

# Merri e-News

SEPTEMBER 2016

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Newsletter of the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC)

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## Successful Blue-banded Bee appeal

Hearty congratulations to the Friends of Merri Creek on the huge success of their [Help the Blue-banded Bee](#)

crowd-funding campaign. In total \$25,073 was raised, over 66% more than the original target of \$15,000. The campaign was supported by 441 people and will now receive a further \$15,000 from the Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The funds will be used in a [project](#) designed by Merri Creek Management Committee, to establish pollination 'stepping stones' between endangered Matted Flax-lily populations along the Merri Creek in Fawkner and Reservoir.





## Brunswick school's water learnings

A \$200,000 partnership project *Melbourne's Water – Proactive from Brunswick* coordinated by Merri Creek

Management Committee in partnership with Brunswick North West Primary School is complete. Funded by a grant from the Victorian Government, the project inspired the school community to go above and beyond the project's goals. This included new plans to manage water flows at school and the production of a film to celebrate the process of creating their new indigenous habitat garden. Created on a flood-prone area above the long buried Melville Creek, the new area is proudly celebrated in Woiwurrung language as *Yakai Barring*, meaning 'surprise track'.



The Friends of Merri Creek President, David Redfearn, addresses the audience at the Whittlesea launch of the Merri Creek exhibition.

## Check out the Merri Creek Exhibition

The outstanding exhibition *Merri Creek - from Wasteland to Parklands* is nearing

the end of its tour of the Merri catchment. It celebrates the community achievement since 1975 in transforming Merri Creek from a weed-smothered drain to a much-loved waterway. It has now been displayed in libraries in Brunswick, Coburg, Fitzroy, Richmond, Craigieburn, Northcote, Preston, Thomastown, Lalor, Mill Park, Whittlesea, and at CERES and Melbourne Water in Docklands.

### Exhibition dates:

**6-30 September:** Wallan Customer and Library Service Centre 9/81-99 High Street, Wallan (Wellington Square Shopping Centre).

**3-28 October:** Fawkner Library, 77 Jukes Rd Fawkner ([details](#)).

View the [outstanding story panels](#) and the [evocative rear panels](#). Contact us if you'd like to discuss hosting the Exhibition panels.

## Appreciation to our donors

Our sincere thanks to the 54 donors to the [Merri Creek Environment Fund 2016 Appeal](#) who helped raise \$11,350 for ongoing projects to improve the Merri. **You can still donate to the Appeal.**

Donations to the 2015 Appeal funded the recent *Planting up the Gap* community event on the Merri near Lorne St Fawkner on Sunday 14 August. An enthusiastic group enjoyed glorious weather while planting 450 indigenous grasses and shrubs to help bridge the habitat gap.



Our thanks also to our first [Good2Give](#) donor. This is a work place giving organisation which enables employees to make pre-tax donations to registered charities, such as MCMC, direct from their pay. Registered employers then match the employee donations. **Is your workplace a member of Good2Give?**

## Working with the Wurundjeri people

During NAIDOC Week 2016, Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Dave Wandin joined Merri Creek Management Committee's Angela Foley to give a presentation to the Science Group of the Environment Protection Authority Victoria, and to share stories about how MCMC and the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation & Cultural Heritage Council work together.



## Helping set ecological standards for restoration

MCMC contributed, along with organisations from across Australia, to the development of [National Standards](#) of the Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia. In July MCMC's Brian Bainbridge presented at the conference of Australian Association of Bush Regenerators' launch of the Stand

We used 'before' and 'after' photos from the newly digitised MCMC slide collection to show how MCMC has applied the six principles in the Standards to 30 years of restoration to sites along the Merri.

See the full article about this [here](#).



Merri Park Wetland Northcote in May 1995 (top) and in May 2014.



## A win for Lakeside College Merri frontage

A big thanks to the Darebin City Council, which has decided to buy the approximately 1.8ha of Merri Creek frontage abutting the former Lakeside Secondary College. An offer of \$270,000 will be made to the Victorian Education Department for the land. This is a great win for the environment as now the land, which includes Critically Endangered indigenous vegetation will be secure as public open space cared for by Darebin Council. This land forms part of the Merri habitat corridor as well as the Merri Shared Path. Thanks also to the many community members agitated strongly for this.



## Transforming the Lodge

During July, we helped residents of Queen's Lodge in Lalor to transform a weedy down trodden area into a new lively indigenous garden at their doorstep. The project, coordinated by Arts Access Victoria, includes glass mosaics, landscape design, and earthworks. MCMC's role was supported by recurrent funding from City of Whittlesea.



## Habitat Heroes get excellent report

Year 10 Outdoor and Environmental Studies students from Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College braved the winter elements cycling from school to join MCMC in exploring habitat values in Fawkner in July. This was part of our *Habitat Heroes* project funded by the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. One of the students, Tarryn Clancy, wrote to us:

*"It was a very special day and even though it rained on us, we all learned so much. We would like to say a big thank you to the Merri Creek Management Committee for your teaching us the importance of maintaining different ecosystems and making the day fun and interesting."* ([See Tarryn's full comments](#))



## Merri Creek community events in spring

The planting season has officially ended, but spring still offers plenty of community events - weeding, bird surveys, litter clean-ups. [Our website calendar](#) lists all the upcoming community events.

Sign up for notification of events by emailing [admin@mcmc.org.au](mailto:admin@mcmc.org.au) or 'like' the [Friends of Merri Creek facebook page](#) and subscribe to events updates.

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