



# Meanders Quarterly

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## WHY MEANDERS?

*The eroding bends of goose-neck meanders through the lower floodplains of Edgars Creek are part of a natural process. Apparently, there are no other areas along the urbanised sections of Merri and Edgars Creeks where this process can be preserved.*

## Creekside burble

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to this belated edition of Meanders Quarterly: the last issue that I will be writing as President of Friends of Edgars Creek. Most of you will have heard that we have elected a new Committee at our AGM in January this year.

What makes a strong, sustainable community?

One of the things I think is important is the ability for the community to pass the baton of leadership among its members: it refreshes and reinvigorates our community organisations.

Ours, nuzzled as it is along the meandering course of Edgars Creek, is one such community. We are all extremely fortunate to have such a capable and passionate new President, David Pavone, to chart the next phase in the life and times of Edgars Creek. Dave is ably supported by our new and ever cheerful Secretary, Sylvia Page; with dependable and wizened support from our long standing Treasurer Anita Morgan.

We also welcome Robert Burnett, fondly known as 'Robstock' among friends, as our new Works Manager. Rob has taken on responsibility for all

the logistical aspects of planting days, making sure we have all the plants, materials and tools we need to continue our remarkable restoration of indigenous habitat along the Edgars Creek reserve.

As the Immediate Past President, I will continue to serve on the committee for another twelve months to provide a helping hand as FoEC transitions to the 'new leadership'.



**Sustaining community: Friends of Edgars Creek gathering for a cuppa beneath an remnant red gum and an ancient Silurian cliff, North Coburg, April 2009**

One thing that has not changed is the spread of great events for us to come together as a community and make a difference. On page 11 you will find a calendar of fun and informative activities, from walks and talks to planting days.

I for one am particularly looking forward to planting a Sheoak Woodland on top of the hill overlooking the city as part of our National Tree Day event, which is hosted by the

Moreland City Council. I am also excited to be working further upstream this year at a new site located below the Edwardes Lake weir in Reservoir. This event is hosted by the City of Darebin Edgars Creek Bushland Crew.

In this issue of Meanders you will also read about others who have

*Continued on page 3*

## Sense of place

Since moving to Coburg two years ago we have cherished our walks along Edgar’s Creek. Many times we have spoken aloud about the beauty of the local area – an area with flowing water, flora and fauna and residents who sincerely care about where they live.

*“Residents who sincerely care about where they live”*

It has been a pleasure to be part of such an enthusiastic friend’s group and contribute to the restoration of the local surrounds.

Due to our busy lives, however, we find parental duties are taking front stage. In this our last column as Secretaries, we would like to acknowledge the tireless work of the our inaugural President and founding member Stephen Northey. Without his tireless effort and proactive spirit much of the work completed would not have occurred - thanks Stephen and the rest of the FoEC members for your contribution.

We do however look forward to remaining active members along the Creek and wish the best of luck to Sylvia in her new role as Secretary and all the other committee members who have accepted positions.

### Jo Searle & Craig Hadley



Kangaroo Apple *Solanum laciniatum*  
Flower and Fruit



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo

## ... a word from Meg

During this summer my tree has almost doubled in size and I haven’t watered it much at all!

I have also sighted two ducklings which were very cute! I haven’t been down the creek lots, but have managed a few short walks. On one occasion I saw a yellow tailed black cockatoo. At first I wasn’t sure what it was until it landed and I got close enough for a better look.

As long as the weather is good I hope to do some of my homework down along the creek this year, oh and keep an eye out for more cute ducklings ... !

**Meg (Aged 12)**

# Membership matters

## FROM OUR NEW SECRETARY

2010 is hotting up to be a busy but exciting year for FoEC!

First off, we welcome a new President, David Pavone aka propagation expert and enthusiast. We are also looking forward to working with Dave, Anita and Rob our new Works Manager this year!

Dave takes over from the ex-



Tawny Frogmouth on our Hills Hoist, Reservoir, 2010.  
Photo by Sylvia Page

*Continued from page 1*  
joined our Edgars Creek community. On page 4 you will read about how the girls from the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (women's prison) are lending a hand by propagating plants for a new planting area along an escarpment beneath the transmission lines adjacent to lower Edgars Creek. Previously this area was nothing more than an infestation of African boxthorn and an arbour for an ever increasing population of rabbits. But

tremely knowledgeable FoEC veteran, Stephen Northey. Whilst Stephen is having a well deserved break from FoEC he's not off the hook yet; we are able to keep him close for the next year, as Immediate Past President!

Our recent involvement with the Edgars and Merri Creek Taskforce and submissions to the Kodak redevelopment proposal has made us stop and think about what social value the Creek contributes to the community in it's current form .

Not often formally expressed, the social and community value of an area such as this, we believe, far outweighs the financial value.

FoEC is a perfect example (one of many) of the Creek bringing people together with a common cause and connecting them with their neighbours, surroundings, culture and land. Time out strolling along the Creek to clear the head of all the clutter we pick up in our busy lives is also just as socially beneficial to our community!

A quote from 'The Castle' comes to mind, "Money can't buy what we've got".

We look forward to seeing you all at each of our exciting activities this year!

**Sylvia Page & Nathan Matthews**

with the help of Community Work crews from the Community Correctional Service (Department of Justice) large piles of woody weeds have already been removed in preparation for fencing and planting the area over the Winter season.

... and so the journey we began in the Summer of 2007 when we established FoEC continues to flow—like our meandering Creek—with the promise of new adventures ahead.

**Stephen Northey**

# Green Justice: *making a difference along Edgars Creek?*

During late 2009, the Friends of Edgars Creek, Moreland City Council and the North West Metropolitan Region of the Department of Justice formed a collaborative partnership to remove woody weeds and revegetate an area along lower Edgars Creek. This project aims to offset Department of Justice CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through a carbon sequestration delivered through the restoration of indigenous habitat along a currently degraded creek escarpment. This project also provides training and education opportunities for prisoners.

The North West Metropolitan Region, Department of Justice, is delighted to partner FoEC and Moreland City Council in the rehabilitation of a site near the Kodak redevelopment site in North Coburg.

The project is funded by the Department's Environmental Initiatives Fund and will see plants propagated at the nurseries of the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (women's prison) and the Metropolitan Remand Centre, with support from the Victorian Indigenous Nursery.

Community Work crews from the Community Correctional Service are currently clearing the site of woody weeds in preparation for planting out the plant stock grown at the prisons.

An exciting element of the project involves female prisoners enrolling in a Certificate in Land Conservation, delivered at the prison by Kangan Batman TAFE. Below, the women at the prison record their first impressions of the project.

The enthusiasm and support of FoEC for this initiative is gratefully acknowledged.

**Article written by Mick Carroll, Regional Director, North West Metropolitan, Department of Justice**



**Project staff at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (left to right) Jill Hilton, Kangan Batman TAFE; Helen Scott, DPFC nursery supervisor; Judy Allen, Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Cooperative**



**Work at DPFC propagating Weeping Grass seedlings (*Microlaena stipoides*)**

## ... inspiring us all

The Edgars Creek project sounds great; it's good to know that people are out there willing to rehabilitate the natural wildlife and plants to better our environment for the future. Most of all we talked about how happy we are to be involved in a project where we can grow plants, look after them and know that they will be helping people to help their community. We also want to know who will look after the plants and the weeding.

We think the creek may have been named after a Member of The Legislative Council in the early 1900s; we're going to study as much as we can about the Wurundjeri-willam people who lived and hunted and gathered in these parts; we want to know more about geological formations and how and why Edwardes Lake was developed.

**From the Edgars Creek Project Girls, Dame Phyllis Frost Centre**



**ABOVE** Green Justice project site upstream from the Kodak Bridge, North Coburg

**BELOW** Removal of woody weeds in preparation for rabbit proof fencing and planting



# Seeding the Future: *Developing community capacity?*

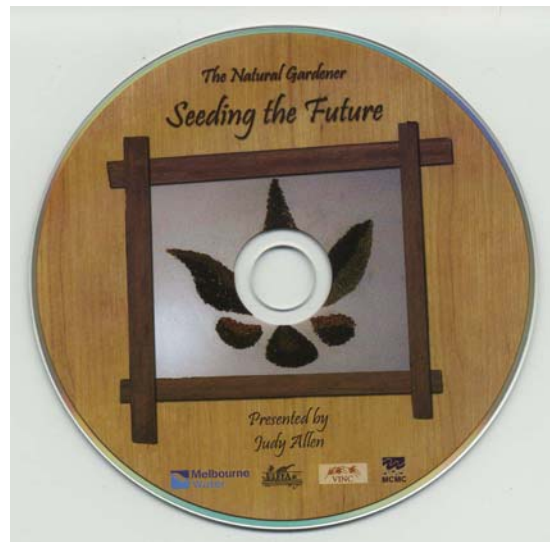
*Have you ever shared a great idea with a friend in casual conversation? And nothing comes of it, it's just a passing moment, a 'what if' dream. Sometimes though, ideas take shape and gather momentum.*

Just two years ago I was lucky enough to chat with the indigenous horticultural specialist, Judy Allan, about her idea of producing an indigenous seed collection training guide on DVD.

From her experience with the community, Judy knew people were keen to play a bigger role in the protection and restoration of indigenous flora and fauna. They wanted to go 'upstream' from planting days and get serious about collecting indigenous seeds.

Her brainchild was to create a training guide on DVD. Her groundwork was excellent. She'd already studied documentary making by the time we chatted. Using loaned equipment, Judy had in fact already started filming.

Impressed with Judy's determination and sharing her vision, the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) agreed to support the initiative by managing the project and producing the DVD. Later, Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Cooperative, Melbourne Water and the Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association also provided vital support to produce 2,500 DVDs.



During September and October 2009 *Seeding the Future: Seed collection and cleaning for Friends, Landcare and Gardeners* was launched by MCMC and the Friends of Edgars Creek.

The DVD provides seed identification tips and collection techniques for 20 indigenous plants.

"Seed collection excites the imagination of many people interested in nature restoration," observes Brian Bainbridge, President of Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association. "The tiny parcels retain the magic instilled by childhood windowsill experiments with broadbeans and cress on wet cotton wool. However, the uncomfortable reality of sweat, prickles, flies and paperwork can extinguish the enthusiasm of the inadequately prepared seed collecting novice."

Brian reckons "Seeding the Future is the next best thing to working alongside an experienced seed collector over several months. The footage reinforces the message that a few seasons are needed to become a proficient seed collector."



Seed collecting along Edgars Creek with Judy Allen (Right)

(Call Monica at MCMC on 9380 8199 to request a free copy.)

Article written by Angela Foley  
Merri Creek Management Committee

*"Seeding the Future - the next best thing to working alongside an experienced seed collector over several months"*

## Having a dog of a time: *Retaining Edgars Creek for the enjoyment of all*



Bear collecting sticks along Edgars Creek

*I love my faithful hound and nothing relaxes me more than taking her for a long walk along Edgars Creek after a long day of work.*

When we first bought our house 5 years ago, we thought we had lucked out! To find a 3 bedroom house in a tree lined street already renovated and within our price range seemed almost too good to be true. Then we

discovered the Creek at the end of the street.

When we moved in we had an old dog, who at that point loved nothing more than off-lead romps and swimming wherever he could. This generally meant we had to travel over an hour each way to get to the dog beach in Brighton on the weekend. Imagine our joy to discover an off-leash area, complete with dog swimming pond, just around the corner. These days I regularly invite friends with dogs 'around for a dogwalk'.

We soon added another dog to the family, who seems to live for her daily walk, ball-chasing session and swim. I am happy to admit that it is also the highlight of my day, as nothing is more relaxing than walking with your hound while she runs and chases rabbits.

Don't get me wrong, I'm aware of my responsibilities as a dog owner, and my dog is always on lead walking to and from the park as well as anywhere near the bike path. It only takes an instant for an unpleasant accident to occur. Also, whenever there is a strange dog nearby I quickly snap the leash back on, in case they don't get along.

One of the great things about Edgars Creek is the large swath of land with views in all directions. The plantings, which I'm happy to say I have attended most of, have greatly enriched the Creek reserve and I feel proud to have been a part of it.

The recent threats to the Parkland – firstly from Vic Roads wanting to sell a parcel of land and now with the new Kodak redevelopment bringing new members into the community – make me very anxious about our ability to hang on to such a treasured and rare public asset. If that land or parts of it are taken away from us, it will be gone forever.

I consider this part of Edgars Creek priceless, and will do anything I can to ensure it remains within the community. This space has been enjoyed by the community for decades, maintained by council and is now greatly enhanced by the community.

We just have to retain this area for all to enjoy.

**Article written by Ross Hetherington**

## More grant success makes for light work on planting days

### FROM OUR TREASURER

2010 celebrates the third year of the Friends of Edgars Creek and already the effect we have had with our plantings is evident to everyone walking the Edgars Creek trails in Coburg North.

The Friends have recently won a grant from The Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to purchase a trailer and water pump.

A fully kitted out trailer with our tools and planting materials will certainly make organising planting days easier.

Also, gone are the days of lugging buckets of water from the Creek to water our seedlings. Our new water pump will not only help reduce the risk of willing volunteers doing their back-in carrying buckets up the Creek bank, but will help give our plantings the best possible chance of taking root and surviving the difficult first few weeks.

Our new Works Manager, Rob Burnett (affectionately known as Robstock) will consult with the necessary authorities to ensure water pumped from the Creek is done so in a responsible manner and in a method that will not impact on the Creek.

We are certainly looking forward to putting the trailer and pump to work at our first Planting Day, Sunday May 16th.

I hope to see you all there.

**Anita Morgan**

# FoEC Planting projects planned for 2010

The following planting projects are subject to a current Melbourne Water Community Grant application. We should know later this month if our application for funding has been successful.

## Following the curves of our 'goose-neck' meander

Since September 2007, the Friends of Edgars Creek have undertaken works to restore and maintain stream bank shrubland along a Creek meander immediately south of the Kodak Bridge.

Fast-growing indigenous riparian species planted over the past three seasons will eventually over-shade the stream. This will reduce eutrophic effects on the water quality (depletion of oxygen in the water) and the impact of aquatic weeds in the stream thereby improving aquatic habitat for bugs, fish and our resident water rat, Rakali.

These works have been funded by Melbourne Water Community Grants program, with matching funding and complimentary work from the Moreland City Council's maintenance allocation and a Commonwealth Caring For Our Country grant administered by the Merri Creek Management Committee.

Our current grant application proposes to extend the planted area of **Stream Bank Shrubland** (Ecological Vegetation Class 856) on the west side of the Creek, south of the existing revegetation site.

This will help stabilise the Creek bank, link remnant stands of Tree Violets *Melicytus* with previously revegetated areas and improve the longer term maintainability of the site by fully containing the inner bend of the meander with a revegetated strip.

Plants along the escarpment bank leading up the hill towards the old Kodak distribution building will be planted into jute squares and tree guarded. In-fill planting in previously revegetated areas will be selectively tree guarded or marked with bamboo stakes.



Goose-neck meander planting site, Edgars Creek, North Coburg.

Photo by Stephen Northey, 2009.

**Planting Day: 16th May 2010**

**EVC 856 (Stream Bank Shrubland)**

### Plant Species List

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Bidgee-Widgee
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> spp <i>macrophylla</i>	Sweet Bursaria
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak
<i>Austrodanthonia caespitosa</i>	Common Wallaby-grass
<i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i>	Feather Spear-grass
<i>Callistermon sieberi</i>	River Bottlebrush
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	Pale Flax-lily
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red-gum
<i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i>	Ruby Saltbush
<i>Einadia nutans</i>	Climbing Saltbush
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Woolly Tea-tree
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Common Tussock Grass
<i>Wahlenbergia communis</i>	Tufted Bluebell

**Total Project Value: \$17,134**

**Value of Volunteer contribution**

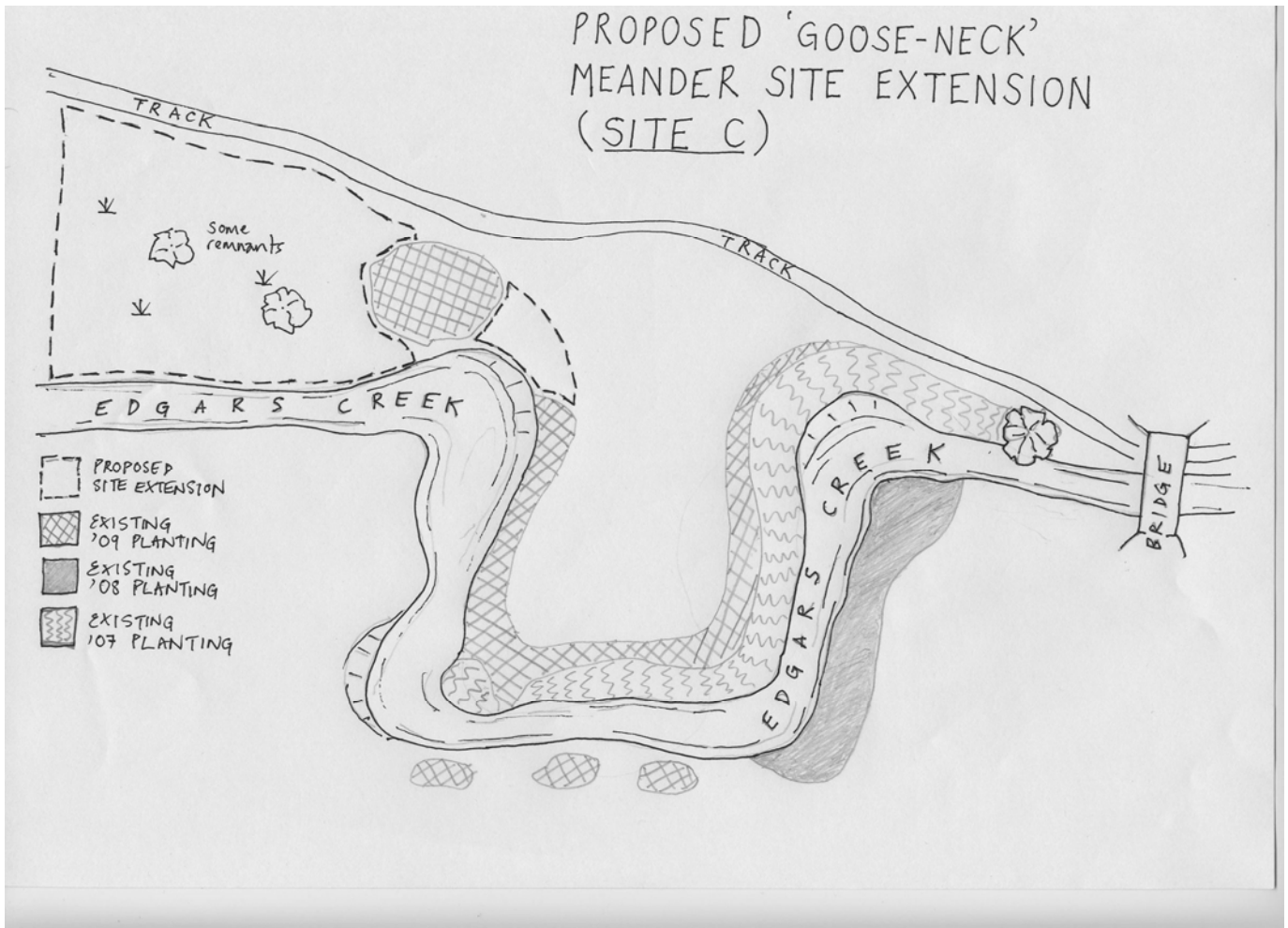
(our labour valued at \$30 per hour)

**\$7,200 (240 hours)**

Project will fund a second planting day at this site next year – Winter 2011

The proposed weed control budget for this project also provides for follow-up maintenance of the first, second and third stages of this planting conducted during September 2007, September

2008 and September 2009. This maintenance will improve the effectiveness of in-fill planting to assist the indigenous plants to out-compete weeds.



This photograph shows the visible improvement of stream bank habitat and bank stabilisation as a result of our plantings at the goose-neck-meander site during September 2007.

## NOTICE



Friends of Edgars Creek

COMMUNITY  
ACTIVITY  
IN-PROGRESS

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. ENQUIRE HERE.

## Beneath the shadows of an ancient Silurian cliff

**Our second planting site for the year** is located below a regionally significant exposed Silurian cliff adjacent to the former Kodak site, a feature registered in the Victorian Resource Atlas.

This area also has considerable habitat value, with seven remnant species identified in the area. One of these species, *Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp connata*, is the only remnant specimen found in the Moreland municipality. A mature River Red-gum is also located at the base of the cliff and provides good hollows previously used by nesting Red-rumped Parrots.

The aim of this planting is to extend Creeklime Tussock Grassland (Ecological Vegetation Class 645) habitat established below the Silurian cliff during April 2009 and Riparian Floodplain Woodland (EVC56) further upstream along the western bank of the Creek.

The Creeklime Tussock Grassland (EVC645) area of the site will maintain and enhance the

surrounding view lines of the impressive Silurian escarpment and improve the environmental context of this feature. In doing so, this project will greatly enhance the landscape value of cliff and the resultant Creek meander.

The proposed planting area is restricted to small sections of the Creek bank between plantings established during April 2009. This will reduce any significant erosion risks and enable more intensive hand weeding control.

The bank-binding species planned for the larger **Riparian Floodplain Woodland** (EVC56) section of the planting site further upstream will help stabilise the Creek bank and improve the overall riparian habitat value of the area.

The proposed planting will replace a currently blackberry infested area with sustainable indigenous vegetation, including the recovery of a remnant *Meliccytus* from a tangle of canes.



**ABOVE** Planting site prior to April 2009 planting. Note the Boxthorn infestation in the background.

**BELOW** Planting site after April 2009 planting, with a glimpse of the Silurian cliff in the background to left.



### Planting Day: 16th May 2010

#### Stage 1 EVC 645 (Creeklime Tussock Grassland)

#### Stage 2 EVC 56 (Riparian Floodplain Woodland)

#### Plant Species List

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Bidgee-Widgee
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle
<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria
<i>Callistemon sieberi</i>	River Bottlebrush
<i>Craspedia glauca</i>	Common Billy Buttons
<i>Dianella longifolia</i>	Pale Flax-lily
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red-gum
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia
<i>Juncus usitatus</i>	Club Rush
<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Woolly Tea-tree
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	Common Tussock Grass

**Total Project Value: \$17,134**

**Value of Volunteer contribution**  
(our labour valued at \$30 per hour)

**\$7,200 (240 hours)**

*This project will also fund a second planting day at this site next year — Winter 2011*

# COOL UPCOMING EVENTS

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## Sunday 21 March 2010, 1-3pm

### **Weeding and site preparation: Aquatic weeds beneath a regionally significant Silurian cliff planting site**

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg (*Melways Map 18 A9*)  
Phone Sylvia on 94703805 for more information

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## Thursday Night 15 April 2010, 6-8pm

### **Walk and talk over a glass of wine: Bushfoods indigenous to Edgars Creek**

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg (*Melways Map 18 A9*)  
Phone Sylvia on 94703805 for more information

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## Sunday 16 May 2010, 1-3pm

### **Planting: Stream bank shrubland restoration around a regionally significant Silurian cliff (Planting site extension)**

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg (*Melways Map 18 A9*)  
Phone Sylvia on 94703805 for more information

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## Sunday 20 June 2010, 1-3pm

### **Planting: Creepline tussock grassland restoration along 'goose-neck' meander (Planting site extension)**

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg (*Melways Map 18 A9*)  
Phone Sam Niedra (Moreland City Council) on 0403 603 540 for more information

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## Sunday 18 July 2010, 1-3pm

### **Planting: Riparian habitat restoration to be determined Joint Friends of Edwardes Lake and Friends of Edgars Creek planting day**

Meet at Bottom of Kia-Ora Road, Reservoir (*Melways Map 18 C6*)  
Phone Sylvia on 94703805 for more information

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## Sunday 01 August 2010, 10am-1pm (BBQ Lunch Provided)

### **Planting: National Tree Day planting of Allocasuarina Forest and Friends of Edgars Creek Tree Custodian project**

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg (*Melways Map 18 A9*)  
Phone Sam Niedra (Moreland City Council) on 0403 603 540 for more information

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## Sunday 19 September 2010, 1-3pm

### **Planting: Riparian habitat restoration along a 'goose-neck' meander of Edgars Creek**

Meet at Notice Board adjacent to Ronald Street, North Coburg (*Melways Map 18 A9*)  
Phone Sylvia on 94703805 for more information



**Mail to:** C/- Friends of Edgars Creek  
17 Boyne Street  
NORTH COBURG VIC 3058

**Email:** [edgarscreek@freshwater.net.au](mailto:edgarscreek@freshwater.net.au)

**Phone:** 03 9350 4212

The Friends of Edgars Creek is a community group established in 2007 to help restore and protect Edgars Creek, the largest tributary of Merri Creek.

#### OUR MISSION

To help improve the environmental and recreational quality of Edgars Creek reserve by:

- advocating for the management of this important waterway as an entire freshwater ecosystem
- working with local Councils and Melbourne Water to ensure any maintenance and development works deliver a real and direct benefit to the creek corridor
- organising and facilitating events for the community to be involved in restoration works and environmental education, and
- communicating with developers to ensure they understand how strongly the community values the creek reserve from both an environmental and recreational perspective.



Supported by the Melbourne Water and Cities of Darebin, Whittlesea and Moreland Community Grants Programs



*Get with  
the times!*

*FoEC is  
now on  
Facebook*

