



Ponderings

SEASONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
FRIENDS OF MOONEE PONDS CREEK

WINTER 2020 | ISSUE 67

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate



Creek Art



The COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus has wreaked havoc on the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, stopping bimonthly meetings for the first time ever and closing council events, plantings and other activities. So there isn't much news in this edition, but other regular features remain.

At least the virus has got more people out exercising next to the creek, to the extent that paths are getting a bit crowded! So it's good to see more work has been done by Moreland council on improving access to the east side gravel path, to create an alternative to the shared trail. Let's hope it lets even more people enjoy our creek!

Given the lack of news, I've taken the opportunity to describe some of the artworks along the creek, along with accounts of art created with the Moonee Ponds Creek as its subject. The map on the next page shows where these works are located - many of them the result of the MPC Public Art Strategy, produced in 2000.

Hopefully some group activities will resume soon.

In the mean time, stay well and stay safe!

David Widdowson, Editor

Thanks to Nina Franceschi, Anna Lanigan, Kaye Oddie, Alex English, Lori Arthur and the artists Glenn Romanis, Debbie Qadri, Penny Algar and Joseph Griffiths for their assistance with this issue.

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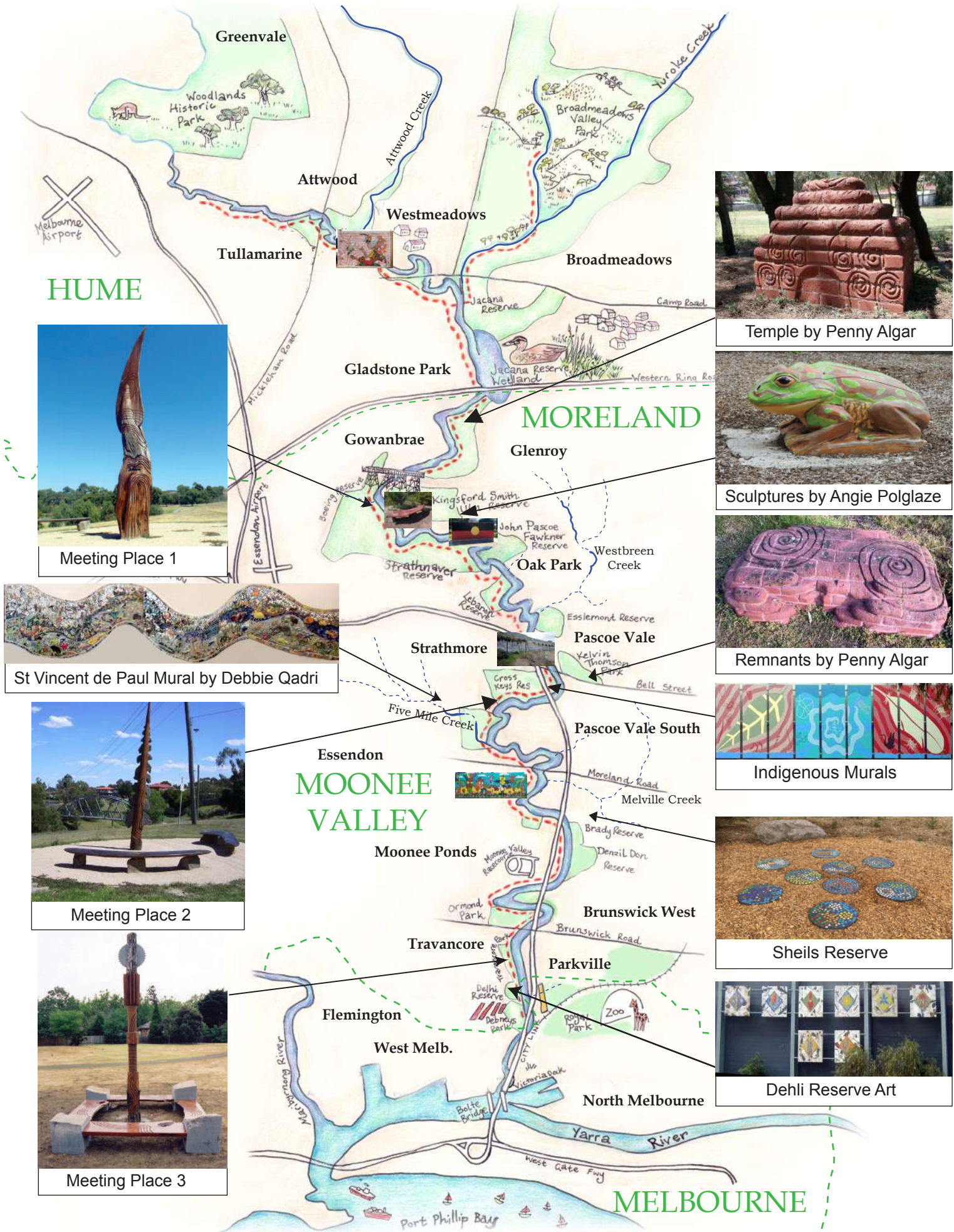
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Moonee Ponds Creek - Artwork Locations



Green dashed lines indicate municipal boundaries, Blue dashed lines indicate former tributaries. Red dashed line is the MPC Shared Trail. Original Map courtesy of Rachel Earea.

Meeting Place Sculptures

These three Sculptures/ Meeting Places were designed and created by Glenn Romanis, commissioned by the Moonee Valley Council. Both the vertical elements and seats have the lines of the Moonee Ponds Creek carved into them, representing the creek's many different vistas. The three meeting places represent how the creek has been used over many millennia:



The Boeing Reserve installation represents flora. River Red Gum was used, as it is one of the most iconic species found along the creek.



Travancore Park represents industry and the massive changes that have taken place along the creek over the last 200 years.



The Cross Keys Reserve Meeting Place represents human occupation and how the waterway has been used as a food source and place of habitation for thousands of years.



The River Red Gum seat at Boeing Reserve was created and inspired by the other works as another place to sit, rest and contemplate.

Thanks for Glenn Romanis for his assistance and the top two photos.

Mural at St Vincent de Paul Primary by Debbie Qadri

In early 2013, I worked with the students of St Vincent de Paul Primary School in Strathmore - and their Art teacher Frances Williams - to create a ceramic mural of the creek in the school hallway. As with most of my projects, the entire school was involved in creating the parts that made up the mural.



The students first created small clay artworks and tiles showing the flora and fauna that were once a feature of the creek. Over a number of sessions, preps created the rocks and grasses for the work, while higher grade students produced the birds, frogs, fish and other creatures.



The children learned about the history of the creek as they made the mural, discovering the animals and plants that featured when the Wurundjeri People lived there, and how many of these indigenous creatures have disappeared because of the agricultural and urban development of the creek. The children also learnt about how the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and councils are regrowing the plants and grasses once native to the region.



After all the small works were created, under-glazed, fired, clear glazed and then fired again, I used them to create the mosaic, sticking them onto specially cut panels of cement sheeting which had been bolted to the wall. The students' clay artworks were mosaiced with tiles and the cracks filled with grout. The tiles around the border of the mural had native plants pressed into them, with the names of native flora written on them.



The mural is a permanent reminder to students of the animals and plants that belong to the creek and how important it is to take care of them.

For more information on the mural, go to:
<http://mooneepondscreekmural.blogspot.com/>



Sculptures and Community Art by Penny Algar



“Temple” (1998, above and below)

Materials: Brick, Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*), Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*).
 Location: Moonee Ponds Creek near Fran St, Glenroy.
 Funded by Moreland Council’s “Art in Public Places” program, “Temple” is a circular space with four sculptures edged with indigenous Sheoak trees and with Kangaroo Grasses in the centre. I had in mind that it might provide a quiet resting place for cyclists and pedestrians along the shared Moonee Ponds Creek pathway. Sheoak trees also create their own acoustic environment in the wind.

Funded from Moreland Council’s Strategic Grant program, these works were designed in large part as a nature play space for children. The organic red brick forms also recollect imagined ancient archaeologies as well as referencing Moreland’s brickmaking industrial past. The work comprises three solid brick carved sculptural elements set amongst 3000 indigenous Tussock Grasses and a meandering granitic sand pathway.



“Remnants” (1998, below and at right)

Materials: Brick, Poa Grasses (*Poa labillardieri*)
 Location: Kelvin Thomson Reserve, Pascoe Vale



“Dehli Reserve Public Gallery” (2002, below)

Mosaic, concrete paint stencils on large cement sheeting panels on sound barrier wall.
 Moonee Valley Council managed the project with funding from Transurban. The aim of the project was to highlight through children’s art the beauty of the indigenous flora, which once would have grown along the creek. My collaborator, artist Melinda Venticich and I worked with three local schools. Children were engaged with all phases of the project including design, mosaic fabrication and stencil painting.



Chainsaw Sculptures

These wooden sculptures were carved by Angie Polglaze, also known as the "Chainsaw Chick", who was commissioned by Moreland Council to carve them. There are three works in the play space at Kingsford Smith Ulm Reserve:



Tawny Frogmouths (front and back views) show two adults and three fledglings. Council also plan to place more Tawnys in Austin Reserve.



Growling Grass Frog



Eastern Long-necked Turtle (all photos by Nina).

Street Art/ Graffiti

There are many instances of Street Art and Graffiti along the creek - **decorative** or **illustrative** works take a serious amount of time to create, and come closest to traditional or pop art styles. Here are some examples:



Gordon St Essendon, by Dan @d.o.yy (image: Mandy Heane)



Left: Rubix art, since lost (image: Mancell Cornish)



Lucy Lucy Art, Westmeadows (image: Andrew Haysom)

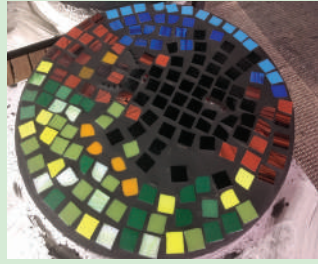
Tagging is the most common style of graffiti along the creek, most prominently on the wall under the Pascoe Vale Road exit off the Tullamarine Freeway:



Sheils Reserve Mosaics

by Wendy Skala, Landscape Architect, Moreland Council

In 2019 I facilitated a workshop with the kids of Dewdrops Early Learning Centre, who are situated at the end of Hope Street and often use Sheils Reserve for their Bush Kinder program. The children were asked to create a mosaic picture of something they would find in the park, with particular focus on insects, birds and plants.



The pavers were then installed in four locations around the park in areas designated as 'Pollination/Observation Pods' where you will also find a plinth that we will shortly be adding signage to, explaining some of the insects, plants and birds that the public may be able to observe from that location. We hope to connect them to an App, where people can record the creatures they see as part of an ongoing community science project and so we can track the behaviour of the birds and insects relative to the growth of the plants, old and new.



Indigenous Murals



These two works, "Indigenous Reflections of the Moonee Ponds Creek", were created by Artists Mandy Nicholson (Wurundjeri), Treaehna Hamm (Yorta Yorta) and Annette Sax (Taungurung). They were commissioned by CityLink to create artworks on the freeway sound wall and the bridge over the creek between Talbot Road, Strathmore and Wheeler Street, Pascoe Vale South. The images reflect and recognise the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation and the concepts of Country, Creation, Relationship and Connection, as well as the Past, Present and Future life of the Moonee Ponds Creek.



The connection to Country (land) is represented by the contour design surrounding the Moonee Ponds Creek (centre), and the Bogong Moth with two larvae (left). The Moonee Ponds Creek and the Bogong Moth were both important to the people of the Kulin Nation as a water and food source. The concept of Creation is captured through the image of a Wedge-tail Eagle's wing with Southern Cross (right). Bunjil, the Wedge-tail Eagle, is the Creator Spirit of the land, the people and their language.



The two Sky panels (left and right) denote Relationship (symbolized by a cockatoo feather, left) and Connection (symbolised by the leaf, right) to the community of the creek, with the background spirals depicting the creek's Past. The Present and Future life of the creek are represented by the wavy spiral design at centre.

Source- "More than a Concrete Channel", by Bronwyn Riddell and Stella Blay. Images by Alex English.

Other Artworks of the Moonee Ponds Creek



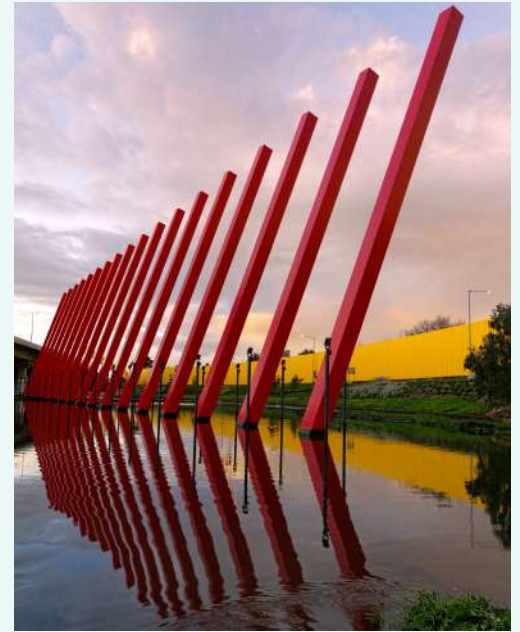
Undersea Mural, Hope St Bridge, since lost to taggers



Mural near Bell Street by Strathmore SC students (also lost to taggers).



Aboriginal Flag Wall, Bryant Family Reserve, Oak Park



Melbourne International Gateway
Image by Andrew Haysom

Artworks featuring the Creek (works are copyright of the Artists)



Many Rivers to Cross the Moonee Ponds Creek, by Larissa MacFarlane, linocut on rag paper, 59.5 x 37 cm.



Moonee Ponds Creek
Oil on canvas, 80cm x 80cm
by Mia Schoen



22° Moonee Ponds Creek
Oil on canvas,
by Chris Clements, 2018



Poor MPC, Mary Hammond 1998



City Link, Mary Hammond 1998

Fountains for Moonee Ponds Creek, 2017-18 by Joseph L Griffiths

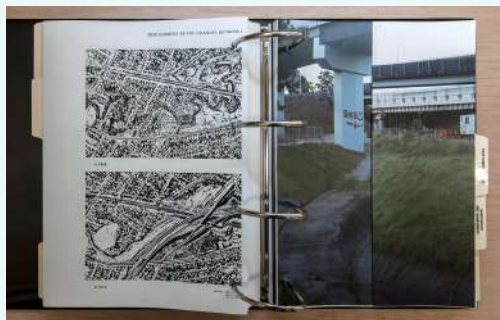


Materials : stormwater, portable fire-fighting pump, cloth hose, high-pressure nozzle, plastic flotation device, concrete blocks, steel trolley.

“Fountains for Moonee Ponds Creek” reimagines the creek’s heavily engineered form as a sculptural artefact, shaped by historical attitudes toward nature and the process of urbanisation. The project traces an attempt to transform a section of the creek under the freeway at Bell Street (“Malfunction Junction”) into a fountain. This sculptural gesture was articulated through a series of site interventions, video documentation, and a printed publication.



The intervention produces a moment of rupture through the collision of contrasting images – a fountain and a stormwater drain. The Moonee Ponds Creek is a complex site suspended between its engineered history; its multiple functions as a recreation arterial, drainage system and public amenity; the politics of its future development; and community initiatives to protect and restore its ecology.



The publication “Development of the Moonee Ponds Creek Drainage System” is an imagined facsimile of an unpublished survey by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, interleaved with images of the project and texts. Five copies were produced and will be circulated through library collections and one copy given to the FoMPC. Images: J L Griffiths.

Rubbish Serpent, Kensington 2013

RMIT landscape architecture students spent a day in November 2013 building an art installation at the creek in Kensington, filling milk crates with rubbish collected along the southern embankment, namely bottles, wrappers, books, paper and takeaway containers.

Kyle Bush, a student from Flemington, said their assignment was to research the creek and create a positive change to benefit the community. “(We created) a serpent emerging from the creek, choked up with rubbish and returning to the city that put it there in the first place,” Mr Bush said. Source: Herald Sun, images by Trojan Art & Tony Smith.



The Swamp Vanishes (Exhibition) by Kaye Oddie

Blue Lagoon, Blue Lake, Batman's Lagoon, Salt Lake – these are some of the names by which the West Melbourne Swamp was known in the early days of European settlement of Melbourne.



View from Batman's Hill 1844 looking north west, by Robert Russell, 1884 (SLV)

Before Europeans arrived in the Port Phillip District, the large wetland that lay between the Yarra River and the 'Monee Monee' chain of ponds, (what later became the Moonee Ponds Creek) sustained the life and cultural traditions of the Kulin nation, the First Nations people who occupied the area.

Albert Mattingley, an early arrival in 1852, recalled the lagoon and surrounding marshland teeming with life: graceful swans, pelicans, geese, black, brown and grey ducks, teal, cormorants, waterhen and seagulls - while curlews, spur-winged plovers, cranes, snipes, sand pipers and dotterels waded in the shallows. Eels, trout, a small species of perch and innumerable green frogs inhabited its waters and plentiful quail and stone plover ran along its higher banks. In addition, the area supplied tubers, medicinal plants and reeds.

Georgina McCrae described the air heavy with the odour of the golden myrnong flowers and purple-fringed lilies and the lagoon fringed by a belt of the purple noon flower, *Disphyma crassifolia*. Between the swamp and the Yarra River was a fine belt of tea-tree.



This etching showing the swamp from Flagstaff Hill (by Julian Rossi Ashton, 1881, SLV) is based on an 1841 painting by Georgina McCrae.

Unless it was a dry year, the wetland resources supported social and ceremonial aspects of the Kulin people. Large gatherings were held for important ceremonies, including arranging marriages, initiations, trade, settling disputes, permission to cross boundaries or hunt in neighbouring estates, collecting materials and for clans to display their talents at dancing and singing. But, from 1835, each time the Kulin peoples came back to Melbourne, they would find the European settlement had continued to expand, until they were no longer able to sustain traditional life.

Progressively, the swamp become degraded and polluted - it was used for grazing, as a dump for refuse and sewage, for abattoirs, nightsoil works and then railway line construction. In the 1870s drainage works to reclaim the swamp commenced and two canals were formed to divert flood waters from the Moonee Ponds Creek to the Saltwater (Maribyrnong) River (which remains today as the Dynon Road Tidal Canal), and to the Yarra, which is now the Railway or Coal Canal section of the Moonee Ponds Creek.



During the Great Depression of the 1930s, makeshift camps 'Dudley Mansions' - were set up by the poor and homeless who scavenged on the tips on the former swamp. Photo by Oswald Barnett, c1935



Today, the swamp has "vanished" - the area is now occupied by railway, port and industrial facilities and CityLink freeway. The map above (created by David Thompson) shows the former swamp and old course of the Yarra overlaid onto the current Melways.

Other contributors to the exhibition: Dr Gary Presland and RHSV Curator Lenore Frost.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 239 A'Beckett St. Reopening TBA, then until October 2020.

MPC History - Main's Bridge

Thought to be one of the first bridges in the colony, the crossing of the Moonee Ponds Creek at Flemington Road began as a log bridge built by Thomas Main (who owned the surrounding land) in 1839. Surveyor General Robert Hoddle's 1847 watercolour of the area (shown at right, from the Moonee Valley City Council Art Collection), shows the early bridge with surrounding roads, grasslands and hills.

The log bridge was washed away in 1849 and then replaced by the wooden structure visible below in an 1851 drawing by clergyman William Jarrett. (Mitchell Library). These two sketches give us an insight into how this area of the creek looked in the middle of the nineteenth century.



Reminiscing with Maurice Austin

I found this rather poor quality but interesting image on the Museums Victoria Collections website. The photo was titled "Two Boys Down by the Moonee Ponds Creek, 1915", the location being the Union Street Sandstone Escarpment, West Brunswick. I discovered that the photo might be back to front, as the tilted strata were in the wrong direction. I reversed it and found a reasonable match with how it appears today (right).



The escarpment has changed greatly in appearance over the years, the major change being the concrete channelising of the creek. At the time, Geologists from Museum Victoria opposed more extensive straightening and channelising of the Creek in this area, with the result that the course of the Creek was not changed greatly and that only one metre of the geological feature was lost.

HUME

News

Bountiful Beautiful Bees on Zoom

Hume council have developed a weekend of online Zoom native bees workshops, that anybody is welcome to book into. **Bookings at Eventbrite:**
Sat 4 July 10.30am to 11.30am, Bountiful Beautiful Bees – Introduction to native bees
Sun 5 July 10.30am to 11.30am Bountiful Beautiful Bees – Creating bee friendly gardens

MORELAND

News

Moreland’s Natural Beauty – have your say

We envision our City to be a place where native birds and animals thrive and where residents can explore, enjoy and connect with the environment. To better protect and enhance nature in the city, Moreland Council has been working on a draft Nature Plan looking at a variety of ways to manage the natural environment over the next four years and beyond. We’d love your feedback on the vision. More information and an online form can be found here: <https://conversations.moreland.vic.gov.au/nature-plan>
 Email: openspace@moreland.vic.gov.au



The council have extended the east side gravel track from Gaffney Street, Pascoe Vale to John Street, Oak Park - with nearly all this section done - and new steps at Ethel Street. Photos by Nina.



MOONEE VALLEY

News



Some progress at Woodlands Park Essendon - the wetland vegetation is coming along nicely and new paths are being built. Photo by Anna Lanigan.



News

Vanberg Street Bridge

Funding for the bridge connecting Brunswick West and Essendon has been confirmed with construction anticipated late 2020 or early 2021.



Rallying against rubbish

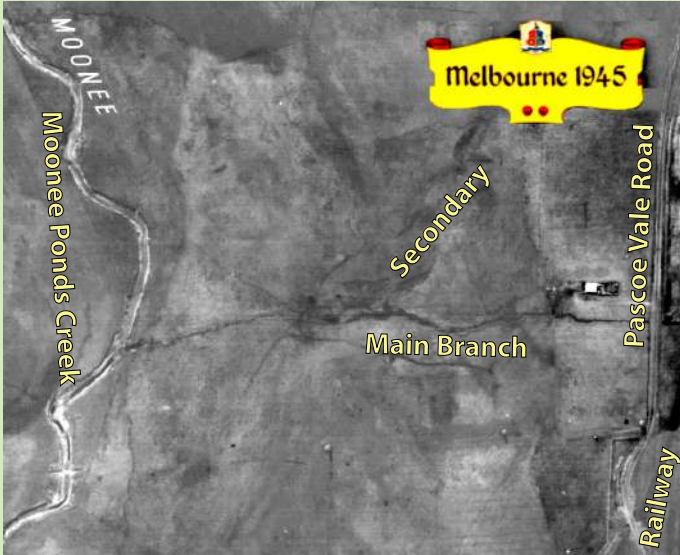
Litter and other illegal rubbish are a huge problem for the Moonee Ponds Creek. Not only is the rubbish unsightly, it is a risk to our local animals and contributes to the ocean pollution problem as it enters Port Phillip Bay at the bottom of the catchment. The problem of litter does not sit with one organisation, it is a catchment wide problem requiring a range of solutions at a number of levels. The Chain of Ponds Collaboration is currently working on a whole of catchment litter investigation, looking at key litter sources, effectiveness of existing infrastructure and developing a shared action plan.

Community members can contribute to this project by identifying hot spot litter issues on the interactive project mapping tool which will be open until **Friday June 12th**: <https://arcg.is/00TfH8>

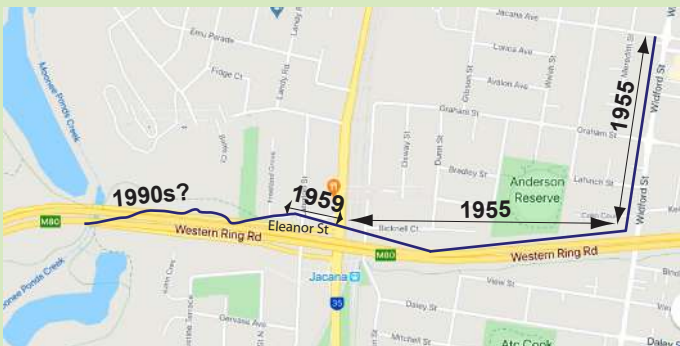
Down the Drain - Lost Tributaries of the MPC

Part 7: Widford Main Drain by DW

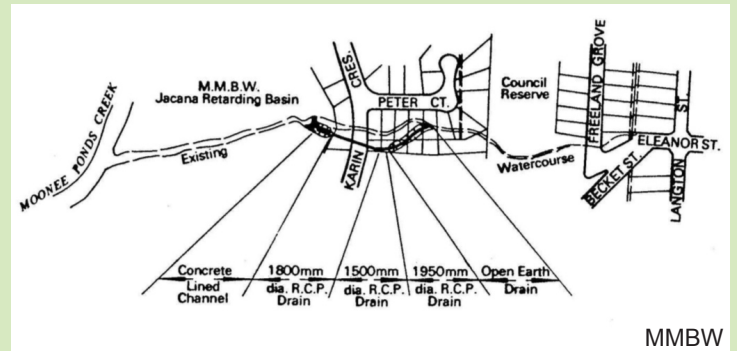
Travelling along the Western Ring Road between the Moonee Ponds Creek and Pascoe Vale Road takes you very close to another lost Tributary of the Moonee Ponds Creek, one that became the Widford Road drain, mainly in the 1950s.



The aerial view from Melbourne 1945 shows the original watercourse as it still flowed between the Rail Lines and the Creek, however there is no sign of it on the east side of Pascoe Vale Road.



The drain originated in Widford Road (now Widford Street), some time in the 1980s it changed, who knows why!). The MMBW book from 1981 says: "In 1955, the Board of Works undergrounded the section of the Widford Road Drain from Eleanor Street to Jacana Avenue because it was felt that the existing watercourse would be unable to cope with runoff from the Housing Commission's proposed Broadmeadows Estate." The above map shows the section that was undergrounded in 1955, and the dates of subsequent additional works. The MMBW book continues..."During the January 1963 storm, severe erosion occurred along the steeply sloping open section of the drain...Large rocks were scoured from the creek bed and deposited on the culvert grating, and an...embankment constructed by a subdivider was washed away". The final section was probably undergrounded when the Jacana Wetlands were created in the 1990s.



MMBW

The map above shows an interesting development in the late 1970s with the extra sections undergrounded to allow for residential construction at Karin Crescent. The Board agreed to undertake the work at cost to the developer, and the job was completed in mid-1979, at a cost of approximately \$85,000, but there is no sign today of the development. Peter Court no longer exists and Kerin Crescent is just a stump on the the other side of the Ring Road.



The current aerial view, courtesy of Google Earth, has the original course shown in blue. Significant changes have been made with the development of the Ring Road and the Jacana Wetlands.



This rather pleasant valley leading down to the Jacana Wetlands (image by Louise Anthony), with its brief open drain, is all that is now visible of this former tributary, now reduced to Main Drain number 4347.

Next time: Railway Crescent/ Johstone St Reserve

After the Deluge...

March 5th 2020 saw torrential rain over the Northwestern suburbs, resulting in high waters along the creek, as photographed by Friends:



Near Bryant Reserve, by Maurice Austin



Near JP Fawkner Reserve by Anna Lanigan



From the Avoca St Bridge, by Barbara Czech



Nursery Bend by Anna



Submerged Log, by Maurice



Near Strathmore North PS, by Maurice



Ibis under Flemington Bridge by Andreas Sekeris

Clean Up Australia Day 2020

photos and story by Anna Lanigan



It was a treat to see the youngsters out in force along the Moonee Ponds Creek for Clean Up Australia Day. At Boeing Reserve, 1st Strathmore Scouts headed a cleanup from the Trestle Bridge down to the baseball pitch perimeter and beyond.



Downstream, students from Strathmore North Primary School and their families did a great clean up along the Creek from the school perimeter to Pascoe Vale Road. Photo: SNPS.



Both groups were joined by members of the Community and it was great to see the path users show their appreciation.



The volume of rubbish collected in a few hours is still a clear sign that the litter remains a depressing problem along our waterways.





Hardhead, Jacana Reserve (Nina)



Great Cormorant, Jacana Bridge (Nina)



Australasian Grebe, Jacana Wetlands (Nina)



White-faced Heron - Jacana Reserve (Nina)



Rainbow Lorikeet (Anna)



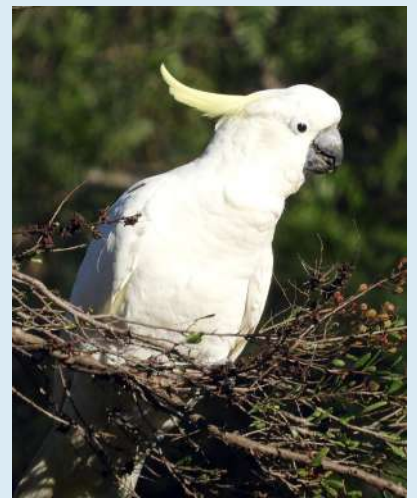
Marbled Gecko, Strathmore (Nina)



Eastern Spinebill (Clem de Silva)



Tawny Frogmouth (Anna)



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (Anna)



A pair of Galahs at Boeing Reserve (Nina)



Straw-necked Ibis, Jacana Reserve (Nina)

Sightings

A key project priority for the Chain of Ponds Collaboration has been the naturalisation of a 600m section of the Moonee Ponds Creek next to Brosnan Crescent, Strathmore and from Margaret Street to Adelaide Street in Oak Park. This was the last section of the Creek to be concreted in the late 1970s, so this is a great place to start its removal.

We have at last received the final report for the Moonee Ponds Creek Naturalisation Project from consultants **E2 Design Lab and Realm Studio**, which includes the concept plans, cost-benefit analysis and business case. The report recommends a mix of naturalisation interventions which includes some ponding, opportunities to connect with the waterway, improved path connections, elevated shared paths over the waterway and vegetation and concrete boring to stimulate successional naturalisation.

There were four options under consideration:

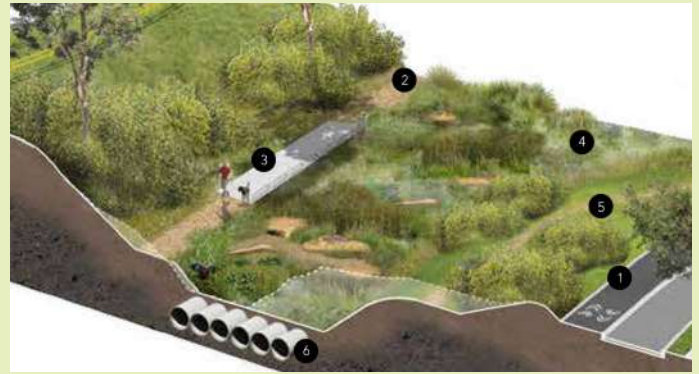


Option 1 - The Light Touch
Designed as a transitional intervention, 'the light touch' cores holes into the existing concrete channel to harness the natural systems of the creek and develop a naturalisation of the channel. Estimated cost: \$500-800,000

Option 2 - Channel Break-outs - Building on 'the light touch', Option 2 introduces breakouts into the channel wings for further planting opportunities and to accommodate further water volume. Estimated cost: \$2 to \$3.5 million



Option 3 - Replicate Upper Creek - Taking precedent from the naturalised upper creek, this option aims to establish a continuation of existing creek ecologies by removing the concrete channel and lining the new creek with rocks. Also would involve lowering the informal path and adding three substantial ponds. Estimated cost: \$4 to 7 million.

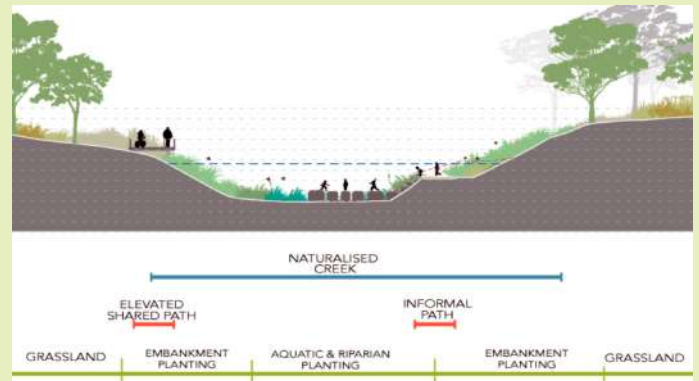


Option 4 - Ponds and Pipes - This "two creeks" solution is aimed at creating a 'chain of ponds' with best possible in-stream ecology and capacity for the public to experience this. The concrete channel is removed and replaced with stormwater pipes that manage excess water in order to support a more diverse ecology. The surface creek collects suburban runoff only. Estimated cost :\$7.7- 12.5 million.



The report recommends that option 3 should predominate in the section between Strathmore North Primary and Adelaide Street, with option one continuing downstream after that. The project is estimated to cost \$5.3 to \$6.7 million to deliver, but we are working on an adjustable program of works that could be delivered to maximise benefits in line with funding opportunities as they arise.

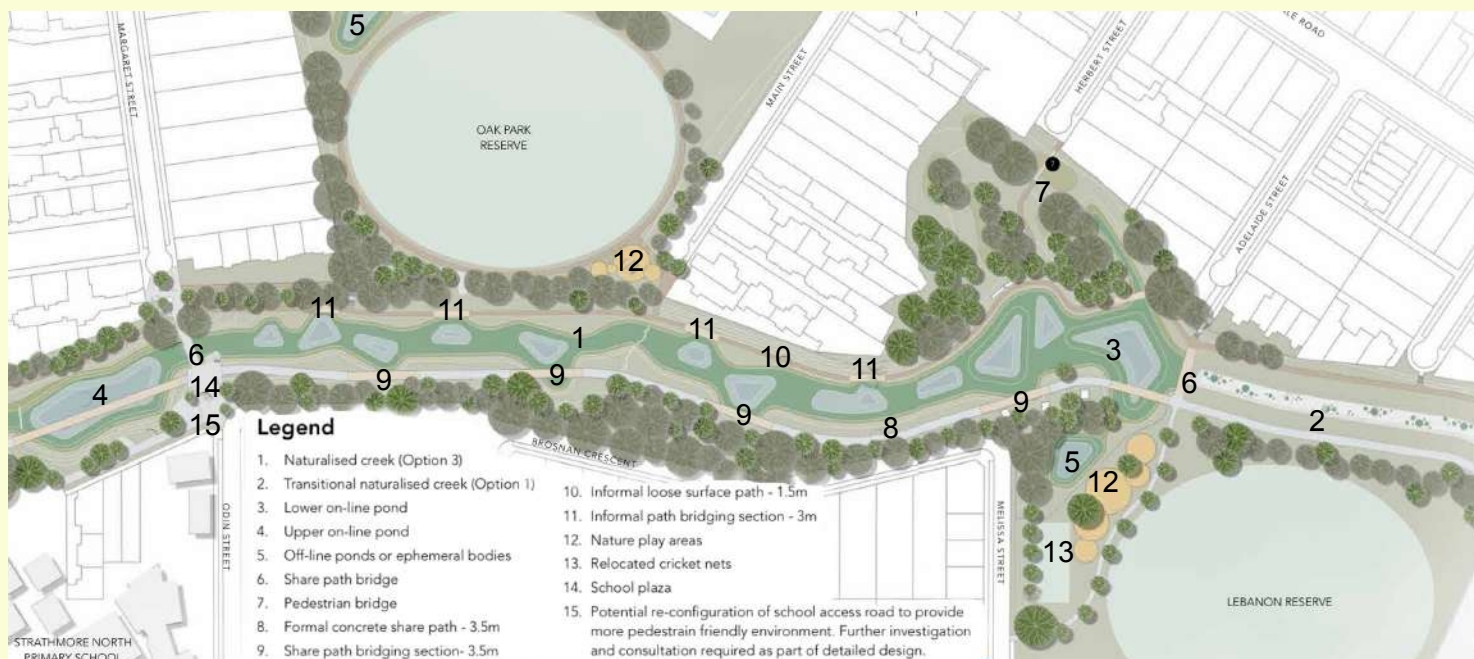
The report highlighted the positive social, environmental and economic outcomes arising from the proposed works through a detailed cost benefit analysis.



Moreland City Council is currently working closely with Moonee Valley City Council, the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, Melbourne Water and the State Government (DELWP) to explore potential funding opportunities to take the project from concept plan to delivery. - Alex English

Concrete Solutions

Brosnan Crescent - Analysis by DW



It's great to see some progress finally being made on getting rid of the concrete! The options produced were all interesting and it was good to get an idea about the cost of the various options and the elements that make them up.

Firstly, I'd like to give an idea of exactly what has been proposed by the report; it isn't just about replacing the concrete, a whole raft of measures have been put forward for this region of the creek, as shown in the diagram above.

A breakdown of the budget for the project shows how the money would be spent:

Concrete removal	\$270,000
Rock lining/ riffles	\$400,000
Flow diversion	\$250,000
Earthworks/ disposal	\$1,450,000
Bridge/ elevated paths	\$1,840,000
Paths not elevated	\$105,000
Landscaping	\$870,000
Miscellaneous/ set up	\$100,000
Subtotal	\$5,300,000
Contingency/ management	\$1,400,000
Total	\$6,700,000

I've separated out the cost of the two new proposed bridges and elevated sections (bridges \$600,000 each, elevated sections \$640,000 total) as I see them as an unnecessary expense. The existing bridges are perfectly fine, and the cost of creating bridges and elevated sections over wetlands is prohibitive. Leaving these elements out immediately reduces the budget to \$3.5 million.

While I admire the vision shown, I wonder if there are too many extras with this option. I realize the aim was to improve the site and create a hub for the community, but I believe the prime purpose of the project should just be removing the concrete. To be trying to do extra things like replacing bridges, creating plazas, making off-line ponds and moving cricket nets is just adding unnecessary costs and complications to the issue. To me this is "creek money" and should be primarily spent on the creek. I do like the idea of the ponds, here is where they are proposed:



Cost of future changes

For option 1 (breaking up sections of concrete but leaving them in place), the cost is given as \$250 per bore hole/ concrete cut and then \$250 to backfill/ plant. Assuming a cut every metre, that's 1000 per km, or \$500,000 per km. Total to do a 3.5 km section would be maybe \$3-4 million including other factors.

For simple concrete removal and disposal, it is \$50 per square metre, so given the creek is 10 metres in width, each kilometre costs \$550,000. Rock lining is then \$500 per metre, or \$500,000 per km, so total cost is about \$1 million per kilometre to remove concrete and replace with rocks, so \$3.5 million per 3.5km section, maybe \$7-10 million all up including other factors. These figures are very rough, but give an idea of the cost of restoring the creek to a more natural state.

Grant for Outlook Drive

Good news with the successful awarding to the FoMPC of a Federal Government grant of \$17,000 from its Communities Environment Program to undertake infill revegetation along the Moonee Ponds Creek, on the creek flats below Outlook Drive, Glenroy. The land was formerly owned by VicTrack and was 'saved' in 2018 from development by strong action from the FoMPC, the local community and Moreland Council with the eventual purchase by the Council. Special thanks must go to Peter Khalil, MHR for Wills, who nominated the FoMPC for the CEP grant.

The infill revegetation will highlight indigenous plant species and their environmental and historical connections, together with interpretative signage. FoMPC will work closely on the project with Moreland's natural resources management officers. Timeframes for undertaking the project will have to be worked out in accordance with coronavirus restrictions, site preparation requirements, planting seasons, community liaison and activities coming back on line.

The project will protect and enhance indigenous vegetation along the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor, thereby enhancing biodiversity, habitat and biolink-ages. In keeping with this, an expanded palette of indigenous plants will be sought, based on historical reports and records. The project will involve local communities in the revegetation through community plantings and working bees to expand their connection to and appreciation of their local Moonee Ponds Creek environment. The site of the project, close to a popular public path, will enable wider community knowledge through the interpretative signage of indigenous plants and their environmental and historical associations.



The project will commence with a community working bee to remove the non-native weeds from the existing site. A one metre buffer of wood mulch will be applied around the edge of the expanded site to thwart invasive weed encroachment into the site. Some habitat logs and rocks will be strategically placed in the site. Appropriate indigenous species - in keeping with the known historical Moonee Ponds Creek plant palette - will be selected and sourced from reputable native plant suppliers. Community plantings will be held during optimum Autumn/Winter seasons. Follow-up maintenance - namely weed control and watering - would be done as required to ensure the viability of the vegetation bed. - Kaye Oddie



FoMPC Calendar 2020

Thanks for all those who contributed photos for the Calendar and thanks to those who bought it! The Calendar was generally well received and supported by the Friends, but Newsagents sales were poor, with only 30 purchased of the 490 supplied, leading to a \$250 loss overall. Hopefully it raised some interest in the creek, but I don't think there will be another! - DW

Event Calendar

Because of the Corona Virus, all events are currently cancelled. Please check our Facebook page or our website for updates.

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

Help preserve and improve the Moonee Ponds Creek's natural environment.

For information and to join, go to: mooneepondscreek.org.au/join-us/ and complete the membership form, or write to PO BOX 54, Essendon 3040.

FoMPC supports child safe environments for its activities.