

# **FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK (FoMPC)**

## **MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETINGS**

### **2010-2019**

#### **GENERAL MEETING Fri., Feb. 19, 2010**

Present: Kelvin Thomson (KT) chairman, Dushy Abeysekera, Stella Blay (SB), Joe Ficarra (JF), Clive Judd, Julie Law (JL), Carolyn Layton (CL), Michael McNabb, Mark O'Brien (MO), Kaye Oddie (KO), Bronwyn Riddell (BR), Tony Smith (AS), Bob Steadman (RS), Bill Watson

Apologies: Vince Aitkin (VA), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Terry Mundy, Megan Rankin

Minutes of the meeting of Dec. 3 were accepted with the spelling of Leigh Mitchell corrected.

The treasurer's report, which VA had e-mailed, was accepted on the motion of AS and SB.

#### Correspondence.

- FK e-mailed info. about a re-enactment of the Burke and Wills expedition and a request to provide a speaker for their function at Moonee Ponds on August 21.
- Megan Donnelly (?) apology for absence

#### ***Draft of the Strategic Plan***

AS led discussion on the draft. He had already requested changes in Dec. He mentioned some aspects of the creek's history, including changes in the course between 1860 and 1946, and the balance between indigenous and introduced vegetation. Points on which members expressed concern:

- the need for a long-term approach
- clarifying who own and manage the land in the valley
- insufficient contacts of consultants with Parks Vic., Melbourne Water and other stakeholders
- limited reference to the Tulla. Landfill site
- community engagement, including the work of our members, was overlooked
- lack of references to allow readers to find more details; lack of "linkages"
- lack of local precinct data. As the meeting coincided with the deadline for public submissions, KT asked that this be submitted quickly
- cost of report exceeds \$3 per word, more if repetition is removed
- little mention of wetlands
- excessive dependence on info. which FMPC members provided during tour of creek trail
- cultural heritage and significant places omitted
- proposal for toilets and café too vague; the meeting felt this invited vandalism, and should be left to councils
- Hume Council had appointed the consultants, but was said to have rejected other applicants
- No reference to earlier work, incl. Tony Faithfull's report
- (JL) not enough attention to archaeological survey; vegetation; tributaries
- consultants and council staff showed too little knowledge of the creek
- the consultants' work was not up to the standard of reports on Kororoit Creek and Merri Creek
- (AS) not enough attention to access points for facilities

Other responses were likely from Friends of Woodlands Historic Park, Royal Park Wetlands, up to 4 councils. KT pointed out the ambivalence of councils. The meeting formed a committee – KO, SB – to prepare a report for FK to submit to the consultants.

BR mentioned Clean Up Aust. day on March 7. At Debney Park School there would be a lunch at noon for volunteers, both an East African ethnic lunch and a barbecue.

KO again mentioned the destruction of small planted trees by mowing contractors.

AS mentioned that City of Melb. was drawing up plans for the lower section of Creek. There had been problems, including the placement of benches too close to the path. "Temporary" closure of the bike path near Dudley St. has dragged on. The meeting asked FK to contact authorities. CL mentioned their frequent tours by school children and the need to meet with Vic. Urban.

AS announced progress on the Five Mile Creek site, as one of the five Holden Habitats in Aust. Parks Vic. has closed quarries.

BR mentioned the MPC Crusaders.

KO referred to plans to abolish parks and the related loss of staff expertise.

The next meeting was tentatively set for April 30.

Bob Steadman,

Minutes Secretary

# GENERAL MEETING, Fri., May 21, 2010

## Held at the home of Kelvin Thomson

Present: Kelvin Thomson (KT) chairman, Vince Aitkin (VA), Stella Blay (SB), Mark Bolitho (MB), Joe Ficarra (JF), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Kaye Oddie (KO), Ivan R., Bronwyn Riddell (BR), Tony Smith (AS), Bob Steadman (RS)

Apology: Elissa Simmons

Minutes of the meeting of Feb. 9 were accepted on motion of JF and KO.

The treasurer's report, which VA had e-mailed, was accepted on the motion of FK and BR. VA mentioned a grant of \$5500 from Melbourne Water (MW), which BR was administering on behalf of FMPC.

### Correspondence.

- P. Williams had moved away.
- The AGM of Landcare

*BR distributed copies of the colourful book, More than a Concrete Channel, which she and SB had written with the support of Neighbourhood Connections.*

### *MPCCC Report*

AS reported on the meeting of May 6. Council representation was scanty. Personnel changes at Hume brought Damien Harrison into closer contact. Our functioning reps. were AS, KO, JF; with Jo Connellan. VA stressed the need for an inventory in time for the next audit. Mark O'Brien reported by e-mail that most items were stored at the Kennards, Preston warehouse, with MPCCC paying for storage. JF mentioned the payment contract for the consultants.

Three councils would be asked to provide \$5000 each for operations.

He wanted MPCCC to continue, to maintain links to friends groups and to publish *Ponderings*.

Reports from Hume included the Tullamarine landfill, and led to a discussion on the pros and cons of boxthorn, an indigenous weed. Serrated tussock was also mentioned.

The break in the shared path at Essendon: cost to fill this gap was likely to exceed \$600,000.

MW said that the cost of removing a length of concrete lining would exceed the original cost of the whole installation. MB offered to check progress on restoring the temporarily removed path near the Airport. All councils were felt to over-stress *privacy*; we were urged to inquire why info. was sometimes difficult to get.

### *Draft of the Strategic Plan*

AS had met with the consultants about revisions. As most of their fee has been paid, he did not anticipate substantial changes. There was concern about their not following our guidelines, absence of references for readers to earlier reports and insufficient recognition of creek stakeholders. He hoped for a function to launch the report.

BR opined that Melb. Airport may be more supportive than Hume Council in paying for work in that part of the creek. She said that the quarries were to be cleaned by May 31. As they were working to a June 30 deadline, BR would draft a letter for KT. She reported on Citilink's agenda, and on weekday activity at Strathnaver Grasslands.

RS described the recent Horseshoe planting, where earlier plantings had been destroyed before replacement, and compared this with the need to remove weeds. KO said that weeds were treated

with herbicides before new plantings, and plantings should exclude non-indigenous plants. FK reported a security-related preference for plants that became either very high or very low, and reminded that plants should not be placed within 1 m of shared paths.

KO provided info. on *Euca Lightning* products, laundry chemicals.

AS, RS and KO reported on the Drainspotters afternoon they had attended, organised by Moonee Valley Council, MW and Environmental Protection Authority. Spotters are invited to send photos – preferably before and after pollution – to authorities.

With plantings and related community events in mind, VA and BR offered to make nametags. VA said that, after years of requests, Moreland Council had removed exotic trees near his house.

VA mentioned changes to the Incorporations Act. KT would provide further info. on implications for us, and invited members to send him ideas. With respect to membership and liability, he mentioned confusion at plantings. With memberships ending June 30, he collected some renewals for the next year.

World Environment Day: June 6. Theme: bandicoots, reptiles and birds. Next National Tree Day, Aug. 1, would have a long-term emphasis.

There was consensus to invite Gavin O’Neill, in his new position, to a meeting.

The next meeting was tentatively set for July 23. The AGM may be on Oct. 8.

Bob Steadman,  
Minutes Secretary

## **GENERAL MEETING Fri., July 23, 2010, 5.35 to 6.50 p.m.**

**Held at the home of Kelvin Thomson,**

**The hosts provided refreshments.**

Present: Kelvin Thomson (KT) chairman, Vince Aitkin (VA), Stella Blay (SB), Joe Ficarra (JF), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Carolyn Layton (CL), Michael McNabb, Kaye Oddie (KO), Bronwyn Riddell (BR), Tony Smith (AS), Bob Steadman (RS), Bill Watson

Visitors: Alan and Dorothy Thomson

Apology: Julie Law (JL)

### Correspondence.

- KT referred to funds which derived mostly from plant sales by the former Pascoe Vale Naturalists, were in an account with Bendigo Bank, Strathmore, and are applied to environmental scholarships at four local high schools. As he was being billed for tax on interest, he requested a new arrangement. VA volunteered to draft guidelines.
- KO reported on responses from four stakeholder organisations – Melbourne Water (MW), VicUrban, City of Melbourne and Citylink – about revegetation guidelines.
- The community event commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Burke and Wills expedition, Moonee Ponds, April 22. KT would be speaking, and was extracting material from archives.
- MW was doing bank adjustment work at Westmeadows.
- Meetings to discuss *Docklands Second Decade* would be held on July 26 and 29.
- 

The treasurer's report, which VA had e-mailed, was accepted on the motion of VA and AS. Membership fees for 2010-11 were now due. BR had administered a grant of \$5000 for the function at Flemington on Clean Up Aust. Day, and provided details of income and expenditure. The latter exceeded the grant by \$370. The meeting agreed that FMPC would make up this deficit.

### *MPCCC Report and Draft of the Strategic Plan*

SB provided hard copies of the winter *Ponderings*. AS reported on a meeting with the consultants, but with no outcome. KO recognised the good work of the facilitator. Hume Council had delayed the public session. KO said the report was a weak document that councils could use against us, and they were "going around in circles". Also at the meeting: FK, JL, BR and SB. Unlike the previous meeting. they felt "swamped" by council officials. AS requested our input on where MPCCC is going. KT pointed out that if councils do not achieve, we must.

There was some concern about City of Melbourne's plans for higher density development; some artist impressions of multi-storey buildings were presented. KO advocated improvements to shared paths, separation of walkers and cyclists, rubbish bins, access to recreational paths, and biolinks. She repeated her opposition to native plants that are not indigenous. She volunteered to prepare our draft submission.

BR brought books from Bushwalking Victoria, designed for walking groups. They did not include any examples of walks in MPC. BR attended a 3-day conference *Communities in Control*. She brought copies of some handouts: info. on services for special events; Westpac guides for treasurers

and community board members; lavish Australia Post books (they offered us time); and a disk. On the motion of AS and SB, the meeting voted to pay BR \$400 for costs.

KT reported on a meeting with Gavin O'Neill and N. Mitchell (MW) about operations along the creek. The meeting voted to invite them to the AGM.

BR reported on the Tullamarine landfill. She stressed indigenous grassland, and deterring birds near the airports. She referred to the controversy over the Woodlands filling; Envirofill was involved in bankruptcy proceedings.

VA is working on our website, and said grants were available.

AS and Kerry Gordon mentioned the Royal Park planting day.

AS advocated an historic marker, to be placed at the northern end of the concreted part (North Strathmore/Oak Park).

The next meeting would be the AGM on Oct. 8.

Bob Steadman, Minutes Secretary

## **GENERAL MEETING Fri., November 5, 2010, 6.00 to 7.35 p.m**

### **Held at the home of Kelvin Thomson**

Present: Kelvin Thomson (KT) chairman, Stella Blay (SB), Joe Ficarra (JF), Clive Judd (CJ), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Carolyn Layton (CL), Julie Law (JL), Anna Lanigan, Michael McNabb (MM), Leigh Mitchell, Melbourne Water (LM, MW), Terry Mundy (TM), Rob Oke (RO), Mark O'Brien (MO), Kaye Oddie (KO), Bronwyn Riddell (BR), Tony Smith (AS), Bob Steadman (RS), Gavin O'Neil (GO, MW)

Apologies: Vince Aitkin (VA), Judy Allen, Peter Flanagan, Judy Maddigan, Gin. Moylan

Correspondence was accepted on the motion of FK & JF:

- From the Tulla-Sydney Alliance: The Ring Road work had divided the Jacana Wetlands, and had limited the access. The bike path had been rerouted, leading to some sharp turns associated with hills. KO was concerned about littering by cyclists along the path. Members wondered when water would be redirected.
- KO reported on correspondence with the City of Melb. about the strategic plan for the southern part of MPC. Multi-storey buildings were planned, and she urged vigilance about the removal of native vegetation
- AS, as secretary of MPCCC, got a letter from MV Council about seeking a person for their integrated advisory committee
- Port of Melb. had announced a meeting on landscape planning. FK represented us there.
- MW wrote about the pumping station at Dudley St. There was a plan to relocate it but no detail about the new place
- MW info. about community grants
- Organisers of the Burke and Wills celebrations thanked us for our part in the first stage of the new expedition

KO mentioned Docklands first decade celebrations and will follow up their plans for the lower creek, resisting any sport facilities. AS stressed the need for open space and for keeping indigenous plants.

BR described plans for the Debney Park area

AS repeatedly stressed the need to get community input in the decision process, and to implement it.

KO mentioned Hume Council's plans for a possibly disruptive fence near the airport.

KT mentioned contamination, especially (formerly) from the Zoo

GO mentioned the large area of catchments, and said the MW is now more responsive.

LM described, with a map, MW's many activities, particularly

- revegetation in the upper catchment
- destruction of several types of non-indigenous trees
- the urban fringes weed initiative, including partial removal of boxthorn, esp. Yuroke Creek
- commercial cropping above a place where they had removed boxthorn
- banks stabilisation, relying mostly on revegetation
- effects of a return to better rainfall, including breeding of growling grass frogs

CL asked about water quality

RS asked about Drainspotters, and LM mentioned MW's Water Watch

BR mentioned contamination from Parks Vic. in the upper catchment.

FK reported improved communications with MW, and raised

- Jacana wetlands (see above)
- Blackberry plants
- Stability work along bike path
- Silt in Five Mile Creek

AS mentioned interaction in the major sewer project.

CL and others mentioned the effect of the creek's concreted area.

JL asked about contamination from drains at high flows. LM hoped for more litter traps.

CJ mentioned the spread of weed seed and a rat colony near the Horseshoe

AS reported on the MPCCC meeting, including a new merger with the catchment authority. The need for MPCCC to continue was under review. FMPC had a possible role in making direct presentations to councils to get their commitment, including support for publishing *Ponderings*.

KT said that anything we can get now is a bonus, and better value could be had by direct collaboration with MW and other stakeholders.

To respond to Melb. Airport's request, the meeting nominated BR and JL.

RO reported schoolchildren's programs with NMFC, and their role in MPC. Moray Hannan would provide a rep. to address our meeting.

No date was set for the next meeting, but AS said there would be a possible end-of-year function at the Living Museum of the west on Dec. 17.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

**Held at the home of Kelvin Thomson, November 5, 2010, 5.35 to 6.00 p.m.**

Present: Kelvin Thomson (KT) chairman, Stella Blay (SB), Joe Ficarra (JF), Clive Judd (CJ), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Carolyn Layton (CL), Julie Law (JL), Anna Lanigan, Michael McNabb (MM), Leigh Mitchell, Melbourne Water (LM, MW), Terry Mundy (TM), Rob Oke (RO), Mark O'Brien (MO), Kaye Oddie (KO), Bronwyn Riddell (BR), Tony Smith (AS), Bob Steadman (RS)

Apologies: Vince Aitkin (VA), Judy Allen, Peter Flanagan, Judy Maddigan, Gin. Moylan

Minutes of last year's AGM were accepted on motion of KO and CJ.

AS pointed out that the position of public officer, in accordance with new regulations, would be subsumed under *Secretary*

Treasurer's report: VA had already e-mailed a full report. The chief transaction since the end of the financial year, using the Alan Thomson Scholarship Fund, were cheques of \$120 each, provided to four local high schools. Report was accepted on the motion of FK and CJ.

Results of elections were:

POSITION	OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011	ALTERNATES	NOMINATOR	SECONDER
President	KT		FK	KO
Vice President	AS		FK	TM
Secretary	KO		FK	AS
Treasurer	VA		FK	BR
Minute Secretary	CL		SB	JF
Delegates to MPCCC	KO	TM	TM	MM
	AS	FK	SB	FK
	SB	CL	AS	
	JL	RS		
	JF			

## **GENERAL MEETING Friday Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 2011, 5:30pm – 7:05pm.**

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson (KT), Kaye Oddie (KO), Clive James (CJ), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Tony Smith (AS), Carolyn Layton (CL), Julie Law (JL), Kate Shaw (KS, Melbourne Water).

### **APOLOGIES:**

Roger Excell, Peter Flanagan, Bill Watson, Mark Bolitho, Vince Aitkin, Bronwyn Riddell

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Noted by KT has having been sent out with the meeting notice.

### **BUSINESS ARISING:**

- Successful end of year function was held at the new home of MPCC, the Living Museum of the West at Maribyrnong.
- KO submission to Melbourne City Council Strategic Plan (see Correspondence)

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Email message from VA that Financial Report has not changed substantially since last report.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. November 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 Letters from FoMPC (KT) to CEOs of MVCC and MCC requesting participation in the joint MVCC and MCC Lower MP Creek Rejuvenation Project.
2. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 Letter from MVCC Co-ordinator Open Space & Urban Design inviting reps of FoMPC to an on-site meeting at Debneys Park with MVCC officers to discuss the plans for the Lower MPC Rejuvenation Project.
3. Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 Presentation from FoMPC Secretary (KO) to a meeting of the Sub- committee of the MCC's Municipal Strategic Plan requesting that definitions of 'banks' and 'waterways' be included so as to better guide the proposed strategies in relation to scale of development, setbacks and overshadowing along the Creek.
4. Information received on Docklands Second Decade and proposals for recreational open space ('Western Park') at the end of the Creek, as well as Melbourne Water removal of itinerants' makeshift camps under Arden St Bridge in lower Creek area. Photographs of recent flooding of the Creek, environs Stubbs St, Kensington shown.

### **MINUTES:**

#### **1. Update on Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Plan.**

AS reported that the consultants had completed the Plan, including the major amendments required, and that the working party had signed off the plan in December. A final copy ready for a launch is still to be prepared. He expressed the view that the process of the development of the plan had been much less than satisfactory.

Following on, the chairman invited comments on the future of the MPCCC. AS presented some information and there was some discussion on each Council and evidence for its possible commitment/lack of it to the idea of some future role/support for the MPCCC. AS suggested there was a possible role for the MPCCC as a communications/liaison body with the continuing production of Ponderings as part of this.

## **Actions:**

- AS and Cr. Jo Connellan to follow up with MCC (Cr. Cathy Oke) and Hume councillors to ascertain the Council position re: MPCCC and level of support.
- Councillors Jan Chantry and Jim Cusack to be invited to a FoMPC meeting.

## **2. Woodlands Quarry contamination cleanup; path reinstatement.**

Enviro Fill Greenvale Pty Ltd, the company that was charged with illegally dumping waste in the quarries, was fined \$200,000. Enviro Fill, who failed to attend court, faced two charges of permitting the dumping of large volumes of waste following an EPA investigation of the company's land filling operations. The company went into voluntary liquidation rather than clean up. There is some uncertainty about when the clean up will occur. BR is waiting for a reply from Colleen Hartland MP.

## **3. Tullamarine Landfill Cap Expert Report**

The EPA has compiled a single, consolidated report called *Tullamarine Landfill – Community Health and Environment Report*. It brings together three new pieces of research, which are a study by Cancer Council Victoria into the incidence of cancer surrounding the landfill, a review of the landfill's cap and a study of past and present air quality. The report was released on February 14 and was accompanied by a series of Open House events for the local community. The report will be available from the EPA.

The long-term management of the site will be following management plans developed by TPI (Transpacific Industries) before the closure and include Gas, Ambient Air, Liquid Wastes and Groundwater quality. These were approved by the EPA which is now ensuring that the site is being managed in accordance with them.

In BR's absence JL reported briefly on her attendance at the first EPA (Tullamarine Landfill) Community Forum at the Hume Global Learning Centre. She mentioned the proposal for 12-month air monitoring at sites around Westmeadows and that the format of the consultation made it easy to obtain information. <http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2011/s3138951.htm> ABC item on the forum

## **4. Airport Fence update (BR)**

BR submitted an email on behalf of FoMPC to Melbourne Airport with questions and suggestions regarding the recently acquired a parcel of land known as McLaughlins. The email highlighted:

- FoMPC's keen interest in the future of this general area of the creek, including issues concerning the quarries and landfill.
- The group's strong desire to see the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail finally connected with Melbourne Airport.

Questions were asked/suggestions made re:

- plans for the land in question,
- the role and design of the fence to be built on the land,
- the location of the fence to enable a consistent creek corridor width

Recommendations:

- Cultural Heritage Management Plan and possibly remnant veg surveys required before work on the land near the creek

Requests:

- That a site survey of McLaughlin's be arranged for some FoMPC representatives.
- FoMPC be kept in the loop regarding the fence.

The content of the email was discussed at the November 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 meeting of the Melbourne Airport Communities and External Agencies Committee and a decision was made by the committee that

Melbourne Airport provide an update on the proposed use of this land, and to consider the requests made by FoMPC in the email.

#### **5. Update from Melbourne Water (Kate Shaw).**

Kate mentioned proposed 3-year capital works projects along the Yuroke Creek (weed control and revegetation) and Jacana Wetlands (reveg and adjustment of outlet to control flows). She also mentioned placement of data loggers in the Jacana wetlands to gather information during storm events. Kate responded to questions concerning storm overflow from the Western Ring Road and a grate disgoring silt and litter across the bike path. On behalf of the committee, KT thanked Kate for her attendance and expressed appreciation for her (and Melbourne Water's) interest and involvement.

#### **6. Update on MVCC and MCC Moonee Ponds Creek Rejuvenation Project.**

The MV Team met with KT, FK, Mark O'Brien, KO on Dec 23rd on site at Debneys Park to discuss proposed plans. FoMPC subsequently made submission on revegetation selections, access and amenity issues. Revised plans to be forwarded to FoMPC. In contrast, the reply from MCC (Dec 21<sup>st</sup>) stated that potential scoping of the project was underway and that more detailed planning would likely occur in the first half of 2011.

#### **Action:**

- FoMPC to write follow-up letter to Eamonn Fennessy, Team Leader Parks Planning, MCC.

#### **7. Shared Bike Path Issues.**

KT reported on his on-ground tour of the Moreland Bicycle Users Group plans for a shortcut to the meandering section of bike path between Reynard Street, Pascoe Vale South and Albion Street, Brunswick. He gave details of the planned route which amongst other things would involve bringing the path up onto a short section of a City Link bridge. There was discussion of the proposal and its advantages, such as opening up the path for Pascoe Vale residents (access from both sides of the creek), encouraging more commuter cycling, and providing a circuit ride or walk were raised. It will need City Link, Moreland and Moonee Valley Councils support (and \$) but only a modest amount of construction.

#### **8. A FoMPC Strategic Bike Plan?**

Following on from the above discussion, AS raised the possibility of FoMPC preparing a long term Strategic Bike Plan (Including facilities, links etc) for the Moonee Ponds Creek. The following points were raised during discussion:

- The state of the path and ease of route finding in the upper reaches near Woodlands/Airport
- Councils now appear to be focused only on their own sections of the path.
- FoMPC has the expertise amongst its members to prepare such a plan.
- Tourism potential of improving the path from the Airport
- [www.nearmap.com](http://www.nearmap.com) could be used to assist in preparing plan.

**Action:** FK and AS to prepare a proposal for the preparation of a FoMPC Strategic Bike Plan.

#### **9. Bike Path near Nursery Corner, Strathmore.**

FK reported on the pending closure of the bike path near Nursery Corner, Strathmore to fix the blind corners and near Strathmore North Primary School for strengthening, for up to 15 weeks. He expressed concern at the length of time out of action and that the bike path is being re-routed on part of the Nursery land before a strategic plan for that site has been prepared.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- KT passed on info from BR regarding Clean Up Australia Day activities at Debney Park Primary School (Melways 29 A12) on Sunday Mar 6<sup>th</sup>, 10-12 with lunch at 12.30pm. Kids activities including a mobile Zoo – ‘A Zoo that Comes to You’.
- KT raised the idea of a FoMPC Planting Day. Ideas still being tossed around but could be in Moreland in August around Aug 6<sup>th</sup>, the weekend before National Tree Day (Aug 13<sup>th</sup>).
- JL reported that a review of the planting sites in the Tarnuk had been carried out – “Amazing growth” evident.
- Upon request, MV Council promptly provided graffiti removal kits for graffitied signs along the Creek. CL now has 4 if anyone needs to use one.
- Congratulations were made to Stella Blay for the latest Summer issue of Ponderings

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** To be announced, possibly late April.

Meeting closed 7.05pm

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

## **GENERAL MEETING Friday May 20th 2011, 5:30pm – 7:30pm.**

Held at the home of Kelvin Thomson,

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson (KT), Mark O'Brien (MO), Vince Aitkin (VA), Kaye Oddie (KO), Stella Blay (SB), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Tony Smith (AS), Carolyn Layton (CL), Julie Law (JL), Cate Shaw (CS) (Melbourne Water), Terry Mundy (TM), Anna Lanigan (AL), Joe Ficarra (JF)

**APOLOGIES:** Bill Watson

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Moved CL, Seconded FK. Carried.

### **BUSINESS ARISING:**

#### **Shared Bicycle/Pedestrian Path Strategy**

A draft FoMPC Shared Path Strategy document was tabled by FK that he and TS had developed. He pointed out this was a starting document which highlights a number of sites with difficulties and fills in details not obvious in the recently released Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Plan. Reference was made to the MCC's draft Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan and proposed shared path on the western side of the Creek. KO raised concern regarding the Racecourse Rd-Arden St section in particular - related to possible loss of the valuable open space abutting the Creek. She recommended the path route should be located on the other (non-Creek) side of the flood wall. There was discussion regarding the materials and/or plantings on the verges of shared paths, ranging from granitic sand to mulch and low plantings. FK reiterated the need to provide buffers with suitable material(s) or plants that pedestrians and cyclists can easily and safely step off the path onto and reassured those present that the recommendations are for new path works only. In response to questioning, CS (Melb Water) mentioned there are existing guidelines for buffer zones on shared pathways. KT suggested an interested group get together to look into this issue, with FK the contact person.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

VA tabled the latest financial report (17/5/11). Members present took the opportunity to renew memberships and pay the annual fee. Membership renewal forms will be sent out to all members with copy of the minutes. There was a question about the Thomson scholarships and a suggestion was made that feedback on the projects that had been funded be sought from the student recipients. These could form an article for *Ponderings* (SB). MO offered to write the letters seeking feedback from scholarship recipients and/or their schools.

Treasurer's Report - Moved VA, Seconded TM. Carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. From member Ian Patchett, a telephoned query about increased amount of plastic litter at Jacana near the grate and relation to current City Link works. CS (Melb Water) will investigate and get back to FoMPC with a response for Ian.
2. Latest issue of *Ponderings* (Autumn 2011) has been sent out. The diary dates for plantings along the Creek in the issue were highlighted.
3. Amended plans for the MVCC Moonee Ponds Creek Rejuvenation Project received from City of Moonee Valley have included changes in plant species in keeping with the Chynoweth guidelines, as submitted by FoMPC. No response from Melbourne City Council regarding the status of the rejuvenation project for the adjoining (MCC) section of the Creek.

4. Request from the Wilderness Society to sign the Ethical Paper Pledge to source paper from ethical producers (not Reflex). See [info@ethicalpaper.com.au](mailto:info@ethicalpaper.com.au)
5. Message relayed from **Michael McNabb** that the plan to subdivide the VicTrack Outlook Drive land, currently on hold, may be reactivated.
6. The draft Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan has been released by the MCC for comment. This covers the section of the Moonee Ponds Creek from Racecourse Road to Dynon Road. The issue of a suggested shared path on the western side of the Creek has been discussed above; other issues of concern are a so-called 'canalisation' of the Creek whereby 30m (10-storeys) development is allowed with no set backs from the Creek corridor. KO to prepare FoMPC submission (closing date June 24).

## **OTHER REPORTS**

1. **AS** reported on the recent launch of the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Plan. He reported that some major stakeholders including the Mayor of Hume, a representative of Melbourne Ports and also the Airport (Sally Cunningham) were present at the launch. His report was followed by an exchange of views on the MPCCC member councils and the various ways they are moving on without the MPCCC. It was pointed out that planting along the creek is being sub-contracted out, e.g. to Conservation Volunteers, even though the Councils have the resources to do this themselves and involve Friends and other community groups. Support for the continuation of *Ponderings* still appears to be there. AS intends to provide a few different models for a structure of a coordinating body. This may assist with a final decision about the future of MPCCC being made by August /Sept. AS also stated the return of the documents lent to the Strategic Plan consultants was being sought.
2. **JL** reported on her attendance at Melbourne Airport's Community & Stakeholders Environment meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Issues discussed included plantings and other works at Woodlands Historic Park undertaken by Conservation Volunteers Australia as part of the joint project with the Zoo to reintroduce bandicoots to the Park; ongoing rabbit control; ongoing water quality monitoring; request for a copy of "*Moonee Ponds Creek Corridor Revegetation Guidelines*" by David Chynoweth (2000). McLaughlin's Paddock remains on hold whilst further information on its future use is obtained.
3. **Cate Shaw** reported that the Melbourne Water Plan 3 (2013) is well underway with many consultation meetings having been held. Input is still welcome particularly on weed control and bank stabilisation. The current Water Plan 2 finishes at the end of 2012. Capital works (Wright Street Retarding Basin), boxthorn removal and planting will be taking place in the coming months along Moonee Ponds Creek and Attwood Creek.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

KT proposed that the next meeting be the AGM and the tentative date would be Friday August 5<sup>th</sup>.

KT and Kerry in particular were thanked for the provision of delicious refreshments

Next meeting: Friday August 5<sup>th</sup> – AGM.

**Meeting finished at 7.30pm**

**Minutes Secretary**

**Carolyn Layton**

## GENERAL MEETING Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson (KT), Mark O'Brien (MO), Vince Aitkin (VA), Kaye Oddie (KO), Tony Smith

(AS), Carolyn Layton (CL), Julie Law (JL), Terry Mundy (TM), Anna Lanigan (AL), Bronwyn Riddell (BR),

Mark Bolitho (MB), Joe Ficcaro (JF), Lesley Smith (LS), Clive Judd (CJ), Ivan Repak (IR)

**APOLOGIES:** Christine Campbell, Frank Kinnersley (FK), Cate Shaw, Megan Rankin, Frank Chantry  
(retiring long-term member)

### PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on May 20, 2011 were accepted, with the addition of Joe Ficcaro to the Attendance record. Moved VA, Seconded MB.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Included as part of items below:

### BUSINESS ARISING:

**VicTrack Land, Jacana.** KT inquired whether there were any updates on the possible selling of the VicTrack land near Jacana. There were none but he indicated the issue needs to be kept on notice.

### Melbourne Municipal Statement (MSS)/Amendment C162 and draft Structure Plans: Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan; City North Structure Plan.

An update regarding these plans was provided by KO:

- The MSS is the overarching strategic document; the Structure Plans are to provide design detail.
- According to the MSS, the CBD is to be extended into North and West Melbourne utilising former industrial and vacant land, much of this along the lower reaches of the Moonee Ponds Creek.
- This will involve high density and high rise redevelopment with potentially detrimental impacts on the Creek.
- The FoMPC has made submissions on both the MSS and Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan and KT has written concerns re the City North Structure Plan.
- Particular concern is encroachment and overshadowing of the Creek Corridor by future development. It is critical that clear definitions of 'bank' and 'waterway' should be incorporated in the MSS and plans.
- Despite the MSS and Structure Plans still going through Council and Government approval processes, it is concerning that the Minister for Planning is approving applications for high rise developments that are outside current planning guidelines.  
Discussion and questions ensued including possibility of conditions being placed on developers, trade-offs and fate of public land in the areas. General feeling of concern that protection of the Creek requires strengthening via Council and Government plans.

### Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) Community Grants

Closing date October 10<sup>th</sup>. KT invited people to apply for grants and offered assistance of FoMPC if required. The website for information is: <http://www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/funding-grant/community-grants.aspx>

### Envirofill/Woodland Quarries Clean Up



Update by BR:

- Some of the material dumped in Woodlands Park by Envirofill has been removed, but not that dumped in the former quarries.
- The cost of cleaning up the quarries would run into the millions and that is, if a method of cleaning them was actually available. The site has been declared a contaminated site by the EPA. Envirofill has declared itself bankrupt.
- KT proposed that a letter be written to Parks Victoria and EPA inquiring about the future plans for the site. Motion carried. BR, KO to work on a letter.
- Furthermore, it appears Envirofill has undertaken similar illegal dumping at another site near Werribee, has now formed a new company and is about to set up to dump 'clean fill' in Bulleen.
- Bronwyn pointed out that the main problem is there is no regulation of 'clean fill'.
- It was suggested FoMPC should warn and/or write to the Bulleen Council about the company's actions at the Woodlands quarries site.
- KO expressed appreciation to Bronwyn for her persistence in trying to get regulation of clean fill and acknowledgement of the draft guidelines she prepared the EPA.

### **MPCCC –Update on the Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Plan (2011) & future of MPCCC**

AS tabled a draft document: 'MPCCC future possibilities for Friends consideration'. The document included information and comments by MPCCC members Cr. Jo Connellan and Michelle Gooding (MG) (MVCC).

- The draft document arose following the MPCCC meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> August and is intended to provide a list of activities that could be priorities for a future, reconstituted MPCCC.
- Such activities included production of *Ponderings*, liaison with Councils and others, recording Creek Corridor stories, activating the Environment Fund, monitoring critical issues, promoting future opportunities.
- Many such activities were noted by MG as potentially 'the role of a community group such as the Friends', except for Environment Fund. Through the Environment Fund, the MPCCC could apply for funding that Councils on their own couldn't; or could act as a broker for large-scale government funding.
- KT commented that many of the activities overlapped with those carried out by the FoMPC.
- KO observed that Councils now demonstrate a greater commitment to planting activities and working with Friends' groups along the Creek - roles that were previously and successfully undertaken by the MPCCC.
- It is proposed that a future MPCCC could meet for an AGM once a year with a small management committee undertaking the 'day-to-day' organisational matters. Councils would meet quarterly/half yearly as part of a subcommittee to co-ordinate activities and works along the Creek as per the Strategic Plan. AS indicated the funding of a future MPCCC was not yet clear.
- It was mentioned that Stella Blay has indicated she is not continuing in her role as secretary but will continue as editor of *Ponderings*. Thanks were expressed to Stella for her support and great effort with the MPCCC over the past year.
- A future MPCCC would retain the whole catchment approach but would emphasis would be on activities not meetings and administration. Has the potential to expand back to its original form with coordinator and staff if conditions change.
- At the same meeting, Cr. Jo Connellan and Tony were authorised to draft constitutional amendments that would enable the MPCCC to continue, but in a different format.

The report was accepted, moved TS, seconded KO.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- **JL** reported on various happenings in the Upper Moonee Ponds Creek including: 700 plants put in by NAB with the assistance of Hume City Council in the Tarnuk; Simon from Hume bringing another large community group to plant there on Sept 11<sup>th</sup>; Melbourne Water involved in woody weed removal between Marker road and Koala Crescent; juvenile echidna seen at the Tarnuk caused much excitement; Re: Cleanaway site: wall has been started and preparations underway for the planting.

JL will draft a letter of thanks on behalf of FoMPC to Melbourne Water.

- **Bike paths:** There was general comment about bike paths. Nursery Bend path has been shortened and made safer following the CityLink works. Tarnuk path upgrade/City of Hume area.
- **CJ** raised the issue of the large willow tree on the Creek bank not far from Nursery bend at the end of Gregory Street, Oak Park. He urged it should be removed. He will forward photos and details to KO so FoMPC can bring it to the attention of Melbourne Water – as Gavan O’Neill has earlier suggested re Creek matters.
- **AS** mentioned that Hume City Council has tendered for development work in the Johnston Street Reserve and Jacana Valley and surrounds as part of a master plan for these areas. This will involve consultation with MPCCC and a community consultation round.
- **KO** raised the issue of homeless people camping near the Creek under the Arden Street Bridge and that there is a lot of associated rubbish, including toileting waste, which negatively impacts on the open space amenity of the Creek for both local residents and others. She will draft a letter to the Melbourne City Council seeking better provision of accommodation and assistance for the people in the ‘camps’.
- **BR** spoke of the launch held earlier on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> at Woodlands Historic Park to re-introduce the Eastern Barred Bandicoot. The project is being overseen by Conservation Volunteers, Parks Vic and DSE, with corporate and Friends’ involvement. The excellent work done by Travis, Conservation Volunteers Project Officer, was noted. The beauty, value and popularity of Woodlands Historic Park, and also threats from housing developments were mentioned. **JL** mentioned a news article which stated up to 1000 cyclists per week using the Park. Also noted that Attwood/Urban Growth Boundary development is zoned ‘employment’; unsure what that entails; forthcoming community meetings are planned; FoMPC to be kept informed.

## NOTICES

1. Hume Tree Planting Day – Sept 11th
2. Moreland Community Planting Days: Edgars Creek Sept 18<sup>th</sup>, Oct 16<sup>th</sup>
3. Melbourne Airport Community and Stakeholders Environment Meeting - Oct 12<sup>th</sup>
4. Moonee Valley Integrated Waterways Advisory Committee - Oct 12<sup>th</sup>
5. Royal Park Community Spring Planting Day October 23<sup>rd</sup>

The meeting wished Kelvin and Kerrie well for their trip to New York where Kelvin will be representing Australia as part of the UN General Assembly.

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at the Broadmeadows Sporting Club, rear 111 Sunset Boulevard, Jacana (Melways 6 E10-11). Please note changed venue and later time.

## Minutes Secretary

**Carolyn Layton**

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

## Held at the home of Kelvin Thomson

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson (KT), Mark O'Brien (MO), Vince Aitkin (VA), Kaye Oddie (KO), Tony Smith

(AS), Carolyn Layton (CL), Julie Law (JL), Terry Mundy (TM), Anna Lanigan (AL), Bronwyn Riddell (BR),

Mark Bolitho (MB), Joe Ficarra (JF), Lesley Smith (LS), Clive Judd (CJ), Ivan Repak (IR)

**APOLOGIES:** Christine Campbell, Frank Kinnersley (FK), Cate Shaw, Megan Rankin, Frank Chantry (retiring long-term member)

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Minutes of last year's AGM were accepted.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

VA tabled the Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 30/06/2011. He announced that there was a healthy balance in the accounts (Three Term Deposit and one cheque account) of \$29,384.00. The operating profit for Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Incorporated was \$644.74 for the year.

Vince took us through the figures for all the accounts including one of the Term Deposits, the Alan Thomson

Scholarship Fund, which, as of August 2010, has been administered by the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek.

Selection of recipients is arranged by KT and funds are paid towards the end of the year. The balance of this fund was \$10,910.86 at 30/6/2011.

Treasurer's Report accepted: Moved VA, Seconded CJ.

### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

All the FoMPC committee positions were declared absent by KT and nominations were called for. The following written nominations received by the Secretary were tabled or taken from the floor:

Position	Person Nominated	Nominator	Secunder
President	Kelvin Thomson	KO	MO
Vice President	Joe Ficarra	KT	
Secretary	Kaye Oddie	FK	MO
Minute Secretary	Carolyn Layton	VA	FK
Treasurer	Vince Aitkin	KO	MO

Delegates to the MPCCC (5)	Julie Law, Tony Smith, Mark Bolitho, Kaye Oddie, Frank Kinnersley		
-------------------------------	--	--	--

As the number of nominations matched the number of vacant positions, all those nominated were duly elected. Vince Aitkin agreed to continue his work as Public Officer.

Finally, Kelvin expressed appreciation for the work done by the outgoing Committee and congratulated those elected to the Committee for 2012.

The AGM was declared closed and a General Meeting followed.

**Minutes Secretary**

**Carolyn Layton**

## **GENERAL MEETING Fri., November 5, 2010, 6.00 to 7.35 p.m.**

Present: Kelvin Thomson (KT) chairman, Stella Blay (SB), Joe Ficarra (JF), Clive Judd (CJ), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Carolyn Layton (CL), Julie Law (JL), Anna Lanigan, Michael McNabb (MM), Leigh Mitchell, Melbourne Water (LM, MW), Terry Mundy (TM), Rob Oke (RO), Mark O'Brien (MO), Kaye Oddie (KO), Bronwyn Riddell (BR), Tony Smith (AS), Bob Steadman (RS), Gavin O'Neil (GO, MW)

Apologies: Vince Aitkin (VA), Judy Allen, Peter Flanagan, Judy Maddigan, Gin. Moylan

Correspondence was accepted on the motion of FK & JF:

- From the Tulla-Sydney Alliance: The Ring Road work had divided the Jacana Wetlands, and had limited the access. The bike path had been rerouted, leading to some sharp turns associated with hills. KO was concerned about littering by cyclists along the path. Members wondered when water would be redirected.
- KO reported on correspondence with the City of Melb. about the strategic plan for the southern part of MPC. Multi-storey buildings were planned, and she urged vigilance about the removal of native vegetation
- AS, as secretary of MPCCC, got a letter from MV Council about seeking a person for their integrated advisory committee
- Port of Melb. had announced a meeting on landscape planning. FK represented us there.
- MW wrote about the pumping station at Dudley St. There was a plan to relocate it but no detail about the new place
- MW info. about community grants
- Organisers of the Burke and Wills celebrations thanked us for our part in the first stage of the new expedition

KO mentioned Docklands first decade celebrations and will follow up their plans for the lower creek, resisting any sport facilities. AS stressed the need for open space and for keeping indigenous plants. BR described plans for the Debney Park area  
AS repeatedly stressed the need to get community input in the decision process, and to implement it.  
KO mentioned Hume Council's plans for a possibly disruptive fence near the airport.  
KT mentioned contamination, especially (formerly) from the Zoo

GO mentioned the large area of catchments, and said the MW is now more responsive.

LM described, with a map, MW's many activities, particularly

- revegetation in the upper catchment
- destruction of several types of non-indigenous trees
- the urban fringes weed initiative, including partial removal of boxthorn, esp. Yuroke Creek
- commercial cropping above a place where they had removed boxthorn
- banks stabilisation, relying mostly on revegetation
- effects of a return to better rainfall, including breeding of growling grass frogs

CL asked about water quality

RS asked about Drainspotters, and LM mentioned MW's Water Watch

BR mentioned contamination from Parks Vic. in the upper catchment.

FK reported improved communications with MW, and raised

- Jacana wetlands (see above)
- Blackberry plants
- Stability work along bike path
- Silt in Five Mile Creek

AS mentioned interaction in the major sewer project.

CL and others mentioned the effect of the creek's concreted area.

JL asked about contamination from drains at high flows. LM hoped for more litter traps.  
CJ mentioned the spread of weed seed and a rat colony near the Horseshoe

AS reported on the MPCCC meeting, including a new merger with the catchment authority. The need for MPCCC to continue was under review. FMPC had a possible role in making direct presentations to councils to get their commitment, including support for publishing *Ponderings*.

KT said that anything we can get now is a bonus, and better value could be had by direct collaboration with MW and other stakeholders.

To respond to Melb. Airport's request, the meeting nominated BR and JL.

RO reported schoolchildren's programs with NMFC, and their role in MPC. Moray Hannan would provide a rep. to address our meeting.

No date was set for the next meeting, but AS said there would be a possible end-of-year function at the Living Museum of the west on Dec. 17.

# **GENERAL MEETING February 24, 2012**

Office of Kelvin Thomson, 3 Munro St, Coburg

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson (KT), Mark O'Brien (MO'B), Stella Blay (SB), Anna Lanigan (AL), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Kaye Oddie (KO), Julie Law (JL), Joe Ficarra (JF), Jesse Barrett, Melbourne Water (JB), Ivan Repak (IR), Carolyn Layton (CL), Tony Smith (TS)

**APOLOGIES:** Vince Aitkin, Mark Bolitho

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Meeting held on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 were tabled and accepted (moved SB, seconded KO).

## **BUSINESS ARISING:**

1. Tullamarine landfill: JL reported that the new north wall needs more drainage. The wall will not be replanted until Spring and will be hydro-seed planted
2. EPA Air monitoring: SB reported that the air monitoring report showed there was 'nothing bad' about the air quality above the landfill site.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The financial statement for the period 28/10/11 to 17/2/12 was tabled, having earlier been forwarded by the Treasurer. Current balance is \$19,181.89. It was moved and seconded that they be accepted (SB/KO). Approved.

## **AGENDA ITEMS:**

### **1. M80 Ring Road Upgrade**

KT reported on a tour on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> by members of the FoMPC of the works hosted by the Tulla/Sydney Alliance (TSA). He concluded that there were plenty of positives. The works comprise the installation of three ponds to counter the loss of capacity of the Jacana holding basin due to the new freeway infrastructure. The new ponds are located to the west of the existing Jacana wetlands and assurances have been made to ensure no damage to the wetlands, its vegetation and wildlife (including the Growling Grass Frog). The landscape plans for the new ponds were presented and discussed. Provision of increased habitat in the form of rock islands was suggested, with TSA to follow up with Melbourne Water. The choice of plants planned for the outer edges – exotic rye and fescue grass species was questioned and the meeting directed that KO follow this up with TSA. At the present FoPMC meeting, JB confirmed that there will be 3 clusters of 5 large rocks placed on the margins of the new ponds. KT floated the idea of a community planting day at the site which was well received by TSA. It was suggested that this day be scheduled to not clash with a Gowanbrae event being held on National Tree Day (July 29). FK asked JB about the ongoing problem of the upwelling from a drain pit near the work site and requested it be followed up in what may be an engineering problem related to the freeway.

## **2. Litter & Pollution of the Creek**

KO referred to newspaper articles and the letter KT had written (23/11/11) to the Water Minister Peter Walsh regarding the fact that the Moonee Ponds Creek was the second highest polluted waterway in Victoria, and the Minister's reply (17/1/12). There was also discussion around the litter problem, litter traps and their management and ways forward. Jesse Barrett, Melbourne Water's River Health Officer for the Western Region advised that the litter traps are cleared monthly, but more often as needed, for example following storm events. He reported that 90cubic metres of waste was collected from the traps in this area between June 2011 and Jan 2012 and added that the material is routinely sorted and recycled. He reported that there is money available for joint ventures with Melbourne Water for items such as rain gardens and litter traps. It was suggested that KO meet with the Melbourne Water Catchment Team to look at the litter issue in the lower reaches of the Creek. JB and KO to organise an inspection of the area.

It was noted that the Federal Government has prepared a regulatory impact statement on the Impacts of Packaging Waste, with a Melbourne forum on Feb 28 and closing date for submissions on Mar 30.

## **3. Clean Up Australia Day**

This is scheduled for Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12noon, followed by lunch and entertainment. Sign on is at the Debney Meadows Primary School, Debney Park, Flemington. Bronwyn Riddell is organising this major cleanup along the Creek. Notices have been distributed to FoMPC members. Other sites along the Creek are also participating in Clean Up Australia Day. Melbourne Water Community Grants.

## **4. Melbourne Water Community Grant Application**

KO reported that the FoMPC application (John St Reserve) for a Melbourne Water Community Grant for 2012 had not been successful. Main reason was that only a small section of the Creek would be involved and perceived difficulties with the multi land owners/shareholders

## **5. The Old Ford/Nursery Bend Revegetation**

KO reported on the on-site meeting with fellow FoMPC members, SB and CL, with Michelle Gooding from Moonee Valley Council and Lori Arthur from Moreland Council near Nursery Corner and the old bluestone ford crossing in Oak Park/Strathmore. As a result of discussions, both Councils will support a FoMPC Melbourne Water Community Grant application (for 2013) for woody weed removal and revegetation works around these areas. This is seen to be part of an ongoing project along this section of the Creek. JB advised that Melbourne Water are very keen for grant applicants to talk with them at the very early planning stages of applications; KO to follow up. Jesse showed some photocopies from a 1981 MMBW document showing this section of the Creek prior and during realignments and rock lining in the 1970s/80s.

In the meantime, Michelle Gooding has suggested a project to replant a small section of land reclaimed when the shared path was realigned. Local planting groups and schools will be invited to participate in the plantings, scheduled for either autumn or spring this year.

## **6. Barrier across Access Ramp to Creek Apron, Travencore**

FK reported on the barrier put in by Melbourne Water's maintenance department across an access ramp down to the Creek apron near the Flemington Community Garden. Apparently it was erected to prevent access to



the concreted section of the Creek due to various court cases over cyclists falling into the channel. Due to community protest the barrier was being removed this week.

Also on Creek concreting, JB reported that in response to some indication from the Minister he is doing some background research regarding the feasibility of the removal of concrete lining the Creek. Kelvin, by way of encouragement, suggested we will erect a statue in his honour if he can achieve this outcome for the Creek!

## **7. Melbourne City Council's Strategic Plans**

AS in his role as President of MPCCC reported that the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan had been adopted by Melbourne City Council – this concerns the lower section of the Creek from Racecourse Rd to Dynon Rd. He also spoke in positive terms about the Council's draft Urban Forest Strategy and draft Open Space Strategy; these views were qualified by KO comments. KT referred to a previous FoMPC submission highlighting some serious concerns about plans for high rise developments close to the Moonee Ponds Creek. JB expressed the view Melbourne Water is a referral authority for development along the Creek and that plans would have to meet Melbourne Water criteria. KT asked JB to examine the strategic plans for regarding high rise close to the Creek.

## **8. Melbourne's Round Leaf Purple Noon Flower**

Note was made of the proposal by Prof. Peter Fisher, RMIT, to make the round leaf purple noon flower (*Disphyma crassifolium ssp. clavellatum*) Melbourne's floral emblem. The flower historically was prolific along the lower Creek and swamp areas and is growing again along the banks of the Creek at Docklands. Documentation has been circulated to Melbourne Water, Port of Melbourne Corporation and others for comment and further historical information.

## **9. Moonee Valley Racecourse Plans**

Letter received by the 'Save Moonee Ponds' campaign opposing the towers proposed for the Moonee Valley Racecourse redevelopment. Plans do not appear to impact on the Creek, which is separated by the high CityLink noise walls.

## **10. FoMPC Meetings for 2012**

Proposed meeting format, venue and activities for 2012. Fridays at 5.30pm every 2 months seemed to suit. Kelvin offered his office at 3 Munro Street Coburg; however the merits of other venues closer to the Creek such as the Strathmore Sports Club were discussed. AS put forward a vote of thanks to KT and Kerrie Gordon for their greatly appreciated hospitality over the past year.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. AS spoke of the Moreland Council's Erosion Management Overlay. MO'B referred to problems associated with illegal fences along the Creek.
2. Notice re Greening Moreland Forum on Sat Feb 25, 10:30am, Coburg TH.
3. Moonee Valley Thematic Environment History - Meeting on Thurs Mar 1, 6:30-7pm MVTH. Anna Lanigan will attend on behalf of FoMPC.
4. AS reported that Hume City Council has officially decided to remain a member of MPCCC.

5. AL expressed concern about process and the plans for a community garden to be constructed at the end of Boeing Rd in Boeing Reserve very close to the Creek. It was suggested Anna contact Councillor Jan Chantry and keep FoMPC updated.
6. JL highly recommended the book 'Biggest Estate on Earth' by Professor Bill Gammage about the history of Aboriginal management of the land.

Meeting closed at 7pm

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>, venue tba.

Bob Steadman, Minutes Secretary

## **GENERAL MEETING Friday April 27, 2012 at 5.30pm**

Kelvin Thomson's office, 3 Munro St, Coburg

PRESENT: Vince Aitkin (VA), Mark O'Brien (MO'B), Stella Blay(SB), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Kaye Oddie (KO), Joe Ficarra (JF), Carolyn Layton(CL), Tony Smith(TS)

APOLOGIES: Kelvin Thomson(KT), Anna Lanigan(AL), Bronwyn Riddell(BR), Bill Watson

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Moved KO; Seconded SB; Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: VA tabled the Treasurer's Report and indicated there was no change in the financial situation since the last meeting. Account Balances held at Bendigo Bank for various accounts total Cr\$19,181.89; in addition the Alan Thomson Scholarship Fund stands at Cr\$10633.61. VA moved that report be accepted; Seconded SB; Approved.

It was agreed that a report from the Scholarship Fund recipients be included in agenda for next meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRANK KINNERSLEY: The meeting congratulated Frank Kinnersley on his being awarded the Australian Bicycling Achievement Volunteer of the Year Award – which acknowledged his 35 years of dedicated work to bicycling development in the State.

FoMPC /COMMUNITY PLANTINGS: The following planting events were announced:

1. City of Moreland - Sat May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm, Bass St, Pascoe Vale (Melways 16 H9).
2. City of Moonee Valley - Sun May 20<sup>th</sup>, 10-12noon, Talbot Reserve, Strathmore.
3. City of Moonee Valley - Sat July 14<sup>th</sup>, 10-12noon, Nursery Bend site, off Mascoma St (opposite Eldorado St), Strathmore (Melways 16 F7).
4. M80 Ring Road Upgrade Tulla Sydney Alliance proposed planting new Jacana ponds, date to be finalised (Aug/Sept)

The Moreland planting poses a clash with the Moonee Valley planting over the same weekend of Sat 19<sup>th</sup> and Sun 20<sup>th</sup> May. FoMPC members and families were urged to attend one or even both of the events on that weekend. The FoMPC will be a co-host of the May 19<sup>th</sup> planting event, associated with the park upgrade following completion of the sewer replacement works. KO will contact the local scouts re participating. The Nursery Bend planting on July 14<sup>th</sup> will also primarily be a FoMPC, so members, families and friends were urged to participate.

KO referred to the 'lost opportunity' regarding the planting of areas around the new Jacana ponds with native grasses. Replacement of the original exotic grasses selected in the landscape plan with native species, as recommended by FoMPC, was not progressed as rains on the re-topsoiled site resulted in regrowth of non-native grasses and it was considered that any native grasses subsequently planted would be outcompeted by the newly established non-natives.

'OLD FORD'/NURSERY CORNER, Strathmore: Following an on-site visit with MVCC and Moreland Council officers, a plan for a Melbourne Water Community Grant application (2013-2014) was discussed. This staged project would encompass woody weed removal of exotic trees, Oak Park side of the Creek in 2013-14; replanting with native trees, shrubs and ground covers in 2014-15 and linking with ongoing revegetation on the Strathmore side of the Creek. It is also hoped to incorporate interpretation of the history of the bluestone ford between the two sides of the Creek. FoMPC will liaise with Melbourne Water in preparing the grant application.

TRANSPACIFIC LANDSCAPING WORKS - TULLAMARINE LANDFILL: Kieren McDermott, Environmental Specialist Officer of Transpacific Industries Group was referred to the FoMPC by Bronwyn Riddell in relation to the landscaping plan for the Tullamarine Landfill site and proposing an inspection on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Planting plan has been prepared by Ian Taylor of Western Plains Flora; FoMPC was supportive of the plan. Volunteers/interested people have been invited to attend: SB, FK, KO, and possibly KT will attend on our behalf. AS will attend as a rep of the MPCCC.

LITTER AND THE MOONEE PONDS CREEK: There was discussion of the on-going problem of litter and pollution of the Creek, particularly near Docklands. Points were raised about the frequency of the emptying of litter traps, numbers and location of traps, general management of stormwater, impacts of storm events on sewerage releases into waterways, Melbourne Water plans for upgrading the sewerage system given the large increases in residential dwellings and population planned for the inner city, the need to work on the source of litter such as through education campaigns and container legislation.

The meeting resolved to:

1. Contact the MCC regarding the Bent Street litter trap and its management.
2. Write to Gavan O'Neill, Melbourne Water Western Regional Manager, to request increased frequency of litter trap emptying along the lower reaches of the Creek and to inquire about their position on/promotion of container legislation in conjunction with other authorities.

Some of the points above will be relevant to the draft Melbourne Water Strategies (see below).

MELBOURNE WATER DRAFT STRATEGIES: Healthy Waterways Strategy and Stormwater Strategy – see <http://www.melbournewater.com.au/consultation> for online forums, workshops (May-June) and registration. The draft Strategies available to view on-line from May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The seven workshops will specifically relate to particular waterway catchments, however they all will include similar basic information.

For the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment, the workshop will be held on Wednesday May 23, 10am-1:30pm in Eltham. Other geographically closer workshops will be on Thurs May 31, 10am-1:30pm in Greenvale and Tues June 5, 9:30am-1pm in Werribee.

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek will be making a submission, so members comments are called for (send to the Secretary [koddie@bigpond.com](mailto:koddie@bigpond.com) by June 24). Closing date for the submission to Melbourne Water is June 29.

MORELAND STORMWATER QUALITY TARGETS DRAFT REPORT: The draft report was tabled; a submission will be lodged including some of the points discussed under the Litter item above. SB suggested an article in forthcoming issue of "Ponderings" to highlight stormwater quality issues and WSUD features.

CITY OF MELBOURNE DRAFT OPEN SPACE STRATEGY: Judging by the approximately 75% reduction in planned open space from the first plan sighted, it appears it could be more aptly named the No Open Space Strategy. KO reiterated concerns about high density development planned in areas close to the Creek and little provision for more open space in the wider surrounding area. FoMPC lodged a submission regarding the draft Strategy.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Port of Melbourne Expansion. Some discussion occurred about recently announced plans to extend and develop the Port of Melbourne and implications for the MPCreek. Notice also received that the PoMC Landscape Masterplan has been finalised and copy will be forwarded.
2. KO tabled a copy of the plans for the proposed Boeing Reserve Community Garden obtained by AL.
3. KO reported that BR has passed on a copy of the Melbourne Airport planting guidelines for properties neighbouring the Airport. KO to write to thank them.
4. FoMPC Publications/Website. There was discussion about future publications for the FoMPC. Reference was made to the "More than a Concrete Channel" booklet prepared by BR and SB (CityLinkNeighbourhoodConnections/FoMPC/Melbourne Water); the detailed brochure with map of the Creek (laminated copy provided by BR); and the need for some sort of simple FoMPC pamphlet setting out who we are and what we do to provide at plantings to encourage new members. An example was shown and some discussion of details of a possible pamphlet took place and likely distribution points. JF has a contact and will investigate costs for a run of about 500. This raised the issue of an update for the website [www.mooneeponds.org](http://www.mooneeponds.org) and some issues around this such as regular maintenance of the website and associated costs. JF will investigate the cost of website design with a contact he has in the business. CL to check whether design of a website could be a student project. Other possibilities were raised such as Facebook and Twitter, but the feeling at the meeting seemed to be that a website update/new design is the best way to go and that ideally we would find someone with the skills who would be prepared to volunteer their services to help maintain a site once it is established. The importance of a clear and informed brief to the designer as to our needs was stressed. It was suggested that the "More than a Concrete Channel" booklet could be updated and reprinted through the MPCCC and distributed as part of a schools package.

#### MPCCC REPORT:

1. Amongst the many matters that MPCCC is asked to respond to, AS mentioned there have been concerns expressed by Westmeadows residents regarding the water quality in the swimming holes used by their children, particularly due to their proximity to the Landfill site.

2. He also talked about the need he sees for a Moonee Ponds Creek Conference to bring together all the stakeholders and issues related to the creek in one place, and he indicated he would be working towards this goal. The VISSEC facility at Strathmore Secondary College was mentioned as a possible venue.

3. The Jacana Valley development is another issue that MPCCC will continue to be involved with.

JACANA VALLEY MASTERPLAN - HUME : MO'B on behalf of himself and KT tabled a map showing a proposal for 68 new houses near the Sports Club in the Jacana Valley and raised a number of concerns regarding residential development along this very steep section of land. MO'B was asked to draw up a submission to be considered at the next meeting.

LANDCARE - latest issue was tabled by FK.

MOONEE VALLEY PLANNING FOR 2035 Moonee Valley Council have nominated FK as an Ambassador for the Moonee Valley Next Generation 2035, a community consultation process aiming to develop a shared vision for the future of the City of Moonee Valley, which will reflect the values and priorities of those who live, work, study, run a business etc in the city. To have your say (until May 31<sup>st</sup>) or for more information: [www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/2035](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/2035)

In closing remarks, KO thanked KT for the use of his office for the meeting and CL for writing up the minutes. The meeting finished at 7:15pm.

NEXT MEETING: Friday June 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm, 3 Munro St, Coburg

Carolyn Layton  
Minute Secretary

## GENERAL MEETING Friday June 15, 2012, 5.30-7pm

Kelvin Thomson's Office, 3 Munro St, Coburg

PRESENT: Vince Aitkin (VA), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Anna Lanigan (AL), Julie Law (JL), Kaye Oddie (KO), Elissa Simmons (ES), Tony Smith (TS), Bob Steadman (BS), Kelvin Thomson (KT)

APOLOGIES: Stella Blay, Carolyn Layton (CL), Terry Mundy, Mark O'Brien, Bronwyn Riddell

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: April 27 - moved TS; seconded VA; approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: VA tabled the Treasurer's Report. Account balance equals \$19,334.96. VA moved that report be accepted; seconded KO; approved. Membership renewals are now due. Subscription payments can now be made electronically into FoMPC bank account. The Treasurer advised that a contribution of \$4.25 is paid from membership subscriptions towards the Landcare public liability insurance that covers FoMPC activities.

FoMPC/COMMUNITY PLANTING DAYS: The following planting events are scheduled:

5. City of Moonee Valley - Sat July 14<sup>th</sup>, 10-12noon, Nursery Bend site, off Mascoma St (opposite Eldorado St), Strathmore (Melways 16 F7). Michelle Gooding (MVCC) has supplied flyers and laminated notices for local distribution; CL has kindly offered to deliver.
6. M80 Ring Road Upgrade Tulla Sydney Alliance planting around 'Bill's Hill' (east side off Sunset Boulevard) above the new Jacana ponds - Sat Sept 8, time and meeting place to be advised.

Both the Nursery Bend planting on July 14<sup>th</sup> and the Jacana/'Bill's Hill' planting will primarily be FoMPC plantings, so members, families and friends were urged to participate.

FURTHER WORKS – M80 UPGRADE, JACANA:

The Tulla/Sydney Alliance (TSA) has send plans for building the sedimentation pond close to the new bridge. The pond will collect water from the elevated roadway; the water will be filtered before draining into the adjoining, existing Jacana wetlands. The works were earlier discussed at the on-site visit in February.

FK raised the matter of reopening the bike path environs the works; he will contact TSA about ensuring the path is open for the summer.

GLENROY WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL / FROG BOG:

ES gave a report about her concerns at a shift in support at a senior level for the school's environmental features, including the Frog Bog and revegetated areas of native plants. This may

be due to a lack of understanding about the environmental aspects and perhaps unwarranted concerns about risks relating to the pond and longer native grasses. AL described the Frog Bog's importance as habitat for the Growling Grass and Spotted Marsh Frogs. Following discussion, there was general agreement that, through educative means, a greater awareness of the positive aspects of the School's environmental features could be achieved amongst new staff and parents.

**AIRPORT DRAINAGE WORKS AND FROGS:** AL reported on the works installing new drains at the Airport along Operations Rd, Tullamarine, near the golf course, and damage to ephemeral pond areas, of known frog habitat. She has been liaising with the contractors to raise their awareness of the importance of restoration and will provide them advice re preferred native plants.

**MELBOURNE WATER DRAFT STRATEGIES:** Healthy Waterways Strategy and Stormwater Strategy – see <http://www.melbournewater.com.au/consultation>. Members were encouraged to submit Individual comments to the draft strategies, especially through the online survey.

KO reported on attendance at the May 23 workshop for the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment area. Well attended, well facilitated and much informed comment from participants provided.

KT described the wetlands in the City of Salisbury, South Australia, in which stormwater run-off is processed through the wetlands, improving water quality which is then stored in natural aquifers below-ground for use in times of drought. The wetlands also have great wildlife habitat areas.

The wetlands in Royal Park were cited as another good example.

#### CITY OF MELBOURNE REPORTS:

1. Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS)/Amendment C162 in 'adoption version' – see [www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/futuregrowth](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/futuregrowth); comment sought by July 4. KO to prepare FoMPC submission. Council expects to approve final MSS in August for lodging with the Minister for Planning. It was recommended that a copy of FoMPC submission also be sent to Cr. Cathy Oke, Chair of the Council's Future Melbourne-Eco City Committee.
2. Open Space Strategy – final draft, a large document, open for a short period for further comment. KO to check re further FoMPC comment.

#### TRANSPACIFIC LANDSCAPING WORKS - TULLAMARINE LANDFILL:

KT reported on the on-site visit on May 11 of FoMPC members to inspect the landscaping works in progress along the Creek boundary. Planting plan has been prepared and is being overseen by Ian Taylor, Western Plains Flora. Comments offered suggesting further plantings to mitigate the visual impact of the extensive wall along the sloping embankment. The site will remain closed to the public for 30 years, however a mob of kangaroos already enjoy the newly grassed areas. The visit raised other issues about constructing a shared path link through the former McLachlin land, now owned by Melbourne Airport Corporation. FK and TS to prepare submission arguing case for construction of the path and suggested route. Consider inviting stakeholders to a FoMPC meeting to discuss, including Hume City Council, Hume BUG.



CAT in JACANA WETLANDS: AL told of her ongoing campaign to discover owner and to have the cat that roams the Jacana Wetlands confined to owner's premises (cf Domestic Animals Act). Then there is the problem of foxes and unrestrained dogs ....

MOONEE VALLEY THEMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY: Draft documents tabled; AL and TS attended the launch meeting; it was recommended that a submission did not need to be made.

MELBOURNE WATER COMMUNITY GRANTS: FoMPC to consider application for the Old Ford/Nursery Corner site (Oak Park/Strathmore) in conjunction with City of Moreland and Moonee Valley City Council. An old MMBW document has been lent by Melbourne Water to assist with historical, background information. It is envisaged the grant would be for a two year period (2013-15) and cover woody weed (tree) removals (predominantly the Oak Park side of the Creek) and revegetation, with historical interpretation display about the bluestone ford. Application closing dates: Community Grants (\$20,000 max) September; Corridors of Green (joint Council applications; \$40,000 max) no fixed date.

NEXT MEETING: AGM and next General Meeting will be held on Friday August 17<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm, 3 Munro St, Coburg

Kaye Oddie  
**Secretary**

## GENERAL MEETING Friday August 17, 2012, 6:00-6:50pm

Kelvin Thomson's Office, 3 Munro St, Coburg

PRESENT: Kelvin Thompson (KT), Mark O'Brien (MOB), Kaye Oddie (KO), Stella Blay (SB), Bob Steadman (BS), Tony Smith (AS), Anna Lanigan (AL), Carolyn Layton (CL), Julie Law (JL), Rilke and David Muir (Kensington Association).

APOLOGIES: Vince Aitkin (VA), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Joe Ficarra (JF).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Reference was made to the Treasurer's Report, cited as part of the AGM which immediately preceded this meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: June 15 – accepted; moved AL; seconded KO.

### BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Update on the Tulla-Sydney Alliance Planting Day on Saturday Sept 8<sup>th</sup>. Time now 1-4pm. Meeting point: TSA Site Compound carpark, off Pykes Drive, Gladstone Park. Local residents are being letterboxed to participate. Seven beds have been prepared for planting on lower slope of 'Bill's Hill'.  
Following a preliminary visit of the planting site, KO expressed concern about the potential risk to the main Jacana Wetlands by an overflow of contaminants from the newly constructed sedimentation pond taking run-off from the new M80 roadway – should a toxic spill occur on the roadway and contaminants washed into the holding pond. Matter was raised with one of the project engineers during the visit, who will investigate. Matter could also be raised with Melbourne Water.
2. AL raised the issue of the pathway along the edge of the Wetlands and whether it will be reinstated following the works there. It was suggested that the path formed as a result of people using that informal route around the Wetland and that the informal path will most likely occur again without a formal pathway needing to be constructed.
3. AL provided brief update on the grassland/frog bog at Glenroy West Primary School: The Principal of the school has decided to keep the grassland.
4. Other Planting Dates:

Moreland	Sunday August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of Coburg Lake Friends of Edgars Creek
	Sunday September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Friends of 5 Mile Creek. End of Government Rd 2-4pm
	Sunday September 9 <sup>th</sup>	FW Oliver Reserve The Boulevard PV South 10-12midday
Hume	Sunday September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Ck Tarnuk 1-4pm



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Friday August 17, 2012

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson (KT), Mark O'Brien (MOB), Bob Steadman (BS), Kaye Oddie (KO), Stella Blay (SB), Tony Smith (AS), Carolyn Layton (CL), Julie Law (JL), Anna Lanigan (AL), Rilke and David Muir (Kensington Association).

**APOLOGIES:** Vince Aitkin, Frank Kinnersley (FK), Joe Ficarra, Colleen Hartd

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The Minutes of the 2011 AGM were tabled and passed as an accurate record; moved AS; seconded SB.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Financial Statement for 2011 and Treasurer's Report, prepared by VA, were presented in his absence by KT. The FoMPC had an operating surplus of \$1010.05 for the past year. Funds of \$30,394 are held in three term deposits and one cheque account. Minutes were approved: moved VA/seconded CL. VA was thanked in his absence for his continuing good work.

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

Single nominations were received for all positions with the exception of Vice President (no nominations). KT declared the positions filled as follows:

Position	Person Nominated	Nominator	Secunder
President	Kelvin Thomson	MOB	FK
Vice President	-		
Treasurer/Public Officer	Vince Aitkin	BS	KT
Secretary	Kaye Oddie	FK	VA
Minute Secretary	Carolyn Layton	KO	BS
Delegates to the MPCCC	Frank Kinnersley, Tony Smith, Stella Blay, Julie Law Alternates: Terry Mundy, Kaye Oddie, Jo Connellan, Joe Ficarra		

Filling the position of Vice President was deferred. KT congratulated the previous officer holders and thanked them for their contributions over the past year.

KO thanked Mark O'Brien for his particular assistance in the mailouts and photocopying for the AGM.

The AGM was declared closed and a General Meeting followed.

## Minutes Secretary

**Carolyn Layton**

# GENERAL MEETING October 26<sup>th</sup> 2012

Held: At the Offices of Kelvin Thompson, 3 Munro Street Coburg.

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thompson (KT), Mark O'Brien (MOB), Vince Aitkin (VA), Stella Blay (SB), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Anna Lannigan (AL), Julie Law (JW), Carolyn Layton (CL) Bob Steadman (BS) Tony Smith (AS).

**APOLOGIES:** Kay Oddie, Jesse Barrett, Jo Connellan

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:** Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the AGM. Moved MOB, seconded JL. A correction was made to the spelling of the name of one of the Kensington Association representatives, Rilke.

## **BUSINESS ARISING:**

1. FoMPC/Community planting Day M80 Upgrade site Sept 8th Report (SB). Stella reported it was a very successful and well organized event, starting with Colin Hunter welcoming participants to country. There were 700 plants put in by approximately 40 people including FoMPC, Sydney Tulla employees and family members. Special mention was made of the delicious spit roast lunch provided! SB also reported that the rocks have been placed near the new ponds and some planting of grasses has taken place.
2. Enquiry re: M80 Upgrade Works- Bioretention Pond. Emails from Matthew Kaminis, Tulla Sydney Alliance, June 1<sup>st</sup> and Jesse Barrett, Melbourne Water Sept 17<sup>th</sup> were passed around. KT summed up their contents by saying that the process appears to be very well thought through and that they have detailed processes in place to minimize threats to the wetlands ponds in the event of a toxic spill on the Ring Road.
3. Update: Removal of willows from creek near Oak Park
4. Update: Bike path link across Mc Laughlin's land. There was nothing to report except that AS is trying to get some action from the ARUP consultants via Janet Rice at Hume City Council.
5. Kensington Association Festival Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. KT suggested we just need to keep in contact through David and Rilke Muir.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** VA tabled the details of the accounts and summarised by saying that the financial position has not changed since the last meeting. He indicated that there had been distribution of the interest monies (\$600) from the Thomson Fund to the Glenroy Secondary College, Pascoe Vale Girls, John Fawkner Secondary College and Mercy College (\$150 each). The \$1500 Community Grant has not as yet been received. Moved VA Seconded BS

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Department of Sustainability and Environment: Invitation to attend a public information session on draft Victorian Waterway Management Strategy November 22<sup>nd</sup> Michael Chamberlain Lecture Theatre, St Vincent's Hospital 29 Victoria Parade Fitzroy 4-6pm. Register: [www.water.vic.gov.au](http://www.water.vic.gov.au)

2. Michelle Gooding emailed with details of the proposed project plan in the Strathnaver/Boeing Reserve area, including a plant list, for comment.
3. **Jesse Barratt emails**
4. **Sydney Tulla Alliance re toxic spill control procedures**
5. Information from Melbourne Water about upcoming frog census Oct/Nov2012 and April/Aug 2013. More information: [www.frogs.melbournewater.com.au](http://www.frogs.melbournewater.com.au)
6. Moonee Valley Council Environment Update notice:MINTI and FSNLC Spring Festival at 28 Farnham Street Flemington Neighbourhood House. Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup> 11-2pm

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

1. Frank Kinnersley was nominated and accepted the position of Vice President of FoMPC. Nominated CL Seconded VA
  2. Moonee Valley 2013 Community Grant: report of on-site visit, Strathnaver/Boeing Reserve. A successful on-site visit was held. The site for the planting was identified and some appropriate plant species suggested. SB pointed out these are mainly understorey species. KO has asked Brian Bainbridge to peruse the list and comment in time for FoMPC to submit an order to Ian Taylor/Western Plains Flora by the end of the month.
  3. 'Old Ford'/Nursery Corner, Strathmore-Melbourne Water/Moreland Council Corridors of Green grant application 2013. Email from Jesse Barrett Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> circulated. The gist of the email was that Melbourne Water is sympathetic to the plan proposed for revegetation along this section of the creek.
  4. Update re: Airport Community and Stakeholder Group. JL indicated that there was nothing to report as the October meeting of this group had been cancelled. The next meeting will be April 2013.
  5. Update re: Airport/Operations Road frog habitat rehabilitation. Anna reported that the frog habitat including an area of 2 metre high reeds had been removed with the mowing of the area. The lack of care in mowing and the need for environment training for council workers was raised. KT will be writing to the Airport authorities regarding this matter.
6. Report on Dame Phyllis Frost gift of 1000 Acacia implexas. In recognition of the valuable work done by the participants (under the guidance of Judy Allen) in the propagation of these plants, it was decided to present the group with an appropriate book. Moved SB Seconded JL. Judy Allen and KO to decide on the book. The idea of a planting day with this group was raised.
7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**
1. VA reported that he has joined the Strathmore Community Garden, that it is in operation with beds planted out and that an active group is developing. He put forward a proposition that FoMPC donate \$250 to the group. This was agreed to by the meeting.
  2. AL brought up an issue on behalf of an elderly neighbour whose property backs onto the creek near Albion Street. Trees have been planted on her land at her

back fence and she is concerned as they are growing taller that they may fall on her house. The Council will not do anything as they are on her land (even though outside her back fence). The planters are unknown. Brunswick SW Planters to be asked if they know anything. It was concluded that she can arrange for them to be cut since they are on her property.

3. SB mentioned that AL was announced at an awards night on October 12<sup>th</sup> as a winner of a Spirit of Moonee Valley Award-Meritorious Award. She was congratulated by the meeting for this achievement.
4. KT offered to have the Christmas get together at his new address in Pascoe Vale. It was suggested by the meeting that people 'bring a plate'

Meeting closed 6.45pm

**NEXT MEETING:** At the home of Kelvin Thompson on Friday December 21<sup>st</sup> from 5.30pm.

## **GENERAL MEETING Friday December 21, 2012, 5:30-7pm**

PRESENT: Kelvin Thomson (KT), Kaye Oddie (KO), Vince Aitkin (VA), Stella Blay (SB), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Carolyn Layton (CL), Bob Steadman (BS), Tony Smith (AS), Joe Ficarra (JF), Terry Mundy (TM), Peter Flanagan (PF).

APOLOGIES: Julie Law, Bronwyn Riddell, Jesse Barrett, Anna Lanigan (late arrival; name to be removed from attendance list).

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of the General Meeting held on October 26 were accepted as an accurate record. Moved FK; seconded VA; carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

### **1. Kensington Festival**

This will be held on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013. For details, check Kensington Association website [www.kensingtonassociation.org.au](http://www.kensingtonassociation.org.au).

### **2. Update on Moonee Valley Council Sustainability Grant Project – Horseshoe Bend, Strathmore**

KO reported that the Western Plains Flora plant list was finalised (500 plants) and ordered; contractors (Haas and Gray) have been engaged to prepare the site with preliminary spraying, dig planting holes and undertake a follow-up spraying. Planting day confirmed as May 25<sup>th</sup> 2013. KO moved a motion that the Committee decision taken to allocate approx. \$81 from FoMPC funds to meet the funding costs be ratified. Seconded BS. Motion accepted.

### **3. Old Ford (Oak Park) Project (opp Nursery Corner, Strathmore)**

Following an initial on site meeting earlier this year, this project was deemed too large cost wise to be eligible for a Melbourne Water Community Grant (max grant size \$20,000), so Lori Arthur (Natural Resource Management Officer, Moreland City Council) consulted with Jesse Barrett (River Health Officer – River Health West, Melbourne Water) with and a decision made to apply for 'Corridors of Green' funding. These are joint council/Melbourne Water initiatives, however the FoMPC would be involved in the community planting aspects. The timeline is firming and includes the removal of the exotic elms from the Creek embankment in Feb/Mar '13. This will be followed by mulching, with a proposed planting involving local schools, FoMPC and community around July/August. KO will research information from an MMBW archival document on loan from Melbourne Water, for an interpretation sign regarding the works relating to the Old Ford site.

TREASURERS REPORT:

VA tabled the details of the accounts and mentioned that the Thomson school grants had been paid. KT personally visited three of the schools with the cheques. Moved KT; Seconded AS; report accepted.



## CORRESPONDENCE:

### 1. **MVCC Planning Scheme Review**

City of Moonee Valley are reviewing their planning scheme and are inviting input from community groups. They have invited 2 FoMPC members to attend an 'innovative and interactive' workshop on Jan 24<sup>th</sup> 2013, 6.30-8.30pm at Clock Tower Centre. KO and AS volunteered to attend and be involved in looking at the Council's Local Planning Policy Framework and specifically, the Municipal Strategic Statement.

### 2. **Environmental Partnership Plan (BR)**

Application for involvement for the next round has passed, but it was suggested that this be considered again in 2013.

### 3. **Moonee Valley Festival**

MVCC (Michelle Gooding) information regarding the Moonee Valley Festival to be held on Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 2013. Interest from FoMPC sought in setting up a display to complement the local wildlife display planned by MVCC. Date: Feb 24<sup>th</sup>. Suggestions were made for possible inclusion in a FoMPC display included: Ponderings issues, plans for the Creek, before/after images of planting sites, Frog watch info and Water Watch activity. KO pointed out that the display would require members to staff any display and called for expressions of interest. CL and FK volunteered. Any further ideas or expressions of interest in assisting to contact KO.

### 4. **Landcare/Jemena Revegetation Project**

Correspondence received from Landcare (Jenny Knox, Partnerships & Project Development Manager) regarding FoMPC assistance in a revegetation project being sponsored by Jemena energy infrastructure company and Landcare Australia. This is envisaged as a longer-term project to build a sustainable relationship with a park or reserve in Jemena's distribution area. Jemena staff members, Friends groups and local community would be involved. Site is along Moonee Ponds Creek, on Melbourne Airport land adjoining Woodlands Historic Park. FoMPC interest in being involved is sought; also advice about plant species selection. KO to follow up with the Landcare's Jenny Knox and to contact Friends of Woodlands Historic Park.

### 5. **Mt. Alexander Secondary College**

SB: At her recent attendance at the Moonee Valley Community Grant Awards where she represented FoMPC and along with the other 82 grant recipients received a certificate. At this event a representative from Mt Alexander College (Ex Debney Park) approached her regarding their keen interest in involving their students in planting and other creek activities. KO has subsequently been in contact with Meg Dunley and put forward suggestions for student involvement in planting and other activities near their local section of the Creek and beyond in 2013.

### 6. **Travancore Park Feasibility and Path Options Study**

Feedback from FoMPC was sought on a proposed new shared path along the Creek at Travancore Park. There are safety concerns for cyclists using the concrete channel apron, which Melbourne Water wants to close off for safety reasons. The existing shared path through the Park is narrow with poor sight lines and presents conflict with the dog off-leash area. Two options were proposed for a new path (1) at the top of the Creek embankment and (2) set approx. 20m inside the park. Decision likely to be made in favour of the path being placed on the top of the embankment, where existing fence will provide separation from dog off-leash area; this option will result in no parkland being excised for the new path. Melbourne Water's long-term aim is to introduce measures to help 'naturalise' the Creek in the environs of the extensive concreted sections, but unfortunately this is unlikely to involve removal of the concrete apron in this part of the Creek.

7. **Strathmore Community Gardens** passed on their thanks for the recent FoMPC donation and indicated it will be used in projects such as the involvement of a local Primary School to create artworks at the site.

Correspondence was accepted; moved TM; seconded TA.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

8. AS reported that SP Ausnet will be upgrading their West Melbourne Terminal, which is close to the MP Creek near Kensington. They are keen to improve the site and make it more compatible with the Creek. Input has been sought from the MPCCC.
9. FK reported that the Creek Path by the M80 Ring Road is due to open before Christmas.
10. SB raised the issue of littering of the Creek caused by plastic pay and display parking tickets. She has surveyed the problem and written to various relevant organisations and has been told by the City Of Melbourne that they will be trialling paper versions of the tickets. There were points made about the pros and cons of tickets when technology exists already to digitalise the information.
11. In relation to the above issue, favourable mention was made of a good citizen named 'John Smith' who for many years in his own time routinely collects and bags large amounts of litter from the lower reaches of the Creek. The FoMPC has taken over the role of co-ordinating collection (formerly MPCCC) by the City of Melbourne (and previously VicTrack?). KO suggested John's work and MCC's role be recognised, perhaps in Ponderings article.
12. KT reported that he had put in a submission to the Melbourne Water Healthy Water Strategy. He made recommendations partly based on an impressive storm water cleaning and storage project he recently visited in Salisbury (Adelaide). KO reported she attended the launch of the State Government's draft Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 'Improving Our Waterways', for which the above Melbourne Water strategy will be a contributing part.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. VA reported on his recent 13-day bike ride along a rail trail between Pittsburgh and Washington in the US and commented on the positive impact on communities along the trail of being given access to the rail reserve to grow food and revegetate. Some discussion of the differences in attitudes towards volunteering in USA compared with Australia.
2. KT expressed his thanks to all members of the FoMPC for their various contributions to the group during the year.
3. Kelvin and Kerrie were thanked for welcoming the group to their new home for the meeting and the End-of Year gathering that followed and for their wonderful hospitality.

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

## GENERAL MEETING Friday May 3, 2013, 5:30pm

**Present:** Frank Kinnersley (FK), Stella Blay (SB), Kaye Oddie (KO), Kelvin Thomson (KT), Mark O'Brien (MO'B), Anna Lanigan (AL), Bob Steadman (BS), Sarah Ambrogio (Save Moonee Ponds)

**Apologies:** Carolyn Layton, Tony Smith, Jo Connellan, Zoe Jellie, Tara Howard, Elissa Simmons

**Minutes** of meeting held on March 1, 2013 were approved (MOB/BS)

### Business arising from the Minutes:

- Report on Airport Stakeholders meeting, April 10<sup>th</sup> - held over to next meeting.
- Report on Landcare/Jemena/Woodlands Historic Park Project/Community Day on – Stella Blay reported on the very successful event, which included site preparation with kangaroo and rabbit-proof fencing and weeding undertaken during the morning by Jemena employees, followed by the wider community event with lunch and many activities; over 600-700 people attended. FoMPC reps displayed 'before'/'after' photos of revegetation along the Moonee Ponds Creek, assisted with Landcare's information stand and with the planting arranged by Friends of Woodlands. The planting of the site is planned for August/September.

Landcare and Jemena generously made a donation of \$1500 to the FoMPC as expression of appreciation for our participation and assistance on the day. The meeting expressed unanimous appreciation for the donation and resolved that a formal letter of thanks be written to Landcare/ Jemena.

- FoMPC website – defer to next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** held over to next meeting.

### Correspondence:

- Letter sent to Melbourne Water's former River Health Officer, Jesse Barrett on his secondment to another division.
- Letter sent to MVCC Michelle Gooding with thanks and feedback on the MVCC Festival
- Letter sent to Nina Eason with thanks for generously printing extra copies of *Ponderings* for FoMPC stands at Moonee Valley Festival and Landcare/Woodlands day.
- Letter from teacher at Jacana School for Autism regarding planting project involvement.
- Letter sent to Tara Howard, River Health Officer, Melbourne Water re vehicular and mountain bike damage to upper Moonee Ponds Creek, environs former McLaughlins land. Reply that TH will be investigating, making an on-site visit with Julie Law and talking with Parks Vic.

### General Business:

**FoMPC Community Planting Day, Horseshoe Bend**, Strathmore Heights on Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12noon. Stella and Anna offered to organise light refreshments for participants and to liaise with Michelle Gooding re arrangements on the day. Stella also offered to prepare a map of the planting site and how to access it, for distribution to FoMPC membership, and calling for their assistance on the day. Kelvin will place advertisement re this and other community plantings in local newspaper that is distributed to the nearby area.

**Community Planting Day at the JP Fawkner Reserve, Oak Park/'Old Ford' site** will be on Sunday July 14, 10am-12noon. This is the site of a Corridors of Green project by Melbourne Water and Moreland City Council, in which the extensive, quite tall elm suckers will be removed and the area replanted with

indigenous species. The history of the bluestone ford across the Creek is being investigated by KO from a document provided by Melbourne Water. The ford is likely to have been part of hydrological measures undertaken in the 1950-60s to address flood waters scouring the creek bed.

**M80/Western Ring Road new shared path.** FK spoke of concerns he has raised with Hume Council about the unsatisfactory moulded joints, rather than recommended sawn joints, in the new sections of the recently reopened shared path and suggestion for rectification. No reply to date.

**Save Moonee Ponds.** Vice President, Sarah Ambrogio spoke to the meeting about the redevelopment of the Moonee Valley Racecourse (see [www.savemooneeponds.com](http://www.savemooneeponds.com) and [www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mvrc](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mvrc)), in which the grandstand will be relocated and 17 new buildings, ranging up to 25 storeys, are proposed; reformatting traffic in the area; potential impacts on water table and the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor. It was noted that the tall CityLink sound wall is located between the racecourse and the Creek, which would mitigate impacts on the Creek side. Proposal has generated much local opposition. A number of aspects regarding the proposal are currently being assessed through Minister for Planning with outcomes scheduled for July '13. FK suggested that relocation of the shared path to the other side of the Creek as part of MVRC redevelopment could have a number of advantages. KT asked for FoMPC to be added to the Save Moonee Ponds information email list and thanked SA for speaking to the meeting and describing the proposal and impacts in greater detail.

**West Melbourne Electricity Terminal Upgrade.** SB described the proposal for upgrading this major CBD electricity supply terminal, which will see quite a few new architecturally designed buildings, enclosing electricity infrastructure, located along the Creek boundary. The existing buildings and infrastructure are located closer to Lloyd St and it is not possible to replace them in situ and maintain electricity supply. New landscaping will therefore be along the Lloyd St frontage. KO expressed concern about the proximity of the built structures close to the Creek and possible detrimental impacts. The permit application by SP AusNet ([www.sp-ausnet.com.au](http://www.sp-ausnet.com.au)) is currently being considered by the Melbourne City Council.

**Travencore Shared Path Update.** KO relayed that the location for the new shared path had been decided – this would be along the top of the Creek embankment, not through the park itself. There was significant local opposition to the path through the narrow park, in addition to Moonee Valley Council opposition. The reason for the path proposal was because of the cyclist danger of drainage flowing across the concrete apron of the Creek and Melbourne Water's intention to close off its use. A new fence will be erected between the new path and the park, to better address the conflicts between pedestrians, dogs and cyclists.

**City of Moreland Community Plan Workshops** – May 16, 21 & 29 – information to be emailed to FoMPC membership.

**Other business:**

- Thanks were expressed to Stella Blay for, once again, expertly producing a very interesting and informative Ponderings (Autumn 2013 issue).
- AL announced that Birdlife Australia is seeking volunteers to assist with bird counts in waterways and wetlands. Contact is Chris Purnell at Birdlife Australia.
- FK raised a housekeeping matter regarding the Post Office Box that Rail Trails Australia shares with FoMPC, and that RTA members kindly undertake the forwarding of FoMPC mail to FoMPC office bearers. Therefore it would be appreciated if internal FoMPC correspondence could be sent directly to FoMPC Secretary, not via the PO Box, to lessen the task of RTA/non-FoMPC members. KO to provide printed stickers to assist in readdressing FoMPC mail.

## GENERAL MEETING Friday July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 5:30pm

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson (KT), Mark O'Brien (MOB), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Kaye Oddie (KO), Vince Aitkin (VA), Stella Blay (SB), Anna Lanigan (AL), Tony Smith (AS), David Muir (Kensington Association), Julie Law (JL), Bob Steadman (BS), Bill Watson (BW), Carolyn Layton (CL), Audrey Biggs (AB), Clive Judd (CJ)

**APOLOGIES:** Christine Campbell, Terry Mundy, Colleen Hartland, Elissa Simmons

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 were accepted. Moved SB; seconded KO.

### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

1. JL reported on the Airport Stakeholders meeting April 11<sup>th</sup>. The draft Master Plan ([http://melbourneairport.com.au/docs/MasterPlan\\_2013\\_PreliminaryDraft\\_s3\\_Process.pdf](http://melbourneairport.com.au/docs/MasterPlan_2013_PreliminaryDraft_s3_Process.pdf)) is now available for comment – submissions close July 18 (email to [community@melair.com.au](mailto:community@melair.com.au)). There has been much development around the airport e.g. Essendon Football Club, classified as an industrial site. The last water quality test results of airport run-off were ok except for a spike in zinc in Moonee Ponds Creek. There is a trial of new 'spelt' filters being carried out by a water biologist. There is apparently no monitoring of sedimentation impacts. AL raised issue of airport noise as part of the Master Plan review.
2. SB reported on the Horseshoe Bend community planting day May 25<sup>th</sup>. It was a very successful and enjoyable event with perfect weather and approx. 20 planters (including the 1st Strathmore Cubs, current FoMPC members and James and Diana Connell, who are former members and were heavily involved in instigating the original planting on this site). Approximately 600 plants, a mixture of shrubs and smaller ground covers were planted. Everyone present enjoyed the lunch provided. KT formally thanked Stella on behalf of FoMPC for organising the lunch. KO to send a formal thank you letter to Michelle Gooding, Ian Taylor, Rosie, from Haas & Gray, for their contributions.
3. The planned John St Reserve, Oak Park planting on June 29 was postponed to Sept due to delays in site preparation; it was noted that the private carport on the Reserve has been removed. VA raised issue of the encroachment of the private property's fence into Parks Victoria land abutting the Creek; VA to draft letter to Parks Vic, enclosing copies of old MMBW maps.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

VA tabled the report and highlighted the balance in the accounts (\$22,401 in main accounts and \$10,636 in Thomson Scholarship Fund) as well as the major incomings and outgoings. VA proposed the report be accepted and that this year there be 4 Thomson Scholarships at \$150 each. Moved VA, Seconded SB. Following this KO proposed that the amount of \$152.69 spent in excess of the amount received from the MVCC Community Grant for the Horseshoe Bend planting be taken from the FoMPC main account. Moved KO, Seconded VA. Membership renewals now due; notices to be sent out with next meeting notification.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter of thanks (20/5/13) sent to Landcare Aust/Jemena for their donation to FoMPC.
- Email (26/6/13) from Grant Godden, Northern Community NRM Coordinator/Regional Landcare Facilitator, notifying 6 months leave from PPWCMA; new co-ordinator in August.
- Email (28/6/13) notifying new Western Region River Health Officer, Rebecca (Bec) Lillie, (tel 9679-7252 [Rebecca.Lillie@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:Rebecca.Lillie@melbournewater.com.au)) replacing Tara Howard who is transferring to land management section of Melbourne Water.
- Email notifying Lori Arthur, Moreland City Council, on maternity leave from July 5; replacement as Natural Resource Management Officer is Vince Andreana ([VAndreana@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:VAndreana@moreland.vic.gov.au)).

Moved: KO, Seconded CJ.

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. AS in his role as President of MPCCC reported on a presentation to the 4 Councils along the Creek about their on-going support for the MPCCC. This included an outline of the 7 main objectives of the MPCCC and also mention of funding being sought from the Councils as well as a proposal for a staff member to be provided one day per week, rotating on an annual basis around the 4 councils.
2. Birdlife Australia: AL reported that FoMPC has been given a log-in to this site to add bird data in the group sightings area of the website. She plans to put an article in Ponderings encouraging people to get involved in passing on bird sightings. After some discussion about contact security issues it was suggested that Anna check with Birdlife Australia before passing on the log-in details. For more information contact AL on [alanigan@optusnet.com.au](mailto:alanigan@optusnet.com.au).

## OTHER BUSINESS:

1. John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve planting ready to go this coming Sunday from 10-12noon (Melways 16 F7). Corridors of Green project - Melbourne Water and Moreland Council. Large stand of Elm suckers have been removed, weed control completed and mulch laid on the verge ready for the planting.
2. Assistance called for Moreland Council's National Tree Day planting on July 26<sup>th</sup> with Oak Park Primary School at JP Fawkner Reserve. VA, JL, BS, KO, SB. KO to forward details of time and meeting place when received.
3. Landcare /Jemena/Woodlands planting scheduled for Friday September 20<sup>th</sup>. Call for FoMPC members to assist (SB, JL, KO); also names of those with First Aid Certificates.
4. MVCC 2014 Community Grants. Applications close 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013. KO has had preliminary discussion with Michelle Gooding about another site within the Horseshoe Bend area that has been highlighted as worthy of a grant application. KO and MOB to work on submission. KO also mentioned next year Michelle will be working half time on her current work while she prepares the MVCC Urban Ecology strategy; FK mentioned that an assistant will be appointed to assist Michelle in her conservation/ranger work.
5. Arden-Macaulay Heritage Review/Moonee Ponds Creek. KO reported on a submission sent on behalf of FoMPC, highlighting that only the water body of the Creek is proposed for heritage listing, instead of the wider creek corridor.
6. Regional Rail Link: City to Maribyrnong River. KO reported on her contacting Regional Rail Link community officer, Dave Christy, regarding the opportunity for undertaking revegetation near the RRL works, just upstream of Dynon Rd Bridge. Meeting with FoMPC reps on-site on July 18, 3pm.
7. KT raised the issue of the area downstream from Footscray Road and highlighted the need for a planting plan for this part of the Creek, following somewhat ad hoc treatment of the Creek in this area in the past. Mention was made of the challenges in identifying one 'responsible authority' in this area (known responsible authorities include Port of Melbourne Corporation, Places Victoria, City of Melbourne).
8. KO mentioned that the FoMPC has been approached by CityLink landscape officer, David Reeves, regarding revegetation of land along the freeway between Bulla Road and Bell Street. A meeting has been arranged for Wed July 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, venue to be advised (contact KT, FK, MOB, AL, KO). FK asked that the recommended Bicycle Australia 1m clearances for vegetation along paths be emphasised.
9. East-West Link. Images were tabled showing the route of the proposed East-West Link through Royal Park and across the Creek. There was information sharing on the likely areas of the Park and Creek to be impacted, the political realities and uncertain funding model, and deep concern expressed about the project. AL mentioned the visiting Californian students and the 5-year environmental surveys of the Wetlands that had been set up. Doubt was expressed about the value of the project in solving traffic congestion or that there would be a significant return on the investment compared with less costly and less destructive alternatives such as the metro rail tunnel. KT summed up the feeling of the meeting

when he said "I can't imagine how this (project) could be done without massive damage to Royal Park". AS proposed a motion 'That FoMPC oppose the E-W Link because of its unacceptable impact on Royal Park and the Moonee Ponds Creek and that we pursue this as vigorously as possible'. Moved AS, Seconded SB.

10. SB announced that there will be potentially 10,000 plants available to groups for planting courtesy of Judy Allen/Dame Phyllis Frost Centre. Contact Stella if you are interested. More information will be available on plant species later. It was suggested Judy Allen should contact Councils directly as they organise much of the community planting projects.
11. SB is planning a series of occasional articles in Ponderings on 'Gems of the Creek' and encouraged people to send in articles on their favourite spots.
12. VA reported that all plots in the Strathmore Community Gardens had been leased and that growing is going well. However, an issue has arisen with break-ins and theft of property.
13. VA also reported that unauthorised motor bike access down the embankment of the John Street Reserve has been brought to the attention of Vince Andreana (Lori Arthur's replacement), Moreland Council, who will be involved in implementing the revegetation plans for this reserve later in the year. There is agreement that plans will also need to ensure that motor bike and vehicle use of the area is discouraged and prevented.

#### **NOTICES:**

Community Plantings:

- National Tree Day: Sun July 28, 10am-12:30pm, Trestle Bridge, Adelaide Blvd, Gowanbrae (Melways 16 C3)
- National Tree Day: Sun July 28, 10am-1pm, The Tarnuk, end Wright St, Westmeadows (Melways 5 G6)
- Sat Aug 24, 10am-12noon, Moonee Ponds Creek opposite Circular Rd, Westmeadows (Melways 6 B8)
- Sat Aug 24, 2-4pm, Braddy/Denzil Don Reserve, Victoria St, Brunswick (Melways 29 B6)

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

Annual General Meeting followed by General Meeting. Friday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 5.30pm at Kelvin Thompson's Office, 3 Munro Street, Coburg. A special item for the AGM will be acceptance of the new Model Rules, revised under the Incorporated Associations Reform Act 2012, see

[http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/Web\\_Notes/LDMS/LTObject\\_Store/LTObjSt7.nsf/DDE300B846EED9C7CA257616000A3571/B4E26488231AB2BCCA257ABC001D570D/\\$FILE/12-128sra001%20authorised.pdf](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/LDMS/LTObject_Store/LTObjSt7.nsf/DDE300B846EED9C7CA257616000A3571/B4E26488231AB2BCCA257ABC001D570D/$FILE/12-128sra001%20authorised.pdf).

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013, 5:30pm

**Present:** Stella Blay, Joe Ficarra, Julie Law, Carolyn Layton, David Muir, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Bob Steadman, Kelvin Thomson

Three proxies were held in support of the Special Resolution.

**Apologies:** Vince Aitkin, Christine Campbell, Roger Exell, Frank Kinnersley, Terry Mundy, Mark O'Brien

**Observers:** RMIT University Landscape Architecture students: Kyle Bush, Huannguan Lu, Rajiv Bhageerutty

## Minutes of the 2012 AGM

It was resolved that the minutes of the 2012 AGM be accepted; proposed TS, seconded DM; passed.

## President's Report

The President (KT) described the past year as being a productive one, with new plantings along the Creek and other areas previously planted flourishing. Support for the Horseshoe Bend planting was made possible through a Community Grant from the Moonee Valley Council and Melbourne Water/Moreland Council Corridors of Green funding supported the revegetation project at JP Fawkner Reserve. The Friends once again participated in Clean-up Australia Day at a number of points along the Creek. The path through the Creek corridor is very popular with joggers, walkers and cyclists. The Friends group continues to have considerable community goodwill and the President thanked all those who have worked over the past 12 months on its behalf. In looking forward, a major concern is the proposed East West Link and the impacts on the lower areas around the Creek, in Flemington and Kensington.

A resolution to accept the President's report was moved TS/seconded DM/passed.

## Financial Report

The Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2013 was presented by the President on behalf of the Treasurer. The operating surplus for the Group was \$2624.70, which relates in the main to as yet unexpended funds from Grants received during the year, including a donation of \$1500 from Landcare. Total funds held were \$33028.75 (of which \$10,626.91 is the Thomson Scholarship Fund).

A resolution to accept the Treasurer's report was moved KO/seconded BS/passed.

## Special Resolution

To consider and if thought fit pass the following resolution:

*"That the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc adopt as its Rules in place of its existing Rules, the Model Rules which are contained in the Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012."*

It was moved that the special resolution be accepted (Tony Smith); seconded (David Muir); passed (unanimously).

## Election of Office Bearers 2013-2014

Single nominations were received for all office bearer positions and they were declared elected as follows:

President	Kelvin Thomson
Vice President	Frank Kinnersley
Treasurer	Vince Aitkin



Secretary & Public Officer

Kaye Oddie

Minutes Secretary

Carolyn Layton

Delegates to the Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee:

Stella Blay, Frank Kinnersley, Julie Law, Tony Smith

Alternates: Jo Connellan, Joe Ficarra, Terry Mundy, Kaye Oddie

The AGM was declared closed and a General Meeting followed.

Kaye Oddie

Secretary

## GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013

**Present:** Stella Blay, Joe Ficarra, Julie Law, Carolyn Layton, David Muir, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Bob Steadman, Kelvin Thomson

Three proxies were held in support of the Special Resolution.

**Apologies:** Vince Aitkin, Christine Campbell, Roger Exell, Frank Kinnersley, Terry Mundy, Mark O'Brien

**Minutes:** Minutes of previous meeting were accepted. Moved: KO Seconded SB.

**Treasurer's Report:** See Treasurer's report as presented to AGM. Moved CL Seconded JF Carried.

### General Business:

1. An update was given on the MVCC Community Grant received for the revegetation at Horseshoe Bend carried out this year. A 2014 MVCC Community Grant for \$2700 has been applied for with the assistance of Michelle Gooding, to continue the improvement in habitat and biodiversity in this area. The result of this application will be known by the end of October.
2. MVCC Heritage Gap Study. Council is calling for people to nominate buildings of possible heritage significance to be included in this study.
3. Jemena/Landcare/Woodlands Project. Another successful day was held on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> with 20+ Jemema staff, FoMPC members, Friends of Woodlands Historic Park, Landcare and Parks Victoria staff completing the project with rabbit/kangaroo proof fencing of the two plots and planting 260 plants within them. This was followed by a lunch hosted by the FoWHP.
4. CityLink Vegetation Renewal: FoMPC were contacted by Transurban/CityLink regarding the renewal of vegetation along the Tullamarine Freeway near Bulla Road. A small section was been completed in the spring planting period; this will be part of an ongoing project along the freeway.
5. Regional Rail Link—City to Maribyrnong River landscaping environs the Creek/Dynon Road Bridge: Meetings, including an on-site visit, have been held with John Holland the construction contractors for this section of the RRL regarding revegetation alongside the Creek and Capital City Trail path. A number of issues need resolving, including site ownership, landscaping, suitable plant selection and FoMPC involvement in a community planting.
6. Montessori Kindergarten, Brunswick West, 'Small Green Steps' project. The kindergarten is currently under construction in Wales St, Brunswick West, adjacent to the Brunswick West Primary School. The lowland site is close to the former Melville Creek (tributary of the Moonee Ponds Creek), but long enclosed in a deep drain. Landscaping plans will incorporate a rain garden to reflect the creek connection; also native plants respecting the Moonee Ponds Creek plants as well as fruit gardens.
7. Port of Melbourne Corporation-Victoria Dock Rehabilitation. FoMPC members were invited to learn about the proposed demolition of part of the old Victoria Dock, which will require barge crossings of the Creek at its intersection with the Yarra River. Some fencing-off of the area will be required during the 3 month project. No vegetated areas will be impacted.
8. East-West Link: Some discussion of the plans and concerns were expressed. KT suggested that a walk be held to enable people to see what it will look like 'on the ground'. The offer by David Muir (Kensington Association) to develop a walk for FoMPC members. Date set for Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 am. Meeting place: Flemington Community Centre.

9. Upper Moonee Ponds Creek: Damage to Creek environs former McLaughlin's Land/now Airport Corporation. An on-site inspection of the damage to the upper Moonee Ponds Creek area above will be held with Melbourne Water and FoMPC members. Damage is occurring through illegal access and by 4-WDs and motor bikes with an extensive bike jump area constructed close to the Creek. This section of the Creek retains its natural attributes of landform and vegetation and is situated between Woodlands Historic Park and the Tarnuk, so important to ensure it is protected.

**Other Business:**

MPCCC Report: AS announced the AGM to be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> and the guest speaker from the Linking Melbourne Authority. He extended an invitation to all to attend the meeting and take the opportunity to ask questions about East–West Link and put views to their representative. KT encouraged attendees to express strongly the view that it is not okay to trash the Moonee Ponds Creek and Royal Park. AS reported that demands on the MPCCC had grown (for example an increase in the number of plans asked to respond to) and that councils really do need to put in and support. KO suggested FoMPC and MPCCC share the load. AS commented on the excellent article written by Stella in *Ponderings* on East West Link which was picked up by the local newspaper, *North and West Melbourne News*.

**Next Meeting:** Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup> 5.30pm, 3 Munro Street, Coburg

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

# GENERAL MEETING Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2013

held at Kelvin Thomson's offices, 3 Munro St, Coburg

**Present:** Kelvin Thomson (KT), Anna Lanigan (AL), Julie Law (JL), Kaye Oddie (KO), Carolyn Layton (CL), Frank Kinnersley (FK), Peter Flanagan, David Muir (DM), Bob Steadman (BS), Mark O'Brien (MO'B), Stella Blay (SB), Tony Smith (TS), Russell Smith (RS), Deborah Riley (DR), Dianna Wells (DW).

**Apologies:** Terry Mundy, Vince Aitkin, Zoe Jellie

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Sept 20, 2013 - accepted as accurate record of the meeting. Moved DM, Seconded CL.

**Treasurer's Report:** Held over to next meeting. KO sought approval for expenditure of \$31.95 on copying expenses for Arden-Macaulay Heritage Review Amendment C207 - Planning Panels Victoria presentation. Moved FK, Seconded BS.

## Agenda Items:

### 1. Moonee Valley Sustainable Environment Community Grant

Kaye Oddie reported that the FoMPC has been awarded a 2014 Moonee Valley Council Sustainable Environment Community Grant for \$2000. This is for further revegetation in the Horseshoe Bend area. This will be close to the 2013 MVCC Grant site which a working bee recently finished off with mulching. There will be an on-site meeting with MVCC's Michelle Gooding and Rosie Haas (Haas & Gray, site preparation contractor) on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 4pm, to finalise project details.

A presentation ceremony for the 2014 Grant will be held on Dec 5, 2013 at the MVCC Civic Centre. Kaye has been asked to make short presentation about our 2013 project.

### 2. Essendon Airport Master Plan

Kelvin Thomson indicated that he has been following and involved in the Airport's Master Plan. Run-off issues have been raised regularly in discussions with City of Moonee Valley, in particular, the need to reduce the amount of run-off and to treat it better before discharge into the Creek. Frank Kinnersley raised the issue of access to the Airport land for cyclists and walkers as was promised before any commercial development. Kelvin to follow up. Kaye queried whether retro fitting of solar panels and storm water harvesting is planned.

### 3. Moonee Valley Planning Scheme Review - Amendment C134

A workshop will be held on Nov 24<sup>th</sup>. Meeting was advised that individuals can also go on-line and make submissions by December 13<sup>th</sup>. It was pointed out that MVC Council has to consider all submissions and there was encouragement to make a submission.

### 4. Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C207 - Arden-Macaulay Heritage Precinct - Moonee Ponds Creek

FoMPC earlier written submission to the City of Melbourne was followed up by presentation at Planning Panels Victoria hearings, held Nov 18-22. In response to FoMPC written submission, Moonee Ponds Creek heritage overlay was extended beyond the waterway to include the embankments and the flood walls and the bridges and other structures in the Creek corridor.

Heritage significance was also sought for three remnant River Red Gums south of the Arden St Bridge that had been identified in the heritage report by Meredith Gould and also for five further River Red Gums on the western bank between Racecourse Rd Bridge and Macaulay Rd Bridge. David Muir thanked Kaye for all her work on this submission.

5. 'Plan Melbourne' - State Government Metropolitan Planning Strategy to 2050

Kaye Oddie attended the launch by Planning Minister Mathew Guy and raised the point that 'the Plan will be only as good as VCAT decisions in implementing the strategy'. Information about the strategy can be obtained at [www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au](http://www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au). Submissions can be made online or emailed to [planmelbourne@dtpli.vic.gov.au](mailto:planmelbourne@dtpli.vic.gov.au) by Dec 6.

6. East-West Link Comprehensive Impact Statement

Submissions on the recently released Comprehensive Impact Statement (CIS) for the East West Link project, which would have disastrous impacts for Royal Park and for the Moonee Ponds Creek Corridor between Ascot Vale and Kensington, are due Dec 12<sup>th</sup>.

In reporting about the walk co-run by the FoMPC, Kensington and Flemington Associations on Sun Oct 6, Kelvin spoke positively of the value of the walk in that it gave participants a very good understanding "of just how comprehensively East-West Link trashes Royal Park" and that it should be called the "Royal Park Freeway".

David Muir thanked Kaye Oddie for organising the walk; it has generated a lot of awareness of the impact of EW Link on the Moonee Ponds Creek, and enabled the Flemington Association and Kensington Association to get join in their opposition to the project. The walk benefitted the Kensington Association as well with 5 memberships and a significant donation on the day.

Anna Lanigan has prepared a Flickr album of photographs from the walk and is distributing to various websites.

Tony Smith reported a request to organise a similar walk for further up the creek where newly announced on/off ramps for the project will impact on even more parkland and sports grounds. Kaye has offered to assist with advice for such a walk, but priority needs to be given to preparing the FoMPC submission to the CIS.

Russell Smith raised the issue of a 'World's Best Practice' vision for the western end of the EW link and the Moonee Ponds Creek. He proposed such a vision be developed and presented to the Linking Melbourne Authority (LMA) as a way of resurrecting the Creek. Promote the Creek e.g. as an effective pathway for bird navigation, not just a drain that can be covered with freeway flyovers. Some discussion of the route of the additional lanes over the Creek and factors involved in this decision, mistakes in the planning process including sensitive areas within works boundaries, idea of moving the alignment of the Creek to avoid overshadowing. Russell will draft a submission, in conjunction with FoMPC.

Anna Lanigan is putting in a personal submission on the impact of the EWL on Royal Park's Trin Warren Tam-boore wetlands. It was agreed that her submission could also be made with the support of the FoMPC.

Kelvin requested any sightings of Swifts Parrot and Painted Snipe in the area of the Wetlands be reported as it would help the case via EPBC.

Deborah Riley reported that platypus had been sighted in the Creek, near Arden St Bridge; will forward photo. David Muir strongly advised that any submission have the correct cover sheet as LMA are keen to knock back submissions and no cover sheet is a reason used.

7. Regional Rail Link-City to Maribyrnong River Landscaping Project

The landscaping plan for this piece of land where the new Regional Rail Link crosses the Moonee Ponds Creek, just upstream of the Dynon Road Bridge, is proceeding well. The project is being undertaken as part of RRL-CMR community relations. The Regional Rail Link authority/John Holland Constructions will arrange for the site to be prepared and purchase the plants. Plant selection undertaken in accordance with MPC Planting Guidelines and RRL-CMR landscaper's input. FoMPC will organise the community planting, with support of City of Melbourne open space contractors for equipment. The project will be finalised and signed off by February 2014 with an autumn/winter planting will be set up.

8. Upper Moonee Ponds Creek: Airport/former McLaughlin's Land/Quarry Follow-up

Julie Law and Melbourne Water's Deb Riley reported on the Oct 16<sup>th</sup> Airport Community & Stakeholder's meeting. Airport Master Plan has been finalised and submitted for Ministerial approval.

Water quality monitoring has shown improvements in the quality of water run-off suggesting

the retro instalment of SPEL units has been effective. To protect water quality in Steele Creek, a road redevelopment site in south/centre of airport will have water treatment applied to its run-off.

In regard to the Airport/former McLaughlin's Land/former Quarry site, Julie Law, Kaye Oddie, Stella Blay met on-site with Melbourne Water's Deb Riley and Hannah Pexton on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> to view the vandalism to the Creek by vehicles and the close-by mountain bike jumps<sup>1</sup>. Deb reported there is a quarry rehabilitation plan which must be in conjunction with DPI approval. Ownership and responsibility issues remain to be resolved in relation to the vandalism, mountain bike constructions, access and fencing along the Creek.

9. John Street Reserve, Oak Park

Progress on this revegetation and Creek access project has been delayed, firstly by wet weather and site preparation issues and then by a hold-up with land ownership/property boundaries issues. It was suggested that Carolyn Layton and Vince Aitkin get together with Moreland Council's Vince Andreana to discuss the project and navigate any remaining hurdles.

**Other Business:**

1. Meeting was introduced to Dianna Wells, a Masters student at Monash University, planning an urban photographic project on the Moonee Ponds Creek next year. She is interested in getting to know the Creek and different interest groups as part of the project.
2. Post Office Box and Mail: FoMPC is on notice that it needs to get its own Post Office box after sharing for some time with Railtrails Australia at Oak Park. After some discussion about which post office, Carolyn Layton offered to investigate Essendon P.O. post box availability. Carolyn, Anna Lanigan and Frank Kinnersley offered to be mail collectors.
3. Bob Steadman reported positively about Moonee Valley Council Men's Shed and event held recently that involved a talk by a La Trobe University Wildlife Reserve officer, building bird boxes and a tour of Afton Street Reserve.
4. Congratulations were offered to Anna Lanigan for having one of her photographs accepted for inclusion in the Melbourne Waterways 2014 Calendar.

**Notices:**

---

1. Anna Lanigan advertised a frog calls CD produced by Riddell's Creek Landcare group for sale at \$12; see [www.riddellscreeklandcare.org.au](http://www.riddellscreeklandcare.org.au)
2. Julie Law expressed concern that a parcel of buffer land for the TPI Cleanaway site in Westmeadows is the subject of an application for planning scheme amendment C160 to change it from farming to commercial use. Kaye Oddie offered a letter of support for a submission.
3. Moonee Valley Planning Scheme/Amendment C134 workshop Sun Nov 24, 2-4:30pm, Clocktower Centre, Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds
4. Water Future West Visioning Workshop Nov 26, 9am-12:30pm, Tabcorp Park, 2 Ferris Rd, Melton Sth.
5. Melbourne Water/Fulton Hogan Eco dynamics vegetation works to be undertaken along MP Creek, Five Mile to Primrose St, Dec 2-13.
6. Western Park at Docklands - Information sessions: Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 3-7pm & 7<sup>th</sup>, 10am-2pm, Places Victoria, 710 Collins St, Docklands

**Date of next meeting:** Friday January 31<sup>st</sup> 2014, 5:30pm, venue to be arranged.

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

# GENERAL MEETING Friday, January 31, 2014 5:30pm

Gowanbrae Community Centre, 2A Marigold Crescent, Gowanbrae

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Kaye Oddie, Vince Aitkin, Anna Lanigan, Tony Smith, David Muir, Zoe Jellie, Bob Steadman, Carolyn Layton, Elaine Brogan, Dianna Wells, Frank Kinnersley, Helen van den Berg (Friends of Steele Creek)

**APOLOGIES:** Julie Law, Stella Blay, Edwina Manifold (Melbourne Water), Mark O'Brien, Jeanne Klovdahl, Bill Watson

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Nov 22, 2013): Accepted. Moved David Muir. Seconded: Kaye Oddie

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

4. The issue of access for cyclists to the Essendon Airport from the shared pathway at Boeing Reserve via the pathway constructed for Australia Post has not been followed up as yet. Frank Kinnersley was asked to locate any document(s) that mention the promise made for cyclist access prior to the development of the Australia Post site.
5. Swifts Parrots, the Royal Park wetlands and implications arising from the East-West link. Kelvin Thompson received a reply from the Federal Minister's Secretary which indicated that this probably would not fall within the Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act considerations.
6. The meeting directed Carolyn Layton to arrange and pay for a standard post box for FoMPC at the Essendon Post Office. Carolyn and Anna Lanigan will be the holders of the 2 keys supplied and between them will clear the box weekly. All mail including that that arrives at the previous address will be forward to the Secretary. Frank Kinnersley will continue to forward any mail from the former PO Box at Oak Park.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Vince Aitkin tabled the report and highlighted the balance in the accounts (\$23,721.16 in main accounts and \$11,099.65 in Thomson Scholarship Fund) as well as major incomings and outgoings. Vince proposed the report be accepted. Seconded: Carolyn.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

3. **Update on 2014 MVCC Community Grant-Horseshoe Bend project.** The site inspection in conjunction with MVCC's Michelle Gooding has occurred and the site preparation arranged, and materials and plants ordered. The jute matting will be put down in a FoMPC working bee on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12noon and the FoMPC/community planting will take place on July 6<sup>th</sup> 10am-12noon. Refreshments will be provided.

MVCC held an award ceremony on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> for 2014 community grant winners, at which a Kaye was asked to make a short presentation about FoMPC's 2013 grant project at Horseshoe Bend.



4. **Essendon Airport Preliminary Draft Environment Strategy.** Helen van den Berg (Friends of Steele Creek (FOSC)) reported that the general level of communication of information by the Essendon Airport and the process of public consultation has been far less than adequate. The Friends of Steel Creek have put in a submission to the Draft Environment Strategy as the runoff from the airport has a significant impact on water quality in Steele Creek. There is a lack of confidence in the Essendon Airport's storm water testing. The proposed testing regime in the Draft Strategy (which was prepared without community consultation) is every two years. This compares most unfavourably with monthly testing by Melbourne Water who also suggests that weekly testing is desirable. The Federal government funds an Environment Officer whose responsibility it is to oversee Airport Environmental Plans and the suggestion was made that the officer is not up to date with environment standards; for example: with minimum requirements in water testing. The FoMPC had earlier written a letter supporting the FOSEA submission on the Draft Strategy. It was put to the meeting that another letter be written to Essendon Airport requesting an increase in the frequency of storm water testing to monthly and a general improvement in the provision of information to stakeholders.  
Moved: Helen van den Berg. Seconded: Tony Smith.

5. **Melbourne Airport Business Park Plan.**

Helen van den Berg tabled plans for the development of a green field site on Melbourne airport land in the vicinity of North Steele Creek. The development involves the construction of a 14.8 hectare warehouse over the current site of the Creek, which will be undergrounded and redirected. The plans include loss of 90% of the existing permeable land surface but the storm water will be captured in two retarding basins and used for irrigation. The Friends of Steele Creek support the plans but with reservations about doing both the realignment and construction at once. Proposal: That FoMPC contact the Melbourne Airport to request data on this project and to look into the possible impact on the Moonee Ponds Creek of the works involved in this plan.  
Moved: Kaye Oddie. Seconded: Anna Lanigan.

6. **North Jacana Boardwalk / Waterwatch Catchment Crawl (Cross Keys Reserve to Jacana, end March).**

Anna outlined her idea for a boardwalk of approximately 900 metres between the MP Creek and the Jacana wetlands. Mention was made of a Hume Council Valley Plan and that nothing has appeared to have progressed with that. In the discussion that followed suggestions such as contacting Melbourne Water with the proposal and for assistance with sorting land ownership issues and funding were made. Resolution: This meeting authorises Anna Lanigan to contact Melbourne Water to seek assistance with the development of the idea of a boardwalk in the North Jacana Basin. Moved: Anna Lanigan Seconded: Elaine Brogan.

A Waterwatch Catchment Crawl is being organised for Sat March 29<sup>th</sup>, commencing either at Cross Keys and riding to Jacana or meeting at Jacana. Waterwatch sampling, a guided wetlands walk, morning tea will be part of the event. Bookings required to: Trevor Hausler, Waterwatch Co-ordinator, tel 9380 8109, email [trevor.hausler@mcmc.org.au](mailto:trevor.hausler@mcmc.org.au) .

7. **Moonee Valley Council Call for Ideas.**

The MVCC has called for ideas for community projects and events for consideration in their 2014/2015 budget. Let Kaye Oddie know if you have ideas and/or need support to get an idea up. The meeting was reminded of our participation in this year's MVCC Festival to be held on Sunday Feb 23, 10am-5pm in Queens Park, Moonee Ponds. For further information: <http://mvcc.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/publications/budget.aspx>

8. **Melbourne Planning Scheme Amendment C207 Arden-Macaulay Heritage Precinct-Moonee Ponds Creek-Planning Panels Victoria Report.**

The Panel Report agreed with the FoMPC submission regarding the width of the MP Creek reserve – that its heritage overlay should extend to the flood walls and embankments and include all the structures and works within those boundaries. It was also suggested that the City of Melbourne could put tree controls on the remnant River Red Gums growing along this section of the Creek.

7. **East West Link Update/FoMPC Submission**

David Muir reported that there have been more than 1700 submissions to the East West Link Comprehensive Impact Statement; not a surprising number given the 'shonky' 'on-the-run' planning and level of community dissatisfaction with the whole process. A Directions Hearing was

held on Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, where the Panel submitted a large number of questions to Linking Melbourne Authority (LMA) for further information. In the main hearings to be held in March-April, LMA will have a week to present its case, Councils days and individuals possibly only 3 minutes.

8. **Regional Rail Link – City to Maribyrnong River Landscaping Project**

Meeting was reminded of the FoMPC/community planting day at this site near the Dynon Road Bridge on Saturday morning May 31<sup>st</sup>. RRL-CMR is funding the project with site preparation and supply of plants. City of Melbourne will assist with planting equipment and water tanker on the day.

9. **John Street Reserve Project**

A meeting has been arranged between Vince Andreana (Natural Resource Management Officer, Moreland City Council), Carolyn and Kaye (Vince Aitkin will be away) on site on Monday Feb 10<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm. The purpose of the meeting is for consultation on the plans including landscape design and plantings and to be updated on the current state of the land ownership issues. There will be a planting day on June 15<sup>th</sup> at this site.

10. **Upper Moonee Ponds Creek: Airport/Quarry update**

In the absence of Julie Law, Kaye Oddie reported that the Department of Primary Industry and Environment has not responded to requests to provide a copy or information about the Ecological Management Plan for the former Mitchell-Lasry quarry site to the FoMPC. A suggestion was made that the State Ombudsman be contacted for advice. The meeting was also told that Hume City Council was offered the former quarry site, but the catch was that it would be responsible for cleaning it up.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. **Diesel Pollution in Lower Moonee Ponds Creek.** Kaye reported that a letter had been sent to the EPA regarding continuing discharges of diesel into the lower Creek just north of Footscray Rd over the Xmas/NY period. The surrounding land is near the VicTrack rail yards and service facilities.
2. **Valley Lakes Reserve.** Anna pointed out that the Vic Urban / Valley Lakes development in Keilor East had managed to get away with far less than the 30% public open space promised in the original plans. With the cliffs and lake classified as public open space there is now only a small parcel of public land actually accessible to the public.
3. **MPCCC.** Tony Smith notified the meeting that he had made a presentation about the Moonee Valley Integrated Waterways Strategy.

**NOTICES:**

- World Wetlands Day **rescheduled** to Feb 16, Melbourne Water Open Day, Western Treatment Plant, Werribee [www.melbournewater.com.au/worldwetlandsday](http://www.melbournewater.com.au/worldwetlandsday), tel 131722
- Moonee Valley Festival Sunday February 23, 10am-5pm, Queens Park, Moonee Ponds
- Landcare Annual Forum & AGM Wed Feb 26, 11am, Marland House, 570 Bourke St, Melbourne (rsvp tel 9207 5527)
- Woodlands Historic Park Community Day/Landcare/Jemena: Sunday March 23, details tba
- Horseshoe Bend Matting Working Bee: Sunday March 30, 10am-12noon

**MEETING CLOSED:** Following the meeting an informal BBQ (BYO food and drink) was held to welcome new and old members and friends at the start of a new year for the Creek.

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday April 4<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm at Kelvin Thompson's offices, 3 Munro Street, Coburg

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

# GENERAL MEETING Friday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 5.30pm

Offices of Kelvin Thompson, 3 Munro St., Coburg

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Kaye Oddie, Anna Lanigan, Tony Smith, David Muir (Kensington Association), Bob Steadman, Julie Law, Carolyn Layton, Leigh Mitchell (Melbourne Water), Robert Steadman, Andrew Genovese, Terry Mundy

**APOLOGIES:** Frank Kinnersley, Lorant Stary, Zoe Jellie, Vince Aitkin, Clive Judd, Mark O'Brien, Stella Blay.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Accepted. Moved: Carolyn Layton Seconded: David Muir.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Not any

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Held over until next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter of support sent on behalf of FoMPC to Brunswick North Primary School for their proposed project re-landscaping part of the school grounds, planting native species.

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

### 1. **Urban Waterways Study (Marcus Lancaster; Department of Architecture, Building and Planning, Melbourne University) by Tony Smith**

Tony described the work of PhD student Marcus Lancaster on the history of minor urban waterways of Melbourne. That is, not including the Yarra and Maribyrnong. Marcus has unearthed some very interesting findings and references including photos, such as an early image of the swamp which used to exist at the end of the Moonee Ponds Creek. It turns out that about half of the work refers to the Moonee Ponds Creek. Tony recommended that the FoMPC consider providing a grant to have the work published.

### 2. **Progress on John Street Reserve**

Carolyn reported that following the meeting with herself, Kaye Oddie and Vince Adreana (Natural Resource Management Officer, Moreland City Council) on site to discuss the plans, things moved swiftly. Over a couple of days the site was cleared of the elm suckers and boxthorn, leaving a few non-indigenous trees and agapanthus which we have been assured will be removed before the planting day on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Vince had successfully negotiated with the owner to the east so that, although the owners have rights down to the water level, the problematic elm suckers on the Creek embankment could be removed. The plan for the reserve is to install an informal path and steps down to the Creek bank; revegetate the embankment with indigenous species, and install appropriate measures to stop vehicles parking on the reserve.

### 3. Woodlands/Landcare/Jemena Community Day March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Another successful day was held involving the local community and a range of activities were held around the Woodlands homestead. FoMPC displayed information at its stand and assisted the Landcare group giving out plants. There are plans for another planting event in August, continuing the work from last year. Kelvin commented on the fact that Woodlands Historic Park is a great asset and that it is in great shape. It was also reported that the Eastern Barred Bandicoot release program is going well.

### 4. Working Bee Horseshoe Bend March 30<sup>th</sup>

Kaye reported that a large area of jute matting was expertly laid by an enthusiastic group, including new member Andrew Genovese, in preparation for the planting day on July 6<sup>th</sup>. This project has been developed with Michelle Gooding (Moonee Valley Council) and funded by a 2014 Moonee Valley Community Grant. It continues the work started more than 20 years ago at Horseshoe Bend, which at that stage had only a few large eucalypts but which now is developing into a valuable area of diverse habitat. Terry Mundy was one of the organisers of the early plantings along the Creek, undertaken through local progress associations and other groups.

### 5. Melbourne Water update on activities - Leigh Mitchell

Leigh was welcomed back after a stint working overseas. He presented a detailed report: Personnel changes: Gavan O'Neill has been promoted to General Manager of Waterways and Lands. Leigh has the position Program Leader for Maribyrnong, Moonee Ponds and Merri Creeks. River Health Officers: Megan Jericho is the new River Health Officer for the Moonee Ponds Creek but she will be leaving in May. Changes have been occurring as part of a restructure to align with the new strategic plan for Melbourne Water.

Projects: Projects that are finishing soon include the Wright Street tunnel and the Pascoe Street to Strathnaver Reserve weed control and planting work. New projects include the Five Mile Creek weed control and revegetation downstream for approx. 900 metres; Corridors of Green: proposed Union Street escarpment (with Vince Andreana/Moreland Council); Pascoe Court near Yuroke Creek, Westmeadows (Leigh will forward map of this significant site).

East-West Link: Leigh stated that the core principle in the proposed approach of Melbourne Water to the E-W Link is that there needs to be 'a net benefit for the waterway'. As a part of this there will be identification of waterway functions and key risk areas. A conservation and offset approach will be applied. There will be decisions made at the end of April (Melb Water)

Future Planning: Overall the new direction for Melbourne Water is to look in a more holistic manner at waterway health. The idea is to come up with particular overall outcomes for works in a particular areas along the Moonee Ponds Creek, e.g. Five Mile and Holbrook Reserves focus on weed control and revegetation; Yuroke Creek focus on amenity and habitat (frogs); Tarnuk-Woodlands: pest control, amenity, weed control, re-vegetation (improving frog habitat).

Questions, comments and discussion: Leigh was asked about the Nth Jacana Wetlands a possible boardwalk and will visit that site. Kelvin raised the issue of water quality of the MP Creek and particularly the important role the Royal Park wetlands have in this. He pointed out also how much this wetland is valued by the public and wondered whether Melbourne Water was aware of this issue when considering its response to E-W Link. Kaye and others expressed strong concerns that Melbourne Water had been absent from the E-W Link Planning Panel hearings and strongly suggested that Melbourne Water should have been making submissions about the Moonee Ponds Creek, given the extensive impacts the E-W Link would have on the Creek and the Royal Park wetlands. Kaye asked if FoMPC could be given a report on Melbourne Water's position in regard to the E-W Link. In discussion there was a general and strong sense of urgency and concern expressed that Melbourne Water, being a government instrumentality, may have not taken an active stance when it comes to the E-W Link and upholding the many strategies for protecting and enhancing the Creek. Kelvin thanked Leigh for his extensive report. He also suggested a letter of congratulation be sent to Gavan O'Neill on his new appointment.

### 6. East-West Link

The view was expressed that the plan for the E-W Link was prepared by road engineers without consultation with councils and other organisations about design and impacts on existing urban fabric, Royal Park and Moonee Pond Creek. Of 1277 submissions to the Comprehensive Impact Statement, all but one were opposed to the project. For the benefit of new members a brief summary of the submissions and planning panels hearing process to date was given by Kaye and photos were circulated of the proposed portals, viaducts and interchanges cutting through Royal Park and along the Moonee Ponds Creek. The E-W Link

would likely be constructed as open cut through Royal Park, destroying large amounts of the Park's vegetation, its remnant indigenous vegetation and Skink habitat sites. David Muir representing the Kensington Action Group circulated an alternative proposal put forward for the proposed viaducts along the western side of the Creek to be abutted to the western side of CityLink and present watercourse of the Creek altered towards the western side of the Creek corridor, which is presently vegetated open space with adjacent residential apartments and houses. The re-routing of the Creek could allow formation of ponds, as originally existed; however, current hydrological issues would have to be addressed. Kelvin expressed the view on behalf of the meeting he would be happy to have the alternative put to the hearings.

**7. Request for speaker/guided Creek walk for Glenroy Corpus Christi School students**

Kelvin offered to handle this request; letter given to KT.

**8. Bushcare Major Day Out-Sept 7<sup>th</sup> (also Landcare's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)**

A request from Bushcare (from NSW) for FoMPC to organise an event which also celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Landcare was noted. Suggestion that this could be linked to FoMPC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and with the John St Reserve Planting Day.

**9. Upper Moonee Ponds Creek: Airport Land/Mitchell Lasry Quarry**

It was noted with concern that the general degradation of the area is continuing unabated. Dumping of household rubbish and car bodies continues as well as damage to the site due to access by 4WD vehicles and motor bikes. That there is open access to the area is a major problem which needs to be addressed. Letter written to the Secretary, Dept of Primary Industries on Feb 5 seeking information about the environment rehabilitation plan for the quarry has had no reply.

**10. Litter/Pollution**

Kaye reported that she has had no response from her letter to the EPA regarding a series of diesel releases into a drain emptying into the lower Moonee Ponds Creek near Footscray Rd and reported detergent issuing from the film studios complex, Docklands into the nearby canal, thence the Moonee Ponds Creek.

**11. Moonee Valley Festival**

Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek were represented by Anna Lanigan, Stella Blay and Kaye Oddie on the environment stall at the Festival. Thanks are given to Nina Eason for printing off copies of the latest Ponderings to hand out.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Anna mentioned her idea for the boardwalk in the north Jacana wetlands and it was suggested she take the matter further with Leigh Mitchell.

**NOTICES**

1. Airport Community & Stakeholder Environment Meeting April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2-4 pm, Living Legends at Woodlands, Oaklands Road, Greenvale.
2. FoMPC/RRL-CMR Planting near Dynon Road/Capital City Trail, Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup>. 10am-noon.
3. FoMPC Planting, John Street Reserve, Oak Park, Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup>. Possibly also a celebration to mark FoMPC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday June 13<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm at Kelvin Thompson's Office, 3 Munro Street, Coburg

# GENERAL MEETING Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 5:30pm

Kelvin Thomson's offices, 3 Munro St, Coburg.

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Kaye Oddie, Anna Lanigan, Tony Smith, David Muir (Kensington Association), Bob Steadman, Carolyn Layton, Frank Kinnersley, Mark O'Brien, Julie Law, Tony Smith

**APOLOGIES:** Stella Blay, Vince Aitkin, Leigh Mitchell

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Accepted. Moved Carolyn Layton; Seconded: Anna Lanigan

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Not any

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

The following details were provided by Vince:

Bank Balance at 11/6//14 \$25,472.20

Receipt of \$1500 from Landcare/Jemena for Live.Grow.Explore day at Woodlands on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Expenditure to be approved:

- Arbor Green invoice for jute matting, Horseshoe Bend site preparation  
\$386.63
- Nina Eason for printing 50 hard copies Ponderings for MV Festival: \$50.00
- Kaye Oddie for refreshments for RRL-CMR community planting May 31<sup>st</sup> \$62.00
- Stella Blay for producing Ponderings No 44 \$600.00

Treasurer's Report and expenditure approved: Moved Frank Kinnersley; Seconded David Muir.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Airports Branch, DIRD re Essendon Airport environment strategy
- Letter of thanks from Gavan O'Neill, Melbourne Water
- Letter of thanks to Landcare for donation to FoMPC
- Letter of support to Dianna Wells, for City of Melbourne M/P Creek photographic project grant
- Letters of thanks to RRL-CMR

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

9. The passing on June 8<sup>th</sup> of Clive Judd, a long-time and much valued member of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, was sadly noted. A letter on our behalf will be sent to Clive's wife.
10. **FoMPC 25<sup>th</sup> June 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary arrangements** The plan for the day was tabled. Arrangements for flyers, BBQ, photos for a display board and a celebratory cake were finalised. A request was made for volunteers to assist with a further

planting on the site Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> National Tree Day involving Oak Park Primary School students, as organised by Vince Andreana (Moreland)

#### **11. Moonee Valley Urban Ecology**

The meeting was reminded that submissions are due by June 16<sup>th</sup>

#### **12. Report on Melbourne Airport Community and Stakeholders Meeting April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Julie Law attended this meeting on our behalf, along with two other community members. The Airport Master Plan document was tabled. There was a lot of water quality related information presented as data is coming out now on all the creeks relevant to the Airport. There is a new SPEL website. The new interceptor, which is meant to remove various pollutants before they reach the waterways, should be in place now. There are claims now that water quality has remained the same despite more impacts from airport operations.

#### **13. Encroachments on Creek corridor**

Frank Kinnersley reported a situation where a fence around a new building is encroaching on the Creek corridor. It is at 11 Avoca Crescent Pascoe Vale near the Bell Street on-ramp from Pascoe Vale Road. Frank has previously communicated with the Council regarding this and other examples including near the Herbert Street Reserve Oak Park, but with no response. Stella Blay has also sent photos of long-standing Creek encroachments near John St reserve. FoMPC to follow up with a letter to Moreland City Council

#### **14. Schools and Environment Talks**

Anna Lanigan reported there were 40 grade 3 students from Brunswick South West Primary School involved in her talk and tour of the wetlands. Kelvin is liaising with Strathmore Secondary College to give a presentation on an environment theme. Kaye will be working with the Montessori School on June 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### **15. Report on Northern Sewerage Project Community Benefits Plan Working Group:**

This working group was looking at ways to compensate Van Berg Road residents for the disruption caused by the Northern Sewerage Project. A suggestion to have 'kerb out-stands' for on street parking was rejected by the working group. However, there was agreement for the roundabout to be removed.

#### **16. Melbourne Water Flood Strategy Workshop June 2**

Kaye reported that an issues paper is being prepared on the impact of the increased development and the impact of planning decisions along the Moonee Ponds Creek, and how this affects the current flood strategy.

#### **17. Office of Living Victoria Workshop on Moonee Ponds Creek, June 5**

Julie Law reported that Melbourne Water and the Councils (but not the Catchment Management Authority) participated in this workshop, where an exchange of views took place on a vision for the creek. Whilst it was regarded as a useful networking opportunity it seemed the outcome was predetermined and there are concerns that the creek is not being considered with a catchment wide approach, as it needs to be.

#### **18. Capital City Trail safety issue with new RRL access road near trail.**

Frank outlined a safety issue with a VicTrack access road that has recently been upgraded as part of the Regional Rail Link works near Dynon Road. The proximity and lack of barriers between the access road and the CCT is 'an accident waiting to happen'. Illegal use of the CCT by vehicles short-cutting between Metro depots poses great danger to path users. Frank and Kaye will be acting on our behalf and following up on what needs to be done with the organisations involved.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

19. Nominations were called for the **Bob Hawke Landcare Award** (closing date July 4)

#### **20. Graffitted Mural**

Bob Steadman expressed his concern that the mural on the freeway bridge had been covered in graffiti. It was suggested a letter be written to CityLink re removal



and application of suitable anti-graffiti protective paint. Anna Lanigan offered photos to attach.

**21. Clean up Australia 2014**

Bob Steadman expressed his disappointment at the apparent decline in numbers of groups participating in Clean Up Australia along the Moonee Ponds Creek.

Suggestions and comments were made such as having a FoMPC clean up group, Fast food outlets could organise a group; approach 1st Oak Park Scouts to get involved; ask councils if they have any plans for CUA along the MPC.

**22. Bushcare Day Out** is happening on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**23. Chair of MPCCC to resign.**

Tony Smith announced that he will be resigning as chair of the MPCCC. He was warmly thanked for all the work he has done as Chairman. There was mention of some of the issues surrounding MPCCC including whether there is an ongoing role for MPCCC, the fate of Ponderings, equipment, heritage materials and funds. It was suggested that discussion of these issues be listed as an item on the next meeting. It was noted that the MPCCC will be meeting on July 28.

**24. East West Link Rally**

Tony Smith and Anna Lanigan offered to take placards to the rally of June 28<sup>th</sup> to be held at the State Library. Important for a good turnout.

**25. Jacana boardwalk**

Anna Lanigan will follow up with Leigh Mitchell at Melbourne Water.

**26. Mitchell Lasry Quarry**

Julie Law reported on a recent meeting between Dept. of Primary Industry and Melbourne Water to discuss the soil mounds and also upgrading the trail to Woodlands.

**NOTICES:**

- June 28, 1pm, State Library, Swanston St - Rally against the East West Link
- June 28, 9:45am-2:45pm, MVCC Community Groups training sessions, Clocktower Centre, 750 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds. rsvp [www.mvcc.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.mvcc.eventbrite.com.au)
- July 6, 10am-12noon, FoMPC & MVCC community planting Horseshoe Bend, Strathmore Heights
- See also Winter Ponderings issue no. 44 for more community plantings
- Moonee Valley Integrated Waterways Committee – Five Mile Creek inspection on July 6 (FK and TS to attend).

**NEXT MEETING:**

September 26, 5:30pm, Kelvin's offices – AGM, followed by General Meeting

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY SEPT 26, 2014

Present: Lynne Clarke, Jo Connellan, Frank Kinnersley, Anna Lanigan, Julie Law, Zoe Jellie, David Muir, Mark O'Brien, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Bob Steadman, Kelvin Thomson

Apologies: Terry Mundy, Vince Aitkin, Carolyn Layton, Peter Flanagan, Jeanne Klovdahl, Dianna Wells

President's Introductory Comments: Kelvin Thomson spoke about long-standing member, Clive Judd, who passed away in June and Brendan Law, Julie Law's husband, who more recently passed away in August. Kelvin specifically mentioned Julie's indefatigable efforts as a Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek member. In reply, Julie expressed her thanks for the flowers and for the love and support given to her at this time.

Minutes: The minutes of the AGM held on September 20, 2013 were confirmed (proposed David Muir/seconded Anna Lanigan/carried)

President's Report: Kelvin said the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, celebrated after the community planting at John St Reserve, Oak Park, on June 15, gave us a chance to reflect on our history of Creek involvement and that we could look back positively on work the organisation has done over that period. There is quite a lot to show for our efforts and he expressed thanks to all for their part in that role.

The President's report was approved (proposed Kelvin Thomson/seconded Bob Steadman/carried).

### Financial Report:

The financial report for the year 1/7/13 to 30/6/14 had been prepared by Treasurer, Vince Aitkin, and detailed income/expenditure with supporting documentation. In his absence, the President summarised the year's results: Income \$6043.67. Expenses \$3408.26. Surplus \$2635.41. Balance \$35,664.16.

Vince Aitkin was thanked in absentia for his continuing expert keeping of the books and preparation of the annual financial statement.

The financial report was approved (proposed David Muir/seconded Kaye Oddie/carried).

### Nomination of Office Bearers:

The positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary & Public Officer and Minutes Secretary were declared vacant. One written nomination (Carolyn Layton for Minutes Secretary) had been received prior to the meeting, however, the PO Box had not been checked prior to the meeting for any mailed nominations. Nominations were called for from the floor, and the following office bearers duly elected, subject to no written nominations having been sent to the PO Box:

President: Kelvin Thomson (nominated KO/seconded JL)  
Vice President: Frank Kinnersley (nominated JL/seconded KO)  
Treasurer: Vince Aitkin (nominated MO'B/seconded AL)  
Secretary & Public Officer: Kaye Oddie (nominated TS/seconded FK)  
Minutes Secretary: Carolyn Layton (nominated KO/seconded FK)

It was decided that the positions of FoMPC representatives on the Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee be held in abeyance

Kelvin Thomson thanked all outgoing office bearers and for their willingness to continue in their positions.

Anna Lanigan thanked Kelvin for his role as President.

Kaye Oddie thanked Kelvin and Mark O'Brien for facilitating the meetings of the FoMPC through the use of Kelvin's offices and assistance with printing and mailouts.

Meeting closed and was followed by a General Meeting.

Kaye Oddie

Secretary

[Addendum: The PO Box was cleared following the AGM; no nominations for office bearers were received. The above office bearers elected at the AGM are therefore confirmed.]

## GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY SEPT 26, 2014

**Present:** Stella Blay, Lynne Clarke, Jo Connellan, Frank Kinnersley, Anna Lanigan, Julie Law, Zoe Jellie, David Muir, Mark O'Brien, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Bob Steadman, Kelvin Thomson

**Apologies:** Terry Mundy, Vince Aitkin, Carolyn Layton, Peter Flanagan, Jeanne Klovdahl, Dianna Wells.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the general meeting held on June 13, 2014 were confirmed (proposed DM/seconded TS/carried)

### Matters arising from the Minutes:

1. Regional Rail Link-Capital City Trail barrier separation. Following several discussions and continuing correspondence, in particular to ascertain whose responsibility the land involved was, Metro Trains have advised that they will install approx 12 flexible bollards at the kerb between the VicTrack access road and the Capital City Trail through the railway underpass area. This will remove the dangerous conflict that arose from the upgrade to the access road for the Regional Rail Link. Further conflict points northwards along the Capital City Trail, would have to be separately taken up with CityLink/Transurban.
2. Graffiti on CityLink mural. A printout of the graffitied mural was provided by Bob Steadman and clarification provided re the location of the mural – on retaining wall of Bell St on-ramp, adjacent to the shared path. Letter to be sent to CityLink requesting cleanup and protective coating applied to the mural.
3. Jacana boardwalk. Anna Lanigan reported that the issue is at a stalemate and relayed her revised thinking about a boardwalk around the wetlands amid concerns that this could encourage people to bring bread, etc. and feed the ducks, as they are doing elsewhere. Also questioned who is responsible for clearing the litter from the Creek?  
Later in the meeting, Julie Law suggested Melbourne Water be asked to give a history talk about the Jacana wetlands.
4. Mitchell Lasry Quarry, Greenvale. Julie Law reported on actions to clean up the area and make it secure from vandals. Woodlands dam and the old quarry have been cleared of around 40 dumped cars; sixteen young people have been prosecuted regarding stolen vehicles and TPI Cleanaway has security guards patrolling their side of the Creek. Need to visit to check on Creek damage and the extensive cycle jumps noted on earlier visit with Melbourne Water reps.

5. Northern Sewerage Project Community Benefits Plan. Frank Kinnersley represents the FoMPC on this working group. He reported that improvements to nearby Montgomery Park (plantings in NW corner and some infrastructure) were approved as part of the \$105,000 local grant.
6. Private Property Encroachments along Creek Corridor. This matter had been raised on a number of occasions with the Moreland City Council, the latest being a letter sent on August 12. Reply received from Acting CEO, outlining the results of their research into land ownership, title and fence boundaries:
  - 19 Main St, Pascoe Vale – rubbish cleaned up and boundary reinstated.
  - 23 Main St, Pascoe Vale – no encroachment, however, anomaly in title alignment between DSE and VicMap to be corrected.
  - 21 Main St, Pascoe Vale – request for confirmation of correct title alignment before any encroachment can be ascertained and followed up.
  - 11 Avoca St, Pascoe Vale – no encroachment as property has title to the creek edge.
  - 1 John St, Oak Park – boundary encroachment, however, Council does not have authority over the land in question, so FoMPC will have to pursue with the relevant authority.

**Correspondence:**

Sent:

- Letter sent to CEO, Moreland Council regarding the private property encroachments along Moonee Ponds Creek corridor

Received:

- Brunswick Communities for Nature – Nature Strip Blitz - extending Adopt-a-Tree and Urban Biodiversity Corridor projects.
- Notice received from Friends of Steele Creek and MVCC re talk by Jenny Hand, Birds Australia “*Learn how we can support Aussie birds in our gardens, streets and parks*” on Sept 2.
- West Brunswick Montessori Children’s Centre invitation to official opening.
- VicTrack Environment Officer, Cameron Stirling, re rubbish collections by John Smith along lower Moonee Ponds Creek
- CEO, Moreland Council reply re Creek encroachments
- Metro Trains – installation of bollards at RRL/VicTrack access road/CCT

**Treasurer’s report:** In the absence of the Treasurer, reference was made to the financial report presented at the AGM, held immediately prior to this meeting.

**Items:**

1. Moonee Valley 2015 Community Grant application has been submitted. The proposed site is just north of the Strathmore North Primary School, opposite the former nursery, where the shared path was relocated away from the Creek banks. Application is to infill the area complementing earlier plantings. Thanks are expressed to Mark O’Brien for preparing the application.
2. Melbourne Water has sent notification that Leigh Mitchell has left the River Health Team for another section. Until a new Program Leader is appointed, contact should be made with Ben English ([ben.english@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:ben.english@melbournewater.com.au)) or Jesse Barrett ([jesse.barrett@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:jesse.barrett@melbournewater.com.au))
3. MPCCC & Ponderings. Tony Smith reported that the MPCCC is still considering the options for its future; amalgamation with FoMPC would appear to be an unnecessary option; the option more likely is for MPCCC to cease to exist as an organisation and for any assets to be transferred to a ‘like-minded’ organisation with similar objectives, e.g. FoMPC. Anna Lanigan raised the issue of intellectual assets, particularly the MPCCC logo, stating it would be a shame to lose the logo. In meantime, \$1000 has been transferred to the Living Museum of the West and there is an offer for the purchase of the trailer. TS stated that MPCCC would send a formal letter regarding the above matters. KT suggested the FoMPC would be willing to accept the MPCCC assets and memberships. It was noted that MPCCC has no individual members, only the councils and the FoMPC representatives.

Discussion then followed about *Ponderings* and the Bendigo Bank grant, which will not cover the publishing costs for Stella, only the printing and distribution, and how the former costs could be met. Jo Connellan reported there has been no luck obtaining a council grant. It was acknowledged that *Ponderings* is a professionally produced, high standard newsletter and it would be desirable to maintain *Ponderings* as an important news conduit for the Moonee Ponds Creek communities. It was acknowledged that SB should be paid for her professional work producing *Ponderings*. Meeting agreed to refer the matter to the Executive Committee for resolution.

4. MVCC Integrated Waterways Committee. Frank Kinnersley, FoMPC rep on the committee, reported that further waterways inspections (last one was Five Mile Creek) are being planned, co-ordinated by Michelle Gooding. Another project being considered is 'daylighting' a former 'waterway' in Napier Park.

Stella Blay spoke about the Friends of Five Mile Creek's recent clean-up work, only to have floodwaters bring down "masses more litter". Convenor, Ginny Moylan is considering applying for a grant for a litter trap (but need to consider who would empty and maintain and Melbourne Water's role).

5. VicTrack & rubbish collection, lower Moonee Ponds Creek. Kaye Oddie has had discussion with VicTrack's Environment Officer, Cameron Stirling, about establishing a suitable collection point(s), timeframes and process for reporting for the rubbish collected by John Smith along the lower Moonee Ponds Creek. Currently there are two dump points – one near Dynon Rd and the second near the Film Studios in Docklands. Cameron Stirling will investigate and respond.
6. East West Link. David Muir, Tony Smith and Kaye Oddie provided updates on the project, for which the Minister for Planning issued his approval on June 30<sup>th</sup>. This basically ignored the many recommendations of the Advisory Committee; only one positive in that the Elliott Avenue interchange in Royal Park was deleted. Finalised design to be issued on signing of the contracts, expected around Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. TS commended Kelvin Thomson on his excellent speech to federal Parliament regarding the East West Link. There is a lot of community action happening and more public rallies are planned for Oct 16 and Nov 15. Proposed financial contribution towards the ongoing legal challenge by Tony Murphy against the EWL was referred to the Executive Committee for decision. Moreland and Yarra Councils' legal challenge to the Minister's approval of EWL won't be heard until December, after the Nov 29 State election; this poses some interesting issues regarding the validity of the approval and any contracts signed.
7. Horseshoe Bend planting update. Kaye reported on the two community plantings at the Horseshoe Bend site on July 6 and August 16. A working bee was scheduled to mulch plants at the site on Sat Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 12noon.

#### **Other business:**

- Landcare Community Grants. Guidelines to be checked, noting closing date is Oct 12. Suggested possible sites are the east side of the Creek between Outlook Drive and railway viaduct (? VicTrack land now zoned residential) or the slope above the Trestle Bridge.
- Invasive Weeds and Pest Animals. Farm Care, Tree and Land Association (FTLA) have called for input re successful management techniques for invasive weeds and pests. Go to: [www.landcarevic.net.au/ftla](http://www.landcarevic.net.au/ftla)
- Indian Myna birds as pest animals. Tony Smith/Anna Lanigan described successful program in Canberra and that Moonee Valley Council was already trapping.
- Julie Law noted that rabbits were also a problem/pest animal along the Creek corridor.
- Icehouse, Docklands. Dumpmaster encroachment onto planted bed near Creek path. Letter to be written to Icehouse management, taking advantage of the recent announcement of works to upgrade the facility.

- Kensington Association. David Muir reported that the KA was still actively campaigning against the EWL, e.g. by requesting information from EPA and CityLink about the polluted soil when pylons are being dug, with no response to date. DM also put in appeal for continuing help. Also raised the CityLink Expansion project, in which emergency lanes will be converted to two additional traffic lanes along City Link - Melrose Drive to Bolte Bridge. Concerns about impacts of increased traffic (30%) and noise and air emissions. DTPLI and CityLink reps will attend KA meeting on Oct 6, 7:30pm, Holy Rosary School, Gower St, Kensington.
- Bowerbird project. Anna Lanigan reported that five sites are now in this citizen science project, recording photos of flora and fauna; see [www.bowerbird.org.au](http://www.bowerbird.org.au)
- Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek. Julie Law provided some updates: Some indigenous remnant plants have been found near the 'Island'; mulching has been undertaken near the Westmeadows toilet block; a possible application could be made to Visy, which operates nearby, for a grant; a community planting will be held on Sun Sept 28, 12:30-3pm.
- Office of Living Victoria meeting (details tba) to be attended by Tony Smith, Julie Law, Zoe Jellie. Jo Connellan stated the organisation really didn't exist any more.
- Craigieburn Camera Club currently has a display at Woodlands Homestead, Greenvale.

**Notices:**

- Sun Sept 28, 12:30-3pm, Community planting, Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek
- Sun Oct 5th, 2pm - Friends of Five Mile Creek early Xmas breakup, at the playground at end of Government Rd, Essendon
- Wed Oct 8, 2-4pm - Melbourne Airport Community & Stakeholder Environment Meeting
- Saturday Oct 11, 10am-12noon, working bee mulching, Horseshoe Bend, Strathmore Heights.

**Date of next meeting:** Friday Dec 12, 5:30pm, plus Xmas

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FRIDAY OCT 17, 2014, 3pm

Present: Kelvin Thomson, Frank Kinnersley, Vince Aitkin, Kaye Oddie

### 1. Confirmation of Office Bearers for 2014-15

Election of office bearers at the AGM on Sept 26, 2014 was subject to no posted nominations having been received via the PO Box. The PO Box was cleared the following day, with no nominations received. The office bearers are therefore confirmed:

President	Kelvin Thomson
Vice President	Frank Kinnersley
Treasurer	Vince Aitkin
Secretary & Public Officer	Kaye Oddie
Minutes Secretary	Carolyn Layton

### 2. MPCCC & future production of *Ponderings* and publication costs

This matter was referred from the general meeting on Sept 26, and Kelvin gave a brief background report to the matter – that the proposed winding up of the MPCCC would see funding support for the production of the quarterly newsletter *Ponderings* cease. It was considered that *Ponderings* was an important news conduit for the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor communities and Friends groups and that it would be desirable to see it continue. The grant obtained by the MPCCC from the Bendigo Bank, unfortunately, will not cover Stella Blay's production costs, seen as 'salary'. The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek at the general meeting on Sept 26 expressed support for the ongoing production of *Ponderings* but that financial support would be needed to do this. Because the Treasurer was not at this meeting, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Discussion ensued about the assets of the MPCCC that could be put towards producing *Ponderings*. Also whether publication costs could be sought from grants, e.g. Melbourne Water, however, these tend to be granted as one-off annually, so can't be relied on for continued production of *Ponderings*. An MPCCC application for a Council grant had been unsuccessful.

The Committee decided that a letter be written to Tony Smith, convenor MPCCC seeking information that would enable a better assessment of the financial situation in regard to *Ponderings*:



- provision of an inventory of MPCCC assets;
- if income from the sale of the trailer and any other assets could be used to pay the production costs for future editions of Ponderings; and
- stating FoMPC would be happy to proceed with production of future Ponderings subject to financial support, with the decision being reviewed in 12 months.
- reiterating that FoMPC would welcome MPCCC becoming part of FoMPC, being a 'like-minded organisation with similar objectives' should the MPCCC cease to exist as an organisation.

### **3. Financial contribution to East West Link legal challenge by Murphy on behalf of Public Transport Users Association**

This matter was referred from the general meeting on Sept 26 and summarised by Kelvin and Kaye.

The East West Project as put forward by the Linking Melbourne Authority has been legally challenged by a resident, Tony Murphy and is currently proceeding. In the meantime, the Minister for Planning, approved the project on June 30, but without finalised design, which will supposedly be released on the signing of the contracts.

The legal case has the support of many community groups who have opposed the East West Link, but financial support is also needed. A financial contribution from FoMPC was proposed at the general meeting and on-referred to the Executive Committee for decision. The Committee agreed that a contribution of \$200 be made.

### **4. East West Link Update**

Kaye provided an update on the recent gazettal by the Minister for Planning (30/9/14) of additional land acquisitions for the EWL project along the Moonee Ponds Creek, environs Brunswick Rd and Union St, Brunswick. Clarification was sought regarding the boundaries of the additional land acquisitions and impacts on the Union Street geological syncline and nearby remnant native vegetation on the Creek embankments. Response received from LMA is that such information is not available as the design of the works has not been finalised and because of commercial confidentiality restrictions.

### **5. Melbourne Water Community Grants**

Project Grants are open for environmental works (up to \$20,000) such as weed control and revegetation along waterways; and Support Grants (up to \$1000) for group administration, insurance or promotional activities applications are open, with closing date of Oct 27.

Committee agreed that applications be made. Kelvin suggested a site near the Trestle Bridge, Glenroy West for revegetation for a Project Grant. Kelvin, Mark, Kaye will meet with Moreland's Vince Andreana to progress. An application will also be made for a Support Grant.

### **6. Other business**

Vince notified the committee of a change in accounting pulling back the Scholarship Fund grants to \$100.

#### **Notices:**

- MVCC East West Link Information Session, Oct 22, 7-9pm, Clocktower Centre, 750 Mt. Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds
- Sat Nov 15, Yarra Campaign for Action on Transport Rally, City, for details, see: [http://www.ycat.org.au/?page\\_id=4](http://www.ycat.org.au/?page_id=4)

# GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY DEC 12, 2014, 5:30PM

## FIVE MILE CREEK RESERVE, ESSENDON

PRESENT: Kelvin Thomson, Ben Thomson, Lynne Pearson, Stella Blay, Ginny Moylan, Ann Black, Fiona Stary, Anna Lanigan, David Muir, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Carolyn Layton, Michelle Gooding, Kim Cooper, James O'Dwyer, Ben Thomson, Marcus Lancaster.

APOLOGIES: Vince Aitkin, Frank Kinnersley, Peter Flanagan, Lynne Clark, Lori Arthur and Vince Andreaana (Moreland Council)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SEPT 26, 2014: It was moved the minutes be accepted TS; seconded DM; carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer's report for the period 1/7/14 to 1/12/14 was tabled by Kelvin Thomson in the absence of the Treasurer, Vince Aitkin. Balance at 1/12/14 was \$23645.60. It was moved the report be accepted CL; seconded DM; carried.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- Kelvin Thomson reported on the Executive Committee meeting held on Oct 17, 2014. The main issue was the financial support for Ponderings. No firm decision was made in regard to FoMPC making a financial contribution to the production of Ponderings, however it was decided a letter be sent to Tony Smith, convenor MPCCC, seeking information on the value of the assets of the MPCCC and the likely timeframe for realisation of assets, in particular, sale of the trailer. This information would allow a better assessment of the financial situation in regard to Ponderings. Tony Smith told the meeting he has yet to respond to the letter with this information. In the meantime, an issue of Ponderings has just been produced (Spring/Summer 2014-15); the meeting agreed that a one-off payment to Stella Blay of \$1800 be made for this issue and that the matter of future editions of Ponderings is deferred to the next meeting.
- CityLink Mural & Graffiti – Since the issue was raised, the mural and graffiti have been painted over. Kelvin Thomson suggested that the proposed CityLink Widening project may present an opportunity for a new mural.

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

1. MVCC 2015 COMMUNITY GRANT – SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION  
Project: Infill revegetation at Nursery Bend, off Mascoma St, Strathmore. This site was created when the shared path was moved away from the creek towards the nursery fence. The grant will be used to continue the revegetation of the area. An on-site meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am.
2. MELBOURNE WATER 2015 COMMUNITY GRANT – SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION  
Project: Extension of plantings along Creek corridor, Outlook Drive, Glenroy. This project is to expand the existing tree/shrub plantings near the creek with more understory plants and grasses and also to extend tree plantings in the hillside area. The focus is on increasing biodiversity and habitat values.
3. FIVE MILE CREEK MASTERPLAN (James O'Dwyer, Ben Thomson, MVCC) described the draft masterplan the Council has prepared for the reserve, discussion ensued and comments were welcomed.
4. CANCELLATION OF EAST WEST LINK – The contractors have been instructed to stop work but there are many issues remaining for Royal Park including the Heritage Victoria classification and the Zoo car parking. Concerns were expressed about the proposed multi-storey Zoo car park and admin space in the park and the process involved in putting this forward during the EWL process. For the Moonee Ponds Creek, it is not known the status of the Supreme Court action by the Moonee Valley City Council re the EWL. With the cancellation of the EWL, there will need to be a number of steps taken to undo contracts and

other measures put in place by the previous State government. Kelvin pointed out that there is alternative work available for the construction company such as grade separation projects (which also involve tunnels) announced as an election pledge.

5. CITYLINK WIDENING – Essendon Airport to Bolte Bridge. This was an unsolicited project put forward by Transurban to the previous State government, in which emergency lanes would be converted to traffic lanes and additional lanes/ramps would be constructed around Bell St. There was some discussion of issues surrounding the widening of Citylink, including traffic and impacts on surrounding areas. The impact on the Creek should be considered. The area around Bell Street is known as ‘Malfunction Junction’ for good reason and there may be a possibility of addressing concerns with this as part of a widening project. Other issues such as increased truck use of Citylink, associated nighttime noise, problems determining noise levels and VicRoads low standards were raised.
6. E-GATE – A large parcel of VicTrack land between Dynon Rd and Footscray Rd, and abutting the Moonee Ponds Creek was to be handed over to a developer for high density development but there are concerns that we would see a repeat of Docklands planning ‘mis-development’. It is not known what the new State Government will propose. Local West Melbourne residents have put forward a proposal for a large open space (Western Connection) as part of an E-Gate redevelopment. FoMPC would be concerned that the Creek corridor open space was expanded and integrated as part of any development and that ‘backs were not turned to the Creek’.

#### OTHER BUSINESS/REPORTS:

- Ginny Moylan announced that she is forming a ‘stationeers’ group, part of a ‘Keep Australia Beautiful’ project, to look after the rail reserve land around Strathmore Station.

#### NOTICES:

- Victory Party “We Beat the East West Toll Road”, Sat Dec 13, 2pm, Cnr Westgarth/Brunswick Sts, Fitzroy.
- Moonee Valley Festival – Sunday Feb 22, 2015, 10am-5pm, Queens Park, Moonee Ponds.  
Contact: Kim Cooper tel 8325 1888 [KCooper@mvcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:KCooper@mvcc.vic.gov.au)

DATE of NEXT MEETING: to be scheduled. In closing the meeting, Kelvin thanked people for their contributions during the year.

Following the close of the meeting, members, family and friends of Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and Friends of Five Mile Creek and MVCC council representatives joined in an end-of-year BBQ at the Reserve.

# **GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2015, 5:30PM**

**Offices of Kelvin Thomson, 3 Munro St, Coburg**

PRESENT: Kelvin Thomson, Kaye Oddie, David Muir, Tony Smith, Julie Law, David Galloway (Melbourne Water), Anna Lanigan, Audrey Biggs (Brunswick SW Planters), Mark O'Brien, Carolyn Layton, Vince Aitkin.

APOLOGIES: Frank Kinnersley, Zoe Jellie, Louise Pearson, Elaine Brogan, Bill Watson

Passing of Dorothy Thomson: On behalf of the meeting Vince Aitkin passed on our heartfelt condolences to Kelvin on the recent passing of his mother Dorothy Thomson.

Order of Australia Medal Award to Allan Thomson: Vince congratulated Allan Thomson on his recent Australia Day Honours OAM award and paid tribute in a moving way to his long list of achievements in a life of dedication to working for his local environment. Amongst the very many significant contributions Allan has made are setting up the Pascoe Vale Naturalists, founding the Merri Creek Management Committee and being a founding member of the Moonee Ponds Creek Association (now the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek). Allan's passionate approach often saw him working in unorthodox ways to achieve his goals, at a time when he was ahead of the game and environmental awareness amongst councils and public utilities was some way off. Vince recognised the role Allan's sons Kelvin and Lex played in coming up with the original idea to form the Pascoe Vale Naturalists, when they were both still at Primary School.

Vince put forward the suggestion that a tree should be planted along the Creek in honour of Dorothy and Allan Thomson and their great contribution to the environment. Kelvin thanked Vince and indicated he would be pleased to have a tree planted.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DEC 12, 2014

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: David Muir Seconded Kaye Oddie.

TREASURERS REPORT

Vince reported that little has changed since the last comprehensive report 1/12/2014. Account balances for various accounts is \$26,006.54. Funds held on behalf of Alan and Dorothy Thomson Scholarship fund are \$10,580.23. On 3/2/2015 a sum of \$2300 was received from Moonee Valley Council for our 2015 Community Grant.

**1. Updates on FoMPC Community Grant Planting Projects:**

7. MVCC Nursery Site, off Mascoma St, Strathmore. This site is in a loop between the Creek and the shared path. This is moving along well; plants have been ordered and the dates of the plantings set for Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> each from 10-12 midday. FoMPC are working with MVCC Kim Cooper to plan these activities. Anna mentioned a Men's Shed has been approved for the Old Nursery site (located on the other side of the shared path) and there was some discussion about incorporating this use into the redevelopment of the old nursery site. Michelle Gooding will be checking on the overall plans for the site and will keep us informed. The Men's Shed participants could be invited to the planting days. Kaye stated that plants ordered will cost a bit more than the allocated grant money, however, we can use some of the moneys received from Landcare for our participation in previous Live.Grow.Explore days at Woodlands Park. Such funds were for environmental purposes.
8. Melbourne Water/Moreland Council 'Riverwalk', Outlook Drive, Glenroy. The proposed planting is to extend the plantings and infill with shrubs and lower storey plants and grasses to increase the biodiversity and habitat values of existing 'plantations' of trees near the creek. It is also intended to plant isolated clumps of trees up the hill. MVCC is liaising with VicTrack which owns quite extensive tracks of land in this area. Plants have been ordered from Western Plains Flora and VINC (Victorian Indigenous Nursery Co-operative). The Riverwalk planting is aimed to coincide with National Tree Day which this year is Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup>. A BBQ lunch will be held, to be provided by Pascoe Vale Rotary Club, the cost of which is over the budgeted grant amount. Motion: That \$150 be taken allocated from general funds to cover the BBQ shortfall. Kaye noted that we had received Landcare/Jemena donations for our participation in the past two years at the Live.Grow.Explore days at Woodlands, which would offset the \$150. Moved Kaye Seconded: Vince. Friends will also be asked to help with the schools planting day at the site on July 24th.

**2. How to combat the Noisy Miner problem with planting solutions?**

An email from Kelvin was tabled outlining the problem and possible solutions of Noisy Miners driving out the smaller nectar-eating birds, such as thornbills, honeyeaters, wrens from revegetated areas. Research indicates Noisy Miners do well where there are tall trees e.g. eucalypts, surrounded by open grassy areas. Kelvin provided examples of indigenous and native plants which could be used to more densely infill plant revegetation areas. He also stated that the pattern of planting was important, whereby trees should be under-planted and surrounded by dense shrub and lower storey plantings and there should be a wide perimeter planting of grasses and other ground covers. There was discussion of the features of places which do have a good diversity of birdlife and ways to achieve this habitat.

Kaye added that new federally funded research hubs through a program called National Environmental Science Programme (NESP) are being set up to look at issues including Urban Landscapes and Threatened Species. FoMPC could consider raising ecological issues such as Noisy Miners in urban landscapes as part of their research programs.

**3. Jacana Valley draft Master Plan 2015-20**

FoMPC submission. Kaye and Anna spoke about their 'wish list' submitted for consideration by Hume City Council. The main item was for a boardwalk alongside the

wetlands. Anna provided many photos for the submission illustrating existing birds and plants at Jacana and examples of boardwalks, walkways and information displays from other wetlands (e.g. Cairnlea wetlands at Iramoo). These could enhance the access to and experience of the Jacana Wetlands, without disturbing the habitat. The submission was also forwarded to David Galloway (Melbourne Water) who endorsed the suggestions and indicated he was prepared to work with Hume City Council to increase the chances of these suggestions being implemented.

#### **4. Update on the Moonee Ponds Creek by David Galloway, Waterways & Land Officer, Melbourne Water**

David explained that the restructuring at Melbourne Water to make Melbourne Water less 'drains' orientated and more 'customer centric' where Melbourne Water lands can facilitate wider environmental and community use. New areas of responsibilities have been set up with boundaries within the catchments more closely aligned with municipal boundaries. River Health and Maintenance will be grouped together in 'a one stop shop' arrangement. A Liveability Team has been set up. Officers for the relevant areas of the Moonee Ponds Creek are being finalised.

David also gave details of proposed and ongoing works taking place on Melbourne Water land along the Creek and its tributaries. Works such as weed control, rabbit control, revegetation and amenity works at the Tarnuk, Attwood Creek, Westmeadows, Yuroke Creek, Moonee Ponds Creek upstream of confluence with Yuroke Creek and Five Mile Creek were outlined. It was also noted that Melbourne Water are working with Melbourne Airport on a drain strategy including storm water harvesting and with Moonee Valley Council on the 5 Mile Creek Master Plan.

Kaye raised the idea from the 1992 Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan for 'naturalising' concreted sections of the Creek. David noted that a community grant was received by a Melton group to naturalise a concrete lined creek in that area.

#### **4. Landscaping of embankment under CityLink - Racecourse Rd to Arden St.**

Kaye raised the issue of landscaping the desolate embankment on the eastern side of the Creek under the CityLink viaducts, which could be linked with the proposed CityLink-Tulla Widening project. Kaye pointed out a design competition is being held to landscape design the Power St off ramp in Southbank so why can't something be done here? There is the possibility of involving Landscape Design students from Melbourne Uni. Motion: CityLink authority to be contacted regarding a project for landscaped improvements to the embankments under CityLink between Racecourse Road and Arden Street. Moved Kaye Seconded David Muir.

#### **5. FoMPC Website, Email, Facebook**

Call for volunteer(s) to revamp the FoMPC website, email, set up Facebook. Kaye reported that there are a number of people who would be happy to help set up a Facebook, email and website for FoMPC. Offers received from Zoe Jellie, Nina Eason and Louise Pearson's husband, Chris, who is a website specialist. Vince offered to hold the meeting at his home. Tony expressed an interest in being involved.

#### **6. Call for Volunteers for:**

- Moonee Valley Festival Environment Stand, Sun Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. Contact Kim Cooper tel 8325 1888 [KCooper@mvcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:KCooper@mvcc.vic.gov.au) Anna offered to attend from midday and Tony between 10 and 12 midday.
- Landcare *Live.Grow.Explore* Community Day at Woodlands Historic Park on Sun 15<sup>th</sup> March, 11am-4pm. Event. Anna offered to attend this event; Julie may also be able to assist. Members asked to let Kaye know if you are available to attend.

OTHER BUSINESS/REPORTS

- MVCC - Call for suggestions for 2015-16 council budget (deadline is Feb 22nd). Contact Council by email [budget@mvcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:budget@mvcc.vic.gov.au), Facebook, mail to PO Box 126, Moonee Ponds 3039 or contact local councillors.
- *Ponderings*. This issue will be handled by the Executive Committee.
- Tony Smith mentioned potential involvement of Green Army in projects.
- Yarra City Council Australia Day 2015 Citizen Award to all East West Link Campaigners. A copy of the award was tabled and it was noted that Friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek was one of the groups included in the award.
- Vince reported that Moreland Council has responded to the call to remove the Robinia suckers that had vigorously grown in the John St Reserve revegetated area.
- Kaye reminded the group that we should follow up the nearby property boundary issue with the relevant authority/ies.

## NOTICES

- Tues Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 8pm, Bat Encounter with bat expert Rob Gration/Friends of Steele Creek/MVCC at Spring Gully Reserve, Keilor Rd, Niddrie (Melways 15 G9). Contact 9379 1185
  - Moonee Valley Festival – Sunday Feb 22, 2015, 10am-5pm, Queens Park, Moonee Ponds
  - Clean up Australia Day along the Moonee Ponds Creek: Sun March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8am-12noon, Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights. Meet at the pagoda at the end of the reserve car park.  
40-42 Koala Crescent Westmeadows (a small event, contact Julie Law).
- Lower Moonee Ponds Creek, environs Macaulay Road. Meet corner Macaulay Road and Stubbs St, Kensington. Register at:  
<http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au/register/?Macaulay+Station+and+ck>
- Hume Council Events, planting days and workshops Jan-June 2015 – see [http://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Waste\\_Environment/Environment/Live\\_Green\\_-\\_Get\\_Involved/Live\\_Green\\_-\\_Free\\_workshops\\_and\\_events](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Waste_Environment/Environment/Live_Green_-_Get_Involved/Live_Green_-_Free_workshops_and_events)

# EXECUTIVE MEETING    FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2015, 4PM

Offices of Kelvin Thomson, 3 Munro St, Coburg

PRESENT: Kelvin Thomson (President), Frank Kinnersley (Vice President), Vince Aitkin (Treasurer), Kaye Oddie (Secretary)

## ITEMS OF BUSINESS

### 1. Thomson Memorial Tree

Moreland Council is happy to proceed with planting a special tree as part of our 'Riverwalk' planting project on National Tree Day on July 26. A Yellow Gum is the suggested species and location should be offset from the shared path so as to avoid compromising sightlines for path users. A large rock will be placed by the tree with a plaque commemorating Dorothy and Allan Thomson for their environmental involvement with the Creek. Details and costings for the plaque to be arranged by FoMPC in consultation with the Thomson family and Moreland Council.

### 2. Ponderings

Kelvin gave background to the current situation regarding *Ponderings*, including the terms of the Bendigo Bank grant made to MPCCC and his recent discussions with Di Fincher from the Bendigo Bank and with Anna Lanigan and Nina Eason. Grant is for \$5500, with \$1100 specifically for the printing and posting of 500 hard copies for each of four issues over 12 month period. There is also a sizeable number of the newsletter emailed.

Outcome of these discussions is that the Bank agrees that funding towards payment of Stella Blay's production costs of the last issue (Spring-Summer 2014) can be allocated from the grant money. For the next three issues, Anna and Nina have offered to put together the copy, volunteering their time and effort at no cost. Printing and postage of hard copies and (electronic mail out) would be undertaken in accordance with the grant. It was agreed that Anna and Nina's offer be accepted.

Vince suggested if Anna and Nina were interested in continuing with production of future *Ponderings*, then FoMPC could seek funding to cover these production costs, but that future mail outs should only be electronic, no hard copies. It was noted that generally people want *Ponderings* to continue, however no further FoMPC funds should be contributed to *Ponderings*. Suggested sources of future funding could be Bendigo Bank (again), Melbourne Water (who fund the production and printing of the Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley News) and Landcare, that Vince is interested in pursuing for their wider programs supporting community/other groups.

Meeting agreed that FoMPC write to Tony Smith, President of MPCCC setting out the following points:

- The Bendigo Bank grant is for \$5500 to cover four issues of *Ponderings* over a 12 month period. This includes an agreed/budgeted \$1100 per issue for printing and postage of 500 hard copies.



- It is understood, following discussion with the Bendigo Bank, that payment towards work undertaken by Stella Blay for the first of these issues (Spring-Summer 2014, issue 45) can be allocated from the grant.
- Anna Lanigan and Nina Eason have offered to undertake the production of the next three issues, volunteering their time and effort at no cost in order to meet the Bendigo Bank grant conditions and costs.
- It is not for the FoMPC to advise how the grant money should be allocated, however, with \$4400 committed to the four printed/posted issues, the remaining \$1100 could be combined with funds from the sale of the MPCCC trailer, estimated at \$800 from Tony Smith's email of 18 Feb, to fully pay Stella Blay the \$1800 for her work on the first issue.

Meeting also agreed that fallback position in the light of the above decisions is payment of the \$1800 to Stella Blay for the last issue as agreed at the FoMPC Dec meeting.

### **3. Website/Email**

Meeting set up for Mar 15 at Vince's home to be attended by Zoe Jellie, Chris Pearson, Nina Eason and Tony Smith to revamp FoMPC website, set up email, Facebook, etc. Vince cited a Landcare magazine report on advanced electronic communication programs being set up by community groups that he would like to pursue further with Landcare.

Kaye Oddie

Secretary

# GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY APRIL 17, 2015, 5:30PM

Offices of Kelvin Thomson 3 Munro St, Coburg

PRESENT: Julie Law, Anna Lanigan, Kelvin Thomson, Mark O'Brien, Vince Aitkin, Kaye Oddie, Louise Pearson, Ray Hehr, Alan Thomson, Lex Thomson

APOLOGIES: Frank Kinnersley, Jo Connellan, David Galloway, David Muir, Kylie Swingler, Tony Smith, Ginny Moylan, Zoe Jellie

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD Feb 13, 2015

Moved Mark O'Brien; seconded Kaye Oddie; approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: The Treasurer, Vince Aitkin, presented a short financial report as at 16/4/15. Bank balance totals \$44,050, comprising general account, term deposits, and the Thomson scholarship fund. A full financial report will be tendered at the next meeting.

It was moved that the financial report be accepted (Vince Aitkin); seconded (Kelvin Thomson); approved.

Stella Blay: Flowers have been sent to Stella on behalf of the FoMPC wishing her well in recovering from her illness and medical therapy.

'Ponderings': Thanks were expressed to Nina Eason and Anna Lanigan for the production of the recent issue of 'Ponderings' (Issue 46 – Autumn 2015).

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- 1. Update on website.** Following the last meeting, a sub-committee was set up to update the FoMPC website, set up an email address and Facebook. Committee comprises Louise Pearson, with her husband Chris Knowles assisting, Anna Lanigan, Nina Eason, Vince Aitkin and Tony Smith. Louise Pearson reported on the progress made to date – a draft webpage has been prepared and includes links to the FoMPC, the Creek, activities, galleries of photographs, contacting and membership. Meeting approved the domain name of [mooneepondscreek.org.au](http://mooneepondscreek.org.au), email [friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au](mailto:friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au) and Facebook Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek as well as the \$34 cost to register the domain name. Sub-committee will continue finalising the content of the webpage and will have continuing oversight.

- 2. Updates on Community Grant Planting Projects:**

Kaye provided updates on the following community grant projects:

### Melbourne Water/Moreland 'Riverwalk', Outlook Drive, Glenroy

Lori Arthur, Moreland Council, has been liaising with VicTrack regarding, in particular, the proposed planting on the hill slope with initial concerns relayed from VicTrack that their long-term plans for the area have not been decided. Alternate site for the hill slope tree planting has been selected further along the Creek flats. Proposed location of the tree and commemorative Dorothy & Alan Thomson plaque to be finalised following FoMPC letter to VicTrack.

### MVCC Nursery Bend Site, off Mascoma St, Strathmore

Anna Lanigan raised concerns about the future of the former nursery site on the opposite side of the path to the Nursery Bend community planting site and its present state; it is understood that a Men's Shed is being considered for the site. Secretary to write to MVCC seeking information about plans for the site.

### Five Mile Creek, Essendon

The draft Five Mile Creek Reserve Master Plan has been released for comment (<http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/fivemilecreek>). Information session to be held on Sat April 18, 1-3pm at the Reserve. Feedback also by emailing [parkimprovements@mvcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:parkimprovements@mvcc.vic.gov.au).

and Anna provided a report on the Live.Grow.Explore Community Day at Woodlands Historic Park, held on Sun March 15. This was the third year Landcare and Jemena had held the event, which was well attended by predominantly Hume residents. It would be good if publicity could be extended down the Creek. FoMPC shared an information table with the Friends of Woodlands Historic Park. Anna, Nina and Tony were thanked for volunteering on behalf of the FoMPC for this community event. Kelvin noted that Living Legends is now open 7 days a week, and this should bring more visitors to the wider park.

- **CityLink Tulla Widening project.** Kelvin Thomson participated on a bus tour by the Minister for Transport, VicRoads representatives for the proposed project. The project is an unsolicited proposal from Transurban to the State Government and will involve the conversion of the emergency lanes to traffic lanes in both directions from Melrose Drive to West Gate Freeway, with extra lanes on the Bolte Bridge and at Bell St. Design has not yet been finalised but information sessions for local groups are planned from May. Concerns were expressed in regard to the additional traffic lanes and predicted 30% increase in traffic feeding into existing bottle necks, as well as environmental impacts, particularly of increased noise and air emissions. FoMPC to ask that the relevant authorities/project representatives attend our next meeting.

Lex Thomson suggested the project could provide impetus to achieve improvements to the Creek corridor, such as 'ripping up' the extensive concrete channelisation. He cited the example of Stony Creek, where such 'naturalisation' has been undertaken in conjunction with Melbourne Water and Greenfleet and using carbon offsets. Kaye referred to the earlier Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan (1992) with its diagram for such 'naturalisation' along the Moonee Ponds Creek.

- **East West Link follow-up.** Kelvin expressed his thanks to all members who had worked on stopping the East West Link and congratulated them on the successful result. He cautioned that there was still much political push for it to be built and referred the Herald Sun's recent six-page article as evidence for this. It was decided that a letter of thanks be written to the Premier, Daniel Andrews, for cancelling the East West Link.

- **Yarra River (& Other Waterways) Protection Act.** Letter has been drafted for sending the Ministers for Environment and Planning seeking expansion of the proposed Act to include other waterways, including the Moonee Ponds Creek, as they also are threatened by development impacts and loss of amenity.
- **Planning.** The Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan and its built-form Amendment C190 are to be reconvened following the cancellation of the East West Link.

The Government is currently considering the redevelopment of E-Gate (the large rail yards site between Dynon Rd/Footscray Rd and abutted by the Moonee Ponds Creek on the western perimeter). FoMPC to write to Minister for Planning highlighting importance of MPC open space and amenity in any redevelopment.

- **General Plantings.** Lex spoke about climate change and impacts on remnant plant species, for example, Bull mallee, blue box, whereby changing climatic conditions are adversely impacting on their present habitats and as a consequence, their long-term viability. Lex suggested that such species are 'rescued' by plantings in more favourable areas, perhaps creek corridors and other open spaces. Anna thought the wide areas of the Jacana Basin could be such a site, however, Kaye cautioned that we should be revegetating the Creek Corridor with its recommended indigenous plant species and that open spaces within cleared lands with no specific revegetation policy (e.g. associated with new housing estates) could be considered for 'rescue' plantings. Also it is important that detailed ecological studies be undertaken re such proposals.

#### OTHER BUSINESS/REPORTS

- **MPCCC.** Kelvin read out email sent from Tony Smith – in summary, the trailer had been sold to Clarkefield Landcare for \$800; remaining Bendigo Bank grant funds will be used for printing/publishing future issues of Ponderings; winding up of MPCCC may be delayed due to a heritage grant application with the Living Museum of the West; and suggestion for action on 'terminating' the concrete lining of the Creek behind Strathmore North Primary School.
- **City of Melbourne Urban Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy** – closing date for input May 30. Go to [www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/projects/nature](http://www.participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/projects/nature), email [nature@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:nature@melbourne.vic.gov.au), or telephone 9658 9658.
- **Bush Care Major Day Out** – FoMPC participation by way of our community plantings at Nursery Bend (July 18, Aug 1) ([www.bushcaresmajordayout.org](http://www.bushcaresmajordayout.org))
- Julie Law reported about campers along the Creek, near the Johnston St deviation, there for over a week and a 'renegade' Growling Grass Frog who found its way into a driveway in Koala Crescent, but was relocated to a safer place.

## **GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY JUNE 12, 2015, 5:00PM**

Offices of Kelvin Thomson, 3 Munro St, Coburg

### **PRESENT:**

David Clements (Transurban Project Manager), Andrew Williams (Vic Roads Project Director), Frank Kinnersley, Kelvin Thomson, Amina Flinn (MCAT), Audrey Biggs, Tony Smith, Alistair Fraser, Julie Law, Anna Lanigan, Russell Smith, Ray Hehr, Richard Laurence (Essendon-Strathmore Ratepayers Association), Peter Flanagan, Kaye Oddie, Mark O'Brien, David Muir, Carolyn Layton

### **APOLOGIES:**

Zoe and Hugh Jellie, David Galloway, Vince Aitkin, Terry Mundy, Louise Pearson

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD April 17, 2015**

Moved: Kelvin Seconded: Kaye Accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT: This was held over due to Vince Aitkin's absence.

### **PRESENTATION:**

#### **CityLink Tullamarine Widening Project**

Andrew Williams (VicRoads - Overall Project Director), David Clements (Transurban Project Director), Kelly Marshall (VicRoads Communications & Stakeholder Engagement Manager), Louise Rendina (Transurban Communications Advisor)

In an overview, Andrew Williams explained that the proposal is for widening CityLink from the Burnley Tunnel to Melrose Drive, with an extension to Melbourne Airport, at a total projected cost of \$1.3 billion. This funding will come from Transurban (Burnley to Melrose Drive) with the State and Federal governments contributing to the Melrose to the Airport section.

The rationale for the widening of the road was outlined i.e. the inability of CityLink to deal with the morning and afternoon peak traffic, massive growth in the suburbs such as the Wallan Corridor and with projected increases in traffic to the north and in trips to Melbourne Airport.

The aim is to increase the capacity of the road and lead to a 15-16 minute reduction in travel time during the peaks, a 20% reduction in casualty accidents and faster responses to incidents.

One of the features will be 24km of electronic traffic signals to regulate flows, which will mean flexibility to create emergency lanes when necessary. One point well received by the meeting was the announcement that there will be a separate flyover from Bell Street to Pascoe Vale Road, although concern about its location and design was expressed, as was the present congestion that occurs on Bell Street.

Some dates were mentioned: Westgate to Bulla Road Section will commence on the ground in Oct 2015 and will reach Melrose by 2018. By late 2018 the section to the Airport will be completed.

David Clements spoke next specifically about the Burnley to Melrose section being managed by Transurban, mentioning that the projected increase in capacity is 30%. David stressed that the widening will be carried out within the existing footprint of the CityLink structure, and will maintain the creek corridor, by removing emergency lanes, slightly decreasing the width of the existing lanes (3.5 to 3.35m) and bringing the lanes closer to the shoulder.

He stated that although there will be 'no permanent impact on the creek', there will be a need to go into the creek to work on the freeway. However, there was particular mention of the Southern exit onto Flemington Road, the 2500 vehicles per hour which use this during peak times and the problem with the 'tail' of waiting vehicles extending onto the roadway. There are plans to increase the number of lanes on the on and off ramps and this will necessitate removal of some planted embankment and possible impacts on the nearby 'ornamental lake' at Flemington Bridge. In response to questions concerning the details of these works David mentioned that these were still being finalised and that he would be happy to come back and discuss with FoMPC. It was pointed out that there is a lot of information on the website with fact sheets and other materials. Some questions were taken: Kaye queried whether there would be compensation offered as an offset to the loss of the planted embankment at Flemington Bridge. David pointed out there was a requirement to maintain the hydrological aspects this section but was not in a position to comment on compensation at this stage. Tony asked whether Transurban was aware of the recently drawn up Moonee Valley City Council Moonee Ponds Creek concept plans and that here was a chance to do something for the creek as part of the project. There was a question about whether a dedicated public transport lane had been considered and if not why not. The response was that Transurban has a very limited space to work with and some investigation had shown this would lead to a decrease in the vehicle carrying capacity, but said that the company is 'not anti-public transport in any way'. Andrew added that there had been some consideration of 'high occupancy lanes' and pointed out that Sky Bus contributes to 14% of trips to the airport and these passengers will benefit from the project. Kaye asked Andrew whether there was some clause in the contracts that meant Transurban would receive compensation if a rail link to the Airport was ever built and the answer was No. Anna highlighted the drains to the creek from the wetlands and the need not to tamper with these for the functioning and health of these wetlands.

Andrew then spoke in general terms about the campaign and the key messages that they wanted to get across (a) that they want people to be aware of the plans (b) to acknowledge that impacts are inevitable and they can't ensure everyone will be pleased with the outcomes (c) the same number of lanes that are 80kph currently available during peak hour will be maintained during construction to minimise 'rat runs' through suburbs like Moonee Valley (d) VicRoads guidelines will be met regarding noise levels.

There followed various questions and strongly worded comments regarding the noise levels (63 decibels is the current VicRoads standard); where they would be measured; why they are not yet set at world or even NSW standards; where are the data on present CityLink noise levels (and air emissions); how noise is currently experienced along the different sections of the Creek corridor and how this is likely to be when the road is up and running with 30% more traffic, much of this trucks and more at night time; night time noise when currently there is NO standard applied and consideration of public transport in the design. It was pointed out that studies will be done as part of the design process, that it is incumbent on Transurban to maintain current noise level standards and also that Vic Roads is currently reviewing noise level standards.

Andrew acknowledged the depth of feeling expressed at the meeting on issues relating to the project and reiterated his offer to come back when details are worked out more fully to discuss the plans with FoMPC. The guest speakers were thanked for their input.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Update on website:** Message from Louise Pearson relayed by Anna. Louise has most of the content now and she is in the process of uploading it to the site (still on [fompc.agameoftwohalves.com](http://fompc.agameoftwohalves.com)). Once the content is uploaded, she will arrange a meeting with the sub-committee to approve the contents and then publish it on [mooneepondscreek.org.au](http://mooneepondscreek.org.au) . If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please contact Louise at [louise.m.pearson@gmail.com](mailto:louise.m.pearson@gmail.com)
- **Updates on Community Grant Planting Projects:**
- 9. Melbourne Water/Moreland 'Riverwalk', Outlook Drive, Glenroy & Thomson memorial. The site is currently undergoing a strategic review within the context of the Moreland Planning Scheme. Until this is finalised FoMPC is required to confine revegetation on July 26<sup>th</sup> National Tree Day (and the Thompson memorial) to land currently zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone (closer to the Creek) and to not plant in the area up the hill currently zoned General Residential.
- 10. Nursery Site, off Mascoma St, Strathmore. Community plantings for our MVCC grant project will be held on July 18 and Aug 1.
- **New Travancore bicycle path project.** This project underwent extensive consultation a year or so ago. It is in the Council budget process. It would provide a safer, separate cycle route along the top of the Creek embankment and would allow the park to be freer for pedestrians and informal recreation. Some uncertainty about whether it will get funding. Motion: 'That a letter of support for funding this project be sent to Moonee Valley Council'. Moved Kaye. Seconded Tony. Accepted. Russell authorised to write and send the letter.
- **Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan/Amendment C190.** This Melbourne City Council plan to redevelop former industrial areas of North Melbourne and Kensington had progressed to a planning scheme amendment for specified built form controls. An independent panel set up to consider the proposals was postponed due to the likely impact of the East West Link on the plans. Now EWL has been cancelled, the hearings will recommence in July. FoMPC will submit that the Creek corridor's open space should be expanded and improved and that new (high rise/density) developments should not detrimentally impact on the amenity of the Creek.

#### OTHER BUSINESS/REPORTS

- Bush Care Major Day Out – Sun Sept 13 ([www.bushcaresmajordayout.org](http://www.bushcaresmajordayout.org)). Whether FoMPC can link an activity to be further considered.
- Tony mentioned the Gowanbrae Festival October 29<sup>th</sup> and that FoMPC was invited to attend. Tony and Nina Eason will be attending.
- Kelvin reported on a Parks Victoria article which pointed out how landscapes have changed since European settlement, away from species such as acacia's, lightwoods, she-oaks, silver banksias to the eucalypts that predominate now. Discussion ensued about what role revegetation projects could play in 'rescuing' species whose habitat is being threatened by climate change. Also, planting regimes need to consider the habitat they provide for native and non-native pest species of birds, e.g. Indian mynas like open areas with edging trees and drive out smaller native bird species. Rethink is required on changing infill planting schemes. Planting more lower storey, denser shrub layers will provide habitat for the smaller birds.

#### NOTICES

- Hume Council Events, planting days and workshops Jan-June 2015 – see [http://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Waste\\_Environment/Environment/Live\\_Green -  
\\_Get\\_Involved/Live\\_Green - Free workshops and events](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Waste_Environment/Environment/Live_Green_-_Get_Involved/Live_Green_-_Free_workshops_and_events)
- MVCC Community conservation activities 2015 calendar [www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/plantingdays](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/plantingdays)

DATE of NEXT MEETINGS: August 14<sup>th</sup>, October 30<sup>th</sup> (AGM), Dec 11 (Xmas gathering)

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary



# GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY AUGUST 14, 2015, 5:00PM

Offices of Kelvin Thomson, 3 Munro St, Coburg

## PRESENT

Frank Kinnersley, Kelvin Thomson, Tony Smith, Julie Law, Anna Lanigan, Terry Mundy, Kaye Oddie, Zoe Jellie, Mark O'Brien, Carolyn Layton, Marcus Lancaster

## APOLOGIES

Vince Aitkin, Louise Pearson, Jo Connellan, David Muir

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD June 12, 2015

Moved: Anna; seconded: Frank; accepted. Appreciation was also expressed to Minutes Secretary, Carolyn for her very good work writing the minutes.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report prepared by Vince was tabled in his absence by Kelvin.

Details of the account balances and accounts paid since 17/4/2015 were highlighted. The report was accepted and accounts paid were confirmed. Moved: Tony Smith; seconded: Terry Mundy

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- Update on website:** Anna will liaise with Louise Pearson to organise a meeting with those involved in the development of the website in order to facilitate its launch. It was noted that there are now 150 members on MPC Facebook page.
- Grant and Project suggestions for 2016. Details as follows:**

GRANT	PROJECT	OTHER DETAILS
<b>Moonee Valley City Council Community Grant</b>	Lawson Street Reserve, Moonee Ponds, between the Creek path and housing - revegetation project	FoMPC preparing submission; deadline 18/8/15.
<b>Moreland City Council</b>	Margaret Street to Pascoe Vale Road, Oak Park – Corridors of Green Melbourne Water/Moreland Council revegetation project  FoMPC would participate in community plantings.	Further details to be advised by Moreland Council's Lori Arthur
<b>Melbourne Water</b>	Plans for 8.5 km revegetation of the Creek embankments, between Boeing Reserve, Strathmore and	Melb Water officers: Kylie Swingler and Lizzie Younger are running this project. Kelvin

	<p>CityLink, Brunswick. Meeting Aug 20<sup>th</sup> 3.30pm View Room Moonee Valley Council Offices for council officers, FoMPC and other interested parties.</p>	<p>suggested inviting them to the next FoMPC meeting. Kaye organising members to do on-site inspections and provide comment on the proposed plantings.</p>
--	--	--

3. **Reports on Community Planting Days:** These all went well.

**July 18<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Bend, Strathmore:** approx. 400 plants, comprising predominantly infill shrub and lower storey plus some trees planted in the first of two planting days. This planting project was part of our MVCC Community Grant.

**August 1<sup>st</sup> - Nursery Bend:** completion of the above planting project with the remaining 400 plants planted, staked and guarded.

**July 26<sup>th</sup> – National Tree Day: Outlook Drive, Glenroy:** 1200 plants with good attendance by local residents, scouts and a large group of 65 members from the Church of God. The planting project was part of our Melbourne Water Community Grant. A special ceremony was also held to unveil a commemorative plaque recognising the contributions of Allan and the late Dorothy Thomson towards the conservation of the natural environment.

**July 26<sup>th</sup> – National Tree Day: Boeing Reserve Strathmore Heights:** approximately 1500 plants, also well attended with a large contingent from the Indian Social Group.

Follow-up working bees are scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup> and Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12noon, to complete staking and guarding the new plantings at Nursery Bend and Outlook Drive respectively.

Follow-up to the Outlook Drive project will be to investigate retention of the surrounding area as public open space; it is currently zoned Residential, almost down to the Creek.

4. **Update on CityLinkTulla Widening Project:** Disappointingly, detailed information on design of new works at Flemington Bridge and Bell Street have not been provided in response to FoMPC request; nor data on noise levels and future modelling or impacts on the Creek corridor. Kelvin suggested we take up the project proponents offer to hold a second briefing for the group to obtain more specific information.
5. **VicRoads Traffic Reduction Noise Policy Discussion Paper:** This was drawn to the attention of the meeting and attendees were urged to put in a submission. It was noted that the present Victorian policy has no night-time noise criteria or for open space (which includes the many sports ovals and parkland which abut CityLink). It is important to give our views on noise impacts of CityLink and the proposed widening project along the Creek corridor and also call for the new VicRoads Noise Policy to meet lower traffic noise levels of NSW, Queensland and the World Health Organisation. The FoMPC will be lodging a submission.
6. **Moonee Ponds Creek Open Space and Amendment C190:** This Melbourne Planning Scheme amendment is relevant to the Creek around Kensington and North and West Melbourne as it calls for additional land to be added to the Creek corridor for public open space. Hearings for this amendment recommenced in July. The FoMPC supported rezoning of two VicTrack-held parcels of land to PPRZ and for restrictions on the height of development abutting the Creek corridor to protect its open space and environmental amenity.
7. **Cash for Containers Scheme for Victoria?** The view was put that we have an opportunity with the change of government to push the Minister for Environment on this issue. SA has had one for a long time and both NT and NSW are introducing schemes. Proposal that the Secretary write to the Minister Lisa Neville urging the uptake of a cash for containers scheme, and including photos of the Creek litter.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Proposed Hume Amendment C202:** Deadline for submissions Sept 4th. The amendment affects land near Wright Street, Westmeadows and could see industrial development occurring down to the Creek. Attendees urged to visit the Hume 'Have Your Say' site and comment on this proposal, particularly calling for a buffer of open space to protect the Creek corridor. FoMPC will be making a submission.

2. **Men's Shed, Nursery Bend, Strathmore:** Official opening of the building on August 29. Discussion about parking arrangements and also about the adjoining nursery site. This will apparently be considered as part of the Moonee Ponds Creek master plan the MVCC is presently preparing for public consultation.
3. **Friends of Brimbank Park:** Invitation to FoMPC to contribute to a set of environmental education cards "Connies Collectables" by producing a number of cards highlighting wildlife or plants along the Moonee Ponds Creek.
4. **Citizen Reporting Incidents:** Zoe mentioned a program and app called **Snap/Send/Solve** [www.snapsendsolve.com](http://www.snapsendsolve.com) in which an incident is identified, photos taken and they are emailed to the relevant council or authority to take action to resolve the problem.
5. **PPWCMA & Landcare Program:** Kelvin mentioned the Federal and Green Army programs to help rehabilitate the MPC. These include weed control and revegetation in Strathmore.

#### NOTICES

- **Gowanbrae Festival** : October 25<sup>th</sup>;

**NEXT MEETINGS:**           **Friday October 30<sup>th</sup>**, 5pm, AGM & General Meeting \*\*\*

**Friday December 11**, 5pm, Xmas gathering, venue tba

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

\*\*\* **Date now changed to Friday Nov 6<sup>th</sup>**, 5pm

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2015, 5:00PM

Offices of Kelvin Thomson 3 Munro St, Coburg

PRESENT: Vince Aitkin, Tony Smith, Anna Lanigan, Louise Pearson, Julie Law, David Muir,

Audrey Biggs, Zoe Jellie, Kelvin Thomson, Kaye Oddie, Carolyn Layton

APOLOGIES: Jo Connellan, Corey Bannister, Lynne Clarke, Frank Kinnersley, Terry Mundy

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2014 AGM:

The Minutes of the 2014 AGM held on 26/9/2014 were tabled and accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. (Moved CL, Seconded AL)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Kelvin Thomson summed up the year as 'action packed'. He mentioned the cancellation of the East West Link project, a significant victory for the groups, including FoMPC, and individuals who tirelessly campaigned against it. The highly successful plantings along the Creek were highlighted, including the very well attended events at Glenroy, Boeing Reserve and Strathmore. Kelvin thanked Carolyn for taking the Minutes throughout the year, Louise Pearson for creating the website, Anna and Nina for the ongoing production of 'Ponderings', Mark O'Brien for his administrative assistance, and officers of Moreland Council (Lori Arthur, Vince Andreaana), Moonee Valley Council (Michelle Gooding, Kimberley Cooper) and Hume Council (Melissa Doherty) and Melbourne Water and its revegetation project along the Creek. Kaye Oddie was also thanked and her many contributions as Secretary acknowledged.

FINANCIAL REPORT for Year ended 30 June 2015:

The financial report prepared by Treasurer, Vince Aitkin, was tabled. It consisted of detailed income/expenditure figures and included supporting documentation to show that Income for the year ended 30/6/2015 was \$44,015, Expenditure was \$3723, Income from accounts of \$12,074 with a surplus of \$8,300. The Treasurer's Report was accepted (moved VA, Seconded TS).

Vince was thanked for his continuing expert keeping of the books and preparation of the financial statements. Kaye mentioned that, under revised regulations, two Committee Members will check the annual financial report instead of an audit being required.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

All office bearer positions were declared vacant and nominations were called for from the floor as no nominations had been received prior to the meeting. The following nominations were received and those nominated for the particular office bearer positions were duly elected as follows:

- President: Kelvin Thomson (Moved KO/Seconded VA)
- Vice-President: Frank Kinnersley (Moved TS/Seconded AL)
- Treasurer: Vince Aitkin (Moved AL/Seconded JL)
- Secretary & Public Officer: Kaye Oddie (Moved TS/Seconded VA)
- Appointment of Minutes Secretary: Carolyn Layton (Moved JL/Seconded DM),
- 

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Louise Pearson announced the completion of FoMPC website [www.mooneepondscreek.org.au](http://www.mooneepondscreek.org.au) and the establishment of a FoMPC email address: [friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au](mailto:friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au). The FoMPC's Facebook page is well established.
- Anna Lanigan and Nina Eason have kindly offered to continue production of 'Ponderings'.

## GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2015, 5:30PM

Offices of Kelvin Thomson 3 Munro St, Coburg

### PRESENT:

Vince Aitkin, Tony Smith, Anna Lanigan, Louise Pearson, Julie Law, David Muir, Audrey Biggs, Zoe Jellie, Kelvin Thomson, Kaye Oddie, Carolyn Layton

### APOLOGIES:

Jo Connellan, Corey Bannister, Lynne Clarke, Frank Kinnersley, Terry Mundy

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on August 14, 2015:

The Minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved David Muir, Seconded Anna Lanigan.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

No change from the last meeting. (Moved VA Seconded CL). Membership dues were called for.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

#### 1. **Submission to VicRoads Traffic Reduction Noise Policy review**

VicRoads is conducting a review of their road traffic noise policy which as it stands has no standards for night time levels, or for open space or realistic measurement locations for multistorey buildings. Standards are inadequate and inferior to other Australian states and overseas. The FoMPC lodged a submission. VicRoads will draft a report and new policy which will be considered by the State Government. Timeframes for this are not known.

#### 2. **Report on second meeting with Transurban/VicRoads/Leighton Holdings re CityLinkTulla Widening project**

The first briefing by the project organisations left members with a sense that their concerns were not being heard. At a second briefing little further information was supplied. No response was given to request for offsets for the removal of vegetation associated with the widening project, particularly around the Flemington Bridge area. Noise impacts will not be changed from the present CityLink concession deed level of 63dB(A) or current VicRoads levels of 68dB(A) for other roads. Councils are very unhappy with the widening project and consultation process, including the fact that there appears little consideration of the impacts of the predicted 30% additional freeway traffic on abutting arterial/feeder roads and other local roads.

### **3. Submission to Western Road, Westmeadows, rezoning and development – Hume Council planning scheme amendment C202**

Julie Law spoke of the submission she and fellow Westmeadows resident Kim prepared. Carolyn Layton tabled the submission she completed on behalf of FoMPC. A link to this submission has been placed on the FoMPC website. There have been a couple of hundred submissions so the panel hearings, if held, will not occur until at least March 2016. Concerns put forward in both submissions included that any rezoning close to the Moonee Ponds Creek (here it exists in near original state of open ponds fringed with old River Red Gums and large boulders) should be to public use, not a development zone; paths should not be constructed on the upper/south side of the Creek; a future link road is opposed across the Creek from Western Avenue to the Attwood estates.

### **4. Planning Panels Victoria report on Melbourne planning scheme AmC190**

This amendment involves the redevelopment of former industrial areas in North Melbourne and Kensington with large increases in population and increased built form density. This will impact on the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor and its limited open space. Provision of more open space to serve the increased population is problematic on the basis of availability of land and purchase cost and the Panel report failed to offer effective strategic direction.

### **5. Update on Melbourne Water Revegetation Project 2015-18 – Boeing Reserve to Brunswick**

FoMPC conducted several walk-throughs along the sections of the Creek between Boeing Reserve and Brunswick and annotated weed removal and revegetation maps provided by Melbourne Water with further suggestions and comments. These have been well received by Kylie Swingler and Lizzie Younger, the Melbourne Water River Health Officers in charge. The plans are currently being finalised for implementation commencing next year.

### **6. Community Grants:**

- Moonee Valley 2016 Community Grant – Sustainable Environment application has been lodged for a revegetation project of a little used area abutting the Creek – the Lawson Street Reserve, Moonee Ponds.
- PPWCMA 2016 grant application lodged – FoMPC and Moreland City Council – revegetation, swale creation and other works at the Herbert St Reserve, Pascoe Vale. The plans here include ‘daylighting’ a former gully to increase habitat value.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

### **7. Port of Melbourne Sale**

Letters were sent to Minister for Roads & Ports, Luke Donnellan and Minister for the Environment, Lisa Neville concerning the potential loss of the existing open space alongside the Moonee Ponds Creek between Footscray Road and the junction of the Creek with the Yarra. A reply was received from Minister Neville assuring us that public access to this stretch of land will be maintained and will be incorporated into any lease agreement.

### **8. Gregory St, Oak Park residential development & stormwater outlet to Creek**

Carolyn reported on this issue and the unsatisfactory level of transparency of decision making regarding the location of the stormwater outlet from the development to the Creek. The stormwater outlet from the development opens directly onto the path leading from the ford crossing the Creek - a poorly considered location made by the developer and Moreland Council. Kelvin offered to be a signatory to a letter to Moreland Council outlining the concerns about the decision making process and lack of transparency.

### **9. Jacana Retarding Basin – Melbourne Water plans for upgrade**

An on-site meeting is being arranged in the week beginning November 16<sup>th</sup> to view the plans for this development, which will upgrade the retarding wall in keeping with revised standards. It

was noted that the plans will include upgrading the existing shared pedestrian/cycle path on the Glenroy side and a new path to/from Gowanbrae estate.

#### **10. Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan**

Moonee Valley Council has commissioned the company Practical Ecology to prepare a master plan for the Moonee Ponds Creek. Community consultation will commence in next month or so and the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek is on the list to be involved.

#### NOTICES:

- Frog census – call for volunteers for ongoing censuses in November, April, August, Oct – contact Melbourne Water telephone 131722 or go to [frogs@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:frogs@melbournewater.com.au)
- Anna Lanigan spoke of community concerns about the current state of the Nursery site, down from Mascoma St, regarding building rubble dumped on the site and general degradation. Contact was made with MVCC Officer Kerry Paterson who informed Anna that the lease agreement has 2 more years to run at \$21,000 per year. Apparently there is no bond. Kelvin offered to sign a letter to be sent to the Moonee Valley City Council expressing concern about the state of the Nursery site and what guarantee there will be the site will be properly cleaned up/restored when the lease ends.
- Tony Smith reported on his and Frank Kinnersley's attendance at the launch of City West Water's scheme to redirect stormwater to water sports fields. He said they may do something with Moonee Ponds Creek water at Strathmore.
- Julie Law reported on a new picnic area opposite the Bakery in Westmeadows, including a path a metre from the Creek and issues with litter. She also mentioned that Melbourne Water has replaced the fence and gate in the Tarnuk which we reported vandalised/pulled out of the ground (to obtain illegal access to the McLaughlin's Land). There are serious concerns with continuing illegal access along the Creek – the valued upper Moonee Ponds chain of ponds area.
- Kaye suggested that as 'Ponderings' is now being distributed only by email, local libraries in Moonee Valley, Melbourne, Moreland and Hume, should be added to the mailing list, to enable people without home internet access to read on-line at the library.
- FoMPC Xmas Gathering – Friday Dec 11, 5:30pm – Fran Street Reserve BBQ/picnic area (corner Byron Court), Glenroy. BYO food and drinks. A short general meeting will be held beforehand at 5pm.

#### DATE of NEXT MEETINGS:

- Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 5pm, Fran Street Reserve, Glenroy (corner Byron Court, Melways 16 D2)
- Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, 5pm at Kelvin's Office, 3 Munro Street Coburg

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary



# **GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY DECEMBER 11, 2015, 5:00PM**

## **FRAN STREET RESERVE (corner BYRON COURT), GLENROY**

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Anna Lanigan, Kaye Oddie, Carolyn Layton, Corey Bannister, Ray Hehr, Emily Baldwin, Tony Smith

**APOLOGIES:** Frank Kinnersley, Vince Aitkin, Zoe Jellie, Julie Law, Louise Pearson, Peter Flanagan, Lynne Clark, Audrey Biggs, David Muir

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

It was moved that the Minutes of the previous General Meeting held on Nov 6, 2015 be accepted (KO); seconded CL; passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Held over to next meeting.

### **ITEMS:**

#### **1. MVCC Community Grant**

The FoMPC 2016 Environment & Sustainability community grant application for a revegetation project at the Lawson Street Reserve in Moonee Ponds was successful. Preliminary work with Kim Cooper and Michelle Gooding and other MVCC officers has been undertaken re the unused laneway at the rear of the site, removal of the wire fence and preparing a planting scheme.

#### **2. PPWCMA 2016 Grant Application**

Our Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) community grant application with Moreland City Council for a revegetation and sustainability project at Herbert St, Oak Park – outcome not yet known.

#### **3. Master Plans**

- Moonee Valley Council is preparing a masterplan for the Moonee Pond Creek, see [www.mvcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au) . A workshop will be held on Feb 4, 6-8pm at the Moonee Valley Civic Centre. All FoMPC members are encouraged to provide their valuable input into the masterplan.
- The Melbourne City Council proposed the preparation of a masterplan for the lower Moonee Ponds Creek as part of its 2012 Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan. The Creek corridor was nominated as a key open space area to serve the forecast increase in population with the redevelopment of the former industrial area, predominantly for housing. It was agreed that FoMPC write to the Melbourne City Council calling for initiation of the masterplan process.

#### **4. FoMPC banner and signs**

An application has been lodged with the Federal Government under their Volunteer program for a vertical banner and way signs to be used at FoMPC events. Kelvin suggested his brother-in-law could assist with advice and quotations; Carolyn Layton suggested her school may be able to make. Outcome of grant application not until mid 2016.

#### **5. Jacana Retarding Basin Upgrade**

Kelvin reported on the on-site meeting of FoMPC with reps from Melbourne Water to better understand what the project entailed (strengthening the retarding wall to meet upgraded hydrological standards, but maintaining its present location and general form; minor associated works and relocation of existing shared path and creation of new shared path link to Gowanbrae side of the Creek. Members of FoMPC provided input regarding retarding wall options, the vegetation, realignment of existing shared path (Glenroy side) and proposed new access path to Gowanbrae side, retention of nearby bluestone outcrop, protection of the nearby wetlands with a temporary frog fence, and local community consultation. Timeframes for finalisation of design and works commencement is early 2016. Corey Bannister reported on the wallabies that use the area and expressed concerns that the project works would not affect their routine tracks and feeding areas. He has photos and videos of the wallabies, which we can forward to Melbourne Water.

#### **6. Update of CityLink Tulla Widening (CLTW) project**

Kaye reported on yet more 'bad news' information being learnt about the project – and expressed annoyance that in FoMPC briefings with Transurban/VicRoads/Leightons such information was not provided. Latest is that the noise wall on the western side of CityLink (opposite Travancore Park) will be moved close to the Creek embankment. It appears unlikely that the trees (now cut down) that grew against the noise wall, mitigating its visual impact, will not be replanted against the new noise wall. With the removal of vegetation around the 'ornamental pond', new road bridge and freeway ramps and proposed removal of the lemon scented gums in Flemington Road, the outcome will be a much larger expanse of multi-intersection road infrastructure. The Creek corridor and Travancore Park will be further detrimentally impacted by the visual blight of the new noise walls.

Kaye also reported on the associated matter of the VicRoads Road Traffic Noise Review, for which a preliminary report is due for release early in 2016. Given the estimated 30% increase in traffic on the widened CityLink, more at night and more trucks, it is important that the review result in higher traffic noise standards, i.e. lower noise levels, noise limits at night and for open space areas and noise limits applied to upgraded freeways and arterial roads. It is not good enough for the inappropriate CityLink concession deed noise level of 63dB(A) to be applied to the expanded road and for the next 20-35 years.

Kelvin reported on his recent meeting with Strathmore Secondary College and their concerns about the CLTW project which will impact more closely on their school than they had previously been led to believe.

Kelvin also reiterated the concerns that CLTW will just push more traffic onto local arterial roads feeding the freeway, many of which are already at gridlock at peak times, and cited Bell Street as an example.

#### **7. Moonee Valley Festival**

Anna and Tony reported on early planning for the MVCC Festival to be held on Sunday Feb 28, 2016 in Queens Park. There will be a preliminary meeting with Council organisers on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Suggestions for the FoMPC display include historical pictures of the Creek and how it has changed. Members are asked to help contribute old photos or information.

## **GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2016, 5:00PM**

**Offices of Kelvin Thomson 3 Munro St, Coburg**

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Frank Kinnersley, Vince Aitkin, Kaye Oddie, Julie Law, Anna Lanigan

**APOLOGIES:** Carolyn Layton, Audrey Biggs, Mark O'Brien, Corey Bannister, Zoe Jellie, David Muir

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** of meeting held on Dec 11, 2015: Moved that they be accepted Anna Lanigan/seconded Kaye Oddie/approved

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer presented the financial report showing a balance of \$27,983.70 with expenditures of \$4341.70 for the period 7/8/15 to 3/2/16. It was moved that the report be accepted Vince Aitkin/seconded Frank Kinnersley/approved.

**ITEMS:**

### **Update on PPWMCA 2016 grant application for Herbert St Reserve, Pascoe Vale**

Our application was not successful, reasons given that the project appeared to be more for amenity purposes than environmental. Subsequent to this refusal, Moreland Council successfully approached Melbourne Water to implement part of the project (revegetation works), with remaining parts, including the daylighting of the gully drain, to be considered for other funding opportunities down the track. A FoMPC community planting day has been set at the Reserve for July 17, 10am-12noon. Further details tba.

### **Update on Lawson St Reserve, Moonee Ponds Project**

Planting plan sketched out and plant orders placed, with thanks to Emily Baldwin, Zoe Jellie and Kim Cooper for their input. Residents adjoining the Lawson St Reserve, will be doorknocked with a flyer regarding the project and comments invited. Emily, Zoe and Kaye to undertake with feedback to MVCC. Future meetings on site to check exotic tree/shrub removals; fence removal, site prep works, laneway clearances, timeframes. The lane ownership has been confirmed as a MVCC corporate lane. Continuing access will be required to facilitate reconstruction of the Moonee Ponds Creek trail path/bridge nearby that is in decrepit state.

### **Green Army**

Kelvin announced the successful awarding of two Federal Government funding grants for Green Army teams to Moonee Valley Council. They will work on projects along either side of the Moonee Ponds Creek (and Maribyrnong River) to protect and conserve threatened species and ecological communities. Green Army teams work in partnership with land managers, Councils, Melbourne Water as well as schools and Friends' groups. Team allocations are for 3-6 months. It is planned that they will be able to work on fence and vegetation removals at the Lawson St Reserve

### **Jacana Retarding Basin Upgrade project**

The project involves modification to the earthen Jacana retarding basin wall and concrete spillway wall to comply with upgraded hydrological standards. FoMPC will meet on-site for a second briefing with Melbourne Water and the works contractors CPB (formerly Leightons) on Wednesday Feb 10, 12:30pm.

### **Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan**

A workshop was held on Feb 4 at MVCC with attendees representing key stakeholders, including Moreland, Hume and Melbourne councils, Melbourne Water, community and Friends groups, and Merri Creek Management Committee. The consultants for the project are The Site Office Landscape Architects and Chris Sawyer spoke of the planned consultation, with a major aim to consider removal/mitigation of the extensive concreting along the Creek. MVCC co-ordinator Venta Slizys outlined timeframes and described the major display planned for the forthcoming Moonee Valley Festival, as well as the online consultation 'Our Moonee Ponds Creek' that has been set up – [www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mpcreek](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mpcreek).

Tony Smith cited naturalisation that has been undertaken for Stony Creek, Sunshine North, with lifting of concrete. He will try to arrange a site visit. Kelvin noted the changed attitudes to hydrology since the engineering 'solutions' which saw the extensive realignments and concreting of the Moonee Ponds Creek for CityLink. Frank warned, however, about importance of maintaining hydrological capacity, particularly with increased outer urban development impacting on waterways and drainage. An option should be expanding the open space corridor along the Creek.

### **Moonee Valley Festival**

A large marquee and display will be mounted for the Moonee Ponds Creek Masterplan consultation and FoMPC reps are called on to help. Anna Lanigan has been preparing a display of old, historic photos of the Creek matched with 'now' photographs; this has involved a large amount of time and research, but has been rewarding in adding historical information about the Creek. Anna noted the disarray of MPCCC electronic photographic records and suggests a future project could be to sort and ensure this historical information is properly archived; also added to FoMPC website.

The Essendon Historical Society will be involved and are looking to acquire some of the photos for their collection. Julie Law mentioned an old (late 1800s/early1900s) painting of the upper Creek at Woodlands Historic Park homestead. The Merrifield Library History Librarian is also interested in following up reminiscences of 'old timers' by recording oral histories.

### **Port of Melbourne Sale**

Subsequent to responses from State Government Ministers for Roads & Ports and Environment that existing PoMC open space along the lower Moonee Ponds Creek will be retained as publicly accessible in the lease contract, the FoMPC wrote again asking that landscape enhancements along the Creek as set out in the *Port of Melbourne Interface Landscape Masterplan (2012)* would continue to be implemented under the lease contract. One such measure is the installation of a boardwalk to protect the vegetation along the Creek; it is already being trampled and destroyed by fishermen.

### **Itinerants' Camps along Creek in Kensington**

Kaye described the appalling camps that exist under the Arden St and Macaulay Rd Bridges over the Creek in Kensington and the difficulty in getting the Melbourne City Council to effectively address the homelessness issues of the camps' inhabitants. The CoM has the primary responsibility; Melbourne Water can only remove camp paraphernalia after inhabitants have been relocated to proper accommodation. The camps are negatively impacting on use of the limited open space along this section of the Creek by local residents and the general public.

### **West Trails Draft Strategy**

Frank described this State Government initiative to better link up cycle trails which is being undertaken through six councils. He described some of the issues that need addressing, including the Maribyrnong River trail/Western Ring Road path at Ted Whitten Bridge; existing and proposed links between Maribyrnong River trail and Moonee Ponds Creek trail; vegetation upgrades; the replacement of the boardwalk near Montague St/Lawson St in Moonee Ponds. The online link to view and comment by Feb 19 is [www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/trails](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/trails).

### **CLTW Project update**

Transurban has arranged with Landcare to talk to local groups about two offset vegetation projects. FoMPC is still awaiting presentation of the landscape/vegetation plan associated with the CLTW project itself and considers this information should be available before any offset vegetation projects can be put forward. Transurban has thrice failed to deliver a landscape/vegetation plan in response to FoMPC requests. Landcare has supplied no further information about the CLTW offsets.

Kelvin related the serious concerns raised with him by Strathmore Secondary College as the CLT widening will result in two classrooms being virtually underneath new flyovers. School also criticised the poor consultation by Transurban. Anna raised issues of large erosion channels and questioned what is happening. Frank reported some remediation work has been undertaken on the opposite side of the Creek in this area – however Melbourne Water would no doubt have strict hydrological requirements.

Further criticism of Transurban about the sudden blocking of Creek path near Essendon Community Garden, Travancore with no notices or directions to detour routes.

Concern was expressed about the road traffic noise levels that will be applied to the upgraded freeway, given the CL Concession Deed levels of 63dB(A) are already being exceeded and that no night-time or open space noise limits apply. FoMPC to write to Ministers for Roads and Planning seeking update on the Road Traffic Noise Review and application to CLTW.

### **MVCC Community Grants, 2nd round**

Suggestions were called for. Anna suggested historical/interpretative notices along the Creek; Kaye suggested this could form part of the Moonee Ponds Creek Masterplan recommendations and we could lodge as part of the consultative process. Kelvin suggested we need consistent signage along the length of the Creek, i.e. all councils the same and FoMPC could co-ordinate a whole-of-Creek project. The Bay Trail and Heidelberg Trail were cited as examples. Julie said there is a Westmeadows Precinct Interpretative and Heritage Strategy with at least 12 sites identified; we could look its proposals.

### **Moonee Valley Environmental Friends Booklet**

Judy Ingram is co-ordinating production of a booklet giving brief descriptions of the environmental groups working in the Moonee Valley municipality. FoMPC to send information and three photos. The project is supported by a MVCC community grant.

### **Other business:**

Julie passed on a good idea from New Zealand: Lake Wanaka Environment Group sets up 44 gallon drums of water and buckets near their new plantings, asking members of the passing public to water new plants.

Get well cards will be sent to Mark O'Brien and Carolyn Layton expressing our concern about their recent illnesses and wishing them full recovery.

### **Notices**

- **Cross Keys Reserve Master Plan** Feb 13, 10am. Meeting for comment on the draft plan
- **Moonee Valley Festival** Sunday Feb 28, 10am-4pm, Queens Park, Moonee Ponds.
- **Clean Up Australia Day** March 6 ([www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au))

# GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY APRIL 8, 2016, 5:00PM

Offices of Kelvin Thomson 3 Munro St, Coburg

PRESENT: Kelvin Thomson, Frank Kinnersley, Kaye Oddie, Carolyn Layton, Anna Lanigan, David Muir, Marcus Lancaster

APOLOGIES: Terry Mundy, Vince Aitkin, Tony Smith, Audrey Biggs

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on Feb 5, 2016 be approved (FK/AL). Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Held over to next meeting.

ITEMS:

## **Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan/Report on Moonee Valley Festival**

Thanks were expressed to Anna Lanigan for the enormous amount of work she put into the historic 'before' and 'after' photographic display at the Moonee Valley Festival, as part of the large Master Plan display and information marquee. Tony's assistance in accessing MPCCC photographs was also appreciated.

Anna described the very good and successful 'Our Moonee Ponds Creek' display that had been organised in the main by MVCC's Venta Slizys and Masterplan consultants Chris Sawyer and Susie Kumar from The Site Office Landscape Architecture. Much interactive feedback was received. Members are encouraged to continue the consultative process through the weblink: [www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mpcreek](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mpcreek). In the meantime, Anna is liaising to have the impressive display boards from the Festival display placed in the Sam Merrifield Library for the duration of the consultation period and for them to have a permanent home afterwards. FoMPC has sent letters of congratulations and thanks to the above organisers of the 'Our Moonee Ponds Creek' Festival display.

Kelvin has visited Moreland Council's CEO Nerina di Lorenzo about possibility of Moreland becoming involved in the Moonee Ponds Creek masterplan, given Moreland has responsibility for the opposite side of the Creek to Moonee Valley Council. Kaye to send relevant information to Kelvin for forwarding to Moreland CEO and she will contact MVCC.

## **Outlook Drive, Glenroy VicTrack Land**

Kelvin also reported on his discussion with Moreland CEO about the retention of the extensive tract of VicTrack land, between Outlook Dve and the Creek as open space (land is currently zoned Residential). Some years ago, liaison with VicTrack resulted in approx. six blocks being excluded from a rezoning to Residential.

Unfortunately, VicTrack's charter is to obtain maximum return on any asset sales/transfers. Moreland CEO was highly supportive of retaining the land as open space. FoMPC to follow up with letters to State Government Ministers for Public Transport (Jacinta Allen) and Planning (Richard Wynne).

## **Plant Hire Company at Nursery Bend**

FoMPC has raised concerns on several occasions with MVCC about the state of the Plant Hire Company at Nursery Bend, off Mascoma St, Strathmore, which is now privately leased. Site appears used for dumping soil/rubble. In response, a letter has been received from MVCC's Coordinator Property Services (28/1/16) stating that a 2-year lease was in place; Council would take steps with the leasee to improve the condition of the site and Council officers would closely monitor the site's ongoing amenity. In meantime, an unused 2400sqm area at the eastern end of the site would be relinquished and reinstated as public open space. It is hoped that this will be undertaken in next few months. Kaye raised matter of the ad hoc parking that was associated with the Men's Shed adjacent to the Plant Hire/Nursery and it was suggested that the car parking issue be raised with MVCC. Anna also commented on the wasted opportunity for the Men's Shed to be available for community meetings due to the presence of heavy tooling equipment in open areas. Facilitation

of shared use of the facility for community use has been logged as an issue for consideration in the MPC masterplan.

### **Wallaby Biolink, Gowanbrae**

Preparatory work and consultation for this project has been undertaken. Local resident and member, Corey Bannister, suggested that as part of the Jacana Retarding Basin upgrade works, consideration could be given to forming a planted link across the upper slope above the Jacana site that would provide a vegetation 'cover' for swamp wallabies that move from the Moonee Ponds Creek across the hillslope to a gully below Marigold Cres, Gowanbrae. The land is under VicRoads control because the M80/Western Ring Road runs along the crest of the ridge to the west. VicRoads is currently planning construction of noise walls adjacent to the M80 and FoMPC took opportunity to raise the wallaby biolink proposal at a local residents' group meeting attended by VicRoads. A more detailed proposal with costings was submitted to VicRoads and they are supportive, conditional on a number of issues. We are working through the issues, including vegetation species, clearances from HV transmission towers, access, site preparation, tree guards and maintenance. An on-site meeting will be held next week.

### **Five Mile Creek Path Works and Revegetation**

Michelle Gooding MVCC has advised of 3 eucalypt removals at the reserve with a planned planting project nearby. Frank Kinnersley has discussed his concerns about vegetation clearances from the new shared path.

### **Lower Moonee Ponds Creek (Melbourne municipality)**

Julie Francis, Water Sensitive Urban Design Coordinator/Urban Sustainability at the City of Melbourne introduced herself and briefly described her role gathering relevant information about this section of the Creek, existing documents and the important governance issues. Although the CoM doesn't have management responsibilities for the Creek, it would like to see improvements by collaborating with the other authorities. There are a number of projects which will impact on the Creek corridor: the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan urban renewal proposals, the sale/lease of the Port of Melbourne, Melbourne Metro and CLTW and Western Distributor road projects.

David Muir tabled a letter received by the Kensington Association from Lord Mayor Doyle stating that CoM will instigate development of a master plan for the Creek this year.

Kelvin suggested that a follow-up information meeting be held with CoM, FoMPC and Kensington Association.

### **Port of Melbourne Interface Landscape Masterplan**

FoMPC wrote to Minister for Ports Luke Donnellan asking that the above plan and commitment to its continuing implementation be included in the PoMC lease documentation. Reply (24/2/16) stated that the plan will be considered as part of the management of community needs along the eastern side of the Creek whilst ensuring the port's safe, efficient and functional operation. Confirmation of continuing public access along the eastern side of the Creek was reiterated by a Ministerial advisor to Kelvin, however the extent of this access is not known.

### **Western Distributor, EES and Community Liaison Group**

FoMPC submitted comments for the Environment Effects Statement Scoping Document, concentrating on the Eastern Interchange/City Bypass which would have the greatest potential impact on the Moonee Ponds Creek with the two proposed elevated viaducts along the Creek joining CityLink around Arden Street. Comments included greater consideration for noise, light and environmental impacts, a wider consideration of protection for open spaces and waterways and their ecology and need to *avoid*, rather than *minimise* detrimental impacts. The EES will be released in early 2017 with public submissions and hearings to follow.

In the meantime, a community liaison group (10 members) will be set up to provide a forum on the Western Distributor's planning, construction and operation. FoMPC, Kensington Association and North & West Melbourne Association have combined to nominate a representative.

#### **Road Traffic Noise Review – update**

In response to the follow-up letter to Ministers for Planning and Roads regarding the status of the review of VicRoads Traffic Noise Policy, a standard reply: 'your correspondence has been received and will be responded to you shortly' was received (16/2/16). No further response to date. KT/KO to chase up.

#### **'Living Landscapes' proposal – MVCC grant application**

The FoMPC has given its support to an application by **the Indirect Object** group for an interpretive arts project involving local children and families in raising awareness of the history and ecology of the Creek including special plantings along the Creek.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Anna raised a maintenance issue regarding an older plantation in the Tarnuk area. Old plastic tree guards are 'choking' many of the trees and need to be removed. Anna will contact Hume Council to ascertain who would be responsible for the maintenance work and suggesting it could be a National Tree day project.
- Carolyn suggested that the John Street Reserve, Oak Park, and adjoining Creek embankment, which were upgraded and planted last year would benefit from some infill planting and weeding. She has offered to help organise a working bee involving local residents. Liaison with Lori Arthur, Moreland Council to be undertaken to progress the matter.
- Terry Mundy has asked if consideration could be given to changing the day/time of FoMPC meetings from Fridays, 5pm following Kelvin's retirement from parliament. The matter of a new meeting venue will also have to be considered.
- Victorian Government opportunity to comment on climate change, see:  
<http://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/have-your-say>  
<http://www.participate.sustainability.vic.gov.au/climate-change-framework>
- Victorian Government - *Review of the native vegetation clearing regulations – Consultation Paper* submissions go to <http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation-clearing-regulations> (deadline April 29, 2016)
- [Victorian Government draft biodiversity plan open for comment - Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity](http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-plan) at <http://haveyoursay.delwp.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-plan> (deadline 15 May 2016)

#### **NOTICES:**

##### Community Planting dates:

- June 18, 10am-12noon, Lawson St Reserve, Moonee Ponds
- ? June 25/26 Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy tbc
- July 2, 10am-12noon, Lawson St Reserve, Moonee Ponds (2<sup>nd</sup> planting day)
- July 3, 2-4pm, Five Mile Creek Reserve
- July 17, 10am-12noon, Herbert St Reserve, Pascoe Vale (note corrected time)
- August 7, 2-4pm, Five Mile Creek Reserve

DATE of NEXT MEETING: June 3, 5pm in the offices of Kelvin Thomson, 3 Munro St, Coburg



## MINUTES GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY JUNE 3, 2016, 5:00PM

Offices of Kelvin Thomson 3 Munro St, Coburg

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Frank Kinnersley, Julie Law, Kaye Oddie, David Muir, Anna Lanigan, Tony Smith, Marcus Lancaster, Andre Braakhuis, Carolyn Layton

**APOLOGIES:** Vince Aitkin, Audrey Biggs, Zoe Jellie, Corey Bannister

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on April 8, 2016**

**Confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved by Kaye and seconded by David.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

In Vince's absence Kelvin tabled the report, including a summary of the various accounts with balances. A correction was made to the table in the report so that the General Account balance is recorded as \$10,298.63 and the Thomson Scholarship Account \$7,413.08, rather than the other way round, thus being in accordance with the introductory statement. It was agreed that the Term Deposit which fell due on June 2 should be rolled over. The Treasurer's Report was accepted: Moved: Tony Seconded: David.

### **ITEMS:**

**11. Successful grant application – Volunteers Grant (Federal Dept. Social Services).**

The money has not yet arrived in the bank but when it does the process of creating the banner and way signs will begin.

**12. Road Traffic Noise Review & CLTW – Reply from Minister Luke Donnellan (17/5/16).**

Kaye read out the letter. Main points were that a summary report is being written following the 'two stages of community engagement', Transurban is unlikely to agree to the proposed changes to noise level standards unless there is compensation from the State Govt. and that the present noise level standards will be in place until 2036 (the end of the extended City Link Concession Deed agreement). There was some discussion of the implications of this, and the fact that the City Link Tullamarine Widening community consultation process had been most unsatisfactory.

**13. CLTW Revegetation update.** There will be inadequate replacement of the large amount of vegetation removed as part of the CLTW project, particularly in the environs of Travancore Park in Flemington, where relocated 7-8m high noise walls will be built close to the Creek embankment and no replacement trees are planned. There was general dismay expressed at the intransigence of Transurban to consult on community requests for input into revegetation plans and to release revegetation plans. Belatedly, CPB

Consultants have set up a meeting between FoMPC, Flemington Association and the project landscape designer for June 6 to discuss the (already approved) vegetation plans. CPB gave around 400 corflute guards removed from the CLTW vegetation clearances, which have been passed onto Moonee Valley and Moreland Councils for reuse.

**14. Nursery Bend (1) MVCC reply re former nursery (11/5/16);** The reply from the Moonee Valley Council to concerns expressed by members on behalf of the FoMPC about the leaseholder dumping imported soil on the site was read out to the meeting. A deadline for cleaning up was mentioned but there were fears expressed in the meeting about the willingness of the leaseholder to comply and that and, if not, the ratepayers will be left to pay what would seem to be a considerable clean-up bill when the lease expires in approx. 2 years. The letter also announced the excision of section of 3850sqm of land from the eastern end of the former nursery site and its return to public parkland. Frank provided a photo of the welcomed new parkland.

**(2) Working Bee June 14 Tuesday 10am-12noon.** This mid-week clean-up of the Nursery Bend planting site will be supported by MVCC and Green Army and members are encouraged to participate.

**15. FoMPC Submission to State Govt Water-for-Victoria Discussion Paper.** Tony Smith took us briefly through his detailed submission on behalf of the FoMPC. The view was that “the Discussion Paper *fails to recognise the importance of urban waterways and stormwater harvesting to community health and amenity*”. Using Moonee Ponds Creek to illustrate, it was argued for “*real waterway and catchment improvements through a century of revitalisation*” and suggests that “*getting the balance right between waterway health and flood control, with increasingly rare but potentially larger flood events not retaining their historic veto over programs to make better use of storm water and waterways year in year out*”. It included examples of improvements that could and have taken place along the reaches of the Moonee Ponds Creek that enhance its value for the community, as well as improve access, water storage capacity and stormwater treatment, and suggests this is possible more widely. It should raise the profile of the Creek in relation to what is seen as a focus on rural and major waterways rather than urban waterways. Tony was thanked for all the work that he put into this well-informed submission. It is available on the website <http://mooneepondscreek.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/FoMPC-Submission-Water-for-Victoria.pdf>

**16. FoMPC Submission to State Govt Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2036.** This is another welcome review the present State Government is undertaking of a number of state policies on environmental issues. Kaye gave a brief outline of the submission made on behalf of FoMPC. The draft strategy is a comprehensive document and DELWP is to be congratulated for proposing a strategy that better protects and enhances Victoria’s natural environment. The vision for the document is that Victoria’s biodiversity is healthy, valued and actively cared for, however, the goals left off the ‘actively cared for’; FoMPC recommended it be reinstated: *Victoria’s natural environment if healthy and actively cared for*. FoMPC also recommended greater support for rehabilitation and restoration of areas which have suffered significant degradation in the past, such as urbanised areas, e.g. parts of the Moonee Ponds Creek, so as to enhance their biodiversity and habitat values.

**7. Westmeadows Meander.** Tony presented the work he has been doing on the idea of reinstating the Westmeadows meander in the Creek. The meander was cut off in what-was-then an attempt to improve creek hydrology. Images taken during a site visit with Anna were shown and some very exciting opportunities, as well as some issues with boundaries, titles and land ownership were pointed out. Tony was encouraged to write to Melbourne Water and City of Hume with the proposal. Mention was made of arranging a follow-up site meeting with the responsible authorities. During the initial site visit there was a special bird sighting and spectacular photograph of a white phase Grey Goshawk.

**8. Melbourne Water updates: (1) Woody weed removals & revegetation – Boeing Reserve to CityLink, Ascot Vale.** Notices have been put up along the Creek giving details of the planned works to remove

woody weeds and to revegetate. The removals will start shortly and revegetation beds will be completed this winter for autumn 2017 planting.

**(2) Jacana Retarding Basin** The works updating this infrastructure are due to be completed by August. Part of this will involve removing a sharp bend in the shared path on the Moonee Boulevard side and the creation of a new link path on the Gowanbrae side.

9. **Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan progress report.** FK, AL, KO and TS attended a Masterplan workshop where consultants Storm described the interrelationships between Drainage/Flood Management; the Environment and Community/Health, then presented the work they had undertaken in regard to the Moonee Ponds Creek on storm water management giving examples of how to incorporate naturalisation measures but at the same time considering hydrological requirements. It was noted that the present Creek channel is just sufficient to cater for 100-year floods and this is likely to become an issue with increasing suburban developments higher in the catchment.
10. **Wallaby Biolink, Gowanbrae.** Andre Braakhuis reported that he took the idea of the Wallaby Biolink planting to a recent Gowanbrae Residents Association meeting. There was support for the idea and the residents meeting expressed the wish that they be kept informed of the planting dates as they would like to be involved. The project is awaiting the outstanding approval from AusNet Services due to the nearby HV transmission towers.
11. **Western Distributor, EES and Community Liaison Group.** Images were tabled of the proposed Western Distributor, now proposed with 7 crossings of the lower Creek. Less than positive views were expressed about the consultation process and the project in general ('East West Link B'). One view expressed is that 'the project is simply taking Footscray Road traffic and funnelling it through additional tolled roads'. Although 'consultation' is completed, a Community Liaison Group has been to 'oversee' the project and relate back to local communities. The FoMPC joined forces with the Kensington Association, North & West Melbourne Association and Flemington Association in nominating one representative, Michael Ingram, to the CLG.
12. **FoMPC Meetings – discussion re new venue/day/time.** Due to uncertainty about the availability of 3 Munro Street as a result of Kelvin's retirement and the election, it was proposed that future FoMPC meetings be held in a meeting room of the Sam Merrifield Library in Moonee Ponds. After much discussion to achieve consensus, it was decided that we should apply to book a meeting room at the Library for the **3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every second month from 6.30-8.30pm**, starting from August 15th. This timing should make it easier for people to attend and enable the meeting to close and participants to leave before the Library closes at 9pm.  
It was noted that MPCA and FoMPC files from Kelvin's office have been transferred to Carolyn's bungalow for assessment for archiving.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

13. **Strathmore Nth Primary School Habitat Tree.** Anna reported that a tree that needed to come down due to the danger it posed for children was able to be made into a habitat tree for birds such as crimson rosellas. This involved removal of the major branches and creation of nesting hollows in what was left of the tree.
14. **Steele Creek and Calder traffic accident spill and clean-up briefing.** FoMPC members attended this Moonee Valley Council organised briefing and were impressed with what they heard about the speed and quality of the response to the petrol spill. Crews worked well together to limit the extent of the spread of the petrol and associated foam surfactant, although concerns were expressed at the longer-term effects of the surfactant on the 1km long section of Steele Creek that was impacted

15. **Environmental Friends of Moonee Valley Group directory (on-line).** This resource is the result of a MVCC community grant and it summarises all the 'Friends' groups in the municipality and is found on the MV website.

16. **New Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change:** Lily D'Ambrosio (former Environment Minister: Lisa Neville, now Minister for Water and Minister for

Police). Kelvin suggested that a letter of welcome be written on our behalf to the new minister.

16. **Bird List update.** Anna was asked to update the bird list for the Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan consultants.

18. **Launch of field guide 'Hume Birds'** on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm at Woodlands Homestead Oaklands Road, Greenvale (free event). Register <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-birds-of-hume-field-guide-launch-tickets-25218708837>

**NOTICES:**

**Community Planting dates:** See 'Ponderings' for more details.

- June 18, 10am-12noon, Lawson St Reserve, Moonee Ponds
- July 2, 10am-12noon, Lawson St Reserve, Moonee Ponds (2<sup>nd</sup> planting day)
- July 3, 2-4pm, Five Mile Creek Reserve
- July 17, 10am-12noon, Herbert St Reserve, Pascoe Vale (note corrected time)
- August 7, 2-4pm, Five Mile Creek Reserve
- August 14, 1-3:30pm, The Tarnuk, Westmeadows

World Environment Day June 5; National Tree Day July 27<sup>th</sup>

**NEXT MEETINGS: Note change of venue and times**

**Monday August 15, 6:30pm**

Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds

**Monday October 10, 6:30pm**

Meeting room, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

# GENERAL MEETING MONDAY AUGUST 15, 2016, 6:30PM

## Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thompson, Kaye Oddie, Julie Law, Anna Lanigan, Marcus Lancaster, Tony Smith, Frank Kinnersley, Jodi Jackson (Hume Enviro Champions), Louise Pearson, Elissa Simmons, David Muir, Andre Braakhuis, Zoe Jellie, Carolyn Layton

**APOLOGIES:** Vince Aitkin

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** The Minutes of the General Meeting held on June 3, 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Carolyn; Seconded: Tony

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** In Vince's absence Kelvin briefly summarised the tabled report, highlighting the account balances (\$28,053.57 in various FoMPC accounts and \$10,298.63 in Alan Thomson Scholarship fund) and concluding that 'FoMPC is in good shape'. Report accepted: Moved: Anna; Seconded: David

### GENERAL BUSINESS:

#### 1. Hopetoun Avenue Reserve, Brunswick West Proposed Rezoning and Sale

Anna reported on Melbourne Water's plan to rezone part of this Reserve from public parkland (PPRZ) to Residential to enable its sale and redevelopment. The land abuts the Moonee Ponds Creek and is an important part of the green links through Moreland municipality as well as a contributor to the Moonee Ponds Creek open space corridor. Anna reported on the local activity opposing this development including an online petition and an active Facebook page 'Save Hopetoun Park' as well as media publicity. FoMPC members are encouraged to sign the petition <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/save-the-park-at-hopetoun-ave.html>. Kelvin pointed out this plan represents a dangerous precedent and observed that Melbourne Water declares it values open space in creek valleys, but obviously not in the way the public does. He has been in contact with Gavan O'Neill and Peter Morrison at Melbourne Water and was assured that 'this has a long way to go yet'. It was disappointing that neither Moreland Council nor Melbourne Water had brought this to FoMPC's attention. Kaye reported on the letters FoMPC had written to Melbourne Water, the Minister for Planning, MLA Jane Garrett and Moreland Council opposing the loss of public parkland. Kaye and local residents supported a motion by Cr. Sue Bolton and passed by Moreland Council at its August 10 meeting to oppose the rezoning and seek the gifting of the subject land to the Council. Initially the land was offered to the Council to purchase, but at a rezoned price of around \$0.5m, which was not accepted by the Council. If the matter proceeds, then a panel would be set up by the Minister for Planning to determine the rezoning application.

#### 2. Herbert Street Reserve, Pascoe Vale 'Living Stream' Proposal

Kaye outlined Moreland Council's proposal for Herbert Street Reserve. Stormwater, which currently flows through an underground drain to the Creek, will pass through a gross pollutant trap and during low flows will be diverted through a swale recreated in the former creek line, part of the old Creek meander which was cut

off during MMBW channelisation of the Creek. The proposal will create a 'Living Stream' enhancing biodiversity and habitat. Higher flows will continue down the existing stormwater drain into the Creek. The meeting supported the proposal and a motion to that effect was carried. Moved: Tony; Seconded: Anna

### **3. MVCC Community Grants 2017**

Frank attended a MVCC Grants information session. FoMPC will not apply for a grant for next year but will continue to contribute at plantings and working bees, particularly at earlier planting sites such as Nursery Bend, Horseshoe Bend. When the Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan is completed, decisions can be made regarding specific projects to apply for future grants.

### **4. Melbourne Water Rehabilitation Works along the Creek**

Kaye reported that Melbourne Water's program of works to remove woody weeds and revegetate the creek embankments from Boeing Reserve to CityLink/Ascot Vale is proceeding well with weed removals completed and revegetation with native trees and shrubs is progressing. There were some concerns about removal of two large willows expressed via Facebook and by telephone, despite notices about the program being placed at key locations along the Creek advising contact with Melbourne Water. Anna posted explanatory replies on Facebook. Melbourne Water is setting up a community planting at the Holbrook Reserve on Sept 10. More details later.

### **5. Community Planting Reports.**

#### **a. Lawson Street Reserve, Moonee Ponds**

Two planting days were held in June/July and a great success with locals, Friends, Green Army and Moonee Valley conservation officers overseeing to get approximately 1000 plants in. A special local resident attendee was 95-year-old Albert Glass who in the 1970s planted a blue gum seedling in the reserve; it is now a huge specimen. A future working bee will be held to plant a backorder of *Chrysocephalum*. The project was supported by our 2016 Moonee Valley Council Community Grant.

#### **b. Wallaby Biolink, Gowanbrae**

This was well attended, including an impromptu guest 'appearance' from a swamp wallaby. Fifty trees and shrubs were planted across the hillslope between the habitat areas of the Jacana wetlands and a gully on the other side. Metre-high guards and stakes were installed to protect the plants. Mulching will occur later. Participants enjoyed the sweeping views over the Jacana valley from this usually inaccessible vantage point. The project is supported by VicRoads, who own the hillslope land and a VicRoads photographer who attended on the day, opportunistically got the visiting wallaby on camera!

#### **c. 5 Mile Creek**

The Moonee Valley Council, Green Army and Friends of Five Mile Creek will be working at the reserve, including plantings on Aug 23.

#### **d. Herbert Street Reserve, Pascoe Vale**

Another successful community planting with the help of a large number of participants from the Shah Satnam Ji Green S Welfare Force. The area planted is within a former meander of the Creek, cut off during the MMBW's extensive channelisation along the Creek during the 1960s/70s.

#### **e. The Tarnuk, Westmeadows**

Melissa Doherty from Hume Council organised a group of 70 helpers from the Church of God who made light work getting 250 plants in, then removing and sorting hundreds of guards and stakes from an earlier planting. The rest of us there experienced 'many hands make very light work' and were impressed with the group's enthusiasm and eagerness to participate.

### **6. FoMPC Banner and Way Signs**

Kaye reported that the grant money from the federal Dept of Social Services has been received for a FoMPC banner and way signs to use for plantings. There was brief discussion about information to include on the banner. Zoe suggested we should include website and Facebook details.

#### **7. Westmeadows Meander Site Visit**

To continue the process of developing his proposal to reinstate the meander of the Moonee Ponds Creek at Westmeadows, Tony was asked to provide possible dates for a site visit for interested Friends.

#### **8. Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan progress report**

Another workshop regarding the masterplan has been scheduled for September 16. Finalisation of the plan will not be until after the MVCC elections in October/November.

#### **9. Western Distributor update**

Information pop-ups Aug 17-Sept 16: see <https://westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au/visit-the-project-team>. Melbourne City Council is opposing the Reference Design prepared by Transurban, in particular because of the seven new crossings over the lower Moonee Ponds Creek and the links to Dynon Rd and Wurundjeri Way that will feed more commuter traffic into the CBD. Consultation through the Community Reference Group, on which the FoMPC is represented, is following the 'non-consultative' format encountered with Transurban and the CLTW project. The State Government will undertake the Environment Effects Statement hearings, however, based on the Reference Design.

#### **10. Gowanbrae Festival October 23<sup>rd</sup> - FoMPC display**

Andre Braakhuis, Convenor of the Gowanbrae Residents Group invited FoMPC to participate in this festival at the Gowanbrae Community Centre by setting up a display in a marquee. The Festival will run between 10am and 3pm. Suggestions were made for the display, such as before/after photos of creek revegetation, bird and frog photographic displays, the large poster(s) made for the Moonee Valley Festival. Anna to contact Venta, MVCC regarding the loan of the MV Festival poster. Volunteers needed to staff the display on the day; please let Kaye know if and what times you would be available.

#### **11. FoMPC AGM**

This will be held at the Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds on Mon October 10, 6.30pm, followed by a General Meeting. Documents to be sent out beforehand, including membership renewals and nomination forms for office bearers.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **12. Arden Macaulay Structure Plan and Moonee Ponds Creek Open Space**

David Muir raised the issue of the open space along the Moonee Ponds Creek, between Racecourse Rd and Macaulay Rd, Kensington, which is recommended in the Arden Macaulay Structure Plan to be public open space. However the land is under jurisdiction of VicTrack with Melbourne Water having hydrological responsibility. VicTrack has consistently opposed rezoning the land to PPRZ, preferring it be zoned MUZ and suggesting if the Melbourne City Council wishes to see it as open space, it should purchase it (at MUZ development prices).

David presented a motion to the meeting, seeking its approval, for FoMPC to write to the CEO of VicTrack, citing VicTrack's community leasing scheme 'to provide valuable open space for use as recreation facilities' and seeking the leasing of the land to the Melbourne City Council for a peppercorn rent for use as public open space.

There was discussion regarding land ownership and the over-riding hydrological requirements of Melbourne Water for this part of the Creek, and to whom any such letter should be addressed. On a procedural matter, the meeting could not consider the motion as no notice had been given or circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved that 'the FoMPC Executive be given the power to act on this matter'. Moved: Kelvin; Seconded: Kaye

### **13. Launch of the Hume City Council 'Birds of Hume' Guidebook**

A very well attended and successful 'Birds of Hume' book launch, organised by Hume's Melissa Doherty, was held at Woodlands Homestead recently. The book was a collaboration between the Hume Environment Dept. and members and friends of the Craigieburn Camera Club. Several FoMPC members attended, including Anna Lanigan who was instrumental in the early stages getting the book off the ground. Anna was thanked by Jodi (Hume Enviro Champions) for her key role. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Hume CEO expressing FoMPC congratulations and appreciation for their support of this project.

### **13. Hume City Council Great Green Get together Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 6.15pm**

Jodi Jackson invited FoMPC to participate in this event, celebrating the Hume Environment Champions. To be held in the Hume Global Learning Centre. Contact for information [jodi@everydayinthegarden.com](mailto:jodi@everydayinthegarden.com)

#### **NOTICES:**

- Aug 29, Northern Regional Trails Strategy Launch (FK)
- Sat Sept 10, 10am-12noon, Community Planting Holbrook Reserve *tbc*
- Sept 16, Moonee Ponds Creek Masterplan Workshop
- Sun Oct 23, 10am-3pm, Gowanbrae Festival, Community Centre, Marigold Cres, Gowanbrae

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday October 10, 6.30pm. AGM followed by General Meeting. Meeting Room 1, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary



# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2016, 6:30PM**

**Sam Merrifield Library**

**GUEST SPEAKER: JULIE FRANCIS**

**Water Sensitive Design Co-ordinator, Melbourne City Council**

**& Co-ordinator, Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Masterplan, Melbourne Water**

## ***“Revitalisation of the Moonee Pond Creek Catchment”***

Julie explained that she has been seconded for a year by Melbourne Water to take on the role of Coordinator of the Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment Masterplan. She is currently researching past proposals and current ideas including the most recent plan initiated by Melbourne City Council. She stressed that the whole of catchment approach is essential, but was speaking to the converted with an audience that saw the benefits of the late MPCCC. However, she is keen not to just repeat what has been done before and questioned whether a masterplan is actually what is needed. Julie noted that it was a good time to be looking at the Moonee Ponds Creek and its catchment, with lots of councils interested in the creek and currently a lot of big picture issues such as climate change, flooding and integrated water management, water sensitive urban design, liveability, health and wellbeing. She suggested there is a need to figure out what have been the impediments to achieving the recommendations contained in previous proposals. Factors such as lack of accountability, leadership, relationships between stakeholders were mentioned. Julie is keen to get input from FoMPC to help decide where the focus of her work should be. Julie left time for questions and comments.

Anna stressed the importance of getting stakeholders together so that opportunities to improve the creek are not lost. She gave the example of CityLink projects and their lack of flexibility, meaning opportunities to improve the creek are missed. The need for a change in the planning scheme was raised so that better water sensitive urban design principles are required, at a time of increasing housing development density. Kelvin gave a potted history of how FoMPC has experienced MW's changing commitment to working with groups like ours since the late 80s and stressed with increasing urban density “the importance of every little bit of open space.”

Julie responded by supporting the above points made and reiterated her view of the importance of a catchment approach and relationships; getting groups working together to ensure any plan works.

Kelvin thanked Julie for her presentation and spoke of the value we see in having a coordinator for this process. Julie was asked to send a list of what proposal documents she has and we can provide any not on the list. [julie.francis@melbwater.com.au](mailto:julie.francis@melbwater.com.au)

PRESENT:

Kelvin Thompson, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Zoe Jellie, Anna Lanigan, Marcus Lancaster, David Muir, Julie Francis (Melbourne Water), Kevin Balaam, Audrey Biggs, Ray Hehir, Imogen Jubb, Carolyn Layton.

APOLOGIES: Vince Aitkin, Frank Kinnersley, Russell Smith, Adam Wojcik, Corey Bannister.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AGM HELD on November 6, 2015 The Minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Kaye Seconded: David

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Kelvin presented his report (see attachment)

FINANCIAL REPORT for Year ended 30 June 2016. In Vince's absence, Kelvin took us through the key points of Vince's financial report, highlighting the amounts in the various accounts. The financial report was accepted. Moved Carolyn; Seconded Anna

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS: As there were no other nominations the existing office bearers were declared elected.

- President: Kelvin Thompson
- Vice-President: Frank Kinnersley
- Treasurer: Vince Aitkin
- Secretary & Public Officer: Kaye Oddie
  
- Appointment of Minutes Secretary: Carolyn Layton

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2016-17: The current fee for membership of \$10 per annum will continue. It was noted this fee covers FoMPC public liability insurance. The fee was accepted. Moved David; Seconded: Zoe.

OTHER BUSINESS: As there was no other business the AGM was declared closed.

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2015-2016**

The aims of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek include the preservation, restoration, environment protection and ecologically sensitive development and maintenance of the Moonee Ponds Creek and adjoining catchment areas.

To these ends, over the past 12 months, the group has undertaken the following activities:

- six general meetings
- community plantings at the Lawson St Reserve, Moonee Ponds and Wallaby Biolink, Gowanbrae, as well as participation in other community plantings along the Creek corridor organised by other Friends groups and councils
- submissions to State Government discussion papers, draft strategies and reviews
- submission to planning scheme amendments
- participation in consultations for the CityLinkTullaWidening project, Port of Melbourne sale, Melbourne Water projects, West Trails Bicycle Strategy
- participation as a key stakeholder in the Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan
- successfully obtained community grants from Moonee Valley Council and the Federal Government Department of Human Services
- historical photographic display at the Moonee Valley Festival
- 

To detail some of these:

### **MVCC Community Grant - Lawson St Reserve Revegetation Project**

The FoMPC was successful in obtaining a MVCC community grant to upgrade and revegetate the Lawson St Reserve, Moonee Ponds, a little known and little used section of higher ground adjacent to the Creek, also accessed via a laneway off Lawson St. The project involved obsolete fence removal, installation of laneway bollards, consultation with local residents about the planting plan, site preparation, two community plantings and a working bee. Kim Cooper and Danae Jeanes were key MVCC officers involved in the organisation and Green Army teams undertook much preparatory work. Our appreciation and thanks are expressed to Kim and Danae for their valued roles and to the Green Army for their contribution and hard work.

### **Wallaby Biolink**

This project was generated from a Melbourne Water and CPB Consulting briefing about the Jacana Retarding Basin upgrade. Creation of a tree and shrub biolink for swamp wallabies between the Jacana wetlands and a gully on the opposite side of the intervening hillslope was proposed. VicRoads supported the project as the proposed link was predominantly on their land; approval was also required from AusNet Services because of the HV transmission towers nearby. Appropriate plant species were selected, planted and protected with high mesh guards in a community planting. A follow-up working bee with Strathmore Cub Scouts

laid mulch around the plants. The FoMPC thanks local resident Corey Bannister for proposing the plantings and VicRoads' for their financial support of the project and particularly, staff members Bree Williams and Andrea Meyers, in this 'feel good' project.

### **Nursery Bend, Strathmore**

Two working bees were held to remove weeds and place guards around plants at this key site; planted as part of our MVCC Community Grant 2014-15. The help provided by Green Army teams was very much appreciated. The excision of a section of land from the former nursery (presently leased to a landscape and plant hire company) and return to public open space was welcomed, enhancing the biodiversity and habitat values of this key corner of the Creek.

### **Amendment C202, Hume Planning Scheme**

This amendment concerned a proposed rezoning of land along Western Avenue, Westmeadows to a Comprehensive Development Zone to enable warehouse/light industrial development. The land directly abuts the Creek, in what is near-original state as a chain of ponds, lined with old River Red Gums. FoMPC submission was prepared by member Carolyn Layton and opposed the rezoning, arguing that the Creek should be protected by a wide natural open space buffer and that a future road should not be considered across this section of the Creek with its high environmental values.

### **Amendment C190, Melbourne Planning Scheme**

This amendment concerns the redevelopment of the former industrial land in North Melbourne, Kensington. Potential impacts on the Moonee Ponds Creek came from built form controls abutting the Creek. The amendment also proposed that the Creek corridor serve as significant public open space for the urban renewal areas, however abutting land ownership issues and Melbourne Water hydrological requirements may limit public open space provision along the Creek.

### **CityLink Tullamarine Widening Project**

The FoMPC's frustration at the lack of meaningful consultation and failure to provide information by Transurban and VicRoads about the CLTW project continued. Vegetation plans were only released after landscape contracts had been signed, despite a year of FoMPC requests. The extent and details of works around Strathmore Secondary College and Travancore were not fully revealed. The CityLink Concession Deed was extended until 2035, locking out any upgraded traffic noise protection that could result from the Road Traffic Noise Review.

### **Western Distributor**

This is another unsolicited project between Transurban and the State Government, for which the reference design proposes seven new elevated road crossings over the lower Moonee Ponds Creek, between Footscray Road and Arden Street. The FoMPC lodged a submission to the Environment Effects Statement Scoping Document, raising many environmental impact issues and we will participate in the EES hearings. The FoMPC is represented on the project's Community Liaison Group by Kensington resident, Michael Ingram.

### **Port of Melbourne Corporation Sale/Lease**

The FoMPC successfully approached the State Government requesting that the open space along the lower Moonee Ponds Creek between Footscray Road and the Yarra River, which is part of the Port of

Melbourne Corporation land, be retained as publicly accessible open space in the forthcoming PoMC sale/lease.

### **Melbourne Water Woody Weed Removal & Revegetation Project**

The FoMPC welcomed the opportunity to participate in the planning of Melbourne Water's Boeing Reserve to CityLink, Brunswick Creek rehabilitation project. This two year plan aims to improve the visual amenity, habitat and biodiversity along the Creek. It involves removal of woody weeds, such as willow, ash, gleditsia, mirror plant, prickly pear, along the Creek embankments followed by plantings with appropriate native species, including a number of eucalyptus and acacia species and other plants). Our appreciation is expressed to Melbourne Water's co-ordinators, Kylie Swingler and Lizzie Younger, for their close collaboration with the FoMPC in the project.

### **Hopetoun Avenue Reserve**

Melbourne Water has proposed to rezone and sell part of the Hopetoun Ave Reserve, Brunswick West, which directly abuts the Moonee Ponds Creek. One lot, Moreland Council has agreed to purchase and retain as public open space, however purchase of the second lot was rejected due to the high (rezoned Residential) cost. Local resident opposition is strong. FoMPC has joined in letters to Melbourne Water, State Government Ministers, petitions and appearance at a Moreland Council meeting, where it was resolved to oppose the rezoning. Melbourne Water's justification that the land is surplus to requirements and should be sold appears irresponsible and short-sighted given they are to shortly commence a masterplan for the whole Moonee Ponds Creek catchment.

### **Submissions**

A submission was lodged to the State Government's Discussion Paper "**Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2036**". The FoMPC supported the comprehensive scope of the document, but called for more support for rehabilitation and restoration of natural environments in urban settings, such as the Moonee Ponds Creek.

A comprehensive submission to another State Government Discussion Paper "**Water for Victoria**" was made on behalf of the FoMPC by Tony Smith. It too called for greater consideration of urban waterways such as the Moonee Ponds Creek and for re-evaluation of urban drainage and waterway engineering practices with an aim to facilitate 'naturalisation' along the Creek's extended concreted sections. As part of the submission, Tony put forward another 'naturalisation' measure - restoration of a meander in the Creek at Westmeadows.

Submission was also made to the VicRoads **Road Traffic Noise Review** calling for a significant reduction in road traffic noise levels on freeways and arterial roads and for the application of night time noise limits and noise limits to public open space. These would be in keeping with revised noise parameters adopted in other states and with WHO standards. Unfortunately this review appears to have stalled, perhaps to allow the CLTW and Western Distributor projects to lock in obsolete high traffic noise levels.

### **Participation**

FoMPC members are active participants in a number of stakeholder groups and other activities along the Creek corridor and provide input to many projects. Frank Kinnersley represents us in a number of waterway and bicycle forums, one of which was the West Trails Bicycle Strategy; Anna, Kaye, Tony

and Frank are participants in Moonee Valley Council's Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan process; and members work with other Friends groups along the Creek, including Friends of Five Mile Creek (convenor Ginny Moylan), Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds (convenor Julie Law).

The Moonee Valley Festival display for the Master Plan in February saw a strong contribution by FoMPC. Anna Lanigan is to be congratulated on the extensive historic photographic display she resourced and prepared for the Master Plan stand at the Festival.

### **"Ponderings"**

The quarterly Creek newsletter is ably produced by Nina Eason and Anna Lanigan, keeping the wider Creek community well informed about Creek activities, people, sightings, council and other organisations' related events and projects, community plantings and more. Ponderings is now only issued in email form, with a few hard copies sent to local libraries. Anna and Nina are to be not only thanked for the tremendous effort they put into each issue

of Ponderings, but congratulated on the quality of the newsletter and the valuable contribution it makes to knowledge about the Creek and projects and groups working to enhance its environs.

Anna and Nina are also to be thanked for maintaining the **FoMPC Facebook** page.

### **FoMPC Website**

This is now up-and-running, having been expertly set up by member Louise Pearson. One measure of its success has been by the number of new memberships that have been received through the Contact Us section.

### **Committee for 2015-2016**

Office bearers for the year were:

President	Kelvin Thomson
Vice President	Frank Kinnersley
Treasurer	Vince Aitkin
Secretary	Kaye Oddie
Minutes Secretary	Carolyn Layton

As President, I thank my other office bearers, Carolyn and all members of the association for another year of active involvement.

Kelvin Thomson

President

## **GENERAL MEETING MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2016, 6:30PM**

### **Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library**

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thompson, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Zoe Jellie, Anna Lanigan, Marcus Lancaster, David Muir, Julie Francis (Melbourne Water), Kevin Balaam, Audrey Biggs, Ray Hehir, Imogen Jubb, Carolyn Layton.

**APOLOGIES:** Vince Aitkin, Frank Kinnersley, Russell Smith, Adam Wojcik, Corey Bannister.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING** held on August 15, 2016. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Carolyn Seconded: Kaye.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Due to Vince's absence the financial report was carried over.

#### **ITEMS:**

- 17.** Update on MVCC Moonee Ponds Creek Master Plan. The draft of this plan will be available in December but will need Moonee Valley Council approval before it is released. It was noted that the consultation lead by Chris Sawyer and Susie Kumar was of a high quality and will set the benchmark.
- 18.** Herbert St Reserve 'Living Stream' proposal. Kelvin reported on the on-site meeting he attended yesterday. The plan is a good one. The only downside he could see was the fact that a large casuarina tree in the way of the works has to be removed. He asked that casuarinas be planted as part of the revegetation planned to achieve a more natural effect. Kaye queried the positioning of the pipes and the amounts of water that would flow through the new swale under low flow and high flow situations.
- 19.** Conservation Volunteers collaboration (TS). Tony reported on an interesting walk along the creek in Woodlands Park he participated in with Rob Yule of Landcare and Catherine Wilgenburg from Friends of Woodlands Historic Park recently. Part of the walk included a presentation on the Eastern-barred Bandicoots in Woodlands. Tony reported that Rob and Carol are part of a group of people interested in the MP Creek and keen to be involved in Woodlands Park. He suggested we could work with them to our mutual benefit. Kelvin suggested if this is the case we could invite a relevant representative to attend a FoMPC meeting.
- 20.** Motion Re: VicTrack Land, Kensington. David Muir (Kensington Residents Association). At the last meeting in August it was agreed that the Committee would resolve the issue of FoMPC support for letters to VicTrack and State Ministers to gift VicTrack lands along the Moonee Ponds Creek in Kensington to the City of Melbourne for open space. Information was sought by the Committee from Melbourne Water and City of Melbourne

and sent to David for comment; he then prepared a revised motion for consideration. However, the Committee had not been able to make a decision by this meeting. David Muir tabled a document outlining his reasons for the motion and spoke to his motion:

*This meeting requests the FoMPC Secretary to write to John Lenders, Chair of the VicTrack Board and to cc Tim Pallas, The Treasurer; Jacinta Allan, The Minister for Transport, and also Richard Wynne, The Minister for Planning, as follows:*

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek (FOMPC) is a long-standing organisation devoted to protecting an important waterway that runs from Greenvale to the Yarra River.

The FOMPC requests you and the VicTrack Board to instigate and support the release of the corporation's land along the west bank of Moonee Ponds Creek between Arden Street and Racecourse Road to the City of Melbourne for parklands.

Such parklands are much needed by existing residents of North Melbourne and Kensington and will become increasingly important for the greatly increased future population of the area under the Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan and the State Government's recently released Arden Vision & Framework.

The City of Melbourne is aware that this whole inner city area suffers from a shortage of public open space and includes development of parklands along the western bank of the creek in its plans.

**We see such usage as being absolutely essential to the preservation of the health of the creek, its native flora and its remarkable avian wildlife.**

VicTrack's community leasing scheme aims to "provide valuable open space for use as recreation facilities" and we urgently request that this land is made available permanently to the City of Melbourne, for its upkeep, as public open space at a nominal cost.

The Friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek also ask the Treasurer and the Minister for Public Transport to make every effort to ensure that VicTrack hand over this land to the City of Melbourne to be used as parklands for the Victorian public, as an act of good faith towards the community.

There were different views expressed and a sense that many present were confused by the complexity of the issue. The motion was voted on and carried.

21. Western Distributor update: It was agreed due to time constraints to hold this item over until the next meeting.
22. Gowanbrae Festival Sunday Oct 23 – Mention was made of the FoMPC stall at this Festival and a call was made for volunteers to assist, even just for 30 minutes, with the stall from set up 7am. Volunteers were asked to add a message on the FoMPC Facebook page.



## GENERAL MEETING MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2016, 6:30PM

Sam Merrifield Library

### PRESENT:

Kelvin Thompson, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Frank Kinnersley, Zoe Jellie, Anna Lanigan, Marcus Lancaster, David Muir, Ray Hehir, Julie Law, Carolyn Layton.

APOLOGIES: Vince Aitkin, Helen van den Berg, Louise Pearson.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES of General Meeting held on October 10th, 2016.

Tony provided missing surname of Woodlands Historic Park representative (Catherine Wilgenburg) and the minutes were adjusted accordingly. The Minutes were then confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Carolyn; Seconded: Anna.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In Vince's absence, the financial report he had prepared was tabled and Kelvin summarised the report. It was moved that it be accepted by Anna; seconded Julie; approved.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

1. From CEO Port of Melbourne: The newly appointed CEO indicated he was happy for the Port of Melbourne to have a relationship with the FoMPC and will be pleased to have our continuing input into the Port Interface Plan. A number of specific recommendations for the area, between Footscray Rd and the Yarra River, include a boardwalk along the Creek. This area was earlier set aside on the instigation of the FoMPC to be retained as public open space as part of the PoM sale and lease.
2. From VicTrack: Reply received from Chair of VicTrack Board in regard to FoMPC letter seeking the gifting of VicTrack land abutting the Moonee Ponds Creek between Racecourse Rd and Macaulay Rd, Kensington as public open space, stated there were many impacting issues that had to be considered and that Government guidelines had to be followed in any disposal of VicTrack land.

### SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

*"That the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Inc. takes over the responsibility for the production of the Creek newsletter "Ponderings."*

There was brief discussion of this resolution. It was suggested that it be additionally resolved that the mailing list for Ponderings not be passed onto third parties. Kelvin added that correspondence had been received from Tony Smith, convenor of MPCCC, that there were no outstanding liabilities or debts associated with Ponderings.

The amended resolution was voted on and carried (moved: Anna; seconded: Zoe). Anna indicated that she and Nina are keen to continue as editors and flagged that from the next Ponderings the logo and headings will need to be changed to reflect the new management. Some ideas will be circulated for discussion. Kelvin queried whether there are likely to be any changes in funding required and the short answer was no. Circulation of Ponderings to FoMPC members without email addresses to be facilitated by sending the Ponderings online link to local libraries.

#### ITEMS:

1. Hopetoun Ave Reserve. Submissions to the Advisory Committee for the proposed rezoning closed on Dec 9. There was some discussion around the process that has occurred within Melbourne Water to get to where we are now. Kelvin noted that Moreland Council had put in a very good submission opposing the rezoning of the land as had local residents and individual members of the FoMPC. It was suggested that the matter also needed to be pursued with State and local government representatives. The Advisory Committee Hearings will be in February 2017.
2. Cleanaway/Tullamarine Landfill Site. By invitation of Cleanaway, members of FoMPC met on site with Cleanaway staff Olga Ghiri and Keiren McDermott on Nov 22 for a briefing about the proposed new stormwater management plans at the site. Kelvin complimented Kaye on her work in explaining the problems we see with the proposed changes to the stormwater system. These included abandoning the current system of capturing and pumping/storing/reusing stormwater on site; replaced by rock streams carrying stormwater into the Rock Pond and thence directly into the Moonee Ponds Creek via a 1m diameter pipe. The supposed 'more environmentally sustainable' new stormwater system was questioned with alternatives suggested such as a series of planted swales to treat the stormwater, pumping using solar panels. The proposed outlet pipe into the pristine, natural chain-of-ponds section of the Creek was strongly opposed. This pipe had been given a permit by EPA in 2012, but it is questioned whether it would now be considered environmentally responsible. Kelvin considered that Cleanaway 'got our message' and it is hoped they would consider what changes could be made to accommodate our concerns.
3. Grants:
  - (a) Strathmore Community/Bendigo Bank. Anna reported on the application for the purchase of two electric bikes for her and Nina's use as editors of Ponderings to follow up news opportunities and events. In supporting the application, the FoMPC required assurances regarding insurance cover, including public liability in the use of the bikes.
  - (b) Melbourne Water Gowanbrae Edge. A grant application has been submitted in conjunction with the Gowanbrae Residents Association to Melbourne Water for the revegetation of a section of land at a lower section of the Jacana Retarding Basin, next to the Creek and Primula Boulevard. The land adjoins some remnant native vegetation and plant selection will complement the identified species. Preliminary meeting were held on site with Moreland Council natural resources officers and Melbourne Water river health officers.
  - (c) Lawson Street. There are some funds left over from our MVCC 2015/16 grant for which we have received an extension to plant Silky Bluegrass and a few low shrubs on the escarpment leading down from the 2016 planting site to the shared Creek path.
4. Western Distributor Waterways Stakeholders Workshop (Nov 3). There was general criticism once again about the Transurban approach (cf CityLinkTullamarine Widening project). The Western Distributor community liaison process has similarly been unsatisfactory in that there is very little apparent willingness on the part of the State Government/Transurban to understand stakeholder concerns about the impacts on the lower Moonee Ponds Creek with seven new viaduct crossings, on increased traffic,

noise and pollution in local areas and the compromising of open space along the Creek corridor for urban renewal areas, especially E-Gate.

5. Website: Louise has notified the closing down of the personal hosting account we were linked to and that we need to move towards having our own hosting agreement. It was agreed that this needs to be sorted out and hopefully with Zoe at an appropriate time, given the imminent arrival of her baby. Emails from [friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au](mailto:friends@mooneepondscreek.org.au) still being forwarded to our secondary Gmail address.
6. Annual BBQ: February 20<sup>th</sup> has been selected as the date for a get-together for the new year. This will take the form of an on-site inspection of the proposed Westmeadows Meander Tony Smith is working upon, followed by a picnic/BBQ. Meeting place/times: 5:15pm at the Westmeadows Meander, parking at the south end of Riddell St, Westmeadows; 6pm BBQ at the picnic area near the children's centre, Bent Street (off Fawkner St), Westmeadows.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Banner. We have until June 17<sup>th</sup> to spend the grant money we received for this. KO to investigate options and circulate for comment.
2. Julie Law reported that Melissa Doherty from Hume Council is looking at planting sites for next year. She also noted that a lot of juvenile red gums are showing die back due to lerps (according to Ian Taylor). This is due to the weather we have been experiencing.
3. Tony highlighted a project on the Stoney Creek, North Sunshine to 're-naturalise' the creek from Furlong Rd up to the standard gauge railway. This will involve ripping up existing concrete lining. Tony argued that this may turn out to be a model for what can be achieved for the Moonee Ponds Creek and that we should keep an eye on it.
4. Anna mentioned the Moonee Valley Festival will be held on Sunday Feb 26 (Queens Park, Moonee Ponds) and early plans for the draft Moonee Ponds Creek Masterplan display. It is hoped the Creek chronology posters will be used again.
5. Kelvin reported that the Gowanbrae Festival held on Oct 23 and the FoMPC display worked well despite the poor weather on the day. He felt we got our message across about the importance of the Creek and he thanked Anna for her work in setting up the display.

NEXT MEETING/BBQ Get-Together: February 20<sup>th</sup> 6pm, BBQ Area, Bent Street Westmeadows following the briefing about the proposed Westmeadows Meander at 5:15pm at south end of Riddell St, Westmeadows.

MEETING CLOSED 7.50pm

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

## GENERAL MEETING MONDAY APRIL 10, 2017, 6:30PM

Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, David Muir, Wendy Millar, Frank Kinnersley, Julie Law, Marcus Lancaster, Anna Lannigan, Joe Griffiths, Carolyn Layton

**APOLOGIES:** Vince Aitkin, Zoe Jellie

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on December 12, 2016.** That the Minutes are an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Carolyn/Seconded: Frank Kinnersley/ Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** In Vince's absence Kelvin gave a verbal summary of the tabled 'Short Treasurer's Report prepared 27/3/2017'. FoMPC Accounts total \$30,528.34 and Alan Thomson Scholarship Fund balance \$10,432.51. A Melbourne Water grant of \$3790.60 has been received. Moved: Anna/Seconded: David. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

### ITEMS:

1. **Hopetoun Ave Reserve Win!** After the final signing off of the sale contracts between Melbourne Water and Moreland City Council, there will be a celebration party on-site. The community really got together behind saving this section of parkland and it was a great victory. Kelvin in announcing the good outcome, said that Melbourne Water needs to commit to the environmental value of creek valleys and recognise that public open space in these areas should never be put up for sale as 'surplus'.
2. **Westbreen Creek sewer works - vegetation reinstatement.** Following the works recently completed along one side of Westbreen Creek, it appears there is some resistance within Moreland Council operations section to revegetating the areas disturbed. Images were shown by Anna of the affected areas in Gavin Park compared with Joyce Reserve on the other side. Following correspondence with Moreland Council, Kelvin reported that the Mayor agrees with the revegetation work required, however there are differences within Council as to the extent – whether reinstatement of trees, shrubs, grasses or just easy-to-maintain grass. Mention was also made of an opportunity to participate with Yarra Valley Water in a tap versus bottle promotion in this area involving Moana Hope.
3. **CLTW/Landcare 'Shelley Hillock' project update.** Kaye provided an update on the proposed revegetation project for Shelley Hillock (upstream of Ormond Rd, Moonee Ponds/opposite Union St, West Brunswick). The project could be considered as an 'offset' for the loss of vegetation along the Creek corridor due to the widening of CityLink. Landcare's Alastair Jones has prepared a planting plan and species list and community plantings will be held this year and possibly in 2018 as well. Kaye also noted that Transurban has refused to reintroduce a perching place for the Nankeen Night Herons that frequented the pond at Flemington Bridge

and that no replacement trees would be planted along the new 8m high noise walls opposite Travancore Park.

4. **Jacana Wetlands upgrade project.** Five members were present at an on-site visit with Melbourne Water's Emma Wiggan and Aaron Broadway and Hume's Melissa Doherty to learn about the proposed plans, mainly to the northern Jacana Wetlands. These will involve lowering the (too high) nitrogen levels of the wetlands and improving the hydrological function of the northern wetlands by lowering the water level, increasing the rate of flow through the wetlands. This will also positively impact on the flora and fauna species that are an integral part of wetlands. Upgrade of siltation and litter traps are also planned. Anna expressed her concern that the present 'overgrowth' of Phragmites was affecting the numbers of Growling Grass Frog she is observing. Kelvin expressed support for the proposed works as the wetlands are no longer seen as optimum for occurrence of birds, frogs. The change in water levels will be assessed on the Phragmites and other plants and animals. Kaye asked if the works could extend the riparian zone plantings around the waterbody. This is not planned; Kaye suggested it could be subject to a Melbourne Water community grant application for next year. During the upgrade works, likely commencing in July, some sections will be temporarily fenced off; these will have notices advising.
5. **Melbourne Water land sale/Broadmeadows Bowling Club.** Kaye sought support for a letter to the Hume City Council and Melbourne Water regarding the proposed sale of Melbourne Water land encroached upon by part of the Broadmeadows Bowling Club (off Sunset Blvd, Jacana). The letter seeks compensation for the sale of what is public land, in the form of revegetation around the edge of the Bowling Club area to improve visual amenity of the Jacana valley and natural values along the Creek corridor.
6. **Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration project – report on workshops.** The Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration is a Melbourne Water initiative for the Creek catchment, to get all those with an interest or responsibility to work on a joint vision for the Creek and ways in which to work together to achieve. Tony Smith reported that three workshops have been held since February - at Moonee Valley Bowls Club, The Hub, Docklands and Hume Global Learning Centre. Although the number of attendees has dropped, lively discussions are maintained. In the last workshop there was work towards developing a 'vision'. A common basis is the commitment to the idea that the Moonee Ponds Creek be recognised as a significant waterway for Melbourne and its environmental, open space and social values enhanced.
7. **FoMPC Banner & way signs.** Examples of types of banners were circulated and their pros and cons discussed. The 'feather' type banner seems to be the most suitable for our predominantly outdoor needs. The MPCCC Creek diagram would be featured on the banner. Joe offered to help with the design layout when we are up to that stage. Options and costings to be obtained.
8. An informal ceremony to plant a Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) along the Creek in memory of Terry Mundy is planned for May. People who may wish to attend will include those who knew him from his early involvement in Creek revegetation projects and as an early Moonee Ponds Creek Association member and office bearer. Also, Stella Blay is returning to England and ideas for a farewell were discussed. More information later.
9. **Child Safe Guidelines for Community Organisations.** Kaye reported that all community organisations now have to comply with these guidelines and have to formulate a Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct. The latest version of the Guidelines presents as a 'one size fits all' legal approach, applicable to child care centres down to community organisations. The Commission for Children and Young People, however, has subsequently realised that community organisations such as ours can prepare a simpler code of conduct that is in keeping with the extent of our activities. There was some discussion of the problems applying the guidelines during a planting event. Kaye read out a draft code of conduct which will be circulated to members for comment. FoMPC activities would promote child safe environments and the code would be placed on our website.

10. **Western Distributor: Amended Design.** [Images of the latest design, see http://wgtmap.uc.com.au/index.html](http://wgtmap.uc.com.au/index.html) and previous versions were circulated. Two of the proposed viaducts over the lower Moonee Ponds Creek have been relocated closer to the existing CityLink elevated structure and over railway land, however the viaducts over the Creek's Railway Canal open space and cutting through E-Gate and the Wurundjeri extension to join Dynon Rd remain. No noise restrictions have been proposed for night time or open space or truck engine braking. The EES reports are due for release in June; there will be 6 weeks to respond before the hearings are held.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

11. **State Government's Biodiversity strategy *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*.** The release of this document is welcomed, see [www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversityplan](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversityplan)
12. **Student research projects.** Kaye reported on recent requests by two students for information/documents about the Creek. She expressed some concern that some students appeared to be asking for us to do their research for them and did not appear to have attempted even checking our website or Googling Moonee Ponds Creek or 'waterways strategies'. Initial replies to the students have referred them to source documents, our website, Ponderings. Joe (who is attending the meeting as part of his Masters in Arts research at Monash) pointed out that community groups such as FoMPC were important ways by which researchers can get an idea of what is really going on the ground and spoke of the importance of encouraging such contacts. Kelvin expressed his willingness to talk with students about the Creek.
13. **Community and Volunteer Action Grants 2017 applications open** (closing date May 10) [www.environment.vic.gov.au/communityaction](http://www.environment.vic.gov.au/communityaction). Kaye asked that if anyone has any ideas for these State Government grants to contact her. The grants have a broad biodiversity focus and for on-ground conservation projects. Anna suggested that FoMPC seek a grant to manage the historical documents of the FoMPC; Kaye suggested we investigate making an electronic copy of the 9 technical reports that relate to the 1992 Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan.
14. Julie mentioned a planning scheme amendment Am C218 for rezoning land in Western Avenue, Westmeadows; she will make a submission. The buffer land along Wright St, the subject of the (rejected) amendment last year is not part of the present amendment.
15. Kaye reported that Corey Bannister is keeping an eye on the Wallaby Biolink (Gowanbrae) plantings and that the plants have done well with only a few failures. Replacements could be undertaken this planting season.

# GENERAL MEETING MONDAY JUNE 19, 2017, 6:30PM

## Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Tony Smith, David Muir, Frank Kinnersley, Julie Law, Anna Lanigan, Vince Aitkin, Kevin Balaam, Ray Hehr, Michelle Gooding

**APOLOGIES:** Kaye Oddie, Carolyn Layton, Zoe Jellie, Marcus Lancaster, Russell Smith

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on April 10, 2017.** That the Minutes are an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Frank /Seconded: Anna / Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Vince gave a verbal summary of the tabled 'Treasurer's Report prepared 16/06/2017'. FoMPC Accounts total \$28,479.70 and Alan Thomson Scholarship Fund balance \$10,558.27. Moved: Vince/Seconded: David. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

### ITEMS:

16. Moonee Valley Council Volunteer Support Procedures. Michelle explained some new procedures Council are introducing to work with its many volunteers. As an incorporated and insured community friends group, little will change for FoMPC. Small unincorporated groups like Friends of Five Mile Creek can be handled by them being individual members of FoMPC and their activities treated as FoMPC activities. Acknowledging volunteers contributions will change. Generally volunteers will be seen as working with FoMPC rather than direct with council. Council will develop an agreement with FoMPC but it is expected this may develop further with time and experience. Council is aiming to engage with more of the community especially younger people and will use opportunities such as the recent bird walk at Afton Street. Council was most complimentary of Ponderings. Michelle subsequently emailed and information sheet.
17. West Gate Tunnel/Western Distributor submissions. Kaye was thanked for the submission she made. Tony will make a submission.
18. Commonwealth Games Village Increased Development AmC281. Kaye made a submission. It is understood plans are to provide for increased heights of the high-rise apartment blocks.
19. Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration – report on Workshops 3, 4 and 5. Tony, David and Frank reported on the workshops including workshop 5 earlier that day. Some of the current work is on mapping to assist with recording who owns or is responsible for areas near the creek. The group discussed forthcoming meeting locations and subjects. David tabled a report on an inspection visit of the Kensington walk proposal with authorities taking on board suggestions for improved access.

20. M80 Noise Walls, Gowanbrae/Glenroy plantings - FoMPC comment on VicRoads proposed species as they include non-indigenous species.
21. Shelley Hillock update; It is understood there is opportunity for infill planting and the Green Army will do some including on the slopes.
22. Draft FoMPC Child Safe Guidelines were tabled for comment/input.
23. MVCC Community Grants 2017/18, Round 1 were discussed; FoMPC application possible. Applications open July 4, close Aug 8.
24. Jacana Wetlands Upgrade. Information sheet on works that are due to start in July was tabled.
25. University of Melbourne research project on water issues for Moreland residents (cf emails sent 27/5/17, 31/5/17) to the membership re participation was discussed. Some members have been interviewed.
26. RMIT Landscape Architecture Students review of nine sections of Moonee Ponds Creek Display still open for viewing this week.
27. RMIT student art installation. Students walked the creek documenting characteristics.
28. Anna noted concern about car parking for events at John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve damaging the green space along Mascoma Street. The meeting authorised Anna to make representations to MVCC to have the parking restrictions enforced and the Moonee Creek valley in that location better protected.
29. Julie noted sighting of a wallaby near Mascoma Street, perhaps our plantings have assisted this local.
30. Vince noted a team with a drone documenting the creek corridor. This is related to the creek Collaboration project.
31. The passing of Max Marshall was noted. Max was a previous resident of Kernan Avenue and did much to improve the Creek.
32. Vince noted he had viewed in Queensland how various memorials to volunteers at a particular community open space had been organised in a special area of that open space.
33. Ray Hehr said local residents were having trouble getting hold of land leasing arrangements between Moreland Council and VicRoads near the Bell St crossover of the Creek. Kelvin offered to assist them get the information from Moreland Council.

**DATE of NEXT MEETING:** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August, Sam Merrifield Library, Moonee Ponds

Frank Kinnersley

Vice President



# GENERAL MEETING MONDAY AUGUST 21, 2017, 6:30PM

## Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

PRESENT: Frank Kinnersley, Virginia Moylan, James Frazer (Melbourne Water), Tony Smith, Marcus Lancaster, Carolyn Layton, Kaye Oddie, Anna Lanigan, Zoe Jellie, Kelvin Thomson

APOLOGIES: Kevin Balaam, Vince Aitkin, David Muir, Julie Law

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: A motion was put that the Minutes of the meeting held on June 19, 2017 are an accurate record of the meeting: Moved: Frank; Seconded: Anna; Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In Vince's absence, Kelvin went through the main points in the tabled report. Total funds \$37,198.14 made up of \$26,639.87 General Account and \$10,558.27 Alan Thomson Fund. Treasure's Report was accepted; Moved: Carolyn; Seconded: Tony.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Anna introduced **James Frazer, Water Watch Coordinator, Melbourne Water - "Frog Data along the Moonee Ponds Creek."**

James talked about recent changes in the numbers of volunteers submitting data as a result of the recently released Frog Census App.

Prior to the App there were approx. 60-80 people regularly submitting data and last year with the App there were more than 1000.

Other positive impacts of the Frog App James reported are an increase in numbers of younger people and people from a greater diversity of backgrounds submitting data.

Within the increased number of reports there are new records as well as data gaps filled.

James mentioned that there are down sides to the increased numbers, such as the need for more resources to manage the increased data and the expectations.

James said the Frog Data informs the Melbourne Water Healthy Water Strategy and assured everyone that "every bit of data submitted is valuable and used"

James handed out a condition report for the Moonee Ponds Creek and assisted us to interpret some of the data displayed. He referred to Management Units such as the one including Moonee Ponds Creek. For each unit there are expectations of what frogs should be there based on the condition of the habitat. This can be compared with what has been reported as being there, in order to identify gaps. James told the meeting that we can use our local knowledge to help fill some of the gaps identified in the data.

He told us that the data confirms what we all know; that there has been a decline in frog diversity across Greater Melbourne. James invited questions.

There was some discussion of the need to raise awareness of Water Watch and the Frog app. Kaye suggested identifying frog hotspots to capture the interest of new water watchers.

James mentioned that one of the aspects which may limit participation with Frog Watch is the fixed methodology. Data has to be gathered twice per month and an hour after sunset. Kaye suggested we could organise a Frog Watch night. Anna agreed we could but that often it is difficult to predict on any one night whether they will be calling.

Frank asked about data overlaps occurring but James thought this was not a problem.

Kaye asked James what other ways we could assist and suggested tailoring plantings to enhance frog habitat. James added to this that the daylighting of creeks provides an opportunity to collect impact data. He gave the example of a creek between Bayswater and Heathmont which had been recently daylighted but we have our new Living Stream at the Herbert Street Reserve which could also provide this data. James was asked about the data gaps along the Moonee Ponds Creek and he said he'd organise a list for us. In response to furthering questions about enhancing frog habitat James referred to general strategies that reduce the impact of chemicals on the environment.

James spoke about a colony of Growling Grass Frogs that has amazingly scaled an escarpment from Steel's Creek and set up on the oval at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar Keilor, under the cricket mats.

Finally, James announced a Water Watch engagement event being planned in Hume on Nov 9<sup>th</sup> on the Merri Creek between Fawkner and Mickleham Road.

James was thanked for his interesting presentation and especially his highlighting how community can become more involved.

#### ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. FoMPC Child Safe Guidelines finalisation for submission. The proposed FoMPC Child Safe Guidelines document was tabled. Kaye informed the meeting that a process to follow for recording abuse with the relevant contacts will be prepared to accompany the guidelines. The guidelines were adopted as proposed. Moved Kaye; Seconded Zoe.
2. Report on Landcare/CLTW community planting projects at Shelley Hillock, Moonee Ponds and Brady Reserve, Brunswick West on Aug 19. Kaye explained these projects came about following feedback to Transurban during CLTW 'consultation' concerning offsets for the loss of vegetation that occurred along the Creek corridor. Landcare was funded to undertake two revegetation projects. Alastair Jones from Landcare prepared a comprehensive Vegetation Management Plan, working with Councils and FoMPC. Kaye passed around some old photos of Shelley Hillock and explained the history of the site. Extensive site preparation was undertaken. Two planting days were scheduled, one for community; the other for Transurban employees. Small numbers attended the community planting day on Aug 19, in part due to the limited notification allowed and requiring a registration process to obtain site access details. It was also problematic that the two Landcare project plantings were scheduled at the same time on the same day. The project includes a 3-year maintenance period overseen by Landcare.

3. Travancore Park new shared/path works. There was an update on the new shared path works. A new shared cycle path has been constructed along the top of the Creek embankment; other paths will be constructed within the park itself. Revegetation will be undertaken firstly in association with the new bike path; later as part of a park-wide planting program. Frank reported some complaints about a local pedestrian who creates obstacles for cyclists using the existing path while the works continue.
4. Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration – report on Workshops & Site Visits. Tony reported on the last workshop and tour of the Northern Golf Club with its wonderful remnant River Red Gums and ponds, covering the headwaters of the Westbreen Creek. Tour conducted by Charles Potter, CEO of the Golf Club. The secondment of the facilitator of the Collaboration, Julie Francis, ends in September. Tony reported there is a ‘warm working relationship’ between the Moonee Ponds Creek and the Maribyrnong River collaboration groups.
5. West Gate Tunnel Project/Western Distributor EES Hearings. An Independent Advisory Committee has been appointed and hearings are being held over a 5-week period. Kaye and Tony are attending. The WGTP proposed a wide, low viaduct over the Railway Canal section of the Creek – a valued open space section of the Creek; it also proposes a high elevated viaduct with pylons in the Creek nearby. “It couldn’t be a bigger disaster for the Moonee Ponds Creek” said Tony. An offset open space proposed is inaccessible, on polluted ground, would be too noisy and lack amenity - surrounded by Footscray Rd, rail lines and the WGTP viaducts; besides no agreement has been reached with VLine to obtain the land. No good news in this item!
6. Revegetation and works along Moonee Ponds Creek, Kensington. Kaye reported that the homeless people living in the appalling ‘camps’ under the Arden Street and Macaulay Road bridges over the Creek have been moved to other accommodation. Melbourne Water has engineered the areas under the bridges to create ponds to resolve the issue. Kaye showed ‘before’ and ‘after’ photos. Other works downstream from Arden St Bridge – infill revegetation – are also being undertaken by Melbourne Water along AusNet’s new fenceline. Callistemons and other bird-attractant plants to enhance habitat value will be planted as this is a little-used-by-people section.
7. Moonee Ponds Creek ‘Chain of Ponds’ masterplan update. It was reported that Moreland Council is now on board with this process and will co-operate with cross-Creek projects. There will be a pilot project carried out in conjunction with Melbourne Water between Strathmore North Primary School (Moonee Valley side) and the Herbert Street Living Stream wetlands/swale (Moreland side) involving ‘naturalising’ the concrete channel. This news was very well received by the meeting. Kelvin took the opportunity to highlight some really positive things that are occurring along the Creek and added the Gowanbrae Wallaby biolink, the ‘Gowanbrae Edge’ revegetation, and the new paths and infrastructure at Kingsford-Smith-Ulm to the above.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

8. Essendon Terrace ‘1000 steps’ walk on Oct 18 (Seniors Week). Kaye reported that the Lyons Club have sought assistance from FoMPC to plan their Seniors Week walk. Initial plan would be to walk along the Creek path to Five Mile Creek Reserve. This day is also ‘Ride to Work Day’, however, it is expected the Essendon Tce group will be walking mid morning, so potential conflict should not be an issue.
9. Melbourne Water Waterways & Lands Officer (formerly River Health Officers) changes: Once again there has been changes in the Waterways and Land Officers assigned to

Moonee Ponds Creek. The new officers are: Ryan Van den Hove for Hume and Zoe Sampson for Moonee Valley, with a Moreland officer to be appointed.

10. Anna lamented the fact that Moreland Council overruled the expert advice they received on their Urban Forest Strategy. It is known by those with expertise and experience in this area that plantings that receive on-going maintenance do much better long term than those that don't. With a council budget limit, it makes sense to put fewer in the ground and spend some of the budget on maintenance. Another point made was that there is a limited time that officers have to get plants in the ground to enable them to establish before the summer. The council decided on the option for 5,000 plants with no budget for maintenance compared with 3,000 plants and a maintenance budget. Kelvin suggested that the Councillors be held to account when the figures on survival rates are in so that better decisions can be made in future.
11. Christmas BBQ FoMPC. Kaye suggested that the last meeting of the year be a BBQ to celebrate in the Hopetoun Street Reserve 'win'. Those present thought this was a good idea.
12. The meeting expressed their best wishes to member David Muir following his recent back surgery.

#### NOTICES:

**Sun Sept 3** (note correct date), 10am-12noon, second community planting at Gowanbrae Edge, Gowanbrae. Meet end Primula Blvd, Gowanbrae, walk through barrier gate along shared path to site.

DATE of NEXT MEETING & AGM: **Monday Oct 16**, 6:30pm, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds

Carolyn Layton  
Minutes Secretary

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY OCTOBER 16, 2017, 6:30PM**

#### **Sam Merrifield Library**

PRESENT: Julie Law, Frank Kinnersley, Kaye Oddie, Anna Lanigan, Marcus Lancaster,  
Zoe Jellie, Tony Smith, Kelvin Thomson

APOLOGIES: Vince Aitkin, Carolyn Layton, Ginny Moylan, Victor Marshall

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AGM HELD on October 10, 2016:

It was moved that the Minutes be accepted (KO); seconded (AL); approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT for Year ended 30 June 2017:

In the Treasurer's absence, the President presented the Financial Report. Current balance is \$39097.97; Income for the year totalled \$7026.74; Expenditure totalled \$6466.85.

It was moved that the Financial Report be accepted (KO); seconded (FK); approved. The meeting also acknowledged the professional expertise of the Treasurer in preparing the Financial Report and his continuing role keeping the books for the FoMPC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The President, Kelvin Thomson, highlighted activities throughout the year. These included:

- Preparation of a Child Safe Policy for the association.
- Community plantings undertaken at Gowanbrae Edge as part of the Melbourne Water community grant to the FoMPC.
- Community planting at Herbert St, Oak Park.
- Consultation regarding, and support for the extensive upgrade of the Jacana Wetlands by Melbourne Water.
- Successful outcome of the campaign to save the proposed rezoning and sale of a section of Hopetoun Ave Reserve, Brunswick West, with Moreland Council agreeing to purchase the site and retain as public open space.
- Participation in the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration that has been set up by Melbourne Water and supported by councils, statutory authorities and other stakeholder/interest groups in the Moonee Ponds Creek Corridor.
- The FoMPC continues to be acknowledged and respected in the wider community.
- The loss of members, Terry Mundy and Max Marshall. A tree was planted in memory of Terry in the Strathnaver Reserve.

- Thanks and appreciation were expressed to a number of people, including:
  - Michael Ingram as FoMPC representative on the Community Liaison Group for the West Gate Tunnel Project
  - Anna Lanigan and Nina Eason for their dedication as editors of the Creek quarterly newsletter *Ponderings* and for their wider interest in Creek matters
  - Zoe Jellie for looking after FoMPC Facebook page
  - Carolyn Layton as our retiring Minutes Secretary
  - Environmental officers at Moonee Valley, Moreland and Hume Councils: Michelle Gooding, Kim Cooper, Alex English, Vince Andreana, Lori Arthur, Melissa Doherty
  - Melbourne Water's Lizzie Younger and Andrew Mellor
  - Landcare's Alastair Jones for the CLTW revegetation project at Shelley Hillock (Moonee Ponds Creek Linear Reserve)
  - Julie Francis, seconded to Melbourne Water, to co-ordinate the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration group
  - Peter Khalil MHR for providing photocopying facilities
  - Kaye Oddie as Secretary and Vince Aitkin as Treasurer and other members of the Executive who have supported the FoMPC during the year.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS for 2017-18:

There being no nominations received prior to the meeting, nominations were accepted from the floor and the following persons duly elected:

- |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| - President                        | Kelvin Thomson   |
| - Vice-President                   | Frank Kinnersley |
| - Treasurer                        | Vince Aitkin     |
| - Secretary & Public Officer       | Kaye Oddie       |
| - Appointment of Minutes Secretary | not filled       |

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2017-18:

It was resolved that membership fees for the forthcoming year remain at \$10 per annum (moved FK; seconded AL). Kelvin suggested individual notification be made to members whose subscription has lapsed.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

Close of AGM

## GENERAL MEETING      MONDAY OCTOBER 16, 2017, 7PM

### Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

PRESENT: Julie Law, Frank Kinnersley, Kaye Oddie, Anna Lanigan, Marcus Lancaster, Zoe Jellie, Tony Smith, Kelvin Thomson, David Muir

APOLOGIES: Vince Aitkin, Carolyn Layton, Ginny Moylan, Victor Marshall

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on Aug 21, 2017

It was moved that the Minutes be accepted (KO); seconded (ZJ); approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Deferred to next meeting when the Treasurer will be present.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

### **13. West Gate Tunnel Project/Western Distributor EES Hearings**

Tony Smith reported on the attendance and submissions made by Tony Smith (Keilor Inst) and Kaye Oddie (FoMPC) at the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) hearings on the EES (Environment Effects Statement) for the West Gate Tunnel Project held over 5½ weeks during Aug-Sept. Councils were legally represented; WGTP had a large legal team and called many expert witnesses. Community representatives and individuals made presentations. This is a significantly worse project than the East West Link and it is being forced through, with the State Government announcing interim decisions 'on the run' during the hearings – seen as political interference in the supposedly independent EES process. Some inner west streets, e.g. Millers Road, will see large increases in heavy truck traffic and impacts of the project will be far wider than the project boundaries. Criticism was levelled at the State Government for allowing Transurban to become the de facto road transport planner for Melbourne. What was an accepted solution for freight movement between the Port and West Gate Fwy - the Western Distributor - has morphed under Transurban's unsolicited proposal to the State Government into an expanded mega freeway/tollway project. TS cited the CLTW overpass next to Strathmore Secondary College – too close; poor traffic design; very little traffic; loss of school amenity as an example of where the State Govt has handed over road transport planning. The IAC will hand its report to the Minister for Planning by end Sept/early Oct then State Cabinet for final decision.

### **14. Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration**

This Collaboration is based on the earlier Maribyrnong River Collaboration and derives from Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways Strategy. However, the MPCC also significantly relates to urban renewal development along the Creek corridor. The Collaboration has continued with workshops and site visits and is now concentrating on three specific areas: Data gathering/collation/research; Design and Governance.

### **15. Report on MVCC Integrated Transport Review**

Frank Kinnersley reported on the completion of the new Travancore Park shared/bicycle path along the top of the Creek embankment; disappointed the proposed 'dog separation' fence will not be installed; trees removed for the path will be replaced 2:1. Kaye expressed concern about the many new widened paths also installed throughout this narrow park. It is hoped MVCC will undertake an upgrade to plantings in the park in 2018.

### **16. Melbourne Water 2018 Grant – 'Habitat Enhancements at Hopetoun'**

Moreland Council has submitted a 'Corridors of Green' grant application to Melbourne Water for infill and new plantings at Hopetoun Reserve, Brunswick West, including the 'saved' section. FoMPC has supported the application.

### **17. Lower Moonee Ponds Creek – Footscray Rd to Docklands**

Kaye sought support from the meeting for a letter to the Melbourne City Council to facilitate a meeting of stakeholders for this section of the lower MPC, including Port of Melbourne, CoM, Places Victoria and FoMPC with aim of implementing the PoMC's Interface Plan (2012) and MPC Concept Plan (1992).

### **18. Tullamarine Landfill Revised Stormwater Concept Plans & meeting Dec 1**

Julie Law is FoMPC rep on the Community Liaison Group. She and Julie Francis intend to visit the Westmeadows section of the Creek adjacent to the Cleanaway site on Oct 19. Cleanaway have invited FoMPC to a second briefing on Dec 1 about the proposed stormwater plans for the Tullamarine toxic landfill site. Interested members invited to attend. FoMPC has suggested that Melbourne Water also be invited to the briefing.

### **19. Moonee Valley Expo**

Anna Lanigan is co-ordinating the FoMPC display table at the Moonee Valley Expo on Oct 24, 2-7pm in the Sam Merrifield Library. The Expo is designed to allow community groups to 'advertise' their organisations and activities. Members offering to assist: KT, FK, TS, KO.

### **20. Amendment C281 – Parkville Gardens**

FoMPC put in a written submission but did not attend the planning panel hearings in July. Shared concerns about the detrimental impact on the adjacent Wetlands storage pond in Royal Park was covered by FoRP representative Joe Edmunds. FoMPC was surprised that MVCC did not lodge objection, given the increased visual obtrusiveness and detrimental impact on amenity the proposed taller buildings would have on Travancore Park.

### **21. Nursery Bend Former Nursery**

FoMPC has written to MVCC asking if an on-site informal survey could be undertaken by FoMPC members following the upcoming vacating by the landscaping leasee of the Nursery Bend site. Aim would be to check what habitat sites are on the site, seeking care in protecting them in any redevelopment of the site.

OTHER BUSINESS:

22. **Essendon Terrace '1000 steps' walk** on Oct 18, 10:30am (Seniors Week). Meet at Essendon Terrace Reception, Pascoe Vale Road to accompany walkers along the MPC path to Five Mile Creek reserve.

23. **Xmas BBQ & Hopetoun Ave Reserve Celebration.** This will be on Saturday Dec 9, from 12 noon in the Reserve. Kaye to liaise with Barbara Moje re inviting Moreland councillors,



officers and local residents. Use of the Frank Sedgeman Tennis Pavilion toilets (in Fisher Reserve opposite Hopetoun Reserve) to be sought from Glencairn Tennis Club.

24. **Dates/times for 2018 meetings.** Agreed to continue with meetings on third Monday of every second month, 6:30pm in Sam Merrifield Library, starting in Feb 2018.

NOTICES:

On Wed Oct 25, James Frazer will lead a frog walk starting at Cambridge Gardens towards The Tarnuk. Details, contact Anna Lanigan.

# GENERAL MEETING MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2018, 6:30PM

## Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

PRESENT: Kelvin Thomson, Frank Kinnersley, Julie Law, Anna Lanigan, Carolyn Layton, Greg Hunt, Tony Smith, Ray Hehr, David Muir, John Widmer, Kaye Oddie, Helen & Jos van den Berg, Marcus Lancaster, Joe Griffiths, Zoe Jellie and Crs Sue Bolton and Dale Martin, Moreland Council

APOLOGIES: Vince Aitkin, Ginny Moylan

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on Oct 16, 2017. Moved KO/ seconded Julie Law/approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report tabled – Bank balance \$37,234. Moved that the report be approved VA/seconded FK/approved.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

### **25. VicTrack Outlook Drive, Glenroy Land Sale**

Cr. Dale Martin, Moreland City Council, spoke about the history of the proposed land sale by VicTrack of 3.2 ha of land at the end of Outlook Dve, Glenroy. Original 2008 sale did not proceed and current sale comes at same time Council is being asked to purchase another large area of open space (VicRoads owned) along the Merri Creek. Council offered first right of refusal, but with very tight timeframes (2 weeks) from when Councillors were notified of the proposed sale at their recent Council meeting. Council voted to call for public submissions, with closing date of Feb 26; also to letterbox 300-400 leaflets to local area and place noticeboards on site. Options for the land sale are: Gift to Council, sell at a discount, sell to other parties/sell privately, withdraw sale.

Cr. Sue Bolton expressed concern that Council officers had known about the proposed sale since last December so the lack of earlier public notification was not acceptable. Confirmed land site extended from the end of Outlook Drive, on both sides of the path, all the way down to the banks of the Moonee Ponds Creek. Council had previously tried to get the whole site rezoned to PPRZ, but VicTrack had refused. Suggested an on-site public meeting be held and linking up with other community organisations.

Kelvin told of the earlier 2008/9 fight against the rezoning and sale of the same land and in which FoMPC was heavily involved. The outcome of that campaign, was a gentleman's agreement that only a few house blocks would be sold; the rest as public open space. Kelvin asked if VicTrack was now renegeing on that deal? The timeframe for the present public notification and submission was "ridiculous". Moreland Council's property section ought to have been aware that where public open space is concerned, the community always will be interested.

Other comments were made by John Widmer that all government agencies have been charged with disposing of 'land surplus to requirements'; this is now widespread. Helen van den Berg asked how such disposals were assessed in relation to Plan Melbourne and planning/environment/transport/resilient cities policies? Where is the collaborative approach regarding the future of the land? VicTrack is undermining Plan Melbourne by selling off the land. Tony Smith cited the Hopetoun Ave rezoning/sale example and

how community opposition forced a rethink. Call for community to also lobby State Govt representatives and ministers and Melbourne Water.

#### **26. Kernan Avenue, Pascoe Vale South – Moreland Community Grant revegetation project**

Ray Hehr described the irregular block of land at end of Kernan Ave, Pascoe Vale South, adjacent to the Moonee Ponds Creek and sought FoMPC approval to lodge a grant application to Moreland Council to revegetate the site. Meeting agreed. Next step to meet with Lori Arthur, Moreland Natural Resource Management Officer to work on project/grant details.

#### **27. Brunswick Community 4 Nature plant sales and participation opportunities**

Group's aim is to create a wildlife habitat corridor between Merri Ck and Moonee Ponds Ck encompassing nature strips and private gardens. Supported by Moreland Council. Group would like to attend a FoMPC activity/ies to sell native/indigenous plants.

#### **28. 'Let's Make A Park' project**

Group of young local residents led by Adam Wojcik and Michael Petrou have put together a project to create a mini park near Strathmore Station. FoMPC approached to auspice for public liability insurance, however, this has been directly obtained through Landcare. For more information, email [letsmakeapark@gmail.com](mailto:letsmakeapark@gmail.com)

#### **29. Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration – updates: Governance, Design Guidelines, Research/Mapping**

Tony Smith relayed that sub groups are working on Governance and Design Guidelines. A meeting is to be held in March with key executive officers to seek formalisation and support for the Collaboration and its aims. Kaye asked if FoMPC funding could be made available to scan the 10 research reports behind the 1992 Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan to add to the Research/Mapping data base. Zoe Jellie kindly offered to assist in this task.

#### **30. Jacana Wetlands:**

(1) A site visit will be held on Mar 13 for FoMPC to see the completed upgrade works, organised by Melb Water and CPB Contractors.

(2) Melbourne Water is preparing revegetation plans for the surrounding areas; plans yet to be received.

#### **31. Tullamarine Landfill Site Stormwater Plans & Upper Moonee Ponds Creek**

FoMPC will meet with Melbourne Water on Mon Mar 26 to show the section of the Creek environs the Tullamarine Landfill Site and highlight its high environmental values. FoMPC opposes any outfalls to the Creek as is proposed in the draft Stormwater Management Plans. Helen van den Berg referred to the poor processes the Friends of Steele Creek have encountered with the Landfill site, including design, consultation, EPA monitoring.

#### **32. Moonee Valley Festival Feb 25 – Call for volunteers to assist**

FoMPC will have information stand in the Council Sustainability tent. Anna will set up; Kelvin, Kaye and Frank to assist during day.

#### **33. Rivers of the West campaign**

Helen van den Berg described how the Environment Justice Association, Friends of Steele Creek, Werribee River Association, Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley and other partners are organising workshops to progress the protection and restoration of rivers and waterways in the west, similar to the recently approved Yarra River Plan\*\*. The first workshop will be on Mar 19, 6-9pm, 60 Leicester St, Carlton; registration <https://envirojustice.org.au/rivers-of-the-west-workshop-1>. Tony Smith added that this is just where a co-ordinated, collaborative approach will be best. Tours of certain waterways/creeks are planned for May 6,7,8, details tba.

\*\*[https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/27177/DELWP0032\\_YarraRiverActionPlan\\_v27\\_weba.pdf](https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/27177/DELWP0032_YarraRiverActionPlan_v27_weba.pdf)

#### **34. MVCC Horseshoe Bend FoMPC planting date**

Sunday July 22 was selected as the preferable date.

OTHER BUSINESS:

**35. Nursery Bend – update**

MVCC officers have assessed the Nursery Bend site and funding has been requested to undertake a masterplan, associated clean up; if successful, then community consultation would commence late 2018.

**36. CLTW ‘Dynamic Speed Limit Trial of 100km on CityLink**

Kaye reported on the proposed trial 100km speed limit on CityLink, noting that the CLTW project noise and other parameters were based on the 80km speed limit. Will noise/other impacts be measured as part of the trial or just travel times?

**37. #GetonBoardVIC public transport campaign [www.getonboard.org.au](http://www.getonboard.org.au) fighting fund**

The meeting noted this campaign funding call.

**38. Date found – Moreland Rd Gas Holder & Depot**

Essendon History Society Member, Peter Willoughby, was very appreciative that Kelvin and Jennifer Mok determined the demolition date of the Moreland Rd gas holder (constructed 1925; demolished 1979). Date was sought for a history report Peter was writing for the ESH. Photo from the report also showed the course of the Moonee Ponds Creek prior to straightening/concreting.

**39. Community Grants:**

FoMPC to apply for a Moreland Community Grant for Kernan Ave, Pascoe Vale South. Zoe Jellie is looking at some other sites for potential reveg grants; will check first with Lori Arthur; closing date 1/4/18.

KT noted if other people want to pursue projects/other grant applications; FoMPC can help.

**40. Monash Project**

David Muir presented a report prepared by the Kensington Association for the Monash Industry Team Initiative about making floodways usable for recreation, such as the section of the Creek downstream from Racecourse Rd; access and landscaping details.

**41. ‘Malfunction Junction’ – video by Joseph Griffiths**

Carolyn Layton described the recent exhibition and “mesmerising” video made by Joseph Griffiths at Monash University, part of his Master’s degree in Fine Art, which examined the changes in cultural attitudes towards water and nature and the role of creeks. The video was of a fountain Joe created in the Creek at one of the highly altered sections – representing a Malfunction Junction. Joe was happy for the video to be made available for our website, but it needed some technical processing first.

**42. Community Planting Events – see list on separate page.**

NOTICES:

- Sunday Feb 25, 10am-5pm **Moonee Valley Festival**, Queens Park, Moonee Ponds
- Monday March 19, 6-9pm **Rivers of the West** workshop 1, 60 Leicester St, Carlton
- Wed March 21, 7-9pm **Moreland Community for Action on Transport (MCAT) Public Meeting on West Gate Tunnel Project**, Brunswick Town Hall, Sydney Rd, Brunswick
- Sunday April 22, 11am-3pm, **Reintroducing Wurundjeri Culture to the Maribyrnong**, Lower Maribyrnong River Land Park, Lily St, West Essendon

DATE of NEXT MEETING:

DATES OF FOLLOWING MEETINGS in 2018

**Monday April 16, 2018, 6:30pm**

June 18

Sam Merrifield Library  
August 20

Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds

October 15

December 17

#### **DATES OF COMMUNITY PLANTING & ACTIVITIES ALONG THE CREEK**

See also Ponderings and Facebook

#### **HUME GREENING PROGRAM 2018**

See also: [https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Waste\\_Environment/Environment/Live\\_Green\\_-\\_Get\\_Involved/Environmental\\_Newsletters](https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Waste_Environment/Environment/Live_Green_-_Get_Involved/Environmental_Newsletters)

Sun 17 June, 1:30-3:30pm, Community Planting - Ian Musgrove Reserve, Koala Cres, Westmeadows

(5 J7)

Sun 26 August, 1:30-3:30pm, Community Planting – Coopers Hill Drive, Westmeadows (6 A7

#### **MOONEE VALLEY GREEN LIVING EVENTS**

See also: [www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/enviroevents](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/enviroevents)

Sun 25 March, 10am-2pm, Walk with Wurundjeri – 5 Mile Creek Reserve, 2 Government Rd, Essendon

Sun 29 July, 10am-1pm, Community Planting – Travancore Park, Travancore

#### **MORELAND**

Sun 15 April, 10am-12noon, Working bee – Hopetoun Reserve, Hopetoun Ave, Brunswick West

Tues 1 May, 10am-12noon, Community Planting, followed by lunch/launch/celebration – Kelvin Thomson Reserve, Pascoe Vale

Sun 6 May, 10am-12noon, Community Planting – Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy

Sun 27 May, 10am-12noon, Community Planting – Hopetoun Reserve, Hopetoun Ave, Brunswick West

Sun 1 July, 10am-12noon, Community Planting – Herbert St Reserve, Herbert St, Pascoe Vale

Sun 29 July, 10am-12noon, Community Planting, followed by Lunch – Gowanbrae Community Reserve, Gowanbrae

Sun 28 October, 10am-12noon, Weeding bee, Hopetoun Reserve, Hopetoun Ave, Brunswick West

# GENERAL MEETING MONDAY APRIL 16, 2018, 6:30PM

## Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Frank Kinnersley, Tony Smith, Anna Lanigan, Ray Hehr, Zoe Jellie, Kaye Oddie

**APOLOGIES:** Vince Aitkin, Julie Law, Carolyn Layton

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING** held on April 16, 2018. It was moved that the minutes be accepted KO/seconded AL/carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** To be held over to next meeting.

### ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

#### **Update on VicTrack Outlook Drive, Glenroy Land Sale – Moreland Council decision**

Kelvin reported that VicTrack had put on hold the proposed sale of the Outlook Drive land. In meantime, FoMPC circulated leaflets and organised a public meeting held at the Outlook Dve site on Mar 4 attended by 150 people and Moreland Council mayor and councillors. It is understood that many submissions were made to the Council opposing the sale. FoMPC reps later met with local State member, Lizzie Blandthorn's electoral officers Liam and Kate, to stress our desire to see the land retained as public open space.

Then it was 'good news' to learn that the Moreland City Council at its April 11 meeting, resolved to make an offer to purchase the Outlook Dve, Glenroy land and to commence negotiations with VicTrack. Mayor John Kavanagh has set up a small working group to assist with the community response regarding the purchase of the land, inviting FoMPC's president Kelvin Thomson and secretary Kaye Oddie to be on the group. Kelvin summed up that our objective is to get a meeting of the minds for a successful outcome.

Kaye added that VicTrack needs to take a more comprehensive, more holistic view of Outlook Dve land, given they are large landholders in the state of Victoria and could look at other less environmentally important land sales to satisfy their financial bottom line.

#### **Kernan Avenue, Pascoe Vale South revegetation project plans**

Ray Hehr described the progress on this unusual parcel of land at the end of Kernan Ave, Pascoe Vale South, which is sandwiched between the Creek, CityLink, residences and railway line. Moreland Council is finalising the purchase from VicRoads and has \$30,000 set aside to upgrade the site. A concept plan has been prepared for landscaped beds to be planted with indigenous species, with an informal link to the nearby Tate Park playground and a tree grove to block views of CityLink infrastructure. Feedback from local residents will be sought at a street party in August. It is intended that former resident, Max Marshall, should be commemorated by

a plaque for his extensive early plantings in the area. In meantime, FoMPC & Moreland Council reps met with CPB Consultants regarding restitution of part of the Kernan Ave land impacted by CLTW works. It is hoped to also get Melbourne Water on board for more plantings along the adjoining creek embankments.

#### **Brunswick Community 4 Nature plant sale at Community Planting, Hopetoun Ave Reserve. 27 May**

Zoe Jellie relayed the request from Brunswick C4N group to hold an indigenous plant sale at the community planting at Hopetoun Ave on May 27. Meeting happy for the group to hold sale; in return Brunswick C4N will promote the community planting event on their website.

#### **Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration – update**

Tony Smith reported that the three teams in the Collaboration group – Governance, Design, Data Research – are proceeding with their briefs. Preparation of a Prospectus and MOU are in train. An initial meeting has been held with key stakeholder chief executives from the four councils and Melbourne Water.

#### **Monash University Industry Team Initiative – Kensington precinct reports**

Kaye Oddie reported on the summer projects undertaken by three Monash University student teams in conjunction with Melbourne Water. The projects looked at access options along the west bank of the Moonee Ponds Creek, Kensington; best practices around the world that could be used as examples of addressing the constraints of this section of the Creek; and flood-resilient materials for infrastructure along the creek. Two of the reports were well researched; one not so. Specific comments have been fed back to Melbourne Water for use in developing plans for this important section of the Creek, part of the urban renewal areas of Arden and Macaulay.

#### **Report on ‘Rivers of the West’ 1<sup>st</sup> workshop**

Tony Smith and Kaye Oddie attended the workshop held on Mar 19. The Moonee Ponds Creek has been included as a ‘river of the west’ – in the Maribyrnong Catchment. Attendees at the workshop were predominantly concerned with impacts on the upper reaches of the Maribyrnong River; concern was expressed about the impact of the West Gate Tunnel Project bridge crossings on the lower Maribyrnong.

#### **Melbourne Healthy Waterways Strategy draft objectives and targets**

This strategy also places the Moonee Ponds Creek in the Maribyrnong Catchment as a ‘management unit’. Feedback was sought on the draft objectives and performance targets for the Creek. FoMPC comments included that stormwater management in developing outer suburban areas is a significant planning and waterway management issue; weeds are a major invasive threat along the creek; linkages along and to the creek should be of social and environmental benefit; ‘naturalisation’ of the creek is strongly supported; and litter reduction programs should be actively facilitated, not just monitored.

#### **Ponderings**

A replacement editor/publisher for Nina Eason is sought as she is retiring from her position as joint editor/publisher of Ponderings with Anna Lanigan. Ray Hehr, very kindly offered to assist with the publication side of Ponderings as he is a graphic designer. Anna will continue to gather the stories, photos, etc. prepared on USB and Nina will continue to manage the mailouts. Nina’s incredible

contribution for past three years in producing Ponderings was acknowledged and very much appreciated.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Retirement of Ginny Moylan, convenor Friends of Five Mile Creek. Ginny's long involvement and leadership of the Friends of Five Mile Creek for 20 years was recognised and it was resolved a card of appreciation be sent to her.
- West Gate Tunnel Project – new Community Liaison Group membership. Tony Smith said members of the initial CLG who stood up to Transurban were ignored, so benefit of involvement in second CLG is questionable. Kensington Association has asked FoMPC if interested in supporting a joint CLG rep – it was agreed if they share our concerns about the WGTP.
- Kensington Association is writing to Minister for Planning seeking the creation of a linear parkland along the lower Moonee Ponds Creek as part of the open space for the urban renewal areas and compensation for the WGTP.
- Dean St underpass detour. Zoe reported her correspondence with MVCC about the Dean St underpass works to upgrade the Moonee Ponds Creek trail and associated detour signage problem/subsequent resolution; also that it is unfortunate that the same detour as for CLTW could not be used.
- Westbreen Creek Conservation and Development Plan Reference Group. Kelvin Thomson and Paul Gavin will represent the FoMPC on a reference group to work with Moreland Council and consultants on development of a plan for the Westbreen Creek from the Northern Golf Course to its junction with the Moonee Ponds Creek. Wider community input will follow.
- Working Bee, Hopetoun Ave, Brunswick West, April 15 – follow-up. Zoe Jellie reported that more equipment would have been of help, including more wheelbarrows and rakes, to assist the 10 participants in spreading the mulch, preparatory to the community planting. That said, all the mulch was spread.

#### **NOTICES:**

- Sunday April 22, 11am-3pm, Reintroducing Wurundjeri Culture to the Maribyrnong, Lower Maribyrnong River Land Park, Lily St, West Essendon
- Tues 1 May, 11am-1pm, Community Planting, followed by lunch/launch/celebration – Kelvin Thomson Reserve, Pascoe Vale ... noting it is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Reserve on 1/5/1988.
- Sun 6 May, 10am-12noon, Community Planting – Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy
- Sun 27 May, 10am-12noon, Community Planting – Hopetoun Reserve, Hopetoun Ave, Brunswick West
- Sun 17 June, 1:30-3:30pm, Community Planting - Ian Musgrove Reserve, Koala Cres, Westmeadows (Melway 5 J7)

#### **DATE of NEXT MEETING:**

**Monday June 18, 2018, 6:30pm, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds**



# GENERAL MEETING MONDAY JUNE 16, 2018, 6:30PM

## Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Frank Kinnersley, Tony Smith, Anna Lanigan, Vince Aitkin, Ray Hehr, John Widmer, Julie Law, Kaye Oddie, Lawson Peters, Claire Wallace

**APOLOGIES:** Carolyn Layton, Zoe Jellie, David Muir, Marcus Lancaster

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING** held on April 16, 2018. It was moved that the minutes be accepted KO/seconded FK/carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer, Vince Aitkin presented a short treasurer's report, noting the Bendigo Bank has changed their website presentation profile and a snapshot of balances is no longer displayed. The reconciled bank balances as at 16/6/18 are:

General Account:	2713.52 )
Subscriptions:	40.00 )
Term deposit:	7719.82 )

Total Funds held at Bank Cr \$36113.20

Term deposit:	14848.03)
Alan Thomson scholarship	10791.83)

It was moved that the treasurers report be accepted VA/seconded TS/carried

### ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

#### **Presentation: Pascoe Vale Road Sewer Lining Project**

Ellie Pobjoy, Alice Aubert, Melbourne Water

It was described how the existing Pascoe Vale Rd sewer (1950s) is at the end of its operational life and requires relining to ensure it continues to provide a reliable sewerage service. The project involves 1.3km from Pascoe Vale Rd/Herbert St to Pascoe Vale Rd/Strathmore Secondary College. The sewer will be relined using spiral wound PVC methodology and will take 4 months, from Nov '18 to Mar '19. The many manholes along the sewer will undergo minor upgrading. Work will be undertaken at night. Preliminary assessments have include environmental, heritage, planning, traffic impact, temporary structures and involving stakeholders: MVCC, Moreland Council, Yarra Valley Water, City West Water and VicRoads. A temporary pumping bypass will be constructed along the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor in part; no tree removals/minimum vegetation trimming.

Copies of information sheets and maps distributed to local residents along the project route were handed out (see <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/what-we-are-doing/works-and-projects-near-me/all-projects/pascoe-vale-road-sewer-relining-project>) and questions answered about the methodology, vegetation impacts and specifically, on the new Herbert St Reserve mini wetlands and swale.

A YouTube link for the methodology was provided: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1Krp77-BnQ&t=0s&index=4&list=PLUr98F1zBhxwRiqM-VP3G6-ph6lkZ8Ewi>

Kelvin thanked Alice and Ellie for attending our meeting and informing us about the project.

### **Chain of Ponds Plan**

After a seemingly long wait, Moonee Valley and Moreland Councils have jointly released the draft Chain of Ponds Plan for the Moonee Ponds Creek for community consultation. The plan

prepared by consultants, The Site Office, followed a series of stakeholder and community consultations over the past two years, including the successful interactive display at the 2016 Moonee Valley Festival. The FoMPC was a strong supporter for the plan and provided input and assistance.

The draft plan reimagines the Moonee Ponds Creek as a healthy, vibrant destination which supports native plants and animals, provides green space for leisure and recreation, and helps prevent flooding. The draft plan can be viewed at either MVCC or Moreland websites:

<http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mpcreek> and [www.moreland.vic.gov.au/moonee-ponds-creek](http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/moonee-ponds-creek)

Three community information sessions are being planned on July 17, 18 and Aug 2 (see websites for details) and members are encouraged to provide feedback at the meetings or by email or post. Closing date for comment Aug 14.

### **Outlook Drive, Glenroy – VicTrack land**

FoMPC President has written to Minister for Public Transport, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP, following up her May letter and providing further background information about the VicTrack land and reasons for its retention as public open space and seeking resolution.

### **Contamination of land and waterways by toxic PFAS chemicals from Melbourne Airport**

Helen van den Berg spoke about the recent media reports (<http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-31/toxic-chemicals-spread-into-water-beyond-melbourne-airport-site/9816774?pfmredir=sm>) of contamination of land and waterways with toxic fire-fighting foam chemicals, PFAS, PFOS, from Melbourne Airport saw FoMPC joining Friends of Steele Creek and Friends of Maribyrnong Valley meeting with EPA. EPA is attempting to obtain information from Federal Government, which is responsible for Melbourne Airport and data from Melbourne Water. The community groups have submitted FOI request to federal Department of Infrastructure and are seeking information from Melbourne Water and also a meeting with Melbourne Airport.

### **City of Melbourne application to extract water from Moonee Ponds Creek**

The Melbourne City Council has applied to Melbourne Water to extract 300ML (equivalent to 300 Olympic sized swimming pools) per year from the Moonee Ponds Creek for irrigating its sports and other grounds. FoMPC has lodged submission to Melbourne Water raising many concerns about the application, including justifying the need, the impacts on the Royal Park Wetlands that would be used to treat the more polluted creek water, impacts on the Creek flows and its vegetation, extraction infrastructure and water storage.

### **Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration Group**

The Governance sub-group is finalising a Prospectus, Memorandum of Understanding that will be used in signing up the key collaborating stakeholders (n=17, including Councils, Melbourne Water, water authorities, Parks Vic, RMIT and Swinburne universities, Victorian Planning Authority, Friends groups) plus drafting an co-ordinator job description. Two other sub-groups are working on Design Principles and Data Research.

In contribution to the Collaboration process, Melbourne Water has produced excellent drone videos of the Creek ([melbournewater.com.au/what-we-are-doing/works-and-projects-near-me/all-projects/moonee-ponds-creek-collaboration-project](http://melbournewater.com.au/what-we-are-doing/works-and-projects-near-me/all-projects/moonee-ponds-creek-collaboration-project)).

### **Community Plantings**

Kelvin reported on the successful community plantings in May at Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve and Hopetoun Ave Reserve and the reopening and 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kelvin Thomson Park. Unfortunately the community planting on June 17 at Ian Musgrove Reserve, Westmeadows had to be cancelled due to stormy weather.

At the Hopetoun Ave Reserve planting, the Brunswick Community 4 Nature group were welcomed, setting up their sales of indigenous plants.

### **MVCC draft Annual Works Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding**

These documents that the Moonee Valley Council wants community groups to sign for activities held on Council managed lands to cover organisational requirements for planned activities (Works Agreement) and legal aspects (MoU). The draft documents were earlier circulated to Committee for consideration. Kelvin recommended that they should be agreed to. Because Landcare Victoria Inc is FoMPC public liability insurer, the MoU will be forwarded for their approval.

### **Melbourne Water Waterways & Wetlands Research Stakeholder Forum**

Kaye and Tony reported on the very interesting and informative half-day forum on June 1, in which researchers and collaborators from universities and other research organisations presented work, which serves to underlie many of Melbourne Water's programs and works.

The forum was hosted by Melbourne Water's Applied Research, Integrated Planning Manager, Judy Blackbeard.

### **FoMPC Archives**

FoMPC records, including many photographs and reports, are located in several locations, the bulk at the Living Museum of the West, but also at people's houses. Anna Lanigan stressed the importance of their being sorted, catalogued, digitised as appropriate. Payment and personnel to do this was discussed with two volunteer offers. Kelvin suggested applying for a Federal Government Stronger Communities grant, which is arranged through local MHRs and has to be matched in funding by the applying organisation. Kelvin will contact Peter Khalil for more information.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Essendon Primary School** has asked FoMPC and Landcare Australia to help plan a revegetation project at the school, for which they have received a Landcare grant. Initial site visit and discussions with staff, teachers and students have taken place with working bees and plantings to take place next term.

**West Gate Tunnel Project.** John Widmer briefly summarised the projects that will impact on the lower Moonee Ponds Creek in addition to the WGTP – including Arden Macaulay urban renewal and Melbourne Metro – and the associated difficulties with so many authorities and politics involved. The Kensington Association calling for the proposed linear park along the lower MPC to be brought forward.

Kensington Association chair, Fran Araneda, has been appointed as joint KA, FoMPC, NWMA and FA representative on the new WGTP Community Liaison Group.

### **Pride of Park project**

Anna described another Pick My Project grant proposal and FoMPC advice provided to applicant Holly Foster. Project would build on existing Moonee Valley knowledge by hosting events based on natural and historic features in Moonee Valley, such as native grasses, indigenous landscape and plant use, historic buildings and gardens. FoMPC would be unable to auspice under terms of our public liability insurance, however, Landcare Victoria would auspice.

### **NOTICES:**

- Chain of Ponds Community Information Sessions:
  - Tues 17 July, 6:30-7:30pm, Campbell Turnbull Library, 220 Melville Rd, Brunswick West
  - Wed 18 July, 6:30-7:30pm, Flemington Community Centre, 25 Mt Alexander Rd, Flemington
  - Thurs 2 Aug, 6:30-7:30pm, Glenroy Library, 737 Pascoe Vale Rd, Glenroy
- Tues 26 June, 9:30-2pm, 55-75 Newsom St, Ascot Vale Maribyrnong Catchment Workshop 7 [Moonee Ponds Creek is included in Maribyrnong Catchment]
- Community Plantings
  - Sun 1 July, 10am-12noon, Herbert St Reserve, Pascoe Vale
  - Sun 22 July, 10am-12noon, Horseshoe Bend, downstream from Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights
  - Sun 29 July, 10am-1pm, National Tree Day, Gowanbrae Community Reserve, Gowanbrae
  - Sun 29 July, 10am-1pm, National Tree Day, Travancore Park, Mooltan St, Travancore
- Bushcare Big Day Out now under Conservation Volunteers Australia - see <http://conservationvolunteers.com.au/what-we-do/bushcares-big-day-out/>

DATE of NEXT MEETING:

**Monday Aug 20, 2018, 6:30pm, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds**

# GENERAL MEETING MONDAY AUGUST 20, 2018, 6:30PM

## Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

PRESENT: Anna Lanigan, Tony Smith, Frank Kinnersley, Kelvin Thomson, Kaye Oddie, David Widdowson, John Widmer, Zoe Jellie, Joseph Griffiths, Carolyn Layton

APOLOGIES: Vince Aitkin

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING:

Minutes of the General Meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> 2018 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.  
Moved: Kaye Oddie, Seconded: Frank Kinnersley.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In Treasurer Vince Aitkin's absence, the report was held over until the next meeting on Oct 15.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. **Chain of Ponds** draft plan – closing date for comments Aug 22. The main document and the summary were tabled. People were encouraged to put in comments despite the previously published deadline of Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. For plan and information, go to [www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mpcreek](http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/mpcreek) or [www.moreland.vic.gov.au/moonee-ponds-creek](http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/moonee-ponds-creek). Copies are also available at your local library. You can submit feedback by emailing to: [ourcreek@mvcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:ourcreek@mvcc.vic.gov.au) or [openspace@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:openspace@moreland.vic.gov.au).
2. **Archiving of FoMPC records.** Anna reported on the recent auditing of those FoMPC records kept at Oak Park. A list of documents which arguably should be scanned was tabled. Anna presented the results of her research on the approx. cost of scanning our records (\$2000). There were other suggestions made about approaching members to do the scanning, especially of the photographs. In response to Kelvin's suggestion, volunteers were called to join a committee to work on this issue. This Archives Sub-Committee with power to act includes: David Widdowson, Carolyn Layton, Joseph Griffiths, Kaye Oddie and Anna Lanigan, with Marcus Lancaster to be invited to join. Moved Tony; Seconded Zoe.
3. Reports on **Community Plantings.** Kelvin mentioned that there had been many very well-attended and successful plantings since the last meeting, including Hopetoun Ave and Herbert St reserves; also the rescheduled Koala Cres, Westmeadows. Particular mention was made of the contribution of various scout groups and the Green S Welfare Force at Gowanbrae and Horseshoe Bend plantings. On two very successful National Tree Day community plantings, over 150 turned up at Travancore Park (MVCC) and probably more at Gowanbrae (Moreland Council). Kaye reported that because a dry summer is predicted,

Council has asked that we let them know if we notice that the new plantings need watering. Zoe mentioned that some Hopetoun Reserve plants need replacing. She will pass that on to Lorie Arthur.

4. **Melbourne Water Community Grant** application? Kaye reported that it is 10 years since the planting on the western side of the lower Moonee Ponds Creek between Arden and Macaulay Bridges and there is a need to revisit the area. Weed removal and infill planting are required. It was agreed that an application could be made when the MW applications open in Sept/Oct.
5. **Advertising Signage at Strathnaver Reserve.** Kaye tabled the FoMPC letter including images, sent to Moonee Valley Council regarding the number and size of the sponsorship signs displayed around the soccer oval at the Reserve. Moonee Valley Council has Open Space guidelines regarding advertising signage and particularly in relation to size, prominence and open space impact. Council has requested that the Club takes down the signs at the end of the season and will work with the club about future signs.
6. **33 Mitchell Pde, Pascoe Vale Sth Subdivision.** An application has been made for a 9 lot subdivision of this large block for development. There have been many resident objections. FoMPC has submitted an objection arguing there should be a buffer zone between the housing and the adjacent MP Creek and its proposed linear park.
7. **Pick My Project.** There are 3 local projects: Urban Honey Bee Hub; Pride of Park and Gravel Path along East Side of MPC. The voting deadline is Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of how we can publicise the projects and ensure as many people as possible vote for them. A link to the voting and the above three projects will be sent out to membership, placed on Friends Facebook, Ponderings, near computer in libraries, put on community chat sites, local café and Francis Winifred Facebook page. To vote go to: <https://pickmyproject.vic.gov.au/rounds/pick-my-project/ideas>.
8. **Bernard St, Oak Park - Discontinuance of undeveloped roadway** between 71-73 Winifred Street, Oak Park. FoMPC supported the submission made by member Vince Aitkin and it is understood Moreland Council proposes the creation of an open space link and connecting path to JP Fawkner Reserve and planting with native species.
9. **Melbourne Airport Briefing on PFAS toxic chemicals.** FoMPC didn't receive direct notification, so unable to attend at short notice. Helen van den Berg relayed to Kelvin that federal and state governments have agreed on a framework for managing PFAS contamination (PFAS is one of the toxic chemicals in fire-fighting foam) and Melbourne Airport is seeking to engage with local communities on the results of the environmental monitoring they have been undertaking. FoMPC will be notified of the next meeting. Tony said that the Airport Masterplan (<https://my.melbourneairport.com/masterplan/>) is out for comment; he was asked to draft a submission on behalf of FoMPC; deadline is Oct.
10. **Lionsville Proposal.** Frank reported on the meeting with Stephen Brown, CEO of Lionsville and members of FoMPC. Stephen explained short and long term plans for the redevelopment of the property, including better access to the Creek corridor; he is aware of proposals for nearby parkland at junction of MPC and 5mile Creek. He would like closer co-operation for the benefit of both Lionsville residents and local community, suggested resiting the BBQ and playground to safer locations away from the path and cyclists. Lionsville could make a financial contribution for the resiting. It was noted that this is proposed in the Chain of Ponds Plan. Anna spoke about the need to involve the relevant Indigenous group about the proposal as the area near the circle is highly culturally significant.

11. **Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration.** Kaye provided update on the group's progress. Funding for a coordinator has been obtained from local Councils and Melbourne Water. Governance issues have been finalised and it is planned that a signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by executives of 17 stakeholders' organisations will take place in October.

OTHER BUSINESS:

12. **Volunteer Grants Program.** Kelvin is investigating an application for this Federal Govt scheme and called for suggested items.
13. Naturalisation of the MPC by removal of concrete channelling has long been called for and it has been suggested FoMPC contact the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation SMEC for information. Zoe will follow this up.
14. Update on **Outlook Drive** land. It is understood that Moreland Council is continuing the process of negotiating the price.
15. The draft **Chain of Ponds Plan** has won a Landscape Award of Excellence. FoMPC to write congratulating Chris Sawyer and Susie Kumar of The Site Office who prepared the plan.
16. Kelvin reported that Megan Hopper, has been appointed as the new **Moonee Valley Council Advocacy Co-ordinator** and is interested in learning about removal of concrete from the Creek. Anna has agreed to meet with Megan and show her one particular site mentioned in the Chain of Ponds Plan.
17. Anna and Kelvin were invited to participate in a '**Libraries after Dark**' forum on the Chain of Ponds Plan at the Glenroy Library. They emphasised the history of the Creek and long-term community involvement.
18. **Draft Rivers of the West Act** has been prepared by Environment Justice Australia and other groups. It is hoped to achieve similar legislative success as the recent Yarra River Protection Act.
19. **Healthy Waterways Strategy.** Drop in information sessions are scheduled for Aug 21 (5:30-7pm) and Aug 22 (12:30-2pm), Melbourne Water, 990 La Trobe St, Docklands.
20. **Ideas Workshop at MVCC** attended by Anna, who suggested her interest in putting together a list of all the parcels of land along the Creek and their owners. [*This is one of the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration group's key mapping tasks*]
21. A research student from Melbourne University wants to interview 2 volunteers who are past or current members of Friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek. Volunteers were called for – Kelvin and Kaye offered.
22. **Joseph Griffith's Masters Installation** will be displayed with other environmental works at the Incinerator Art Gallery. The Launch will be Friday October 12<sup>th</sup>.
23. John Widmer (Kensington Association/North and West Melbourne Association) spoke about the recently released State Government "**Arden Vision**" and his concerns about the "densification" of the lower sections of the Creek. He highlighted the 15,000 additional people who will be living in this urban renewal area and concerns about the lack of detailed planning and management.
24. Tony Smith reported that the **Stony Creek** naturalisation project has been held up by the need to deal with the asbestos that was found as the concrete was being dug up.

NOTICES:

- Saturday 16 Sept 2018 – Nick Barlow, Melbourne Fringe Festival *Highlighting Litter* Workshop 10am–1pm at Cross Keys Pavilion, Procession and Installation 2pm-8pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

**AGM – Monday Oct 15, 6:30pm**, Same Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Rd, Moonee

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY OCTOBER 15, 2018, 6:30PM**

PRESENT: Anna Lanigan, Greg Lanigan, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Marcus Lancaster, Alex English, Kevin Balaam, Frank Kinnersley, Vince Aitkin, Kelvin Thomson

APOLOGIES: Carolyn Layton, Gini Moylan, Julie Law

The President, Kelvin Thomson, welcomed members and visitors to the meeting and introduced the guest speaker: Alex English.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Alex English, Open Space Design & Development, Moreland City Council**

### ***Where are all the trees? Responding to the challenge of protecting and enhancing our urban forest***

Alex described the development of Moreland City Council's Urban Forest Strategy 2017-2027, which was developed to deliver practical measures that guide the sustainable planning, planting, management, resourcing and protection of vegetation across the Moreland municipality. Alex highlighted the wider role of trees for our liveability, health and the environment and how their value can be quantified using tools such as i-Tree Eco. He showed data, graphs, maps and diagrams illustrating how the municipality has lost much tree canopy cover since 2005 due to increased urbanisation, lot densification and subdivisions. The strategy's aim is to increase canopy cover across public parks, streets and on private land by 30% by 2050. This aim would see the asset value of trees in Moreland increase from \$271m to a high of \$1222m. But to reach these goals will be a challenge and will involve many measures, covering advocacy, planning scheme amendments, local laws changes, enforcement, council operating procedures, community awareness and engagement.

The President thanked Alex for his most informative and well researched presentation and presented him with a bottle of wine as expression of our appreciation.

The formal matters of the AGM then proceeded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AGM HELD on October 16, 2017

Moved KO; seconded AL; approved



## FINANCIAL REPORT for Year ended 30 June 2018

The Treasurer, Vince Aitkin presented the Financial Report with the following summary:

- Current funds held           \$36110.44
- Cash Receipts                \$1163.53
- Cash Disbursements        \$4521.05
- Operating Deficit   \$2987.53

It was moved that the Financial Report be accepted: VA; seconded KT; carried.

### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Written nominations received were:

President	Kelvin Thomson	nominated KO, seconded FK
Treasurer	Vince Aitkin	nominated KO; seconded FK
Vice-president	Frank Kinnersley	nominated KO; seconded KT
Secretary & Public Officer	Kaye Oddie	nominated TS; seconded KT
Appointment of Minutes Secretary/ies	Carolyn Layton/ Marcus Lancaster	

The above office bearers for 2018-2019 were declared elected.

### MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2018-19

Treasurer Vince Aitkin raised the issue of membership subscriptions received do not cover the cost of our membership of Landcare Victoria Inc and public liability insurance cover with a recurring shortfall. It is believed the current annual membership fee of \$10 has been in place since inception. Vince proposed that the annual membership fee be increased to \$15, however Tony Smith suggested \$20. An annual membership fee of \$20 was then formally proposed VA; seconded TS and carried.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2018 has been a very productive year for the Moonee Ponds Creek.

In particular, we've seen great progress with the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration. This was initiated by Melbourne Water in 2017 to test new ways of working together to achieve outcomes for the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment. In a week and a half, on Wednesday October 24, at 10:30am at JP Fawkner Reserve, Oak Park, there will be a Signing Event for the Chain of Ponds Collaboration Memorandum of Understanding. A number of the Friends have put a lot of work into this, and the extent of buy in and commitment by 18 stakeholders to our vision of the creek – being managed as an integrated catchment with its environmental and public open spaces being paramount – is very heartening.

The day before, Tuesday 23 October, there will be what's being called a Delivery Workshop for the Maribyrnong River and the Moonee Ponds Creek as part of the Healthy Waterways Strategy. This will be from 9:30am-1:30pm at the Medway Golf Club in Maidstone – another promising development.

Susie Kumar and Chris Sawyer won an award for their Chain of Ponds Moonee Ponds Creek Plan [the signature strategic document prepared by Moonee Valley and Moreland City Councils].

This year we've continued to support a vigorous program of community plantings – Herbert St, Pascoe Vale; Upper Moonee Ponds Creek, Westmeadows; Horseshoe Bend, Strathmore Heights; Gowanbrae; Travancore; Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve, Glenroy and others. We've had great support from a couple of NESB religious groups. The Green S Welfare Force have lots of young people who make the expression 'many hands make light work' come alive and enable us older people to swan around and network and hopefully impart some knowledge and experience. This was particularly true for our National Tree Day plantings on 29 July at Gowanbrae and Travancore.

We have been involved in consultation around numerous projects which impact, for better or for worse, on the Creek valley, including the Arden Macaulay Urban Precinct Plan; the West Gate Tunnel Project; the City of Melbourne application to extract water from the creek; the CityLinkTullaWidening Project; Tullamarine Landfill Stormwater Project (you'd pay money to watch Kaye monster that company's PR flunkies); Pascoe Vale Rd Sewer Lining Project; Herbert St Reserve stormwater mini wetlands and swale; Westbreen Creek Sewer Works; Wallaby Biolink, Gowanbrae; Ocean Crusaders 'Paddle Against Plastic' clean-up of the Lower Moonee Ponds Creek. No doubt there are others I've overlooked, but it really has been an impressive body of work this year.

I want to thank my fellow Executive Members for the great work they have done this past year. Anna has done a sterling job with Ponderings, which is a much bigger job than we give it credit for. Frank has always been here to help out when needed, and Vince has done his usual reliable job as Treasurer and it takes a weight off the minds of all of us to know that our books and finances are in his capable hands. In particular, I want to thank our Secretary, Kaye. A couple of months ago I was reading one of Kaye's many contributions – I can't recall which one – and I had this light bulb moment where the amount of work that Kaye does really dawned on me. Now some of you will think that just shows that sometimes I'm a bit slow to catch on, after all Kaye has been doing this work for many years, but I do want to – on the better late than never principle – say just how much we appreciate it. A bit over a year ago, I took on the job of being President of the Coburg Historical Society and soon after we lost our secretary, mostly because another Committee member kept telling her how to do her job, then after 12 months we lost the replacement secretary, basically for the same reason. So now we don't have a secretary at all, which is a real problem, and makes me all the more appreciative of everything you do, Kaye.

I set up the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek in 1989, and I have been President for all of its past 29 years, so in a sense, it's been my show, but for quite a few years now, Kaye has been the driving force behind the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, doing all the grunt work and leaving me a more figurehead role, and it's really been Kaye's show. It certainly would have accomplished a fraction of what it has, or be what it is, without you Kaye. Thank you.

As well as the continuity and wisdom – and we have an effective Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek – we get from the likes of Julie Law and Tony Smith, who does a great job of plugging us into the bigger picture, and Anna Lanigan, who spends more time on the creek than anyone else; she could probably legally claim some sections through the law of adverse possession, and she popularises its wildlife, from frogs to frogmouths (which is the title of her forthcoming biography) ... we've also seen some new faces this year, which has given me a lot of confidence for the future. Your Committee is not getting any younger, in fact ageing at the rate of 12 months per annum, but people like Joseph Griffiths and Zoe Jellie and others who get what we are trying to do and who have embraced the Moonee Ponds Creek and love it the same way we old timers do.

Another thing that makes me optimistic about the future is the way that the Creek seems to have registered with the State Government and Melbourne Water. For the past couple of years, we've been hearing about, and part of, the Rivers of the West campaign. As you know, a lengthy process enabled the Yarra River to get its own Act of Parliament. This inspired people on our side of town to say we wanted an Act of Parliament too, and they started campaigning for this through the Rivers of the West campaign. In the light of our different hydrology and other circumstances, the focus wasn't linked to one particular river.

At the end of August, the State Government announced that it would effectively take over and back this process, establishing a Ministerial Advisory Committee to be chaired by Chris Chesterfield, the same man who chaired the Yarra River Act's development. In their launch, they singled out the Maribyrnong River, Werribee River and the Moonee Ponds Creek for attention. Because we are not a river, they are calling this project 'Waterways of the West'. I think it is a real feather in our cap that we are considered worthy of being grouped with the Maribyrnong and the Werribee Rivers, and there has been a name change to accommodate us. It bodes well for the future.

Melbourne Water had decided they need a co-ordinator to lead the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration. For those of us familiar with the ups and downs of the management of the creek over the years, there is a large temptation to say 'I told you so', but to focus on the positive, I think this also bodes well for the future. We should contact Melbourne Water and invite this person to come and talk to one of our meetings, or perhaps even to do a bike ride or similar tour of the creek.

I would like to do a bit of a shout out in this Report to the City of Moonee Valley, who have come to the party in several ways this year – the indigenous project at Five Mile Creek, Essendon, which was launched last weekend; the work on the Nursery Bend Corner in Strathmore North – there was a consultation session yesterday, and in particular, their embrace of our vision of re-naturalising the creek downstream from the Strathmore North Primary School. To get support at this level is very encouraging.

I should also acknowledge the support we've received from the Moreland Mayor, John Kavanagh, in our campaign to stop the sale of the VicTrack land at Outlook Drive, Glenroy. The VicTrack plan was unwelcome and a disgrace on a number of levels. We'd been led to believe years ago when we had this battle before that the land had been saved. Furthermore, we'd barely finished fighting a lengthy battle to stop Melbourne Water selling off the Hopetoun Ave land at Brunswick West, when this one again reared its ugly head. We responded with a range of protest actions, including an extremely well attended Rally on site earlier this year. People agree with us that open space matters – this site should remain part of the creek valley's open space. Mayor Kavanagh has advised me recently that Council officers continue to work closely with their counterparts at VicTrack to progress negotiations. He says there has been a positive openness between Council and VicTrack to find a way through this collaboratively with the aim of securing this important parcel of land for the community.

I think we've earned an End-of-year Celebration, and am open to suggestions on where and when that should be. I also note that sometime next year, we will chalk up 30 years of continuous campaigning for the creek, and we should also look ahead and come up with an appropriate way to acknowledge this milestone also.

Kelvin Thomson

President

**GENERAL MEETING MONDAY OCTOBER 15, 2018, 7:30PM**

**Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library**

PRESENT: Anna Lanigan, Greg Lanigan, Kaye Oddie, Tony Smith, Marcus Lancaster, Alex English, Kevin Balaam, Frank Kinnersley, Vince Aitkin, Kelvin Thomson

APOLOGIES: Carolyn Layton, Gini Moylan, Julie Law

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING held on Aug 20, 2018

It was moved that the Minutes be accepted KO; seconded AL; approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

[cf Treasurer's AGM report]

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

**Ocean Crusaders 'Paddle Against Plastic'**

Anna Lanigan reported on the Paddle Against Plastic event organised by Ocean Crusaders along the lower Moonee Ponds Creek at Docklands on Sept 23. The event was fortunately brought to FoMPC's late attention by Carolyn Layton, who happened to be riding by the previous day. Two members of the FoMPC joined 122 members from other organisations, including Boomerang Alliance, Beach Patrol Australia, Baykeeper, Cleanwater Group, and with kayaks donated by Aquayak in Coburg and Dragon boats, to remove 938kg rubbish, including thousands of plastic drink containers. For a detailed report and photos, see Ponderings Spring issue.

**Nursery Bend Reserve Master Plan 'Have Your Say'**

Moonee Valley Council is to be congratulated on setting up an on-site community drop-in session to gather ideas of what community members would like to see in a master plan for the former nursery site at Nursery Bend, off Mascoma St, Strathmore. Ideas put forward included a facility for the Gem Club, craft facility, community centre, bush kindergarten, open space with wetland, frog hollow, enhancing the habitat and biodiversity of this section along the Creek corridor. Creating a new path along the rear of the existing residences would benefit cyclists and improve pedestrian safety on the existing path. Concern was expressed about the current ad hoc car parking encroaching on parkland with suggested rationalisation along the Men's Shed building and more parking created along Mascoma St. Kelvin said emphasis should be on consolidating the open space along the Creek by including the former nursery site and that buildings are not an appropriate outcome; reuse of existing buildings in the municipality should be considered instead. The MVCC will review feedback and prepare a draft master plan for community consultation next year.

## **Melbourne Airport Draft Master Plan & PFAS Contamination**

Tony Smith lodged a submission on behalf of the FoMPC to the Melbourne Airport preliminary draft masterplan; a copy of the submission will be placed on the FoMPC website.

A more detailed discussion about the EPA and Melbourne Water investigations and reports of the contamination of land and waterways by PFAS toxic chemicals from Melbourne Airport will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Mention was made of the increased flow of water recently noted in the Creek. Apparently this is due to Essendon Airport emptying their rainwater tanks for servicing. It is regretted that the water was not offered to councils for use in parks, gardens and street tree watering, given the very low rainfall this Spring.

## **Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration MoU Signing October 24**

The year+ long work of key stakeholders\* along the Creek establishing a process for greater and more efficient collaboration on Creek issues has come to fruition with the development of a Memorandum of Understanding and a Prospectus. A Signing Event of the MoU will be held on Oct 24 in the parkland setting beside the Creek at JP Fawkner Reserve in Oak Park. Kelvin Thomson will sign on behalf of the FoMPC.

[\* Melbourne Water, Hume City Council, Moonee Valley City Council, Moreland City Council, Melbourne City Council, Yarra Valley Water, City West Water, Victorian Planning Authority, Conservation Volunteers, Parks Victoria, Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek, Kensington Association, Kensington Association, Moonee BUG, Living Colour Studio]

## **Advocacy of MPC**

Members Nina and Anna have been canvassing local candidates in the forthcoming State election, advocating issues of importance in regard to the Moonee Ponds Creek. To date they have met with three candidates. Anna has also met with MVCC's new Advocacy Co-ordinator, Megan Hopper.

## **Melbourne Water 2019 Community Grant Application**

An application to undertake infill revegetation along the embankment on the western side of the Creek in Kensington has been lodged. The aim is to upgrade the vegetation planted in 2003 post CityLink construction and increase its sustainability.

## **Pick My Project**

FoMPC supported three projects relating to the Creek: Honeybee Hub, Pride of Park, Gravel Path along east side of Creek. Unfortunately, none received enough final votes, although the Honeybee Hub project only missed out by 6 votes – a great shame. Anna and Tony mentioned some of the city and country projects that did receive funding under this innovative State Govt initiative. It was noted that Moonee Valley Council has, and Moreland is, considering projects to promote honeybees in our communities.

## **Nhanbu Gurru Festival / Ancient Flower Festival at Five Mile Creek, Oct 7**

This was a highly successful event with over 200 people attending to enjoy the Wurundjeri ceremonies, talks, dancing and music and BBQ based around the Babepal Paen-mirring ceremonial rock circle at Five Mile Creek.

### **End of year gathering**

Given time pressures close to the date of our Dec meeting (Mon Dec 17), it was agreed that a start-of-the-new-year gathering be held instead on Sat Feb 9, 2019, at lunchtime at the Gowanbrae Rotunda.

**Dates for 2019 general meetings:** held the third Monday of every second month.

The following dates were set: Feb 18, April 15, June 17, Aug 19, Oct 21, Dec 16

and advance bookings will be made for a meeting room at the Sam Merrifield Library, Moonee Ponds.

Guest speaker at the Feb meeting will be Alex Smart, talking about the Blue Lagoon.

OTHER BUSINESS:

### **Grassland conference**

Kelvin described the very good Respect, Protect, Reconnect – Melbourne’s Grassy Plains Conference held Oct 12 -13 at Werribee with good topics and speakers.

### **Donation to Environmental Justice Australia**

A donation of \$100 was approved to Environmental Justice Australia, recognising their significant role in establishing the Rivers of the West forum. Moved AL; seconded TS.

### **Official Opening of Cross Keys Pavilion**

Anna has kindly agreed to set up a table with FoMPC information at the opening of the Cross Keys Pavilion on Oct 26, 4:30-6:30pm. It was felt it would be a good opportunity to promote the environmental attributes of the Creek to those with other/sporting interests. It was also considered a good opportunity to stress that users of sporting facilities be more responsible about the increased littering associated with such facilities.

### **Award to Site Office Landscape Architects**

Anna presented the “wonderful” catalogue from the 2018 Architecture Biennale in Venice that Site Office Landscape Architects (Chain of Ponds Plan) Chris Sawyer and Susie Kumar attended. The catalogue with the theme ‘REPAIR’ was from the Australian Institute of Architects Pavilion and featured an essay by the Site Office.

On behalf of the FoMPC, Anna sent congratulations to Chris and Susie on their being awarded an Award of Excellence in Landscape Planning for their Chain of Ponds document.

### **Archives**

Nina Eason has sent a ‘Starter Kit for Preserving Documents’ for the Archives Sub-group. Elissa Simmonds has kindly offered to sort the photographs, many from the MPCCC collection.

### **John Street Reserve**

Vince Aitkin reported that a small retaining wall has been constructed at the John Street Reserve, Oak Park, to prevent erosion of the planted section around the stormwater drain.

NOTICES:

- Oct 22-28 Aussie Backyard Bird Count, see <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>
- Tues Oct 23, 9:30am-1:30pm, Healthy Waterways Strategy Implementation Workshop, Maribyrnong River & Moonee Ponds Creek, Medway Golf Club, Omar St, Maidstone. To register [https://www.eventbrite.com/o/healthy-waterways-strategy-melbourne-water-13100447674?mc\\_cid=c3ace1bafc&mc\\_eid=b682f2a109](https://www.eventbrite.com/o/healthy-waterways-strategy-melbourne-water-13100447674?mc_cid=c3ace1bafc&mc_eid=b682f2a109)
- Sun Oct 28, 10am-12noon, Working bee, Hopetoun Ave Reserve, Brunswick West

DATE of NEXT MEETING:

Mon Dec 17, 2018, 6:30pm, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds



## GENERAL MEETING      MONDAY DECEMBER 17, 2018, 6:30PM

### Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

PRESENT:      Kelvin Thomson, Kaye Oddie, Julie Law, Tony Smith, Anna Lanigan, Marcus Lancaster, Geoff Kim, Peter Scully, Joan Beaumont, Liz Barber, Emily Baldwin, Ray Hehr

APOLOGIES:   Frank Kinnersley, Carolyn Layton, Vince Aitkin, David Widdowson

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING: Minutes of the General Meeting on Oct 15, 2018 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Kaye Oddie, Seconded: Frank Kinnersley.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer had submitted a full written report that was summarised by the Chair. Current balance is \$35,812.61. It was moved that the report be accepted by Tony; seconded by Kaye; approved.

#### ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

At the Oct FoMPC AGM, Open Space Planner at Moreland Council, Alex English, presented his work on mapping tree canopy coverage changes regarding development of a tree canopy policy for council. Following on with this topic, Kelvin reported he and interested parties were meeting with Moonee Valley Council regarding tree canopy coverage across Moonee Valley.

Kelvin also referred to the current progress of the Maribyrnong Catchment Collaboration as part of Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways Strategy.

#### ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1.      **Outlook Drive, Glenroy Land.** Kelvin and Kaye reported Moreland Council had purchased this large parcel of VicTrack land, formally slated for sale and development by VicTrack. The sale agreement was made just prior to the close of government business for the State election; amid threats that the FoMPC would campaign vigorously on the issue. The purchase cost has not been released. It was proposed to write to Councillor John Kavanagh, Moreland Council and the Chief Executive Officer to personally thank them for their work in successfully obtaining the land. Moved Tony; Seconded Anna.

2. **Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration – Update.** Kelvin and Kaye reported on the special event for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Oct 24, 2018. The event received Leader and online publicity, in addition to *Ponderings*. The MoU outlines the collaboration group's vision for the transformation of the creek into an iconic waterway providing social and environmental benefits. The collaboration group was instigated by Melbourne Water with the aim of bringing together all councils, government agencies, and non-government organisations involved with the management, use, and care along the creek. Lori Arthur, Natural Resource Officer at Moreland, has been seconded as Lead the collaboration group for 12 months. The collaboration is currently investigating five projects along the creek; governance and a prospectus are being finalised. Julie Francis, the initial facilitator of the collaboration group (seconded from Melbourne City Council) has recently commenced a new position with the City of Hume. Her appointment was welcomed as it maintains expertise and connections along the Creek.

Kaye further reported the Melbourne City Council working primarily with VPA (Victorian Planning Authority) are developing a strategic opportunities plan for the lower reaches of the Moonee Ponds Creek, covering the Melbourne municipality and urban renewal areas. It is having a long 'gestation'; report may not be released for public input until March '19.

3. **Royal Park Projects.** Kaye reported on the upgrade of the Royal Park Billabong that has improved its WSUD, hydrology and importantly, its ecological role as a water body in this corner of Royal Park. Works included new stormwater diversion into the pond, new swale, new clay lining, revegetation. Also in Royal Park, Melbourne Water plans to rehabilitate/ re-plant the vegetation of Trin Warren Tam-boore Wetland and trial a 'bird-sweeper' to discourage birds from destroying newly planted vegetation. It is noted that Royal Park is part of the drainage system of the Moonee Ponds Creek.

The Melbourne City Council's application to extract 300ML per annum of water from the Moonee Ponds Creek for park irrigation purposes has been approved, with conditions, by Melbourne Water. However, many issues remain to be resolved, including the salinity of the Creek water and extraction and treatment methods.

4. **Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek website.** FoMPC member David Widdowson has offered to upgrade the FoMPC website. He is knowledgeable about WordPress used for the website. It was recommended that critical documents, e.g. Chain of Ponds Plan, MMBW 1982 report, major submissions be added. Anna expressed concern as David has his own website about the creek, concentrating on maps and images, so there may be some overlap between the two sites. Anna also reported she has the maps and images used in the Chain of Ponds Plan on a USB memory stick and asked for a volunteer to create a copy and go through the material.

5. ***Ponderings*.** Anna is currently the editor of our Creek newsletter *Ponderings* and called for a co-editor to assist with gathering information and content. It may be that next year, for personal reasons, she will have to relinquish compiling and editing *Ponderings*. Together with chasing information and data from councils and others, these tasks are very time-consuming. In seeking an assistant editor Anna posted an advert on Facebook for help.

At present, Ray Hehr, undertakes the graphic design work for *Ponderings*, using the compiled material Anna has prepared. Anna also acknowledged the assistance of Elissa in checking the pre-publication material.

In the ensuing discussion, Kelvin asked how the collaboration group publicises their news, projects, etc. Tony responded that the collaboration at present has its own members' website, but that this will likely be expanded.

Further discussion ranged on the need for *Ponderings* in addition to the website and Facebook page, with some new members questioning having all three.

6. **Moonee Ponds Creek exhibition – Artistic Endeavours along the MPC.** Anna reported on the performance of the *Orbweavers* and their song – 'Moonee Moonee Chain of Ponds' at a recent event at the Substation. Further to this Anna proposed an exhibition of all the artistic works and projects involving and occurring along the creek. She proposed hosting the exhibition at the Incinerator Gallery, where the operators do not charge for holding exhibitions. Anna also reported she publishes details of most artistic events and exhibitions in *Ponderings*. Tony added to the artistic theme of works involving local watercourses with discussion on State Library Fellowships, available for artistic works including music, drawings, and literature. He discussed the examples of the Blue Lake book, about the West Melbourne Swamp, and work of the *Orbweavers* involving several waterways.

Kaye suggested an exhibition could be held at Incinerator Gallery in 2019. Tony and Anna to follow up and develop a proposal for an exhibition – to be reported at the next FoMPC meeting.

7. **FoMPC Start of Year Gathering – Sat 9<sup>th</sup> February at Gowanbrae.** This event will also celebrate the Saving of Outlook Drive. It will be held at the BBQ/Rotunda in the parkland on Adelaide Drive, Gowanbrae, commencing at midday. BYO lunch and drinks. Moreland Councillors and CEO to be invited as guests. Anna to place notice in upcoming edition of *Ponderings*. Kelvin noted the Gowanbrae Community Group should also be invited as they were also key opponents of the Outlook Drive land sale.

Kelvin suggested holding a tree planting at the Outlook Drive site for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FoMPC (2019) and suggested further discussion with Vince and Alex from City of Moreland.

8. **Lawson Street Reserve, Moonee Ponds – Planting date for 2019.** Kaye provided a selection of autumn/winter dates in 2019. Sat May 25 was agreed for the community planting.

9. **Membership List – Updating of list.** The FoMPC membership list, managed by Frank Kinnersley, requires updating to remove non-financial, inactive members. Removal of people who had not paid membership fees since 2014 was approved by the meeting.

10. **Clean-up of Lower MPC, Kensington – corporate event organised by Yarra Riverkeepers and Landcare.** Yarra Riverkeepers and Landcare organised a creek clean up by the H&H corporate group for Dec 13 and FoMPC was invited to assist in the running of the event. However due to significant rainfall and rising water levels, the event was cancelled for safety reasons.

The extensive litter problem along this section of the creek and downstream leads to FoMPC to call for the introduction of a drink container deposit scheme and to write again to the State Government on this issue.

Anna then highlighted the litter problem at the northern Jacana Wetlands and the failure of litter trap(s) installed on the stormwater drain that enters the wetlands. It was suggested that Melbourne Water's Waterways and Land Officer for Hume, Ryan van den Hove, be contacted regarding the problem and effective resolution.

Kelvin suggested opening discussions again with local councils regarding a bottle deposit scheme.

11. **Moonee Valley City Council call for tenders.** It was noted that MVCC has recently called for tenders in regard to the mapping and modelling flood risk areas along the Moonee Ponds Creek – within the municipality. FoMPC to ensure key MVCC creek/conservation officers provide input.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Julie Law reported that three wedge-tail eagles sighted in Woodlands at the northern end of the creek had been reported in the Leader newspaper.
- Kaye notified the birds exhibition 'Overwintering' at the City of Wyndham Gallery.
- Tony congratulated Marcus Lancaster on being awarded a PhD for his comprehensive thesis on the Moonee Ponds Creek and other urban creeks.
- Tony also welcomed the new people/members attending the meeting and invited them to ask any questions about our group and to talk to other members present.
- Anna notified of upcoming edition of Ponderings and that we had an active Facebook page.
- Congratulations were made to members Zoe and Hugh Jellie on the birth of their daughter Matilda.

13. **Dates of meetings for 2019.** Meetings for 2019 will be held in the Sam Merrifield Library, Moonee Ponds at 6:30pm on the third Monday of every second month: Feb 18, April 15, June 17, Aug 19, Oct 21 (AGM), Dec 16.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday Feb 18, 6:30pm, Sam Merrifield Library, 763 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds.

Marcus Lancaster  
Minutes Co-Secretary

## **GENERAL MEETING MONDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2019, 6:30PM**

Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds

PRESENT: Marcus Lancaster, Kaye Oddie, Frank Kinnersley, Michael Shoveller, Sonja Halbich, Liz Barber, Peter Scully, Jos van den Berg, Helen van den Berg, Anna Lanigan, Kelvin Thomson, Alex Smart, Kevin Balaam, Liz Forbes, Tony Smith, Ray Hehr, John Widmer, Geoff Kimm, Gina McColl, Julie Law

APOLOGIES: Carolyn Layton, Zoe Jellie, Vince Aitkin

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING: Minutes of the General Meeting on Dec 17, 2018 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Kaye Oddie, Seconded: Marcus Lancaster.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kaye moved to hold over treasurer's report until next meeting (April 15, 2019), as Treasurer Vince Aitkin was away traveling. Seconded by Kelvin.

GUEST SPEAKER: Ryan van den Hove, Waterways and Land Officer, Melbourne Water gave a report on the issue of litter entering the southern Jacana Wetlands and the Moonee Ponds Creek. Concerns had recently been expressed through FoMPC Facebook of large amounts of litter at the Widford Road drain outlet/Moonee Ponds Creek. The drain has a caged litter trap which functions to trap litter during low to medium flows, but not during high flow/storm events. Litter then is trapped against the M80 bridge structures. Melbourne Water currently inspect the traps monthly and removes litter as required, however, works are also prioritised depending on storm and other unforeseen events. Ryan reported no more permanent solution has been developed at present for the problem, however he considers it is a good time to discuss due to the recent release of the Chain of Ponds plan, the Collaboration group's litter working group, and the high level review Melbourne Water is undertaking. The City of Hume was retrofitting drain entries to reduce litter entering the system and this is an effective technique. In response to questions, Ryan stated that Melbourne Water did undertake checks post storm events, but there was no guaranteed immediate response to reported litter problems and it could be a month before cleared.

Discussion within the meeting agreed responses are warranted immediately after an event and suggesting a hotline for such reporting 2 Tony Smith asked about management of the Phragmites that is proliferating in the Jacana Wetlands, post its upgrade, with concerns about impacts on the wetlands biodiversity – through harvesting and removal of the straw litter from the plant. Ryan noted this for further consideration. Kaye moved/John Widmer seconded that FoMPC write to Melbourne Water with regard to managing storm events litter responses, upgrading litter collection infrastructure and proactively supporting a deposit scheme on drink containers in Victoria. MAIN

GUEST SPEAKER: Alex Smart – Member of Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, member of the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and earlier, member of the Pascoe Vale Naturalists and Boeing Reserve Troopers. The title of his presentation was 'History of Lower Moonee Ponds Creek: From Gondwana through Aboriginal times to the Present and Future'. Alex presented a most informative talk on the history of the lower Moonee Ponds Creek – the reach between Flemington Bridge and the Yarra River. Through maps, images and other information, and referencing the recently published 'Blue Lake' by David Sornig, he described the significant changes that have taken place from the Creek's original chain of ponds overflowing into the Blue Lagoon, later West Melbourne Swamp, impact of the railways, formation of the railway/coal canal, resulting in this now entirely engineered section of the creek. Alex's presentation was received with great interest as evident from the subsequent questions and comments. He received a warm thank you and gift of appreciation.

### ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1. Melbourne Water Community Grant – 2019. Kaye reported the successful outcome of our application for a Melbourne Water Community Grant. A \$7000.00 grant will enable the upgrading of vegetation on the western embankment of the Creek, between Macaulay Rd and Arden St, Kensington. A community planting day is scheduled for 3rd August.

2. Westbreen Creek consultations and draft plan

([https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/about\\_us/projects/park-playground-and-creek-projects/westbreen-](https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/about_us/projects/park-playground-and-creek-projects/westbreen-)

creek-conservation-and development-plan/). Anna reported that two community consultation sessions held. There was keen support by local residents to retain willows and exotic plants along the creek. In regard to the proposed wetland for Gavin Park, local residents were in disagreement about placing the wetland adjacent to the playground and the overall changing of the park to accommodate the pond. Anna made a submission on the draft plan and the FoMPC formally endorsed her submission.

3. Endorsement of a memorial seat for Doug Brown. The daughter and friends of Doug Brown, an early 'environmental activist' along the Creek, being one of the pioneers of the Boeing Reserve Troopers and member of the Pascoe Vale Naturalists and who participated in many revegetation projects along the Creek, have applied to Moonee Valley Council for a bench with a memorial plaque to be placed in Boeing Reserve. They would like endorsement from FoMPC for this tribute to Doug Brown. The meeting agreed (moved Tony/seconded Kaye). It was suggested the seat be located near a pathway for better accessibility, rather than isolated in parkland.

4. MPC Collaboration Meeting on Feb 14 – report. Kaye reported the meeting was well attended by participants covering a wide range of topics. The main item was Chris Chesterfield's, Chair, Ministerial Advisory Committee - Waterways of the West presentation 3 on the progress of Waterways of the West; also on potential of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) to be involved in the MPC Collaborative process through a water sensitive cities research project. The regard to the latter, the Collaboration group has already recognised many of the proposed research project issues, and these have already been incorporated in the Chain of Ponds Collaboration prospectus. It was considered that the CRC could better be used to investigate specific issues, e.g. integration of planning scheme provisions along the Creek into a single planning document.

5. Waterways of the West – Helen van den Berg gave a brief report of Rivers of the West (Maribyrnong and Werribee Rivers) and reported one of the main problems was the over extraction of water from the top of the catchments used to supply Melton and Bacchus Marsh. She also reported the group's greatest concern was making planners understand a catchment-wide approach was urgently needed. This would include development of new planning regulations, design rules and understanding planning issues across the entire catchment.

6. Ocean Crusaders and MPC Litter Clean-ups in 2019. Anna reported that at the 2018 Ocean Crusaders 'Paddle Against Plastic' clean-up event on the lower Moonee Ponds Creek, in 4 hours, a semi-trailer load of rubbish was collected or seven weeks' worth of waste. Ocean Crusaders have obtained a City of Melbourne grant for three clean-up events along the Creek in 2019; they will be partnered by FoMPC and other environment/sustainability organisations. Dates will be June 2nd, Sept 14th, and Nov 24th. Locations to be determined. See Ocean Crusaders Facebook page or website <http://oceancrusaders.org/>

7. Kensington Community Festival – Sunday March 31. FoMPC have been invited to share a stall to promote our activities. Volunteers to assist should contact Kaye for further information.

8. Start of Year Gathering and Celebration of Outlook Drive land win. Kelvin reported on the event which was held on Sat 9th February at Gowanbrae Riverwalk – unfortunately in rather inclement weather. The event was attended by Moreland councillors, John Kavanagh, Sue Bolton and Mark Riley and Chief Executive Officer, Nerina Di Lorenzo, local residents and FoMPC members. Council kindly provided a BBQ sausage sizzle and speeches were made expressing the appreciation of the community for Moreland Council's purchase of the land and the recognition of Council's commitment to saving the Outlook Drive land as public open space for future populations to enjoy. Kelvin suggested that there be a ceremonial planting of a significant tree on the site; it is understood that the council is currently considering a large tree planting on the site.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

9. Clean-up Australia Day. Anna reported contact by the 1st Strathmore Cub Scouts for a site to clean up for the above event and has suggested the section of MPC in Pascoe Vale Rd, Strathmore near Red Rooster. The clean-up, planned for 3rd March 10.30-12.30, will include areas along the top of the creek, fence along the bike path and near the Pascoe Vale railway station. Kaye suggested the land owners (Moonee Valley Council/Melbourne Water) should be notified re the clean-up. 4

10. Kensington litter trap now cleaned. John Widmer showed an image of the main litter trap below Racecourse Rd that had recently been cleaned; he cited the poor maintenance regime for cleaning. There was discussion on who is responsible for litter removal along the various sections of the lower reaches of creek. The issue has been raised by the Kensington Association with Melbourne City Council, however it is likely more a Melbourne Water responsibility. The meeting resolved that a letter be sent to Melbourne Water.

11. Opening of baseball centre at Boeing Reserve. Anna reported attending this event and disappointment that the guest speaker referred to the creek as the Merri creek, not Moonee Ponds.

12. Eco Arts collaboration. Kaye briefly mentioned Eco Arts, which is part of the Moonee Ponds Creek Chain of Ponds Collaboration. Eco Arts' mission is to inspire ecological regeneration via the arts. Rather than "plonk" art in natural settings, aim is to bring art to the science of our waterways and open spaces.

13. Orbweavers performance. Anna reported the Orbweavers will be performing at the Brunswick Festival on the 5th March. See festival website <https://brunswickmusicfestival.com.au/> NOTICES: Planting date: Sat 25th May – 10.00 am-12.00 noon, Lawson Street Reserve, Moonee Ponds – infill planting, weeding. Ocean Crusaders Litter Clean-Up: Sun 2nd June, lower Moonee Ponds Creek, Docklands, time TBA.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Mon April 15, 6:30pm, Sam Merrifield Library, 763 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds. Marcus Lancaster Minutes Co-Secretary

**GENERAL MEETING MONDAY APRIL 15, 2019, 6:30PM**

**Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library**

**PRESENT:** Anna Lanigan, Carolyn Layton, Vince Aitkin, Tony Smith, Marcus Lancaster, Frank Kinnersley, Kaye Oddie, Peter Scully, Joan Beaumont, Zoe Jellie, Alex English (Moreland Council), City West Water representative

**APOLOGIES:** Julie Law, Geoff Kimm, Venta Slizys (MVCC)

**PRESENTATION: Draft MOONEE PONDS CREEK STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES PLAN**

**City of Melbourne, March 2019**

**Speakers:** Daniel Boden - Team Leader, Place Brokerage & Facilitation |  
Placemaking & Engagement, City of Melbourne

Georgie Meyer – Manager, Placemaking & Engagement, City of Melbourne

Christian Borchert - Director, McGregor Coxall, Consultants

Rob Catchlove - Director, Wave Consulting

Damien Kennedy – Director, Inner Melbourne, Victorian Planning Authority (VPA)

Kate Alder - Strategic Planning Manager, Victorian Planning Authority

Dan Boden gave an overview of the process behind the draft Moonee Ponds Creek Strategic Opportunities Plan (SOP). The main drivers of the project included: Council and community priority, the poor conditions of the creek environment, the significant growth in population predicted in the urban renewal areas, flooding frequency and climate change, the Chain of Ponds plan, complex governance and ownership.

The SOP concerns only the lower reaches of the creek found in the municipality of Melbourne, however, the significance of what occurs in the creek upstream was acknowledged.

McGregor Coxall and Wave Consulting were engaged to develop the SOP. Dan stressed that since the City of Melbourne does not own or control the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor (Victorian government agencies largely do) the SOP was to be an advocacy tool; raising expectations about the Creek and identifying opportunities.

The SOP was developed around six major thematic goals which must be achieved in order to transform the Moonee Ponds Creek into “A thriving creek corridor that supports the liveability and resilience of the city.” These themes are: water management, open space, biodiversity, movement, history and culture and collaborative governance. Thirty one opportunities have been identified and proposed to improve the creek corridor and achieve the vision.



There will be a community engagement phase for the draft SOP which will seek feedback on the key themes and priority projects (to end April). To date over 1400 responses on the Participate Melbourne page and over 100 at the recent Kensington Festival. A final plan will be prepared for Council to endorse (August). Implementation will be led by the Victorian Planning Authority in conjunction with the Council commencing 2019/20.

Christian Borchert added that they began their work on this project by wading through approximately 60 existing reports on the corridor which came from different angles and interests.

He said that they applied the existing reports relevant to the six themes so that “council policies come alive in the corridor.” He used the example of the artistic impression of Macaulay Terraces to show how they aimed to achieve synergies between the themes (e.g. a levee wall as dynamic flood gate with grassed berm managing river levels during flooding also serves as seating at other times).

Kate Alder from VPA has been seconded to work with the City of Melbourne for a year to develop an implementation plan for the SOP where it impacts on State Government land. This has involved meeting with all State Government agencies. She will be reporting to the State Government.

The draft report is available at Participate Melbourne—projects--finding a project—planning design renewal-- Opportunities for MOONEE Ponds Creek.

Following the presentations, Dan invited questions from the meeting.

Kaye asked for information on the hydrological modelling that the plans such as Macaulay Terraces are based on. Dan replied that these were not readily available and Kaye was told the diagrams are artistic impressions of what is possible and reiterated the SOP is an advocacy document. Kaye also asked about landscaping plans and vegetation species that would cope with flood/saline/inundations. And how litter in the waterway would be addressed, impacting on the open space opportunities.

Alex English spoke in favour of transparency when it came to sharing technical details and feasibility studies. He said that this would encourage Melbourne Water to be comfortable accepting the SOP. He gave the example of the Chain of Ponds consultation and how they sat down with the hydrologist and were taken through the details. He also argued for the importance of a catchment-wide approach to the Moonee Ponds Creek.

Dan responded by saying the document is at the visionary stage and that they don't have the technical document behind it as yet. He said that comes next. This document aims to get the City of Melbourne engaged in this neglected part of the City.

Alex also spoke in favour of maintaining access to the creek such as rock crossings for children to enjoy.

In relation to flooding Rob Catchlove said “We will have to live with flood” and the challenge is to design water into places while maintaining urban life. There will be different qualities to a space when it is inundated and when it is not.”

Kelvin made a comment about the impacts on the creek of the projected population increase in the City of Melbourne and that the amount and quality of public open spaces is becoming increasingly important.

The speakers were thanked for their presentations and for giving the FOMPC the opportunity to more directly learn about strategic opportunities for the Moonee Ponds Creek.

---

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING** held on Feb 18, 2019: It was moved/seconded that the Minutes be accepted - Marcus Lancaster/Kaye Oddie/Approved

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

## Litter:

Following the presentation at the Feb meeting on litter problems in waterways, particularly Jacana wetlands, and agreement to follow up, there have been calls on both state and federal governments to address waste and greater push to introduce a deposit scheme on drink containers in Victoria. FoMPC took the opportunity at recent meeting with Danny Pearson MLA Essendon, to seek his advocacy for various measures to address litter in the Creek, including a deposit scheme on drink containers, improved measures for litter collection close to source, upgrading litter traps to capture more litter during high rainfall events, increasing litter trap maintenance and emptying following high rainfall events. The present meeting suggested the letter be sent to all government reps along the creek corridor.

The present meeting also suggested that people contact responsible authorities about litter problems, including afterhours where feasible. Contact details are provided as follows:

**Hume Council:** tel 9205 2200 (BH & AH), email [contactus@hume.vic.gov.au](mailto:contactus@hume.vic.gov.au)  
online: <http://request.hume.vic.gov.au/home/new>

Ward councillors: [https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/About\\_Us\\_Contact\\_Details/Your\\_Council/Your\\_Councillors](https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/About_Us_Contact_Details/Your_Council/Your_Councillors)

**Moreland Council:** tel 9240 1111, online:  
<https://eservices.moreland.vic.gov.au/ePathway/Production/Web/Mobility/CityWatch/index.html?Module=ECRREQT&Mode=New&RedirectURL=../Default.aspx>

Ward councillors: <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/about-us/your-council/mayor-and-councillors/>

**Moonee Valley Council:** tel 9243 8888 (BH & AH), email [council@mvcc.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@mvcc.vic.gov.au)  
online <https://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/About-the-Council/Request-for-service>

Ward councillors: <https://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/councillors.aspx>

**Melbourne Water:** tel 131722 (BH & AH)

Report an issue online: <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/community-and-education/help-protect-environment/report-issue>

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Prepared by Treasurer Vince Aitkin; presented by President Kelvin Thomson. Balance \$42706.23, which includes general account, term deposits and Alan Thomson Scholarship fund. It was moved/seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted: Kelvin Thomson/Frank Kinnersley. Approved.

## **ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

### **1. Car park proposal, Mascoma Street, Strathnaver Reserve**

Kaye showed plans for a proposed upper level carpark at the Strathnaver Reserve – to provide an additional 25 spaces to the 44 already approved in a lower level car park at the pavilion. Residents are opposing the upper level car park on a number of grounds, including loss of parkland and vegetation and the fact it is outside guidelines in the Chain of Ponds plan and Council's Open Space Strategy – Towards 2020. Kelvin related recent Sun Herald news article (13/3/19) in which he spoke of the difficulty of retaining open space.

Meeting resolved that FoMPC write to MVCC objecting to the proposed upper level carpark.

Members were encouraged to contact Moonee Valley Buckley Ward councillors about illegal car parking at the Reserve.

Members also raised concerns about the operation of the soccer club that is based at the Strathnaver Reserve, including opportunistic parking on creek parkland when a barrier gate is left unlocked; toilets within the sports pavilion are supposedly for public use but this is denied, with Anna citing school children being told to “use the bushes”; and the size and number of advertising signage around the oval. This is repetition of last year’s excessive signage about which complaints were made to MVCC. Meeting resolved to write to CEO MVCC on the signage issue enquiring about the Council’s guidelines for signage and how they comply with planning scheme provisions.

## **2. West Gate Tunnel Project meeting report & plans for lower Moonee Ponds Creek crossings**

Tony and Kaye attending second community consultation meeting about WGTP works on the MPC. Unsatisfactory information flow from consultants – refrain was “the design is fixed, we are just telling you what is going to happen”. However designs for bridge crossings at E-Gate were not made available at EES or have changed (Dyvon Rd). FoMPC to submit via our nominated consultative committee representative objections to the ‘now-finalised’ designs.

## **3. Update Cleanaway Tullamarine Landfill Site Stormwater Plan**

Correspondence received from Cleanaway Tullamarine Landfill that the 2017 proposed stormwater management plans, that would have had major environmental and physical impacts, including a large bore pipe outlet into a natural section of the Creek, are not being proceeded with.

On a related issue Alex English reported that Melbourne Water diverted the contaminated water resulting from the recent Campbellfield factory fire into the sewerage system instead of allowing it to go through the stormwater system into the Merri Creek. Melbourne Water’s quick action to save pollution of the creek was commended.

## **4. Nomination of River Red Gums, Kensington & North Melbourne Creek embankments for City of Melbourne Exceptional Tree Register**

Kaye tabled photos of 12 remnant River Red Gums along the Creek embankments between Racecourse Rd and Arden St that have been nominated for inclusion in the Melbourne City Council’s Exceptional Tree Register.

## **5. Waterways of the West - Have Your Say - <https://engage.vic.gov.au/waterways-west>**

Members are urged to make comment on this important process/project. Closing date May 6.

## **6. Report on Kensington Community Festival Sun 31 March**

A well-attended event at Holland Park, with a lot of visitors and interest in the stand FoMPC shared with Friends of Newell’s Paddock and Kensington Association.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

7. Anna tabled a list of possible exhibitors for a Moonee Ponds Creek or Waterways of the West themed exhibition at the **Incinerator Gallery** in 2020. She is in discussion with the curator Richard Ennis. The 2020 program is being put together soon.

8. Alex English provided the following Moreland Council updates:

Moreland – Vanberg new parkland on the Moonee Ponds Creek

Melbourne Water, Moonee Valley and Moreland Councils have awarded the contract to develop a concept plan for the new parkland on the Moonee Ponds Creek between Moreland Rd and Primrose St, Essendon. The scope also extends downstream to improving connectivity and conservation along Hopetoun Ave.

#### Brosnan Crescent Naturalisation

Melbourne Water, Moonee Valley and Moreland Councils have recently put out a request for quote (RFQ) to develop a Feasibility Study and Business Case for the Brosnan Crescent Naturalisation Project in Strathmore North and Oak Park.

#### JP Fawkner Reserve vegetation works

Moreland Council's Open Space Unit are undertaking some vegetation, swale, path improvements and culvert works to the section of creek north of the JP Fawkner Reserve car park and the foot bridge to Strathnaver Reserve.

#### Measuring social and environmental outcomes

Moreland Council and RMIT University are partnering on some work to measure the social and environmental outcomes of open space improvements. Baseline ecological surveys have already been undertaken at JP Fawkner Reserve (Oak Park) and Sheils Reserve (Brunswick West) with interviews with residents presently taking place. The aim is to gain a better understanding of how improvements and changes to the way we manage open space influences biodiversity, health and well-being.

9. Anna announced that the National Library of Australia will be launching the National e-deposit service on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2019. This is a new national service for collecting Australia's electronic publications. Anna was pleased to report that Ponderings is a part of this National collection.

#### **NOTICES:**

- Citizen Science Discovery Day – Sun 19 May, 10am-12noon, Afton Street Parklands, Essendon – call for volunteers for FoMPC stall. Please contact Kaye.
- May 22, 6:30pm – MVCC Planning Meeting regarding 33 Mitchell Pde subdivision (this is a large site extending down to the Creek, with risk of inappropriate development impacting on the Creek corridor and access.)
- Planting Dates:
  - Sat 25 May, 10am-2noon, Lawson St Reserve, Moonee Ponds – infill planting, weeding
- Litter Clean-up (first of three) Moonee Ponds Creek - Ocean Crusaders, Melbourne City Council & FoMPC, Sun Jun 2, 9am-12noon. Meet Ron Barassi Senior Park, end of Docklands Way, Docklands. Register via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/moonee-ponds-creek-clean-up-inc-paddle-against-plastic-tickets-55954394099?aff=efbeventtix>

# GENERAL MEETING      MONDAY JUNE 17, 2019, 6:30PM

## Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Marcus Lancaster, Tony Smith, Zoe Jellie, Frank Kinnersley, Carolyn Layton, Peter Scully, Kaye Oddie, David Widdowson, Elissa Simmons, Julianna Rozek, Vince Aitkin, Alex English (Open Space Planner, Moreland City Council)

**APOLOGIES:** Frances Forrest, Ray Hehr, Joan Beaumont, Julie Law, Liz Forbes, Emily Baldwin, Anna Lanigan

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING** held on April 15, 2019, noting that the date of the meeting was April 15, not 14 as shown on the written Minutes: It was moved/seconded that the Minutes be accepted - Kaye Oddie/Zoe Jellie/Approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer reported that the current bank balance is \$9649.36. Subscriptions received \$80.00; Term Deposits \$7875.33, \$15161.47; Thomson Scholarship Fund \$9879.22. It was moved/seconded that the report be accepted: Vince Atkin/Carolyn Layton/Approved.

### ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

#### 1. Presentation: Brosnan Crescent Naturalisation Project Update

by Alex English, Open Space Planner, Moreland City Council

Alex explained the Brosnan Cres Project had arisen from the 'Chain of Ponds' document. The project involves a feasibility study and the development of business cases for 3 concept plans for removing 450m of concrete between Margaret and Herbert Sts, Pascoe Vale. The \$80,000 funding available for the project includes \$40,000 from DWELP, \$15,000 each from Moreland and Moonee Valley Councils and \$10,000 from Melbourne Water. E2 Design Lab has been engaged for the environmental and engineering aspects while Realm Studios will be responsible for the concept designs. The practical hydrology studies are already in progress. Alex pointed out that this section of the Creek has good connectivity with 2 footbridges. The project aims to achieve social and environmental as well as the water outcomes. Alex listed some on and off-stream opportunities such as terracing, barrelling high flow and having lower flow visible, opening up Herbert Street meander, use of lowered sports fields and easements, redesigning existing access ramps to encourage people down to the water.

#### 2. Hopetoun Ave-Albion St, Brunswick West concept plans.

Zoe Jellie and Alex described another Creek project – being supported by the Moonee Ponds Creek Chain of Ponds Collaboration and DWELP. The so-called 'Vanberg project' came out of

Moreland Council's 'connection and activation' policy. The aim is to "turn our faces to the Creek" and to improve connectivity. The focus of the project will be the 1.3 km of 'missing link' of the Moonee Ponds Creek shared path. Current funding is \$400,000, however, more will be required for extension of the project. The initial plan was to develop a Creek crossing near Primrose St but access/egress difficulties, the risks associated with very steep banks and potentially high flow velocities meant another site was required. The work will now be near Hopetoun Avenue, near Albion St. Draft concept plans have put forward a bridge over the Creek, installing resting places, removal of existing cyclone fencing, creation of meander paths through existing vegetation, further plantings. Sky lighting a section of the barrelled Melville Creek was also put forward. Alex reported that there will be monitoring of environmental baseline data before the project starts so that the impact of these activation/connection works can be measured. There was some discussion of these ideas. Kelvin expressed some concerns with any proposed removal of previous FoMPC plantings in the area. Alex reassured Kelvin that the path would be carefully planned to avoid removal of established plants. The high-level concept plans will be available in early July with the project completed by June 2020. Alex was thanked for his detailed presentations on these two projects.

### **3. Report on Upper Level Carpark at Strathnaver Reserve**

The FoMPC had joined local residents in opposing proposed funding in the MVCC 2019/20 Budget for an additional 25-space upper level car park in parkland along the roadside at the Reserve. Detailed written submissions were made and presentations made at a special meeting of the Moonee Valley Council on 28 May. Notification has been received that the proposed funding has been removed from the 2019/20 budget, however it has been moved to the 2023/24 budget.

### **4. Advertising Signage at Strathnaver Reserve and JP Fawkner Reserve**

Advertising signage has been increased around the Strathnaver Reserve despite complaints to the MVCC management and councillors. FoMPC raised objection in letter to MVCC CEO, stating the signs did not comply with Council's planning scheme guidelines, Open Space Strategy or the Chain of Ponds Plan. No response received. It is concerning that the Council is again turning 'a blind eye' to the issue and sports clubs will only be required to remove the signs at the end of the season and stating a "review" will be undertaken about advertising signage at sports facilities.

Across the Creek, in the JP Fawkner Reserve two large signs have again this year been erected. In response to complaints by FoMPC members, a Moreland Council officer stated the signs would be removed in the next few days and that the sports field operators did not seek permission of the Council to erect the signs, and that in any case the Council would be reluctant to approve such signage. Moreland Council is apparently reviewing the advertising policy for sports clubs.

### **5. Lawson Street Reserve Community Planting**

In Emily's absence, Kaye showed 'before' and 'after' photos and spoke about the community planting history of this isolated pocket of land, with its steep bank to the Creek. It was a Moonee Valley Community Grant that enabled two plantings in 2016, and recently on May 25, an infill planting with grasses, groundcover and climbers. The photos showed the transformation of the area into a pleasant revegetated site providing biodiversity, habitat and amenity, thanks to the Green Army, Moonee Valley Council and the FoMPC.

### **6. Report on Healthy Waterways Strategy Workshop May 28<sup>th</sup>**

Tony Smith reported there was strong attendance (in numbers and organisations) at the 2nd Melbourne Water meeting held as part of the implementation planning phase of the HWS in the Maribryngong catchment. There were three key presentations: the Sunbury Integrated Water Catchment project, Stanley Park (Mount Macedon) rejuvenation project and MPC Chain of Ponds Collaboration. A core facilitation group was also set up.

### **7. Update on Chain of Ponds (CoP) Collaboration meetings**

Tony, Alex, Frank and Kaye reported on the recent sub-group meetings: Governance and Trails/Transport/Connectivity. The Governance group discussed the ongoing funding commitment for the Lead position, noting that the current Lead, Lori Arthur, unfortunately will end her secondment in September; as well as a process for submissions for key catchment projects and a review of elements of the Prospectus. The Trails/Transport/Connectivity group, convened by Julie Francis, discussed establishing a system of unifying signage along the Creek corridor, issues of appropriate lighting, e.g. addressing safety and habitat protection; and the importance of connectivity. A Litter sub-group will be meeting next week.

### **8. Report on Ocean Crusaders ‘Paddle against Plastic’ Clean Up of Lower Moonee Ponds Creek June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

In Anna’s absence, Kaye reported on the event and showed images. The event, one of three planned for the year, involved 110 participants who, in boat and on foot, in 3 hours collected close to 1 tonne of rubbish, including 2780 predominantly plastic drink bottles.

### **9. Submission to State Government Inquiry into Waste and Recycling**

The FoMPC submission lodged into this enquiry emphasised our support for a deposit scheme on drink containers; that litter should be more effectively collected at source; and that storm water drainage infrastructure and maintenance be made more efficient in stopping litter entering our waterways.

### **10. Anti-Toxic Waste Alliance**

Tony will draft a letter of support of FoMPC for this new alliance.

### **11. Proposed 5G telecommunications facilities along Moonee Ponds Creek corridor**

Nina Eason has asked if FoMPC can investigate the proposed 4G/5G telecommunication facilities along the Creek corridor – e.g. Boeing Reserve, JP Fawkner Reserve. It is not known what form the new facilities will have (tower, additional infrastructure on existing poles...). Telecommunication facilities come under Federal Government guidelines and do not need a permit, however need to consider environmental issues in their location. Alex stated that a review 2 years ago found no adverse public health impacts. Kaye called for a volunteer to investigate the proposed 5G facilities.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **12. FoMPC 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Kelvin spoke about the Merri Creek Management Committee’s very successful 30<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration and suggested we should have one for ours this year. Also recommended inviting people associated with FoMPC in the past. Dates and venues were briefly discussed (October/AGM and new Boeing Reserve Pavilion/new Oak Park facility near the Swimming Pool). People interested in joining an organising committee were asked to let the Secretary know.

### **13. Public Record Office Local History Grant Application**

The FoMPC application for a grant to assist in digitising our archives was not successful.

#### **14. Moonee Valley Outdoors**

MVCC is reviewing open space planning in the municipality and is calling for feedback (by end July). Go to: <https://yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/openspace>.

**14. City West Water Community Sponsorship** applications are now open.

#### **NOTICES:**

- Community Planting – Sun July 21, 10am-12noon, Kernan Ave Reserve, Pascoe Vale Sth
- Community Planting – Sat Aug 3, 10am-12noon, Bent St Embankment of Moonee Ponds Creek, Kensington
- Litter Clean-up (second of three) along Moonee Ponds Creek - Ocean Crusaders, Melbourne City Council & FoMPC, Sun Sept 1, time and place tba



# GENERAL MEETING MONDAY AUGUST 19, 2019, 6:30PM

## Meeting Room, Sam Merrifield Library

**PRESENT:** Kelvin Thomson, Anna Lanigan, Ariel de Ramos, Marcus Lancaster, Emily Baldwin, Tony Smith, Frank Kinnersley, Carolyn Layton, Peter Scully, Kaye Oddie, David Widdowson, Nina Eason

**APOLOGIES:** Vince Aitkin, Zoe Jellie

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING** held on June 17. The Minutes of general meeting on June 17 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Carolyn Seconded: Kaye Oddie.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** None.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** In the absence of the Treasurer, the financial report was held over to the October meeting.

### ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

#### 1. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

Anna and Kaye reported on the venues being considered: Oak Park Sports Pavilion (preferred) and Strathnaver Reserve Pavilion. However, availability of the Oak Park Pavilion won't be known until cricket fixtures are finalised. Oak Park Pavilion is well placed for the planned walk to the section of the Creek that is being investigated for naturalisation. The date for the celebration October 27<sup>th</sup> 3pm. Booking of the Strathnaver Pavilion to be made, subject to the Oak Park Pavilion not being available.

#### 2. Naming of 1-33 Outlook Drive, Glenroy

Anna reported on the research she had done and her suggestions to pass on to Moreland Council, who have called for public nomination of a name for the land - (<https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/about-us/have-your-say/consultations/naming-of-new-park---1-33-outlook-drive-glenroy/>)

Anna described her research into a name. Her first choice is Murnong Reserve. Murnong (Yam Daisy) is known to have been grown and harvested along the Moonee Ponds Creek. Second choice for name - Munro Reserve. David Munro built the bridge over the Creek upstream of the Trestle Bridge to service his manufacturing business in Gowanbrae. He was an eminent engineer and bridge maker (Princes Bridge, Sandridge Bridge). It was decided that Murnong, Munro and a dual name: Murnong-Munro be put forward to Council for consideration.

### **3. Update on Vanberg Rd-Hopetoun Ave Recreational Improvements Plan**

(<https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/Chain-of-Ponds-Collaboration/improving-recreational-access-creek-essendonbrunswick-west>)

Kaye reported that the plans are progressing well. Kaye met with Moreland and MVCC Council officers and Lori Arthur (CoP Lead, Melbourne Water). It is considered that the works (not including the bridge) can be done within the \$400,000 DELWP funding already received. This could include infill revegetation works along the path on the Moonee Valley side of the creek. Two community information sessions on the draft plans have been held and Frank suggested realignment of the proposed bike path, which would provide better access for cyclists and avoid conflict between pedestrians and cyclists.

### **4. Report on Upper Carpark Proposal at Strathnaver Reserve and Amendment C194moon**

Kaye introduced Nina Eason, who has worked tirelessly on this issue. Nina reported that the upper carpark proposal involved bulldozing 50m of trees and shrubs along the Creek Reserve adjoining Mascoma Street. Nina organised to meet with all the Councillors on site. Local residents were letter boxed and many lodged objections with six making presentations at a special Moonee Valley Council committee meeting in regard to the funding of the upper carpark in the 2019-20 Council budget. Nina noted works currently underway to upgrade the lower carpark at the Strathnaver Reserve have already been funded and were recommended in the Strathnaver Reserve Masterplan. The outcome of the special Council meeting was that funding for an upper carpark was removed from the 2019/20 budget, but the project will remain in the Long Term Capital Works Plan and deferred to 2023/24. In the meantime, the Council is seeking an amendment (AmC194moon) to their planning scheme for the establishment of a Developer Contributions Scheme with a number of specific works nominated including, it was stated, the upper level car parking at the Strathnaver Reserve. Residents and FoMPC dispute this and will lodge submissions to the Amendment.

Anna suggested that a post and rail fence be erected to prevent vehicles parking on the Reserve parkland.

### **5. Advertising Signage at Strathnaver Reserve and JP Fawkner Reserve**

Nina reported: "It appears that Moonee Valley Council does not know how to manage the widespread failure of clubs to follow their signage guidelines." Since Moonee Valley's CEO accepted Nina's invitation to view the signage, some signs referring to companies that no longer exist have been removed. Other signs should be taken down soon/at the end of the soccer season. It is understood that a review of signage at sports facilities is to be undertaken. FoMPC to write submission re advertising signage at sports reserves for the "Moonee Valley Outdoors". At JP Fawkner Reserve (Moreland Council), similar large commercial signs, have now been removed. Kelvin thanked everyone for their work on these issues, particularly at the Strathnaver Reserve.

### **6. Community Plantings at Kernan Avenue (July 21) and Kensington Embankment (Aug 3)**

Kernan Avenue is another successful reclaim (and purchase) of unused land adjacent to the Creek and houses. Moreland Council prepared the landscaping and revegetation plans; over 600 plants were planted on the day. The Kensington Embankment infill project is part of our 2019 Melbourne Water grant and 500 plants were planted, with many local residents participating. Kelvin thanked everyone involved in these successful plantings.

## **7. Anti-Toxic Waste Alliance and Parliamentary Inquiry into Recycling and Waste Management**

Tony explained how the Anti-toxic Waste Alliance formed from the 35 community groups that stood up after the Coolaroo fire. This group has been very active and managed to get the Parliamentary Inquiry to look at waste dumps and their fire risks. They spent a day at the Legislative Council during the hearings and made a very effective case via 10 presentations, including a video. The Inquiry Report will be out by November; the State Government will have 6 months to consider so that it will not be until the middle of next year that we will see the findings of the Inquiry ... and further delay in addressing the unacceptable waste situation in Victoria.

## **8. Chain of Ponds Collaboration reports: Litter, Planning, Trails/Transport/Connectivity.** Kaye provided brief a report on progress in these subgroups.

9.

**10. Location of a statue of John Pascoe Fawkner.** This statue has become available (originally in CBD) and Moreland Council is seeking a suitable location for it. Kelvin suggested locating it at John Pascoe Fawkner Reserve! The meeting was told there is a consultant researching Fawkner's history and an Indigenous perspective is being sought. There are vandalism/security considerations when deciding on a location.

## **11. Proposal for a FoMPC Calendar**

David tabled a mock-up of the calendar and spoke about this project, which would involve producing 1000 copies; half to be sold in newsagents and the rest sold through FoMPC; RRP \$12. David told the meeting he was not looking to make any money and any profit after paying costs would go to FoMPC. Kelvin spoke in favour of the idea and suggested they could be given as presents by FoMPC to groups we work with. A call was made for people to submit photographs 2500x1500 pixels for photo size in calendar of 28x20cm. Photos from the length of the Creek would be featured; landscape as well as fauna and flora. Motion: That FoMPC provide upfront funding of \$1300 for the production of a FoMPC Calendar. Moved: Tony Seconded: Carolyn. Carried.

## **12. Melbourne City Council Strategic Opportunities Plan**

(<https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/committees-meetings/meeting-archive/Pages/Future-Melbourne-Committee-20-August-2019.aspx>)

FoMPC earlier made a submission to this plan (SOP) – which aims to significantly increase the open space and recreational use of the Creek corridor in the reaches from Brunswick Rd to Docklands. Kaye raised concerns about proposed 'flood management' installation of culverts along the western bank, between Macaulay Rd and Arden St, which would see the destruction of the established vegetation/revegetation commenced around 2000, post construction of CityLink...and which, with our 2019 Melbourne Water grant, was recently upgraded in the community planting on Aug 3. The SOP will be considered by Council Committee on Aug 20; FoMPC will seek removal of the proposed culverts along the western embankment between Macaulay Rd and Arden St.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**12.** Anna reported that she presented a history of the MP Creek to Grade 1 and 2 school children at Moonee Ponds Primary School today, following a request from Moonee Valley Council. It was a very successful event.

**13.** Anna reported on a very successful clean-up day at Cross Keys Reserve. 13 large size bags of rubbish was collected along with large items like an O bike and a television.

14. Kaye announced the Federal Government Community Environment Grants of \$2500-\$20,000 and suggested FoMPC lodge an expression of interest to relevant MHRs, e.g. Peter Khalil, Wills.

15. 2019 AGM will be held Monday October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Sam Merrifield Library. This will include election of office bearers.

Kelvin announced his intention to step down as President. He stated he didn't think we would be rushed with nominations. He introduced Peter Scully, a previous Councillor and member of Friends groups as a possible replacement. Kelvin indicated the democratic process will operate and as for other positions he encouraged nominations. Kaye also indicated she would not be seeking re-election as Secretary. She recommended that the work load of the job be reduced so that preparation of grants for projects, submissions, etc be taken on by other members in future. She reassured us that she would not be disappearing and would be happy to provide advice and assistance. Kelvin thanked Kaye for her outstanding contribution over a long period. Anna announced that for family reasons she needed someone else to take over production of our newsletter 'Ponderings.' Her last one would be number 64. Anna explained that fellow member Ray Hehr puts together the great newsletter from the text, images and headings she provides. Kelvin spoke about the 'modus operandi' of the Friends. In the past, matters were dealt with at meetings, except for the occasional phone call and no emails. The advent of email and 'reply all' has expanded the work load of committee members. Kelvin suggested that we need to pare back; when someone raises an issue it needs to be put as an agenda item for the next meeting.

16. Tony reported on the Stony Creek transformation, below the Sunshine Hospital, has run aground due to lack of funding. Brimbank Council is pushing to keep it alive and to get the State Government to put more money in. Copies of a petition supporting additional funding were provided for obtaining signatures.

17. Tony raised the Footscray Park proposal - which is to use public open space for a private soccer academy and associated infrastructure. There will be a public meeting next week and a detailed feasibility study is to be released on 27<sup>th</sup> August. Kelvin spoke of the increasing population and the need for more not less public open space and Kaye argued we need less alienation of public open space for constructed sports facilities.

#### **NOTICES:**

- Sat 24 Aug, 10am-12 noon. Shiels Reserve, Duggan St, Brunswick West community planting event hosted by Moreland Council
- Sun 1 Sept, 10am-1pm Litter Clean-up of Lower Moonee Ponds Creek - Ocean Crusaders, Melbourne City Council, Port of Melbourne, FoMPC and others. Meet Ron Barassi Snr Park, Docklands Way, Docklands
- Sun 8 Sept, 1:30-3:30pm, Coopers Hill Dve, Westmeadows, Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek/City of Hume

**DATE of NEXT MEETING:** AGM & General Meeting Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2019, 6.30pm at

Sam Merrifield Library, Moonee Ponds.

Carolyn Layton

Minutes Secretary

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MONDAY OCTOBER 18, 2019**

## **Sam Merrifield Library**

**PRESENT:** Peter Scully, Kaye Oddie, Kelvin Thomson, Julie Lawson, Tony Smith, Anna Lanigan, Marcus Lancaster, Frank Kinnersley, Emily Baldwin, Joanne Dietrich, Kevin Balaam, David Widdowson, Zoe Jellie, Vince Aitkin, John Widmer

**APOLOGIES:** Carolyn Layton  
Acceptance of apologies. Moved : Kaye Oddie, Seconded : Zoe Jellie

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on October 15, 2018 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Kaye Oddie, Seconded: Anna Lanigan

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

This year's President's report was the final one for Kelvin Thomson, after being in the role since the group's founding in 1989.

Kelvin reported the 2018-2019 period had been a very busy year for the FoMPC and the committee. He thanked all involved and those associated with the group for their work, interest and ongoing support with the ongoing care and management of the Moonee Ponds Creek and the wider catchment area. Kelvin thanked the following people and cited the major projects involving the group over the 2018-2019 period:

The FoMPC's involvement with the Waterways of the West (WoW) Ministerial Advisory Committee, workshops and community consultations. The Moonee Ponds Creek is included in the Waterways of the West catchment area. A major aim of WoW is the development of government legislative protection, like the recently legislated Yarra River protection act 2017, regarding the planning and protection of waterways across Melbourne's west.

The Brosnan Crescent concrete channel removal and naturalisation project. FoMPC have provided interest and support in advancing this project through the preparation of a business case by Moonee Valley and Moreland Councils and Melbourne Water.

The Federal Government Communities Environment Programme grant \$20,000 application for an indigenous cultural nature trail at the recently acquired VicTrack land at Outlook Drive, Glenroy. The proposed project involves infill planting with plants that have Traditional Owners food and hunting associations, formation of an informal path, a rock gathering place and interpretative signage.

Issues with the advertising signage at Strathnaver and JP Fawkner Reserves. This has been an ongoing issue with members and local residents lodging complaints; the issue of advertising signage at sports ovals remains to be satisfactorily resolved at council level.

Publication of the 2020 FoMPC calendar. Kelvin thanked David Widdowson for his work in the production and distribution of the calendar. David was also thanked for taking on the task of maintaining the FoMPC website.

The planting of a memorial tree for Terry Mundy and acknowledging the significant legacy of his work on the Creek's care and management. Terry was one of the founding members of the Moonee Ponds Creek Association, (now Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek) and long-time committee member.

The Anti-Toxic Waste Alliance was formed as a community response to the spate of recent fires at recycling and chemical storage warehouses. These fires disastrously impacted the Stony Creek and however, major impact on the Merri, Creeks was avoided. Kelvin thanked Helen van den Berg for keeping us informed regarding the EPA's responses and hearings. Tony Smith was also thanked for representing FoMPC's interests in the A-TWAlliance.

The continuing litter clean ups along the Creek in collaboration with other local community organisations and Ocean Crusaders.

For the ongoing community plantings along the Creek and the members and their families, friends and local neighbourhood members who participated in these activities.

The Cities of Moonee Valley and Moreland for preparation of the Chain of Ponds master plan for Creek. Kelvin thanked the members who represented FoMPC at the focus groups and public consultations and assisted with displays at such events as the Moonee Valley and Kensington Festivals.

The FoMPC was also represented at the Healthy Waterways Strategy implementation and the Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration workshops, held throughout the year, along with a range of other public consultations, including the City of Melbourne Strategic Opportunities for the lower reach of the Creek, associated with the Arden and Macaulay urban renewal areas.

The West Gate Tunnel Project and FoMPC members roles in preparing submissions and attending hearings.

The Jacana Wetlands upgrade project undertaken by Melbourne Water.

Kelvin then made specific mention of the following people, thanking them for their work and support over the year. These included:

- Frank Kinnarsley in his continuing role as Vice President and maintenance of the detailed membership records
- Vince Aitkin for his continuing role as treasurer and expert management of the group's finances
- Carolyn Layton and Marcus Lancaster as minute secretaries
- Nina Eason for her work pursuing the issue the car parking at Strathmore Reserve, including a proposed upper carpark
- Anna Lanigan and her work, support and participation on a numerous range of activities including: her work as editor and photographer for all the superb productions of Ponderings; representing the FoMPC at numerous community events with photographic and information displays; her work with school and other children's groups; and her continuing monitoring and reporting the frogs and birds in the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment
- Ray Hehr for his work in publishing Ponderings

Kelvin expressed our appreciation to all the council officers at Moonee Valley, Moreland, and Hume, and the various staff at Melbourne Water with whom we have worked closely with on a range of projects and issues across the Creek's catchment.

Special mention was made of Tony Smith and his wide-ranging work with many groups and issues relevant to the Creek including; Waterways of the West, Anti-Toxic Waste Alliance, Moonee Ponds Creek Collaboration group and the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Julie Lawson was thanked for her ongoing work with the Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek.

Special mention was also made of outgoing Secretary Kaye Oddie and her outstanding work for the group involving an array of issues, groups, projects and the regular operation of the FoMPC group.

Kelvin finished his report with an update on the planning for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the FoMPC and asked anyone interested in being on the sub-committee planning the event to contact him.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The detailed financial report for the year ended 30 June 2019 was presented by Treasurer Vince Aitkin.

##### **Summary:**

Current funds held	\$42677.88
Cash Receipts	\$8495.94
Cash Disbursements	\$3428.50

It was moved the Financial Report be accepted. Moved: Kelvin Thomson, Seconded: Frank Kinnersley

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS for 2019-2020**

Written nominations received at the commencement of the meeting were:

- President: Peter Scully - Nominated: Kelvin Thomson, Seconded: Marcus Lancaster
- Secretary & Public Officer: Emily Baldwin - Nominated: Kaye Oddie, Seconded: Frank Kinnersley
- Treasurer: Vince Aitkin. Nominated: Vince Aitkin, Seconded Kaye Oddie

Oral nominations received from the floor were:

- Vice President: Frank Kinnersley - Nominated: Kelvin Thomson, Seconded: Kaye Oddie
- Minutes Secretaries: Carolyn Layton and Marcus Lancaster

The above positions for 2019-2020 were duly declared elected.

Following the election Kelvin welcomed the new office bearers to their respective positions.

#### **MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2019-2020**

Following a brief discussion on the annual membership fee for the 2019-2020 period, it was proposed the fee remain at \$20.00; Moved: Kaye Oddie, Seconded: Zoe Jellie

#### **PONDERINGS**

In appreciation of Anna Lanigan's long-standing work writing, compiling and helping publish the quarterly Creek newsletter Ponderings, plus her other promotional work in the community, particularly in relation to birds and frogs, Kelvin presented a gift on behalf of the FoMPC to Anna. He thanked Anna and mentioned her tireless work for the group and her specialist contributions, greatly appreciated by the committee and members.

**Close of meeting.** There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed by Kelvin. A General Meeting followed.

Marcus Lancaster  
Minutes Secretary



# GENERAL MEETING MONDAY OCTOBER 21, 2019, 6:30PM

## Sam Merrifield Library

PRESENT: Peter Scully, Kaye Oddie, Kelvin Thomson, Julie Lawson, Tony Smith, Anna Lanigan, Marcus Lancaster, Frank Kinnersley, Emily Baldwin, Joanne Dietrich, Kevin Balaam, David Widdowson, Zoe Jellie, Vince Aitkin, John Widmer

APOLOGIES: Carolyn Layton

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD on Aug 19, 2019

The Minutes of the General Meeting on Aug 19, 2019 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Peter Scully; seconded: Kaye Oddie

TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Vince Aitkin:

Bank balance	\$2309
Membership account	\$440
Term deposits	1) \$7875
	2) \$15313
	3) \$9979

It was moved that the treasurer's report be accepted: Vince Aitkin; seconded Kaye Oddie

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

- 1. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration - Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek.** Kelvin reported the event will be held on **Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2.00pm** at the **Oak Park Sports Pavilion, 563 Pascoe Vale Rd, Pascoe Vale.** A sub-committee will be formed by Kelvin to plan and organise the afternoon. Anyone interested in joining the sub-committee is to contact Kelvin.
- 2. Federal Government Communities Environmental Programme application – A cultural nature trail, Moonee Ponds Creek /lower Outlook Drive, Glenroy**  
Kaye reported on the original proposal to use the large slope of the Outlook Drive parkland for construction of a cultural and nature trail that would traverse the slope to the Creek. However following more detailed discussion and site inspection with Moreland Council officers, the logistics of using the large slope, maintenance issues and costs, ruled against the initial proposal. Instead, it was decided to improve and extend the existing planted beds along the lowest section of the slope, close to the Creek, by incorporating plants with Aboriginal food, hunting and other links. Interpretative signage would be placed on the site, a wandering path and a rock gathering circle. Kaye also reported the City of Moreland is developing a landscape plan for large Outlook Dve slo

Regarding the naming of the Outlook Drive parkland and the proposed name submitted by Anna Lanigan – ‘Murnong Reserve’ - and endorsed by FoMPC, Anna asked if there had been a decision made yet. Answer: No, however Council is liaising with the Wurundjeri regarding a name and is considering a larger parcel of land extending further upstream.

### **3. Waterways of the West – Discussion Paper**

The Waterways of the West Discussion Paper has been released by the Ministerial Advisory Committee. Submissions for public comments on the paper close **17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019**. Both Kaye and Tony discussed the relevance to, and importance of, commenting on the paper regarding the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment. The Yarra River Act sets a precedent for planning controls to be introduced for the waterways of the West. Tony reported a community consultation meeting for the group is scheduled for **22<sup>nd</sup> Oct**, 5.45-8.00pm at the Maribyrnong Library, 120-200 Rosamond Rd, Maribyrnong. To download a PDF copy of the discussion paper, timeline for public consultations and registration to attend meetings, go to: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/waterways-west>

### **4. Strathnaver Reserve Upper Carpark**

This issue has now progressed to consideration as part of Moonee Valley Planning Scheme Amendment C194moon at Planning Panels Victoria (PPV), whereby upper level car parking would be endorsed as a Long Term Capital Works Plan project, part of a Development Contributors Plan for Moonee Valley. However, the Strathnaver Reserve Master Plan does not include additional car parking at the upper level. Important dates:

Application to be heard: Nov 4; Directions Hearing: 8<sup>th</sup> Nov; Public hearings from 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019. A number of residents and FoMPC intend to continue opposition to the upper level car park through the PPV process.

Anna reported that funding allocation for car parking at the Reserve (citing \$50,000 per car space) has reportedly all been expended on the lower level car park, therefore the upper carpark project has been placed on hold to 2023/24 budget (subject to PPV and AmC194moon PPV outcomes). She reported the new carpark requires monitoring for the numbers of vehicles using it, days, times to determine any requirement for an upper carpark. Anna reported local residents are seeking installation of bollards and chain and post fence along Mascoma St to prevent car parking on parkland.

### **5. FoMPC 2020 Calendar**

David Widdowson reported on the development and publication of the FoMPC 2020 calendar. The calendar has been distributed to local newsagencies within the local government areas the creek flows through. The cost of the calendar is \$12.00 in newsagencies and \$10.00 for the members. The FoMPC provided \$1300 towards the calendars production. There was some concern raised about payments for the calendar and the system regarding how the FoMPC receive these. The treasurer proposed formation of a sub-committee to look at the business case, costings and payment system and asked that the sub-committee then send a report to him for actioning. Kelvin suggested, and it was subsequently agreed that the matter be referred to the incoming Committee, to meet with David and work out the above issues.

Kaye proposed giving a calendar as a gift of appreciation to people from the local councils, Melbourne Water, etc, who have worked closely with the group over recent years. Zoe proposed taking some calendars to Waterways of the West meetings and other related group meetings.

## **6. Anti-toxic Waste Alliance forum**

Tony Smith reported on the creation of the group following the number of fires at waste recycling storage yards and warehouses in the north and west of Melbourne. The Stony and Merri Creeks are amongst the focusses of the group, and improvements to the EPA regarding toxic waste and disaster response. Tony provided information sheets on the group and recommended the FoMPC should continue to support the group and their ongoing interest in and monitoring of the Stony and Merri Creeks. The A-TWA can be contacted via Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/AntiToxicWasteAlliance/about/>

Tony also mentioned the EPA's draft Charter of Consultation that is open for public comment until the 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019 and the A-TWAs submission can be downloaded at:

[https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/S696\\_-\\_Anti-Toxic\\_Waste\\_Alliance\\_Redacted.pdf](https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/S696_-_Anti-Toxic_Waste_Alliance_Redacted.pdf)

## **7. Dates for FoMPC meetings in 2020.**

Dates for next year's meetings – (currently held 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every second month)

**February 17, April 20, June 15, August 17, October 19, December 21**

Incoming Committee may wish to review dates/times.

OTHER BUSINESS:

## **8. Jacana Wetlands – Plant protection mesh**

Kelvin reported observing a large expanse of netting covering a section of the revegetation area, following Melbourne Water's upgrade of the wetlands. He reported birds have left the site and requested an update on the project from Melbourne Water.

Kaye reported the same mesh was used for the Royal Park Wetlands revegetation to protect the new riparian plantings from being eaten or destroyed by birds and it may remain for up to 2 years.

Anna reported a snake had been caught in a roll of the mesh at Jacana. She reported the unfurled sections of the mesh roles were a mess and required fixing to prevent trapping of other small wildlife.

Kaye proposed writing to the relevant Waterway and Land Officer at Melbourne Water – Ryan van den Hove, seeking an update on both issues raised by Kelvin and Anna.

## **9. Other reports**

- Tony and Anna attended a Yarra River Keeper seminar on planning, which focused on improving the protection of waterways through the planning system.

- Anna read from an email received from Alex English (Moreland Council) expressing his thanks and gratitude to Kelvin and Kaye on their retirement from positions of president and secretary; and also Alex's thanks to Anna for her commitment and contributions to the Moonee Ponds Creek. "The

*community, Council and the environment have benefited greatly from all your amazing contributions over the years! Thank you!"*

- Incoming president Peter Scully expressed his thanks and gratitude to Kelvin for starting the group 30 years ago and applauded Kelvin and Kaye's service and dedication to the FoMPC. Peter noted the expertise and the enormous amount of work they had put in over the years and their interest in our local communities and the environment.

- Kelvin replied that the health of our waterways is under immense pressure and it will be the responsibility of the new committee to continue to protect them. Both Kelvin and Kaye stated they will maintain their interest and involvement in the FoMPC.

- Julie reminisced on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the group and noted that although we view the creek through adult eyes, we should remember how much enjoyment children obtain from the creek and we shouldn't forget how important it is that children are involved.

NOTICES:

- Sun 1 Dec, 10am-1pm Litter Clean-up, Lower Moonee Ponds Creek - Ocean Crusaders/City of Melbourne/Port of Melbourne/FoMPC/others. Meet Ron Barassi Snr Park, Docklands Way, Docklands
- Sun 1 Dec, 2-4pm, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary FoMPC, Oak Park Sports Pavilion, 563 Pascoe Vale Rd, Oak Park

DATE of NEXT MEETING: Mon Dec 16, 6:30pm, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds

# **GENERAL MEETING MONDAY DECEMBER 16, 2019, 6:30PM**

## **Sam Merrifield Library**

**PRESENT:** Peter Scully, Kelvin Thomson, Tony Smith, Anna Lanigan, Marcus Lancaster, Frank Kinnersley, Emily Baldwin, Joanne Dietrich, David Widdowson, Liz Barber, Liz Forbes, Joan Beaumont

**APOLOGIES:** Carolyn Layton, Vince Aitkin, Kaye Oddie, Julie Law

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING** held on October 21, 2019

Minutes of the General Meeting on October 21, 2019 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Moved: Kelvin Thomson, Seconded: Frank Kinnersley

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Prepared by Treasurer Vince Atkin; presented by President Peter Scully. Balance \$37090.09, which includes general account, term deposits, and Alan Thomson scholarship fund. It was moved and seconded that the report be accepted.

Moved: Vince Atkin, Seconded: Frank Kinnersley

### **Welcome from the new President**

The new president Peter Scully opened his first meeting with a Welcome To Country. Peter also thanked the previous committee for their work and noted he enjoyed the dynamics of the group and how the former president, Kelvin Thomson, had chaired the meetings.

### **ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

#### **1. Waterways of the West –Discussion Paper –FoMPC response**

This item as introduced by Peter who reported both he and Kaye developed the FoMPC response. The paper covered seven areas including planning schemes and decided outcomes.

Tony summarised the overall project and reported the Waterways of the West group was recommending a protection act similar to the Yarra protection act be developed for the western waterways. They also want the act to be developed further into a more general act that includes all waterways and estuaries.

Waterways of the West website: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/waterways-west>

## **2. Chain of Ponds Collaboration updates**

Tony Smith reported on the current activities of the Collaboration group. He reported the group is a successor to the former MPC Management Committee, with currently 20 participants in the group. Tony reported at the last meeting for 2019 the group focussed on delivery of projects and the group's winning of the Stormwater Victorian award for Excellence in Strategic and Master Planning (see website <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/what-we-are-doing/news/melbourne-water-projects-recognised-stormwater-victoria-awards>), the Collaboration's Facebook page.

Anna congratulated Lori Arthur on managing the Collaboration group for the last 12 months. Tony reported candidates to replace Lori are currently being selected. He also explained the evolution of the Chain of Ponds Collaboration which first met in 2016.

## **3. Ocean Crusaders clean-up of lower Moonee Ponds Creek**

Anna reported the Ocean Crusaders group conducted three clean up days along the Moonee Ponds Creek in 2019. The Ocean Crusaders originated in Queensland and are planning to establish a branch in Victoria during 2020, however funding for the branch is currently uncertain.

Anna reported the Port of Melbourne and Melbourne City Council funded the groups Lower Moonee Ponds Creek clean-ups, with 484 kilograms of rubbish collected on the latest clean-up. The greatest single item of rubbish collected was polystyrene beads. Overall, the three events collected close to two tonnes of rubbish. Anna reported more rubbish is back only after three days following a clean-up. She and two other FoMPC members also attended the clean-up.

## **4. FoMPC 2020 Calendar**

David Widdowson produced a budget sheet for production of the 2020 FoMPC Calendar. He reported the total cost outlay by the FoMPC was \$183.00.

Anna suggested any financial loss should be shared between David and the group.

Peter reported in regard to the issue to go back to the resolution made at the previous meeting. He also suggested any calendars not sold after January/February 2020 could be given to local schools.

David suggested taking any leftover calendars to next year's planting days. He also reported any calendars left unsold at newsagencies are required to be pulped.

A final report on the calendar project to be provided by David at the February 2020 meeting.

## **5. Revegetation environs Essendon Community Garden (near Brunswick Road off ramp along CityLink)**

Anna reported Kaye stated it was too early to comment on this project as conversations between the ECG, FoMPC and MVCC are just commencing and MVCC is yet to prepare preliminary concept plans.

## **6. Arden Implementation Plan**

Victorian Planning Authority will soon release its Arden Structure Plan Implementation report. ‘Arden’ being the urban renewal area around the new Melbourne Metro Tunnel station in North Melbourne.

**7. Melbourne Metro Tunnel Intake Substation (beside Moonee Ponds Creek south of Arden St.)**

An intake substation for the Melbourne Metro Tunnel has been proposed on land south of Arden Street, on the eastern side of the creek, but involving an underground HV cable on the western embankment opposite. Loss of vegetation and Creek open space are key issues. Peter reported Kaye had prepared a response opposing the location and alignment of the HV cable and requesting it be reassessed by the constructing firm CYP and the relevant authorities and groups, including Melbourne Water, Melbourne City Council and FoMPC.

**8. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

The FoMPC 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2019, at the Oak Park Sports Pavilion. Kelvin thanked all those who organised the event and participated on the day.

Anna requested a copy of the new president, Peter Scully’s speech for the day.

Tony requested a thank you note be sent to the cricket club whose club rooms were used for the event.

Anna reported there was other people that should have been thanked for the iconic Creek diagram used in the calendar. These include Kerry Gordon and Rachel Earea, the artist who drew the original diagram. Kaye has written to Rachel trying to make contact with her as she now lives in Qld.

Anna additionally requested the attendance list from the anniversary. It was reported Kaye may have the attendance list/book from the day.

**9. ‘Two Creeks’ proposal – see handout**

David Widdowson presented a proposal for two creeks in regard to concrete lined channel sections along the creek. (David provided a printed handout of the proposal). The proposal involved construction of a new naturalised creek channel above two-barrel drains, to be laid along the existing concrete channel. The drains would handle high and flood flows while the above open channel would provide a naturalised creek, replacing the current concrete lined channel, and handling low to medium flows.

Tony Smith reported on Melbourne Water’s current Reimagining your Creek Program ( <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/what-we-are-doing/works-and-projects-near-me/all-projects/reimagining-your-creek-program> ) and suggested David present his proposal to them.

Kelvin suggested Melbourne Water may consider the project too expensive, however was worth to present to the Reimagining your Creek Program. Peter thanked David for his proposal and suggested to follow Tony’s idea to present to Melbourne Water.

**10. Strathnaver Reserve Planning Panels Victoria Hearings Report**

Nina Eason reported although the upper carpark project is not in the current budget, it will remain a long-term project and will require an amended planning scheme. She also reported at a planning meeting held by Moonee Valley Council the upper carpark was removed from the DCP before the planning panel was held. Nina then reported she and Kaye wanted the DCP wording made more specific to ensure Council cannot add on upper level car parking to the DCP lower car park. At the PPV hearings, MVCC agreed to the proposed revised wording. It was reported Kaye is to write a summary of the council meetings including the planning panel hearing they attended, 16 December 2019, in relation to the lower carpark.

In regard to the Strathmore Split Soccer Club advertising signage around the ground, Nina reported the Moonee Valley Council are to change the signage guidelines.

### **Bollards along Mascoma Street**

Anna and Nina have requested further bollards need to be installed along Mascoma Street to stop car parking along creek parkland. They have sent a submission to Moonee Valley Council for bollards. Anna also reported Council is to place and mark carpark spaces along Mascoma Street. Nina and Anna also requested bollards along parkland on Brosnan Crescent. Nina reported the teacher's carpark at the primary school has been used for portable classrooms, forcing carparking into the surrounding streets. Nina reported she will investigate the issue further.

The FoMPC, in principle, accept what Nina and Anna are doing with their proposal to extend bollards along Brosnan Crescent.

## **11. Archiving: Guardian Storage (near Strathmore Station)**

It was reported Vince Atkin had sourced a large storage locker at Guardian Storage, Pascoe Vale Rd. Essendon for storage of FoMPC archival material. The cost is \$150.00 per month. Free access for the first 12 months in exchange for advertising for Guardian in Ponderings. Anna reported she has four boxes of archives and Nina has three. Anna proposed to store these items and at a later date sort to decide what material to keep and what to dispose of. It was reported the archive boxes currently stored at the Living Museum of the West would not fit in the locker.

Frank raised the issue of locks and keys for the locker. Anna reported she has a lock and will have duplicate keys made and provide the office at Guardian with a FoMPC calendar.

Following some discussion the group decided to accept Guardian's offer with the contract spanning 12 months.

A motion was made for the FoMPC to accept the offer for 12 months.

Moved: Kelvin, Seconded: Frank

### **Archiving: Archive storage system – Report by Nina**

Nina reported on the investigation of a suitable system for the storage of FoMPC archive collection. She reported attending a funding information session with Anna at Archiving Victoria at the Public Records Office Vic in North Melbourne. A grant of \$15,000 is available each year, however Nina reported not having enough time to submit an application before the closing date for 2019. She also reported at the



information session the Victorian Collections database, funded by Museums Vic and the government, was highly recommended. Therefore, she proposed to investigate and do an upload to the site to test the database operation and determine its suitability. At this point there was some questioning about the relevance and interest archiving had for some of those attending the meeting. After a slightly vigorous debate Nina ceased her presentation. Peter suggested archiving may be better discussed as a small group. Kelvin suggested those interested should be in a sub-committee for archiving. While Tony asserted Nina was presenting the sub committees' findings. David suggested looking at the issue in the new year, 2020.

Kelvin moved to establish a sub-committee for archiving. The final tentative consensus was to hold over subject to next year.

#### **12. Web-site access (difficulties)**

David reported difficulty uploading large PDF files to the FoMPC website <http://www.mooneepondscreek.org.au/>. He reported the problem could be corrected with a once off fee of \$139.00 to the website host GoDaddy.

Anna moved a motion to accept the charge and have the problem fixed.

Seconded: Joan Beaumont.

#### **13. Timetable for general meetings in 2020**

Dates for next year's (2020) meetings – (currently held 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every second month). Meetings held at the Sam Merrifield Library - 762 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds:

**February 17, April 20, June 15, August 17, October 19, December 21**

It was noted the library meeting rooms have working AV facility access. Further to this Kelvin proposed interest in having speakers for next year. He suggested contacting Melbourne Water, local councils, and other similar organisations associated with the creek, and provide them with the meetings list for 2020.

#### **14. Some Ideas from the Chair for 2020**

The new president outlined a plan for 2020 involving having a range of speakers present across the 2020 meetings.

Groups to be invited for presentations included:

Melbourne Water, Local Councils, Indigenous groups and individual FoMPC members with specialist knowledge/skills

Proposed topics included: Flora and fauna, planting, and litter/rubbish clean ups

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

GENERAL MEETING – **Monday February 17, 2020 6.30pm**, Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt. Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds.