

and for each hour spent playing outdoors we spend more than 7 hours on screen time.) The Merri Creek corridor and nearby parks provide some wonderful pockets for exploring local nature. MCMC hosted *A Little Nature Play* activities at Edinburgh Gardens, Hall Reserve and Dight's Falls. During the sessions, the 2 – 5 year olds were given tools and open activities to explore their surrounds, allowing them to lead their own playtime.

New grassland management book features Merri Creek

One of MCMC's Directors, Nick Williams has co-edited the book [Land of Sweeping Plains](#) which provides an easy-to-read understanding of native grassland ecology, management challenges and solutions. Our own Merri Creek grasslands are featured in the book as well as the work of MCMC.



New MCMC staff members

We welcome to our Parkland Management Team our latest members: Andrew Cosmi, Gemma Hocking, Alisha Murphy, and Jonathan Wilson; and to our Catchment Program group, Julia Cirillo.

Daisy, Daisy, where on this earth are you? - Murnong Survey

Find out about Plains Yam Daisy, or Murnong, and the fascinating hunt for its small bright green tufts among the millions of new shoots in newly burnt grassland at Kalkallo in May: [Here](#).

Going down the slides

Leslie Fraser, who has been working voluntarily on preserving MCMC's Nationally Significant image collection, recently achieved a great milestone. Leslie has built on the work of Nicole Lowe, who started off the scanning process, and now over **5,000 slides** have been scanned and catalogued, consistent with the Australian Pictorial Thesaurus. Leslie is now starting to scan our vast collection of negatives. MCMC's collection is valued for its documentation of the extraordinary transformation of the Merri Creek, achieved through concerted community effort over a number of decades.

Building interest in Galada Tamboore

Thanks to Friends of Merri Creek's *Communities for Nature* grant, MCMC is introducing new people to a very special part of Merri Creek - Galada Tamboore in Campbellfield/Thomastown. There, people learn about escarpment, grassland and waterway management by exploring, listening to frog calls, getting involved with maps and sampling for freshwater bugs. One group took about 20 minutes to travel to Galada on 16th May but felt transported to another time and place far, far away. Introducing new people to Galada Tamboore is vital to the ongoing generation of community interest and building advocates for care and protection in the future.



A week later a group of 22 Iraqi women from Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre had a similar experience on their first visit to Galada Tamboore with MCMC.



Merri-ly we plant along

The planting season is in full swing and the community has helped out with the Merri Creek Environment Fund's *Planting the Gap* project in Fawkner on 10 May, Northcote Gorge on 17 May, Moreland's World Environment Day in Coburg on 31 May, and Ngarri-djarrang (Central Creek grasslands) on 13 June. The big program of *Sumner Loving* events is also continuing with weed workshops at Merri Park Northcote and Habitat Gardening Workshops at CERES.

Come along to the next *Sumner Loving* Planting on Saturday 18 July, 1.30-3.30pm Merri Park Wetland, Northcote, Sumner Ave near Traill St, 1.30-3.30pm. Melway 30 C8, follow the flags.

All of our community events are listed on the events calendar on our website www.mcmc.org.au You can also sign up for notification of events by emailing us admin@mcmc.org.au

Successful Family Nature Day

Congratulations to the Friends of Merri Creek for getting almost 100 people along to their Family Nature Day at Bababi Marning (Cooper St Grasslands) on Sunday 24 May. The event, which celebrated the Friends' 25 year anniversary, featured a display of live reptiles, butterflies in a special enclosure, games, face painting, bag painting, a waterbug display and a barbecue.

Learning biodiversity artfully

When MCMC hosts guided walks and invites the community to share in the protection of native grasslands, there's a chance to feel the wind, rain, hear birds call, and get your hands dirty planting and weeding. You too can become more closely connected with nature by planting your own garden with indigenous plants. Another way to increase awareness of nature is through MCMC's artful engagement activities, such as skin painting at a planting day in Fawkner on 10th May, or Fawkner Primary School students taking photos on a guided walk and sharing this experience later.

See our 2013-2014 Annual Report

If you haven't yet seen our latest [Annual Report](#), check it out for our community and educational events activities, and more. Details on our finances are also available in the 2013-14 [Auditor's Report](#).

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Acknowledging the Wurundjeri People as the Traditional Custodians of the land of the Merri Merri