

Annual Report

2021-2022

MERRI CREEK



MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE



Merri Creek at Merriang

Merri Creek flows south from the Great Dividing Range near Wallan to join the Birrarung (Yarra) River in Abbotsford, four kilometres north-east of Melbourne's CBD.

Merri Creek Management Committee Inc. (MCMC) is an environmental coordination and management agency formed in 1989 to achieve a shared vision for the waterway corridors of the Merri Creek Catchment. Its members include all municipalities in the catchment: Darebin, Hume, Merri-bek, Whittlesea, Yarra and Mitchell; plus the Friends of Merri Creek and the Wallan Environment Group.

Representatives from these groups form the Committee of Management that guides MCMC's activities.

MCMC employs specialist, dedicated staff and its programs are funded by member Councils, State and Federal grant programs, competitively won tenders, grants from philanthropic organisations and public donations.

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Acknowledgement

MCMC acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land of the Merri Merri. We pay our respects to the Elders past present and emerging.

MCMC's mission

To act as a unifying voice to champion and advance the protection, restoration and stewardship of the Merri Creek, its tributaries and environs.

**Volunteers
(includes repeats)**

1,000

**Environmental
education participants**

6,775

**Events
and/or classes**

333

**Delivery
partners**

102

**Clients and
funding bodies**

34

President's report

As pandemic lockdowns and restrictions eased this year, the ability to run face-to-face events again was welcomed by MCMC's Education & Engagement staff, the Ecological Restoration Team and our many volunteers and event participants.

Clustered Everlasting at Hidden Valley



On the other hand, it was convenient to continue on-line Committee of Management meetings for representatives of our six member Councils and two member community groups from across the Merri catchment. These meetings are excellent for information sharing and discussion of issues affecting the creek.

Planning and initial public consultation proceeded for the marran baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands, with MCMC as a member of the Partnership Group established by the Victorian Government's Suburban Parks Program. These Parklands will extend from the Northern Ring Road, Campbellfield to Beveridge, with the Merri Creek as the spine. They will be key to protecting significant conservation areas as Melbourne expands to the north. MCMC is delivering a major signage project to orientate, guide and inform visitors to the marran baba Parklands. Sign installation will initially be concentrated in Galada Tamboore, Campbellfield.

Presenting an aerial perspective on the Merri and its catchment, MCMC's [virtual tour](#) uses satellite imagery and added graphics to outline the geology, landforms (including volcanoes), tributaries and sub-catchments in a ten-minute presentation that can be viewed from our website.

MCMC is supervising the preparation of a plan to protect and enhance one of the Merri's iconic endangered species, the Growling Grass Frog. The study area encompasses the southernmost populations in Campbellfield and Thomastown. The plan identifies ways to improve ecological connectivity to allow the frogs to move between several water-holding quarry holes and the Merri Creek.

Our new Upper Merri Landcare Facilitator has been busy organising community events and establishing the foundations for new Friends and Landcare Groups.

MCMC's Manager Luisa Macmillan, and I participated in the launches of the [Merri Creek Women's Walk](#), both online (October 2021) and in-person by the Merri in East Coburg in April 2022. An initiative of the [Australian Water Association](#) (Victorian branch), the project showcases the stories of several women associated with the Merri.

On behalf of the Committee of Management, I give thanks to the MCMC staff and volunteers for their dedicated work this year in ecological restoration, environmental education, advocacy in the interests of the creek and associated ecosystems, and creating diverse opportunities for community connection to local nature and to our special waterway.

Ann McGregor, President



Mother's Day Planting at Merri Park Wetland Northcote

Ecological Restoration

Our Ecological Restoration Team manages indigenous vegetation at 109 sites along the Merri Creek, its tributaries, adjoining catchments, and some ecologically significant locations well beyond the Merri catchment.

Working amongst Kangaroo Grass in St Albans



Key activities

This year, around 42% of our works focussed on grassland ecosystems, 35% on shrublands and woodlands, and 22% on wetlands and the banks of waterways. Around 61% of these works assisted the regeneration of remnant vegetation while reconstruction of significantly degraded sites accounted for 29% of our works. Ecological consultancy, monitoring and community engagement made up the remaining 10% of works.

We planted approximately 27,800 plants, 92% of which were ground-storey, 6% were aquatics and semi-aquatics, and 2% were shrubs and trees. This included creating *in-situ* seed orchards for two plant species rare to the catchment, adding to the seed orchards for 15 species established in previous years. A total of 4.4kg of seed was collected from 43 different species (including from seed orchards) for sowing throughout the catchment this year.

Our team had an extremely busy year, growing to 18 staff as a variety of new projects began. Highlights this year included:

- Deepening our relationship with Darebin City Council through involvement in bushland management sites along Merri, Edgars and Darebin Creeks.
- Working closely with a private landowner on a spectacular section of the Merri Creek near Beveridge.
- Discovering and documenting forgotten or unknown populations of threatened species in Merri Creek grasslands, and in rail-side remnant sites elsewhere in Melbourne.
- A bumper year for events, including a series of workshops with the LGBTIQ Friends of Bababi Djinanang, walks, talks and working bees at Galada Tamboore, a host of planting days, and monthly activities with Friends of Merri Creek's Wednesday Volunteers.
- A hugely successful autumn burn season (our busiest yet) over 12 days from March through to May.
- 10 staff receiving formal accreditation in a nationally recognised course – Assist with Prescribed Burning.
- Two of our senior staff being among the first Victorians to be accredited as Bushland Regenerators, by the [Australian Association of Bush Regenerators](#) (AABR), an organisation which works to foster effective management of natural areas based on sound ecological principles, and to raise the standards of Australia's ecological restoration industry. Both staff are now training to become AABR's first Victorian accreditation assessors.

Funding

The total income for Ecological Restoration projects was \$1,410,200, a 25% increase on the previous year. Of this amount, 58% was for works within the Merri Creek catchment, 12% for works outside the catchment but within the municipalities of MCMC's member Councils, and 30% for works at ecologically significant locations elsewhere in greater Melbourne.

Agreements with member Councils: Ongoing funding agreements with Darebin, Hume, Merri-bek and Yarra Councils funded \$326,000 of our vegetation management and community engagement work.

Grants: We delivered \$141,800 of works funded by grants from federal, state and local governments, Melbourne Water, and donations to our own [Merri Creek Environment Fund](#). Approximately \$28,000 of these grants were received by Friends of Merri Creek, from grant applications developed by MCMC. We applied for two government grants this year, both of which were successful.

These grants, plus the \$86,000 worth of volunteer contributions, added significant value to our council-funded restoration and vegetation maintenance works.

Contracts: We maintained various bushland and grassland areas in Brunswick, Bundoora, Coburg, Fawkner, Northcote, Reservoir and Thornbury through contracts with local councils worth approximately \$406,000. Contracts with other clients worth \$508,100 included: continued management of a vegetation offset at a grassland in Craigieburn; reinstatement of wetland vegetation in Mickleham removed as part of a sewer upgrade; control of serious weed infestations at grasslands in Wollert and Merriang for the APA Group and private landholders; restoration, management and monitoring of 21 ecologically diverse rail biosites throughout metropolitan Melbourne for Metro Trains and the Department of Transport; and flora and fauna surveys for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. We applied for 46 contracts in total and were awarded 88% of them.

Volunteer contribution

Involving community in hands-on activities is key to our work. Opportunities for community participation increased as pandemic restrictions eased, and we hosted 55 well-attended community events including weed workshops, weed mapping, planting days and fauna surveys. 695 volunteers from the local community, Friends of Merri Creek members, students and corporate groups provided hands-on assistance to our ecological restoration projects. All up, these volunteers contributed 2,464 hours of their time, equivalent to \$86,000 of work. A further 308 people attended talks, training workshops and guided tours.

Of the 695 active volunteers, 287 attended weed removal events (886 hrs), 200 attended planting and direct seeding events (458 hours) and 95 helped monitor nest boxes (205 hours). Approximately 37% of all volunteer work in 2021-22 was performed by individuals volunteering with us for the day, either on formal student placements, or simply to gain practical restoration experience in the field. Collectively, these individuals contributed 915 hours of their time (equivalent to \$32,000 of work) towards the restoration of various sites throughout the catchment.



Volunteers plant grassland species at Ngarri-djarrang Reservoir



Ecological burn at Rushwood Drive Craigieburn

Planning & Coordination

We receive funding from our member Councils to respond to issues, opportunities and threats affecting biodiversity, stream health, landscape, heritage and amenity along waterways in the Merri catchment. This funding, which totalled \$273,164 for the year, also supports our governance, communication services and assistance to community groups.



Planting Silver Banksia at Fawkner

New Parklands: We were delighted to join DELWP's Parklands Partnership Group for the development of the [marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands](#) (see *President's Report*). We also welcomed the [wallan wallan Regional Park proposal](#) and provided feedback on the draft feasibility study report for this park. A large area in the upper Merri is identified for potential inclusion, including creeks, swamps, volcanic cones and hill slopes, totalling over 2,800ha. The state government is yet to release this report.

Sodic Soil Challenges: The high risk of urban development on highly erosive sodic soils in the upper Merri catchment continues to concern us. Studies commissioned by the Victorian Planning Authority for new Precinct Structure Plan areas, such as Wallan South and Wallan East, confirm the widespread occurrence of these soils. The ongoing problems in remediating a [poorly constructed waterway in Mickleham](#) illustrate the challenges these sodic soils pose.

Waterway Planning Controls: We recommitted to achieving stronger planning controls for waterways of the north, together with Darebin Creek Management Committee and commissioned a consultant to develop a background review paper for an anticipated workshop in 2023.

Industrial fires: continued to threaten the Merri. A fire at a recycling business associated with the REDcycle scheme, next to the Merri in Somerton, resulted in foam and firewater entering Merri Creek, though fortunately no fish deaths were recorded.

We reviewed: 11 planning matters, including planning permit applications, pre-application material for development proposals, and Development Plans at sites associated with Merri Creek. We raised significant concerns about 8 of these.

Planning Hearings: We appeared at 3 Hearings for planning matters. One was a Ministerial Advisory Committee for the Beveridge North-west Precinct Structure Plan (PSP), which is on the upper reaches of the Kalkallo Creek, a tributary of the Merri. This large new suburb also includes a highly controversial basalt quarry proposal, which was the main focus of the Hearing. We supported the protection and reinstatement of the [burrung buluk](#), wetland that straddles this PSP and the adjacent Wallan South PSP.

We also appeared at the Government Land Standing Advisory Committee on planning controls for land owned by Melbourne Water in Thomastown, intended for sale to the adjacent industrial land owner. We argued vigorously for strong planning controls for this land, part of which is less than 30m from the banks of Merri Creek.

Special Projects – Frogs and Signs: We continued two important projects for the middle Merri: development of a masterplan to secure the [Southern Growling Grass Frog populations](#) in the Merri, thanks to a grant from the Growling Grass Frog Trust Fund; and a marram baba Merri Parklands Signage project, thanks to state government funding (see *President's report*).

Healthy Waterways Strategy: We attended a series of on-line forums for [Melbourne Water's Healthy Waters Strategy](#) to review progress towards strategy targets. Although a number of targets are on track, the targets for stormwater and retention of natural wetlands are not being achieved. This is very disturbing for the Merri, given the massive impact that urbanisation in the upper Merri will have if stormwater impacts are not controlled.

Forums: We continued to participate in the Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority's Regional Landcare Leaders Forum and the steering group for [Wollert Community Farm](#), supporting the latter's indigenous vegetation focus and providing letters of support and information for grant applications. MCMC joined in the formation of the [Edgars Creek and Edwardes Lake Task Force](#), contributed to the launch and regularly participated in meetings. We also sat on the steering group for [Merri Merri Wayi Project](#) and participated in community workshops in 2021-22.

We developed: 4 of our own grant project proposals, 1 in partnership with the Friends of Merri Creek. Two were successful. This was considerably fewer than last year (10) and was due to a lack of grant opportunities.

We publicised: 135 community events on the Merri events [calendar](#), a big increase on the 95 from the previous year when the Covid pandemic restricted public events. We sent out customised emails to our subscriber lists for 45 of these events, an increase on the 25 from the previous year. Despite the ease in Covid restrictions, webinars were still popular. We publicised and ran 6 of these compared to the previous year's 13, and provided financial support for the Merri Paddle groups' [webinar](#) on platypus in the Merri. We maintained our quarterly production of [Merri e-News](#) and began producing the [Upper Merri Landcare Newsletter](#).



Pollution entering Merri Creek North Coburg



Beaglehole's Bladderwort in Mickleham



We posted: Weekly to our [Instagram](#) account, with over 2,500 followers; our [Waterwatch Instagram](#), with 619 followers, and our [Creek Cleanups Facebook](#) with 549 followers. We regularly contributed items for Friends of Merri Creek's [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) and to Councils' environment newsletters. We also contributed to podcasts and videos.

We collaborated: With Australian Water Association Victorian Branch to establish the digital [Women's Walk along Merri Creek](#) featuring the stories of 6 women, including MCMC's President and Manager. We also supported the reprint of the *Grassy Plains Network's* useful [Grassland Species Brochure](#).

Publication: Along with Uncle Dave Wandin, MCMC's Angela Foley published [In the fine grain: Intimate materials and experimental archaeology on Wurundjeri Country today](#) following a conference presentation in early 2021.

Conferences: Our staff made contributions at 2 conferences: to the *Plants Going Places'* Victorian Translocation Symposium on our experiences with translocations of various grassy plains species including Plains Yam Daisy and Lemon Beauty Heads; and as a panellist at the 2022 Victorian Biodiversity Conference on 'Challenges and opportunities for ecological restoration in the suburbs'.

State Election Prospectus: We provided technical information and cost estimates for Friends of Merri Creek's [election prospectus](#), especially the investment needed for proper management of the Merri's precious native grasslands and the pressing need for toxicant treatment systems to reduce the impact of contaminated industrial stormwater on Merri Creek.

Our Governance arrangements: continued to generate interest and we made presentations to groups involved in the Barwon River, Maribyrnong River and Gardiners Creek.

Our ninth annual mid-year Appeal raised \$21,318 in donations to the [Merri Creek Environment Fund](#). We also received \$15,596 from other donations during the year.

Upper Merri Landcare

In the first full year for our Upper Merri Landcare Facilitator, a lot was achieved despite the challenges of Covid-19.

Two groups in the Upper Merri were assisted to gain grants and the development of new groups was supported. The Upper Plenty Primary School Junior Landcare Group was formed; good progress was made towards a new Friends of Hidden Valley Bushlands group; and planning got underway to establish a new Landcare group in the Upper Merri area.

We held 13 events with 210 volunteers. Activities included planting days with 3 schools, a wildlife nest box activity with local Scouts, a weed identification and control session for Wallan Environment Group on the Hidden Valley rail reserve, and weed mapping along the rail reserve and along the Merri Creek in Heathcote Junction.



Wallan Environment Group Working Bee

Catchment Program

Our Catchment Program engaged with 6,429 participants for eco-cultural waterway and biodiversity learning in our *Waterwatch* and *Catchment Education* activities. In total 270 events/sessions were held, mainly with education groups. These numbers are considerably higher than in 2020-21, reflecting the loosening of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Funding

Total income for Catchment projects was \$227,000. Of this, 65% was from ongoing funding agreements with four of our member councils, Darebin, Merri-bek, Whittlesea and Yarra; the rest was from: member council grants (14.3%), a *Waterwatch* partnership with Melbourne Water (8%); contracts with member councils, including early years water education sessions for Hume City Council (7.5%); and a small amount as fee-for-service.

Catchment Education

We worked across the catchment with the early years, primary, secondary, and tertiary education sectors, in on-line and face to face delivery, mainly in open air places that maximised COVID-safe interactions and utilised scientific, ecological, cultural, geographic and creative approaches. We consistently incorporated recognition of Wurundjeri Country.

We responded to the 2022 NAIDOC Week theme, *Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up!* by recognising Wurundjeri Country with activities that highlighted local cultural and ecological contexts.

A focus on the Merri Birrarung confluence continued through our three-year partnership grant from Yarra City Council. This included two webinars with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elder, Uncle Dave Wandin: [Part 1](#) in December 2021 and [Part 2](#) in January 2022; three guided walks at Merri Birrarung confluence involving 73 people; and the development of a series of on-line early years sessions with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung educator Rebecca Axford. Altogether, these events were attended by 343 people.

We supported Keele Street kindergarten in Collingwood to establish a Bush Kinder program at Yarra Bend to encourage children's connection to Country. The Kindergarten later won the 2022 Victorian Government's Early Years Educational Leadership Award.

We assisted people to connect with nature and with urban stormwater issues and climate change by embedding a mix of skills, expertise, networks, and relationships into our education and engagement programs. Highlights included:

- Production of a short film [Trimming Poo](#) to inspire those making new connections with indigenous biodiversity.
- Inviting people of all ages to draw plants to become more knowledgeable about plant characteristics such as shape, variable seasonal appearances, relationship with animals, and Woi-wurrung, English and Latin names.
- Provision of advice, support and leadership to educators, councils and community groups, including workshops with: RMIT as part of Melbourne Design Week at CERES Community Park; Darebin Council Early Childhood Resource Team; and Newlands and East Coburg Neighbourhood Houses.

We led other outdoor explorations to nearby natural areas beyond their kindergartens, notably with the *Stepping Out* project for Hume's early years sector, which involved 162 people; activities for *National Tree Day* at Norris Bank Reserve, Bundoora; a vacation program with families, partnering with Darebin Creek Management Committee for *Wildlife Warriors*, involving plant identification, planting, weeding, drawing waterbugs; and also, for *World Environment Day*, twinning iuk (Short-finned eels) to show how planting indigenous plants affects waterways and impacts freshwater creatures.

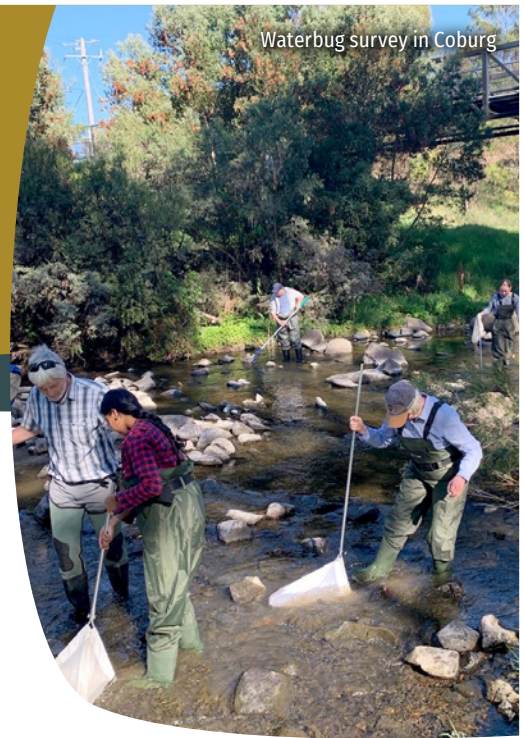
We continued 20 years of our *Learning Grounds Program* to support those developing indigenous gardens including with Brunswick North West Primary's *Yakai Barring*; the Department of Education's Coburg Regional Office (planting the outdoor area); Epping Secondary College's landscape students, and also with Landcare Australia, Lendlease and the Edgars Creek Primary School community in Wollert.

Waterwatch

Our *Waterwatch* program is funded by our member Councils, Darebin, Hume, Merri-bek, Whittlesea and Yarra, plus Melbourne Water. Additional fee for service work was undertaken for the Banyule, Merri-bek Mitchell and Moonee Valley Councils, Aitken Secondary College, Pentridge Divisions Art Gallery, Melbourne Water and the Girl Guides Association of Victoria.

Eight volunteer *Waterwatch* monitoring groups came out of COVID-19 restrictions and began sampling in early 2022. These volunteer-led groups conduct regular water quality monitoring at 12 sites across the Edgars, Merri, Darebin, and Moonee Ponds Creeks. 30 community members contributed regularly. Their water quality data can be viewed in each group's [annual WQ summaries](#).

Waterbug survey in Coburg



Due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, less water quality data was collected than in previous years. That which was collected showed no improvement in the poor water quality condition of Merri Creek and its tributaries. The lower, urbanised reaches were generally in worse condition than the upper reaches and carried high amounts of litter (see litter summary below). Disturbance to highly erosive soils in the mid to upper Merri catchment contributed to very [muddy flows](#) after heavy rain, as in previous years. Discharge of detergents from stormwater drains was visible in Merri Creek at times in the lower reaches. Detergents are highly detrimental to the Merri Creek. Not only do they add excess phosphate which can cause algal blooms, resulting in lower dissolved oxygen, they contain toxins that are harmful to aquatic life, fish in particular.

Other MCMC-led citizen science monitoring included: collection of data on frog species diversity and populations at 8 sites for the Melbourne Water Frog census; surveys of Waterbug (aquatic macroinvertebrate) at 5 sites; and [Platypus eDNA testing](#) at 11 sites; Collection of baseline water quality data before the removal of the concrete channel in Moonee Ponds Creek, Strathmore North - see more [here](#).

There were many keen people wanting to volunteer with *Waterwatch* and during the year we trained 24 new volunteers. We engaged 4,291 students, early years and other community members in 185 [Waterwatch education](#) sessions. Some were at creek-side locations, and others at outdoor areas at schools, kindergartens, local libraries and interactive displays at festivals.

Litter Clean-Ups: Thanks to support from MCMC member councils, Darebin, Merri-bek, Whittlesea and Yarra, we continued our community litter clean-up sessions. 320 participants picked up litter at 20 MCMC-led education and citizen science events on the Merri and Moonee Ponds Creek ([see Litter Report](#)).

The three most common litter items collected were: unidentifiable plastic fragments and remnants (macro-plastics); cigarette butts; single use food packaging/packets (chip, snack and lolly packets).

Since 2018, the results of all our litter surveys have been added to the [Litter Watch Victoria](#) data base, which is accessible to the public.



Students from Marymede Catholic College, South Morang show their work on indigenous biodiversity

Financial report

Summarised Balance Sheet

as at 30th September 2022

	2022	2021
Equity		
Retained Funds – Start	427,686	388,911
Transfer (to)/from Environment Fund Reserve	(9,934)	(23,322)
Add Surplus/(Deficit)	103,226	62,097
	520,978	427,686
Environment Fund Reserve	110,429	100,495
Retained Funds – End	631,407	528,181
Represented By:		
Current Assets:	1,570,501	1,464,947
Fixed Assets:	97,552	103,505
Total Assets	1,668,053	1,568,452
Less Total Liabilities	1,036,646	1,040,271
Net Assets	631,407	528,181

Auditor

MCMC's Auditor is Fred Gerardson, Chartered Accountant, Colville Williams & Co. P/L, Lower Plenty.

Merri Creek Environment Fund

We gratefully acknowledge the 103 generous donors to the Merri Creek Environment Fund, including Famke Charko, Robyn Freeman, Margaret & Richard Lloyd, Joan Monti, Adi Tudor and Monica Williamson.

Summarised Statement of Income & Expenditure

for the twelve months to 30th September, 2022

	2022	2021
Income		
Grants		
Municipalities	771,062	711,349
Other Government	260,328	59,579
Non Government	35,123	75,246
Contracts*	1,006,577	764,574
Sale of Publications	4,565	1,804
Environment Fund Donations	36,914	39,619
Interest & Sundry Income	2,535	#15,486
Total Income	2,117,104	1,667,657
Less Expenditure		
Wages, Salaries & Oncosts	1,489,275	1,286,225
Consultants, Materials & Plant Hire	285,916	126,107
Vehicle Running	33,236	29,732
Admin, Project & General	164,438	119,563
Depreciation & Leave Provisions	41,013	43,933
Total Expenditure:	2,013,878	1,605,560
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	103,226	62,097

*Includes delivery of grants for community groups valued at \$46,572 in 2022 and \$101,926 in 2021. These were projects where MCMC played a lead role in designing and developing the grant application and took responsibility for delivery and reporting.

#Includes Federal Govt's Covid-19 cash flow stimulus to Not For Profits.

The above reports have been summarised from the audited financial statements of the Merri Creek Management Committee for the year ended 30th September 2022. The full statements are on the MCMC website.



Walk and Talk at Galada Tamboree Thomastown

Salt-tolerant wildflowers at Curly Sedge Swamp

Member Representatives and Staff

Committee of Management

Number of meetings attended in brackets – maximum of 4. All were held online.

City of Darebin

Cr Tom Hannan (3)
Luke Sandham (3)

Hume City Council

Cr Jodi Jackson (2)
Damien Harrison,
Secretary/Treasurer (4)

Merri-bek City Council

Cr James Conlan (2)
Richard Tolliday (2)
Alex English (Sub) (1)

City of Whittlesea

Tim Connell, Vice President (3)
Kate Weatherley (1)

City of Yarra

Cr Bridgid O'Brien (2)
Craig Lupton (1)

Mitchell Shire Council

Cr Rob Eldridge (2)
Elyse Kelly (4)

Friends of Merri Creek

Ann McGregor, President (4)
Nicole Lowe, Vice President (4)
Ann Sanson (2)
Jane Miller (2)
Lisa Lawrence (2)
Peter Ewer (2)
Anne Frost, Sub (1)

Wallan Environment Group

Claudia James (4)

Sub-Committees

The following Sub-Committees met during the year:

Executive Sub-Committee (8)
Finance Sub-Committee (4)
Merri Creek Environment
Fund Sub-Committee (2)

MCMC Staff

Manager

Luisa Macmillan

Information Officer

Ray Radford (P/T)

Administration Officer

Monica Williamson (P/T)

Finance Officer

Ruth Rankin (P/T)

IT Manager/Strategic

Projects

Tony Faithfull (P/T)

Cleaner

Diana Ramirez (Casual)

Catchment Program

Engagement Coordinator

Angela Foley (P/T)

Waterwatch Coordinator

Julia Cirillo (P/T)

Waterwatch Ed. Officers

Trevor Hausler, Tania Struzina
(Casuals)

Upper Merri Landcare

Facilitator:

Chris Cobern (P/T)

Waterwatch Volunteers (Office)

Daniel Boyle, Whitney Faull,
Jake McPhee, Tom Romano,
Roby Simeoni

Ecological Restoration Program

Program Manager

Michael Longmore

Program Coordinator

Chris Geary

Program Officer

Charlotte Wood (to March
2022), Sophie Lavence

Team Leaders

Tony Bracey, Megan Maroney
(P/T), Jessica Slade (P/T)

Team Members

Alice Bendeich, Chrissi
Charles (P/T), Nathan Edis
(P/T), Susanne Gildea, Hannah
Glasson (P/T), Tess Huntley,
(P/T), Dom McKenzie, Kirby
Medway, Matt Tudor, Jackson
Waters, Nico Wayland (P/T)

Temporary Team Members

Jack Doncon, Monique Doust
(P/T)

Team Volunteers & Interns

Gemma Campbell, Vince
Caruso, Marcus Cook,
Madeleine Dwyer, Emma
French, Lily Griffiths, Ella
Johnston, Mike Liefman, Jode
Moorthy, Hayley O'Sullivan,
Paul Resienberger, Jaeger
Rogerson, Zach Saffin Keating,
Andrew Tancredi, Finn Walsh

Consultants

Project Management

Toni Roberts,
Hatchling Studios

Planning Advice

Stephen Rowley, RCI Planning

Biodiversity Advice

Yasmin Kelsall, Confluence
Ecology & Community

Website Support

Peter Batchelor, Internet
Technology Services

Computing Support

Infoxchange

Children twining at
Merri Park Northcote



Wurrundjeri Elder, Uncle Dave Wandin,
leads a walk at the Merri Birrarung confluence



MERRI CREEK



MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Merri Creek Management Committee

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