



# summer ponderings

Newsletter of the Moonee Ponds Creek Co-ordination Committee 2004

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Image source: Parks Victoria

*What's about the size of a rabbit, has a pointed snout like a rat, and has a tail that is so insignificant it is barely worth a mention? Our own catchment rarity!: the Eastern Barred Bandicoot **More on Page 6***

## co-ordinators ramblings...

Another Ponderings, another planting year gone by, another kick your heels up Christmas Party at the depot...What a year it's been. It was great to celebrate with so many of you at our Christmas Party this year - thanks to Vince for doing all the barbequing for the night. Cooking sausages for over 60 people - now that's dedication! Thanks also to the MPCCC team, Maddie, Elissa, Nicolette & Dave, for putting in a huge effort & cooking all that delicious food which was such a hit that we have compiled a special recipe liftout.

Speaking of hardworking team members, we are about to say a temporary goodbye to Elissa as she heads off on maternity leave. Thanks Elissa, for all your hard work in supporting the growth of our fantastic creeky community. Taking over in her absence will be

the more-than- capable Stephanie, whom many of you may have met at some of last year's plantings. We are celebrating Elissa's achievements with a going away afternoon tea on Tuesday 27th January & would love you to join us. More details in coming events page 8.

We are busy planning another planting season for this Autumn (see the planting calendar lift-out for details) and are very excited to have received news that we were successful in receiving funds from the Federal Governments Envirofund program. The grant is primarily to fund friends group plantings, with some money also received to develop our website and purchase much needed waterwatch kits & waders. This will make it much easier for those wanting to take up waterwatch as kits will be readily available for

loan. If you're interested in waterwatching, check out Helen's (one of our dedicated waterwatchers) article on page 5. If you would like to do some planting in your section of the creek that isn't already covered by our current friend's group plantings, contact us & let us know what you'd like to do.

Finally, thanks to Tania Wells for running the weed walk that we held last November. Those that turned up found out some very interesting facts about some common environmental weeds - who would have thought that cleavers, that ubiquitous sticky & annoying weed, is one of the best spring tonics around! We hope to run some more of these weed walks in the future, especially along Moonee Ponds Creek. Stay tuned.

*Mel Taube*  
mpccc co-ordinator

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# source to sea!



*Penola Secondary College student Leah Phun with her Oak Park Primary prep buddies at the Source to Sea project planting day at Westmeadows*

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November Melanie and Elissa had the pleasure of attending Penola's Presentation Evening - the Grand Finale of a four week study program of the Moonee Ponds Creek.: 'Source to Sea'. The students from the six focus groups: Oral History, Photography, Water Quality, Bike Safety, Frogs, and Media, each gave well prepared presentations filled with creativity, enthusiasm and plenty of humour. Following are some excerpts taken from the Media student's newspaper prepared as part of the project.

## THE LAUNCH

by Kerri-Anne Anderson

The 9<sup>th</sup> of October was the launch the "Source to the Sea" project, a "hands on" and "off-campus" project aimed at engaging year 9 students more in their studies. Source to Sea was based around the Moonee Ponds Creek and people's impact on the creek over time, as well as the issues affecting the creek. We listened to several different speakers from the community to explain the different focus groups. On this day everyone chose their focus group.

## THE BIKE RIDE

by Leah Phan

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October the Bike group, lead by Vince Aitken, rode down the Moonee Ponds Creek bike path. Our job was to assess the path, noting the good and bad points and making recommendations on how to improve the safety of the path. Students recorded problem spots with Vince's Global Positioning System - a piece of equipment connected to satellites, used to accurately measure the location in accordance of longitude and latitude.

## TREE PLANTING AT WESTMEADOWS

This was a very special day, where the year nines became big buddies to the Oak Park Primary School preps. All students ensured the plants were given a great start, and despite the rain during the BBQ, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

## WATER QUALITY...splish splash!

By May Yang and Shady Kouzma

The Water quality focus group consisted of eight eager, energetic and enthusiastic students, accompanied by teachers Mrs Layton, Ms Tumi and Waterwatch officer Jessica Miller. The day consisted of taking water samples from various parts of the creek and studying the wildlife and the habitat. Upstream, water samples indicated that this area of the creek had a healthy habitat with a wide range of species like the pobble bonk frog, dragonflies, tadpoles, red worms and more. The next stop was near Strathmore Secondary College. There the creek had a concrete base and fast flowing water. The last pit stop was near Flemington station under the city link bridge across the road from the giant yellow freeway wall. Here the water flowed through a small canal. It has rained heavily the night before so then we found species of animals which were found upstream which may have been washed downstream the night before.

## FROG REPORT

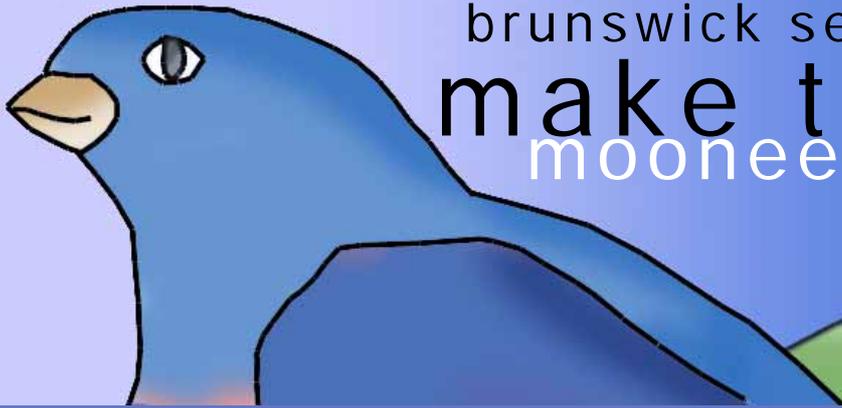
By Sana Mazloum

On Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, the Frog group got together in the morning with Mr Fumei, and Elissa from MPCCC. We went to the wetland here in Penola to try and record the frogs. Elissa talked about our wetlands, the feedback wasn't all-positive, but she commented on the plants we have around the unique habitat. (Actually it's a very good wetland, just needs a bit of weeding and planting - Elissa).

## Source to Sea 2004

We'll be doing it again in 2004 but with ALL of the year nines this time! So it'll be HUGE. Many thanks to all who supported this wonderful pilot program: Carolyn Layton, all those terrific teachers from Penola Catholic College, the inspirational Year 9G & 9I students; Vince Aitken, Julie Law and Sue Wright who acted as mentors to the students; The Police Community Consultative Committee; John Hughes, teachers, parents and year preps from Oak Park Primary School; Greg Bain and team from Melbourne Water; Anna Zsoldos from Hume City Council; Bev Lamborn; Jessica Miller from Waterwatch and Judy Allen from VINC.

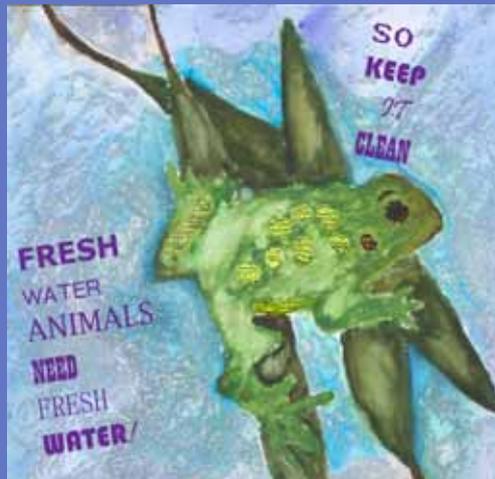
# brunswick secondary make their own moonee ponds creek



*All the artwork on this page was done by creative students at Brunswick Secondary College*

Students from Brunswick Secondary College can certainly call themselves good friends of the Moonee Ponds Creek.

They have been playing an ongoing and active role in improving the creek environment over many years, carrying out activities such as water analysis, weed eradication, litter cleanups and many other projects. Now they have come up with a creative new way to learn about the creek environment and



Over the coming years students will gradually transform the area into a 'Creek Garden' with images of the creek, produced on ceramic tiles in their art classes and informed by their understanding of the creek environment.

The little creek will be made of a series of tiled ponds that will fill with rain-water from the roof during wet weather and dry up later, just like the ephemeral nature of the real creek.

It is planned that the area be used as a 'nursery', propagating species of plants

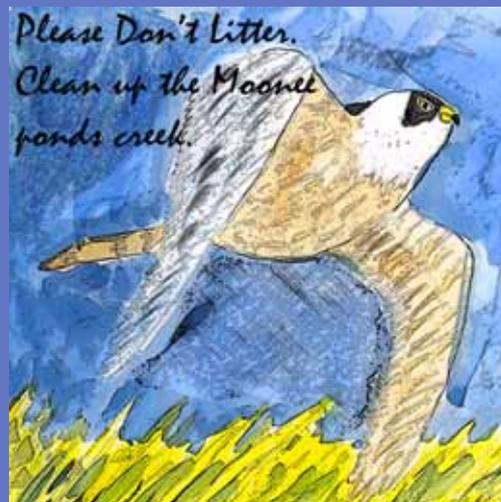


'...students will transform the area into a creek garden with images of the creek produced on ceramic tiles in their art classes...!'



integrate all they have learnt about the waterway over the years, simply by making their own creek!

In 2001 Brunswick Secondary College was successful in obtaining an Artists in Schools grant. The grant allowed the school to engage a landscape architect to work with the students in designing a microcosm of the creek. An attractive courtyard garden on the school grounds, which had become a little overgrown in past years, was identified as a perfect spot to carry out the project.



that were once plentiful along the creek and later replanting them in the actual creek environment.

The garden is a long-term project involving the skills of year 7 students over many years and is a celebration of the great community work Brunswick Secondary College students have contributed to a grateful Moonee Ponds Creek environment.

For more information contact:

Andrew Gemmell  
Secretary,  
Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek  
Ph: 0438 655 585 [gemmell@a1.com.au](mailto:gemmell@a1.com.au)

# how can I help?

## ways to become involved in the Moonee Ponds Creek

Did we hear you asking what you can do to help the Moonee Ponds Creek? MPCCC are always looking for helpers and enthusiasts to assist us in caring for the creek. Hundreds of people are already involved in our yearly activities such as planting days but we are always looking for new and interesting ways in which you can be involved. Eventually we hope there will be something for everyone but so far with some recent grant funding and a little help from our friends we have some new opportunities on the horizon...

### 1 water quality testing

Many people (especially the ones who like to get their hands wet instead of dirty) will be happy to hear that volunteer water monitoring has commenced along the Moonee Ponds Creek thanks to a recent successful Envirofund grant and especially the pioneering efforts of two enthusiastic creek residents—Helen Suter and Daniel Page. Helen tells us how the project is running so far (see article opposite).

### 2 Vince's moonlight watering soirees

If you are a little bit of a night owl, Vince Aitken of the Friends of Jacana Wetlands (and BBQ chef extraordinaire) has come up with just the thing for sultry summer evenings. Vince has tracked down a state-of-the-art water pump (with two hoses!!). He plans to run some watering evenings along the creek to help our planting efforts along over the summer. If you would like to join Vince and his dad Bob on one of their watering safaris contact Vince at [vaitkin@alphalink.com.au](mailto:vaitkin@alphalink.com.au) or ph:0409 429 726

### 3 memories and historical information

MPCCC have recently received funding from the Tullamarine Landfill Community Consultative Committee to develop an interpretation strategy for the Westmeadows Precinct, including the section of the creek within the precinct and Woodlands Historic Park. This is pretty exciting stuff. Especially because Westmeadows is so interesting historically. As part of the project we will be calling upon residents in the area to recount their memories of the area and the creek: how they have seen it change over time, and what they know and love about it. Oral history can make a valuable contribution to the interpretation of an area for residents and visitors—creating a whole new experience and perspective of a place. If you live in Westmeadows, grew up there, have any interesting photos or newspaper articles relating to the area or know someone with some good stories to tell, we would love to hear from you. Contact Madeleine Bisits on 93332406 Tues–Friday.

You know, you can still always call us with memories of other areas of the creek too... We have published some great childhood memories in past issues of Ponderings that were kindly written for us by residents along the creek. Ph: 9333 2406 to share your story.

### 4 newsletter

Here at MPCCC we have had to face facts... producing Ponderings is becoming bigger than Ben Hur! We have so much to say about what is going on and so few pages! Every issue our readership grows—last issue we printed and distributed 1000 copies to friends groups, organisations, libraries, and council offices (as well as the ones we thrust into the hands of curious visitors to the depot). Ponderings is produced in-house including printing and distribution and as much as we are encouraged by the growing popularity of our beloved rag we need help if anyone is willing. Folding some copies or taking a walk around your area to do a letterbox drop would help us out immensely. Ph: 9333 2406

### 5 clean up the creek!

It may be the summer break between planting seasons, but the creek still needs your loving. So put on your gloves, grab a bag and get down to the creek for Clean Up Australia Day (More Details Below) or just picking up a couple of bits of litter in your area will make all the difference to our creek creatures. We would also love your help at the Jacana Wetlands Spruce-up Day—see back page for details.

## Keep It Clean Update...

As Clean Up Australia Day is on the 7<sup>th</sup> March (which is a long weekend as well as being the Grand Prix weekend), we have decided to make the whole of March "Clean Up the Moonee Ponds Creek" month. Instead of holding clean up activities on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, we will be coordinating "Clean up the Moonee Ponds Creek" day on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March. We will of course be providing good food, drinks and other fun stuff for everyone involved!

If you, your School or Business are interested in getting involved it would be great to have you on board. Please contact Nicolette on 9333 2046, 0408 143366 or by email [nic@mpccc.org](mailto:nic@mpccc.org).

**This year's Clean Up Australia Day dates are as follows:**  
**Business Clean Up Australia Day - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**  
**Schools Clean Up Australia Day - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Clean Up Australia Day - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

In other "litter" news, the Moonee Ponds Creek - Keep it Clean project will be focusing on Sports Ground litter in early 2004. Working with Councils, we will be targeting sports clubs for litter reduction programs. If you are involved in a sports club or league that would be keen to see some litter prevention work in your ground and surrounding area, please let us know.....we'd love to be involved and can offer plenty of support with promotional materials and ideas.

# just how healthy is our creek?

## new volunteer water monitoring program

By Helen Suter

To kick start the volunteer water monitoring program, comparative testing is being undertaken in two areas along the Moonee Ponds Creek. The first testing area is in Jacana and the other in the Essendon/Brunswick region.

In Jacana monitoring is taking place above and below the recent Jacana Wetlands development. The program has been designed to assess what benefits the wetlands may be having on the quality of the water in the creek. Further downstream monitoring is taking place within the concrete lined sections of the creek at Cross Keys reserve Essendon and Holbrook reserve West Brunswick. At Cross Keys reserve an area of the creek is lined with large rocks where a small rock weir was constructed around 10 years ago. The aim of conducting sampling in this area is to assess whether the rock lined weir is improving the quality of the water, mainly the invertebrate population, relative to the section in Holbrook reserve where there is no weir.

Up until now there has been no community driven water monitoring in the Moonee Ponds Creek. Melbourne Water conducted intense sampling in 1995, at 20 sites along the freshwater section of the creek (the creek becomes estuarine downstream of Mount Alexander Road). They concluded from their study that the Moonee Ponds Creek was a degraded urban stream with little invertebrate habitat and poor water quality, and therefore had limited type and diversity of invertebrates. They also concluded that the Moonee Ponds Creek had '...the poorest water quality of any major tributary in the Yarra Catchment' particularly in regards to nutrient loads. The nutrient load was magnified by the poor quality of water entering the creek at the Melville Main Drain (just north of Albion Street) however this was found to be due to a broken sewer, which has thankfully since been repaired.

Melbourne Water now carries out monthly routine monitoring of water quality in the Moonee Ponds Creek at a site near Delhi Reserve in Travancore, just before the creek enters the City Link

constructed 'wetland'. Data is available on the internet at [www.melbournewater.com.au](http://www.melbournewater.com.au).

The volunteer water monitoring program hopes to use Melbourne Water data to investigate changes in water quality along the length of the creek. As recent results from the first 3 months of monitoring have shown: water quality varies in different local environments along the creek. The group are looking at the physical and chemical properties of the creek water and macro-invertebrate populations, which are indicators of stream health. Generally results have shown that the weir at Mitchell Parade is having a positive effect on the invertebrate population. This is probably due to increased vegetation that has established in the creek edges amongst the rocks, increasing sites for invertebrates to 'hide' during periods of high flow compared to the concrete channel at Holbrook Reserve (see photo below left). Even more favourable are the Jacana testing sites. Below the wetlands has been the healthiest site so far and it will be interesting to see if the completion of the wetlands sees further improvements to stream health.

Currently Daniel and I are the only members of the volunteer water monitoring group. We have both been trained by Jessica Miller of MCMC who have been kindly lending us their waterwatch kits. Recently MPCCC were successful in obtaining an Envirofund grant, which will mean we have our own water test kits to support a larger volunteer group. The proposed schedule is for monthly monitoring at all four sites. If you are interested in becoming part of the monitoring group then please contact me at [hsuter@mira.net](mailto:hsuter@mira.net) or 9383 6991. Even if you can only test at one site it would help us a lot. Opportunities exist for you to gain skills in water testing, with training provided by a member of Waterwatch, and improve your knowledge of the creek. The possibility to sample an area near you exists if we receive sufficient volunteers. Or just come along to one of our monitoring days and see what it's all about.



### Which section is healthier?

Well, we don't know for sure yet...but we will! The photos above show the contrasting nature of the Moonee Ponds Creek at two of the sites where water monitoring is currently taking place. So far results have shown that invertebrate populations are low in the concrete lined section at Holbrook Reserve, W. Brunswick (pictured left) compared to the semi-natural environment at Jacana Reserve (right) where waterbugs find a safehaven amongst the creekside vegetation.

Updates of water quality information will be provided in Ponderings and on the MPCCC website [www.mpccc.org](http://www.mpccc.org) in the coming months

# bles our bandicoots

The Moonee Ponds Creek is lucky enough to have one of Victoria's most endangered residents within its catchment: the Eastern Barred Bandicoot. Passionate Parks Victoria Ranger, Katrina Lovett tells us about caring for and conserving this precious creature.

Image source: K.Long Parks Victoria

**W**hat's about the size of a rabbit, has a pointed snout like a rat, and has a tail that is so insignificant it is barely worth a mention? An Eastern Barred Bandicoot (EBB) of course! And a population of these marsupials is found within the Moonee Ponds Creek Catchment.

Eastern Barred Bandicoots (*Perameles gunnii*) are one of Victoria's most endangered mammals. Formerly widespread across western Victoria, the species declined dramatically following European settlement due to modification of their grassland habitat for agriculture and introduced predators such as foxes and cats. By 1972 there was only a single population remaining around Hamilton.

In response to this decline, a Recovery Program was instigated in the early 1980's focussing on the remaining population in Hamilton. Woodlands Historic Park (formerly Gellibrand Park) was chosen as a future reintroduction site in 1988, and a captive colony was established within pens in the fenced off nature reserve.

Since this time hundreds of EBBs have been born in captive facilities overseen by the Zoological Parks and Gardens Board of Victoria, and then released into pre-determined reintroduction sites, including Woodlands. The population at each reintroduction site is regularly monitored to ensure the health and reproduction status of the resident bandicoots.

The recovery of the EBB still has a long way to go, and there may be people that wonder why we continue to persevere if there are so few animals left. Well, the answers lie not only with the importance of maintaining the nation's biodiversity, but also with the intrinsic right for all species to exist, even if they do require our assistance. And besides, most conservation works undertaken to aid the EBBs around the state (such as habitat improvement and predator control) assist other native fauna too.

**If you wish to know more about the EBB and/or the Recovery Team visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au) or [www.zoo.org.au](http://www.zoo.org.au) or feel free to give me a call at the Grasslands Unit office on 9390 1082.**

**Katrina Lovett,  
Ranger—Parks Victoria**

## Quick facts about the Eastern Barred Bandicoot

**Description:** nocturnal, terrestrial marsupial; grey-brown to buff fur on the upperparts of the body; underparts and tail a creamy white; 3 or 4 pale bars on the hindquarters (hence common name).

**Weight:** between 500g and 1100g, average around 800g.

**Life expectancy:** approximately 2 - 3 years in the wild, longer in captivity.

**Breeding:** high reproductive rate; can breed all year round, though limited in summer, with 1 - 5 young per litter; in favorable conditions females can produce 3 or more litters per year.

**Habitat:** prefer native perennial tussock grasslands with scattered open woodlands and shrub cover. Rest in nests during the day which are usually no more than a shallow depression in the ground with a dome of grass pulled over the top.

**Diet:** earthworms are a major food, especially following rain; insects and their larvae eg. cockroaches, black crickets, earwigs, beetles, moths and caterpillars; bulbs of some plants e.g. Onion Grass.

people like us

ZOO S

# victoria

## Grey Headed Flying Fox Project

The Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*), one of the largest bats in the world, has been visiting the southern Victorian region for over a hundred years in particular over the summer months.

In the last 20 years they have set up permanent camps in Melbourne and the southern coastal regions, breeding and visiting in ever increasing numbers with nearly 30,000 arriving in the summer of 2003. This is good news for the species. However the increasing southerly migrations are due to several factors:

- Habitat loss and destruction
- Culling in commercial fruit areas
- Competition for diminishing resources with the Black Flying Foxes, which are increasing in numbers in the northern part of its range.
- Unfortunately the gradual urbanisation of the Grey-headed Flying-fox has led to increased conflict with people.

### A very special creature

Endemic to Australia, the Grey-headed flying-fox has a wing span of up to one metre. Males set up territories in February and breeding takes place in April - May. Gestation is six months with the birth of single young in October-November. At three to four months of age the young are large enough to join the adult evening feeding forays. With a diet primarily of nectar and pollen from *Eucalyptus*, *Melaleucas* and *Banksias*, flying-foxes perform an important role in the maintenance of many native ecosystems by providing pollination and seed dispersal. Flying foxes use creeks as flight paths as there are a number of mature trees which still exist along them. The foxes feed off the trees when they are in flower and 'scoop' along the water surface to drink and wet their chests.

People have noticed Flying-foxes just as they head off for their evening flight down to Yarra Bend Park, where the Melbourne colony of about 15-20,000 is situated. This colony is easily observed from Bellbird Reserve, just off the Yarra Blvd. and



Image source: [www.belden-arts.com/gallery.htm](http://www.belden-arts.com/gallery.htm)

*Making their home in Melbourne , you can see Grey-headed flying-fox with its wing span of up to one metre, 'hanging out' at Yarra Bend Park or even in your backyard.*

can do up to a 30km round trip each night.

This last aspect , combined with the steady reduction in numbers of the species, has led both the Federal, the NSW and Victorian governments to providing extra protection for this species by listing it as 'Vulnerable'.

### How can I help?

In a nutshell, or maybe a fruit pip in this case, we do not know a lot about the specific local migratory and feeding movements of the flying fox, and we only have limited knowledge about their long range movement patterns. The flying fox is not adapted to withstand food shortages and migrates in response to the flowering patterns of trees. In the suburbs the flying-fox often supplement their diets with exotic fruiting and flowering trees. What is needed to help understand and manage this species is a detailed picture of its habits.

### What can we do?

We can record sightings, numbers, movements and flight paths, evening feeding sites, day roosting sites and we can monitor fly-out numbers from flying-fox camps.

If you would like a survey contact Melbourne Zoo, or go to the website <http://www.zoo.org.au/conservation/flyingfoxdata.htm> to forward any information you may have. **It's better if you keep sending information in regularly, as it is very much needed.**

It is important that we learn to live with the animals in our environment. Many of us need to look no further than our very own backyard or local park to see this highly adaptable (not to mention attractive) animal feeding on and pollinating our trees.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Michael Kidman, Grey-headed Flying-fox Project Officer on (03) 9285 9328. **All information and comments are important and greatly needed!**

*Source: Zoo News Vol 23 No.4 December 2003. The Magazine of Friends of the Zoo Melbourne-Healesville-Weribee Zoos*

# indigenous plant star of the season

## *Dianella revoluta* - Blue Star of Beauty



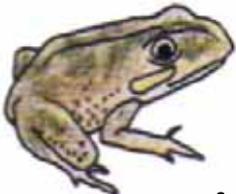
This season our plant star is one of the most common plants used in creek revegetation, *Dianella revoluta* (commonly known as Flax Lily). It is indigenous to the Moonee Ponds Creek and remnants can still be found in the upper reaches, around Westmeadows, clinging precariously to the creek banks. Dianella is a perennial groundcover, forming a drought tolerant tussock with its blue grey sword shaped leaves. The plant usually reaches 60cm in height and can spread into a large clump of up to two metres in well established plants. It does this through spreading underground rhizomes; creeping, horizontally growing, underground roots. In fact, Dianella can easily be propagated by division of its root system & many new plants can be grown from an existing small clump. This root system also acts as a bit of a storage mechanism for the plant in lean times, and this

helps to make Dianella one of the most drought tolerant plants around. It prefers open, sunny & well drained environments but grows quite happily on clay soils. It just doesn't like to have its feet wet for extended periods of time. It flowers profusely in Spring & early Summer, with many small, deep blue star shaped flowers held in panicles up to a metre in height. Dianella looks especially striking when planted en masse, as the bluish grey leaves form an upright display, with clouds of small deep blue star shaped flowers dancing above. Many native insects are attracted to the flowers, which are followed in summer by beautiful lapis coloured berries. These are edible. The Aboriginal people of central Victoria called this plant Murmbal, and its strong leaves were split, then rolled, to make a strong tie or string. The beautiful berries could probably be used as a dye as their juice is a dark purple - worth a bit of experimenting ...

## summer sightings

It seems the hot weather and storms have brought out more than just birds this season with some very exciting new 'sightings' along the creek. This summer, it's frogs, frogs, frogs. First up, at a recent planting near Primrose St Essendon, Gabby from Moonee Valley CC heard Pobblebongs croaking up a storm in a local backyard close by. Ken from Hume CC's Bush Crew has reported on hearing a "chorus" of growling grass frogs at the Yabbie Pool along the Yuroke Creek (a tributary of Moonee Ponds Creek). Excitingly, growling grass frogs have also been recorded at the new Jacana Wetlands, just downstream of the Yuroke Creek. This is fantastic news, as the growling grass frog is a threatened species. Steph from the Pascoe Vale planters has reported hearing Pobblebongs at Nursery Corner in Strathmore, as well as sighting Water Rats paddling around (Ratty can be seen gracing the cover of our brochure - has anyone noticed what book he is reading?). And finally, Julie Law has spotted the beautiful & rarely seen Sacred Kingfisher near the creek at Koala Crescent in Westmeadows.

*Top left: Sacred Kingfisher  
Bottom Left: Pobblebong  
Below: A native water rat or 'Ratty' as he is affectionately known at MPCCC*



## upcoming events

### Elissa's afternoon tea Tuesday 27th January

We will be celebrating Elissa's hard work over the past year before she leaves on maternity leave with a cuppa and cakes at the Depot from 3.00-4.30pm. Please RSVP before 20th January for catering purposes.

### Sustainable Living Festival @ Federation Square 13th -15th February

For more information visit [www.sustainablelivingfestival.org](http://www.sustainablelivingfestival.org)

### Sustainability Street Waste Smorgasbord Saturday 7th February

This waste extravaganza is open to all, not only Sustainability St group members. Come along to 1 of 2, identical two hour sessions at 10.30am or 1.30pm. These sessions will cover the Big Picture, Waste Wise purchasing and recycling, and composting/worms and gardens. Canterbury Stables, Canterbury Street Stables, Flemington 3031 Mel (28 J11) RSVP Environs Australia 9347 5344

### Jacana Wetlands Spruce-Up Saturday 21st February 9am to 11am

A call to all creek volunteers to help out with the 'sprucing up' of Jacana Wetlands Friends Group plantings. The clean-up will involve pegging down and straightening out jute mat and cleaning up weeds from amongst plantings followed by tasty treats and frivolity. If you haven't had a chance to explore these wonderful wetlands now is the time and you may even hear the rare

Growling Grass Frog recently discovered there...

### Moonee Valley Environment Forum-Water Conservation Monday 9th February

Civic Area, Civic Centre  
9 Kellaway Avenue  
Moonee Ponds 3039  
Mel (28 J6)  
Contact Maree Marshall on 9243 9165 for more information.