



moonee ponds creek
co-ordination committee

Ponderings

Seasonal newsletter of the
Moonee Ponds Creek Coordination Committee

Winter 2015 | Issue 47

advocate educate interpret participate rehabilitate revegetate

1927 - 1928 Wilfred Disney Chapman courtesy of the State Library of Victoria
2015 Anna Lanigan



THE TRESTLE BRIDGE is typically known as the Moonee Ponds Creek Trestle Bridge or Viaduct. It is part of the Albion Broadmeadows Line. The Albion-Broadmeadows Line runs between Albion Station, on the Sydenham Line, to Jacana Station, on the Craigieburn Line. It was built mainly as a freight line to avoid suburban traffic and some steeper grades on the then Broadmeadows Line.

The Albion-Broadmeadows line was constructed between 1927 and 1929 and was opened on 1st July 1929. The line is 13.8km long and crosses two large valleys, the Maribyrnong River and the Moonee Ponds Creek valleys. It comprises two tracks which were both Broad Gauge (5'3" wide) when first built. "Our" trestle bridge has a big sister spanning the Maribyrnong River which is longer, stands at 179 feet (54.6m) above the water and still holds the record for the highest railway bridge in Victoria.

Both bridges were built during the same period with the trusses being manufactured for both bridges at the A. Challingsworth Pty Ltd; Structural Steel Works, situated on Swan St in Richmond.

Due to differing train track gauges used throughout Australia, and even within Victoria, interstate freight and passenger transport was problematic at best. This was evident during WW2 where troop

movements were hampered to such an extent that in 1946 the Commonwealth Government and the Premiers of NSW, VIC & SA entered into the Gauge Standardisation Agreement. After signing the agreement things moved swiftly and, as part of the project one of the two Broad Gauge tracks on the Albion to Broadmeadows Line was converted to Standard Gauge (4'8½") and the first Standard Gauge train crossed the Moonee Ponds Creek Trestle Bridge on the 3rd January 1962.

Speaking of steam trains, you have probably seen the occasional steam train cross "our" bridge and wondered, like me, whether it was *Puffing Billy* or another steam train. The easy answer is: No, it's not *Puffing Billy*, as the track gauges are incompatible. There are quite a few operational steam locomotives, based in Victoria, which are used for tourist purposes and I can confirm that at least three of the steam locomotives operated by www.steamrail.com.au have crossed "our" bridge in the last few years. The R761 (Built 1951), K153 (Built 1940) and the K190 (Built 1946).

These days the bridge still carries mainly freight trains, some interstate passenger trains and the occasional steam train.

By Andre Braakhuis, Gowanbrae Residents Group
Originally published in the Gowanbrae Gossip 2011

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ponderings@mpccc.org | www.mpccc.org
Written and produced by Anna Lanigan and Nina Franceschi Eason

Reports from Melbourne Water

Tarnuk Reserve (Wright Street Retarding Basin)

Late last year, Melbourne Water completed weed control and serrated tussock control in the reserve near the tributary that feeds into Moonee Ponds Creek just off Trinity Boulevard. This was intended to limit the spread of seed heads onto neighbouring properties and has now brought about the potential for follow up works in the next couple of years as part of a broader scale project. Currently Melbourne Water has initiated a study to look at rabbit monitoring in the reserve to observe numbers and abundance, and to propose a set of recommendations that will help determine management strategies and rehabilitation efforts moving forward. This was a key recommendation forming out of Practical Ecology's Management plan for the Tarnuk Reserve.

Previous plantings and works from Melbourne Water along the Moonee Ponds creek in the Tarnuk reserve have been relatively successful, part of this project also included works on the Attwood Creek linear reserve between Palamino Valley Court and Chisholm Avenue. Weed control works have encouraged natural regeneration through this reserve which is abundant in sections and is a hidden gem away from urban development in the area as it currently sits within Melbourne Airport's east-west runway flight path.

Five Mile Creek to Eric Street, Essendon

Weed control and revegetation efforts are continuing on this Melbourne Water project alongside the Moonee Ponds Creek path, and opposite bank. Planting success has been mixed with some patches not taking on as well as other sections, mainly due to the accessibility and steepness of the embankment in these areas. There is due to be re-planting and more weed control on this site in the coming year.

Planned Works on Yuroke Creek near the confluence of Moonee Ponds Creek

Melbourne Water is continuing to work with Hume Council and our new delivery team to deliver weed control works and some revegetation on the Yuroke Creek in the Broadmeadows Valley Park. This waterway has been identified as an Amenity key value priority area as part of Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways Strategy.

Community Grants

Melbourne Water's community grants are still proposed to kick off towards the latter part of the year, as has been the case in previous years. More information and dates will be circulated closer to the opening of the application period so please keep an eye out for these in the next few months.

Any questions, please contact David Galloway, Waterways and Land Officer, West Region, on 9679 7231

Sightings



Jacko Tusler took this amazing photo of a Pobblebonk Frog in the South Jacana Wetland



Tom Stafford spotted an Eastern Spinebill celebrating the victory rescue of Ross Straw Field, Parkville



Nina Eason found an Australian Hobby high in a gum tree beside Mickleham Road Bridge, Westmeadows



This cleverly camouflaged Tawny Frogmouth was spotted by Herve from Practical Ecology, one of Moreland's bushland contractors, close to Fran Street, in Glenroy

Plantings by Volunteers



“What I like about plantings is the feeling of being out in the sun, helping the environment and making it prettier.”
Lachlan, Strathmore

90 seedlings were donated by the organisation Fifteen Trees and planted at Five Mile Creek

Members of the Gowwabrae Panthers swell the numbers at Gowwabrae Community Centre



“What we like about plantings are the friendships in the group, encouraging birds and seeing the area change for the better.”
Alan and Jan, West Brunswick

Hume Enviro Champions address volunteers at the Koala Crescent, Westmeadows planting day



“I have been attending plantings for 20 years. I enjoy the friendliness, digging and planting and returning to see the site. Our creek is a beautiful and hidden treasure.”
Bev, Gladstone Park

“If I could change something along the creek I would make it as natural as possible.”
Louise, Strathmore

Nina (far right), Ponderings editor, meets the Brunswick South West Planters at the end of another successful afternoon



MORELAND NEWS

Moreland Council will again be collaborating with Pascoe Vale Girls and Oak Park Primary Schools to celebrate **Schools National Tree Day** at sites along the Westbreen and Moonee Ponds Creeks in the last week of July. Council is also continuing to support the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek in preparations for **National Tree Day** in Glenroy near the old trestle bridge, including negotiations with VicTrack as the owners of the land.

Works are continuing at the silurian cliff in Union Street, Brunswick West including priority weed control using specialist ropes, patch burning and site preparation for the community planting on **Sat 27 June** with the Brunswick South West Planters.

MVCC NEWS

Further consultations have been made for feedback on the draft master plan for Five Mile Creek. The community supported the draft master plan’s proposals, including revegetation and tree planting, general improvements to amenity, and provision of historical interpretive signage. The draft master plan was also consulted on internally across council, as well as with external stakeholders such as Melbourne Water. As the reserve is a known sight of indigenous cultural historical significance, a heritage consultant has been engaged to help inform the management of the reserve and guide future works.

Council was briefed on the master plan at the most recent council briefing, and we will be presenting it for adoption later in the month.

The Green Army continues to support local environmental and conservation projects in Moonee Valley

Towards the end of May we saw the start of a new Green Army Team working along the Moonee Ponds Creek.

This team of 17-24 year olds is part of the Australian Government’s Green Army initiative run under the direction of Conservation Volunteers Australia and Moonee Valley Council.

Despite the cold the team are spending their days carrying out rehabilitation work including weed removal, mulching, planting and erosion control. The project will help in restoring and strengthening native communities and habitat linkages.

Over the coming weeks you may see the Green Army Team out and about in several locations, including Boeing Reserve, Strathnaver Grasslands, Nursery Bend, Ormond Park and Travancore Park. Stop by to say hello, offer some encouragement and find out more about how their hard work is helping Moonee Ponds Creek and the wider community.

We would like to welcome the team and thank them for helping to improve the Moonee Ponds Creek. For more information on the Green Army, visit www.environment.gov.au/land/green-army.



The Green Army in action



GET WELL SOON KELVIN

The President of Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek, Kelvin Thomson MP, is returning to good health following a heart attack and open heart by-pass surgery in April.

Kelvin is expected to make a full recovery and looks forward to returning to work once he is given the all clear.

On behalf of MPCCC and Ponderings readers, we extend to Kelvin our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

PLANTINGS

When	Where	Group/Contact Information
Sun 21 Jun 10.00-12.30pm	Moonee Ponds Creek (Melway 6 B7) End of Riddell St, Westmeadows	Friends of Sacred Kingfisher Melissa (Hume) - 9205 2466
Sat 27th Jun 2.00-4.00pm	Moonee Ponds Creek, Union St Reserve (Mel 29 B8) Enter from Jewell Crescent, Brunswick	Brunswick South West Planters Audrey - 9387 3249
Sun 5 Jul 2.00-4.00pm	5 Mile Creek Reserve (Melway 28 J2) End of Government Road, Essendon	Friends of 5 Mile Creek. Conserva- tion Officer MVCC 8325 1888
Sat 18 Jul 10.00-12.00 noon	Moonee Ponds Creek (Melway 16 F7) Nursery Bend, Mascoma Street, Strathmore Meet at the gravel car park, opposite Eldorado St	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Kaye - 9329 0635
Sat 25 July 2.00-4.00pm	Moonee Ponds Creek (Melway 29 B7) Balfe Crescent, West Brunswick	Brunswick South West Planters Audrey - 9387 3249
Sun 26 Jul 10.00-12.00 noon	Moonee Ponds Creek NATIONAL TREE DAY Boeing Reserve, Strathmore Heights (Mel 16 D5)	Moonee Valley City Council 9243 8888
Sun 26 Jul 10.00-12.30pm	Moonee Ponds Creek NATIONAL TREE DAY (Mel 16 C3). Planting and BBQ, Riverwalk, Outlook Drive, Glenroy	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Kaye - 9329 0635
Sat 1 Aug 10.00-12.00 noon	Moonee Ponds Creek (Melway 16 F7) Nursery Bend, Mascoma Street, Strathmore Meet at the gravel car park, opposite Eldorado St	Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Kaye - 9329 0635
Sun 2 Aug 2.00-4.00pm	5 Mile Creek Reserve (Melway 28 J2) End of Government Road, Essendon	Friends of 5 Mile Creek. Conserva- tion Officer MVCC 8325 1888
Sun 23 Aug 10.00-12.30pm	The Tarnuk, enter from either Wright Street or Koala Crescent, Westmeadows (Melway 5 H7)	Friends of Upper Moonee Ponds Creek. Melissa (Hume) - 9205 2466

Just be mindful, if the weather is bad, the planting may be cancelled. Please phone the number provided or check our Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek Facebook page to see if the planting is going ahead.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

The Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek **WEBSITE** will soon be launched. If you are not already on our email contact list, now is the time to **send us your email address** to ponderings@mpccc.org so you can be part of this great event.

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT THERE IS A MEN'S SHED BEING BUILT AT NURSERY BEND IN STRATHMORE BY THE CITY OF MOONEE VALLEY IN CONJUNCTION WITH LOCAL ROTARY CLUBS. A MASTER PLAN FOR THE NURSERY BEND SITE IS UNDER WAY. HERE IS THE PROGRESS SO FAR. STAY TUNED:



SITE CLEARING



SLAB



UNDER CONSTRUCTION



NEAR COMPLETION

BAT COUNT

The next counts are at 5.15pm on 1 Jul and 29 Jul and at 5.30pm on 26 Aug. To participate in the next count and for more information, follow this link:

<https://megabatcount.wordpress.com/about-the-fly-out-count/>

Creeky Links

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