleared most of the leaf litter revealing small plants existing on the skeletal soils in vicinity of power lines on the eastern side of the site, obscured by taller spear grass and shrubs. Remnant Kangaroo Grass has not been found at Royal Park for over 15 years.

To participate in the important work of the Friends of Royal Park please contact Gabrielle Stannus on 9329 2801 or gabstar3003@yahoo.com to join our mailing list.



Royal Park Storm Water Treatment

Many native bird species enjoy the pond within the Australian Native Garden at Royal Park. Previously, the water level of the pond was maintained by mains water. However, recently a small swale and wetland has been constructed to improve storm water quality by minimising gross pollutants and nutrients entering our waterways. Stormwater runoff from 'The Avenue' will now flow into the swale and wetland from underground pipes. Reeds and rushes will filter the stormwater which will then flow into the pond. Excess water will be returned to the stormwater system via the pond overflow thus improving the quality of water entering Moonee Ponds Creek and Port Phillip Bay. The swale and wetland in Royal Park is a City of Melbourne project assisted by Melbourne Water as part of the Yarra River Action Plan.

By Sandy Simpson

Student Projects

This year many student/learning projects have occurred along the Moonee Ponds Creek. Below is a brief snapshot of the projects.

RMIT 3rd Year Environmental Engineering students Luke Dalton, Luat Giang, Isaac Orr and Alistair Stewart worked on a project looking at the North Wall of the Cleanaway landfill site.

This was a fantastic 'real life' project for the students to work on as the engineering integrity of the site is of high priority and the challenge was to come up with a variety of options that were also aesthetically pleasing.

Carlo Eastaway an RMIT 3rd Year Social Science (Environment) student has been working with the Committee and Staff to assist us to develop a five year Strategic Plan to outline future projects and needs.

Carlo has worked hard and has several meetings with the Committee and members of staff.

We are anticipating the completion of his work late this year for implementation soon thereafter.

Lianna Sliwczynski is a Rover Scout who is completing her World Conservation Badge and has been working on some promotional materials for the Citylink Creek Connections Project.

Liana has worked hard to quickly understand the intricacy of all the interconnecting programs and activities to produce a display and brochure.

Connecting People Plants and Places Tucka Trail Launch - 1st November 2007

Ian Hunter, Wurundjeri Elder launched the Tucka Trail Walk at Royal Park, Australian Native Garden on 1st November to a diverse group of people who gathered to support the Citylink Creek Connections Program.



During the 2007 school year, Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) students from St Joseph College North Melbourne have been involved in the program to develop Bush Tucka interpretative information for the Australian Native Garden within Royal Park.

The interpretative information produced by students will become part of the educational program offered by the Citylink Creek Connections Educational Officer funded by Citylink.



The program is aimed at developing an understanding of and respect for the diversity and use of Australian native plants and their nutritional value. Also to educate participants about the local Indigenous groups, their connection to the land and creek, both today and in the past.



Bringing service to life

serco

Disclaimer