



Bronze Bluebell
(*Wahlenbergia luteola*)
in Beveridge.

“The Wahlenbergias are a sure-fire way of attracting native bees. They are often found sleeping in the flowers when the weather turns cool.”

*— Brian Bainbridge, Ecological Restoration Planner,
Merri Creek Management Committee.*



Swamp Billy-buttons
(*Craspedia paludicola*)
in Beveridge.

“Having encountered the native grasses and wildflowers here in their natural settings, (at Galgi Ngarrk — Craigieburn Grassland) I noticed later, after my return, that I truly recognised them when I saw them in the replantings along the urban banks of the creek — I knew them now, in a way I never could have known them through book learning.”

— Freya Mathews, Journey to the Source of the Merri, 2003.



River Red Gum,
Bababi Marring
(Cooper St Grassland).

“My favourite place in the middle of winter is early in the morning in the Merri Park Wetlands in Northcote when the fog is low and the frogs are calling. In the height of summer I love the Galada Valley in Campbellfield, its enormous blue sky and the sound of crickets.”

— Angela Foley, Special Engagement Programs Coordinator, Merri Creek Management Committee.



Galada Tamboore,
Campbellfield.

“My involvement with restoring Merri Creek goes hand-in-hand with my own personal restoration. It is such a joy to have made a small contribution to improving the environment. My favourite place on the Merri is Galada Tamboore, a spectacular site where I can feel the spirit of the place.”

*— Ray Radford, Secretary of
Friends of Merri Creek since 1996.*



*“Bringing back the birds to the Merri
has been a big achievement.”*

*— Ann McGregor, Vice-President,
Friends of Merri Creek.*

Tiny, colourful Spotted Pardalotes have returned to the Merri valley as the replanted Eucalypts have grown to provide food and shelter for them.



Merri Creek
in Thornbury

*Map
water follows time
fence follows line
sunlight ebbs
& the wind sounds
crackle & spark
in skirts of grass*

— Tony Birch



“I like walking to school across the green bridge. On a cold day there is ice on it. Sometimes — if I’m up for adventure — I walk across the stepping stones.”

— Tali, 11 years old.

Early morning commuters cross the Harding St Bridge in Coburg, 2015.



Friends of Edgars Creek
gather together for their
annual Christmas party
and planting, 2014.

“I am very fortunate to live only a couple of streets away from the Merri Creek, close to Strettle Wetland. If not for the creek, the trees, shrubs, birds and walking paths I would not be able to tolerate city living. I can get a great dose of nature within minutes, away from all the concrete and cars.”

— Lisa Lawrence, Thornbury resident.



Damien Nicholson and the Djirri Djirri Dance Group perform at the Merri Magical Morning, a family-oriented event organised by Merri Creek Management Committee in Merri Park, Northcote in February 2015. Funding came from the State Government's Communities for Nature grants program.

“Whenever I go to the creek I just think how lucky I am to live near a place like this.”

— Zoe Phillips, Brunswick resident.



Ancient River Red Gum, Merri Creek at Lockerie.

“Three years ago I walked the whole creek. It took 7 days. Now, wherever I am on the creek I can imagine its length from Heathcote Junction all the way down to the Yarra.”

— Rebecca Mayo, artist, weeder and walker.