



MOOMBA PARK COMMUNITY DAY

MORELAND AUTUMN PLANTING FESTIVAL 2003

FINAL REPORT



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1. Introduction

This report documents the fifth Moreland Multicultural Autumn Planting Festival.

Project aims

- Develop an understanding in the broader community of the value of planting in autumn rather than spring.
- Attract interest in open space development and management from Moreland's non-English speaking background community.
- Complete a community-based planting in a Moreland landscape at Moomba Park, Fawkner during autumn 2003.

Summary

The festival was opened officially by Councillor Ken Blair. John Lane acted as master of ceremonies and roving acoustic performance artist accompanied by musician Phil Carroll. The festival included a waste-free barbeque lunch prepared with assistance from Moreland Rotary Club.

Seven hundred and fifty indigenous plants were planted into a previously prepared site. Environmental and cultural activities included:



- Interpretive walks to Merri Creek with MCMC's Brian Bainbridge and Jessica Miller,
- Stream life explorations assisted by Jessica Miller (MCMC Waterwatch Coordinator),
- 14 km bike ride from CERES to Moomba Park led by Ross Park of Brunswick Bicycle Users Group,
- Face and hand painting of indigenous flora and fauna of Merri Creek by Angela Foley (see photo, left),
- Dancing and musical performances involving participating groups.

Children inside the marquee show off their painted faces and hands at Moomba Park Planting Festival with educational display behind them.

2. Promotion, hire and permits

- A press release (see Appendix A) and news item (see Appendix B),
- A poster was sent to three local schools, placed in 14 local shops in Fawkner by MCMC and distributed further by Moreland Rotarians (see Appendix C),
- The festival was promoted through the newsletter of the Brunswick Bicycle User's Group (BUG) (see Appendix D),
- A letter of invitation plus a poster was sent to 24 targeted school and community groups based in Moreland (See Appendix E),
- Moomba Park Primary School participated in pre-festival environmental education activities including an educational walk, art session (with 50 pieces displayed at the festival) and interactive lecture to increase environmental awareness of Moomba Park and Merri Creek,
- Moreland United Soccer Club ensured access to clean toilets on the day,
- One bus was hired for the day to carry groups between the festival site and group's community meeting centres,
- Marquee, tressle tables, chairs were hired for the event, and
- Event and food handling permits were obtained from Moreland Council.

Entertainment was provided by John Lane (left) who was also the Master of Ceremonies for the day.

He was accompanied by musician Phil Carroll (right) as they drew people into song and dance.

They are pictured here serenading on banjo and piano accordion as festival participants dug, planted and watered 750 plants.



3. Key involvement

Moreland City Council

Eammon Fennessey, MCC Landscape Planning Policy and Design Coordinator

Merri Creek Management Committee

Angela Foley, Catchment Programs, (Event Coordinator)

Parkland Management Team:

Judy Bush, Chrissie Cowcher, Barb Miles, Brian Bainbridge and Nic Drever

Volunteers

MCMC is indebted to many volunteers but especially to:

- Moreland Rotary Club (assisting with food preparation),
- Friends of Merri Creek and Judy Bush (assisting with quality control during planting),
- Ellie Flutey (food preparation and kitchen management),
- Ross Park (Brunswick Bicycle Users Group, for coordinating the bike ride).

4. Community involvement

Festival development

MCMC has its own commitment to and relationship with many groups throughout the Merri Creek catchment including multicultural groups in the City of Moreland. MCMC shares Council's goal to nurture those relationships and to involve the community in environmental development. The history of the Autumn Planting Festival is as follows.

The first Autumn Planting Festival was held at Golf Road in Coburg North in 1999 and attended by 80 people. In 2000 the festival was held at Moomba Park Reserve in Fawkner with 250 people attending. In keeping with council's bid to expand further again in 2001, MCMC doubled the level of 2000's festival attendance on a budget of approximately \$34,000 to reach an attendance level of nearly 500 people.

Funding for the 2002 festival at Kingsford Smith Reserve in Glenroy was reduced to \$15,000 (mainly due to lack of a matching contribution from Parks Victoria). It was attended by about 200 people. In 2003 about 100 people attended with funding remaining constant from 2002. Additional funds were required when it became apparent that the pavilion at Moomba Park Reserve would be unavailable due to renovations. Additional costs incurred included purchase of catering goods, hire of marquee, chairs and tressle tables as well as coordination time.

Confirmation of attendance prior to the festival meant about 150 – 180 were expected. The significantly reduced numbers participating on the day were mainly due to arising health issues for the Chinese and Arabic communities.

Food

A food poisoning event in 2002 in the City of Moreland during a multicultural community event required the elimination of the previous concept of the shared feast at Autumn Planting Festivals. In 2002 groups still brought their own food and were advised not to share. In 2003 all were advised not to bring food, that it would be provided free.

As a result, in 2003 MCMC provided a free Halal, non-Halal and vegetarian lunch for all attending. Therefore part of the budget was spent in a way not previously required in order to comply with health regulations and increased catering needs. This included provision of serving platters and utensils, cups, sauce bottles, drink jugs and food carrying tubs.



Moomba Park Primary School took special interest in the Moomba Park Community Day. In the classrooms students learned how water travels through the stormwater system before it gets to Merri Creek. They are shown here at a stormwater drain with Jessica Miller during a guided walk tracking the movement of water from their school to the creek. Later they prepared artwork to reflect on what they had learned. This made an excellent display two days later in the marquee at the festival.

Table 1: Liaison with the community

GROUP/CONTACT	ACTIVITY	MONTH
1. Moreland United Soccer Club	Visit/Liaison	Feb - May
2. 28 community groups	Mail out	April
3. Moreland Scouts	Phone contact	March
4. Arabic Women's Group	Liaison	April - May
5. Arabic Women's Groups	Visited	May
6. Moreland Rotarians	Discussions/visit	April- May
7. Elderly Chinese Support Group	Discussions	March/April/May
8. Brunswick BUG	Liaison/Visit	March - May
9. Darebin BUG	Liaison	May
10. Fawkner Community House	Discussions/visit	April – May
11. Fawkner Indigenous Gardening Gp	Discussions	April - May
12. Ven Tang, Tu Vien Quang Duc Buddhist Welfare Association Victoria	Liaison/invitation	April
13. Local areas near Moomba Park (homes and businesses)	200 posters/mail box drop	May
14. Moomba Park Primary School	Liaison/visit	April – May



Moomba Park Primary School students finish their walk on the Merri Creek shared path beside the sites that were to be planted up at the festival on the following weekend.

Even though many of these children live nearby, some students had never visited the creek before this visit.

5. Financials

Fees and overall budget

Costs and design fees for this project were budgeted in the order of and up to \$15,000.

Breakdown of costs and inputs including for additional funds*

task	resources	Costs
Site selection, revegetation design and site preparation	Liaison with council officers, design prep 2 applications of herbicide to prepare weed free site	\$1,440
Provision of planting and mulching material	Indigenous tubestock x 750 Mulch (fine pine) x 40m ³ Treeguards x 50	\$1,640
Provision of tools	<i>In-kind</i>	
Community participation, community day promotion	Liaison – recruit groups and organise Community Day Community Day Administration/ co-ordination	\$6,250
Community participation <i>Community day</i>	Food Bus hire (for community day) Staff to supervise planting and barbeque.	\$5,370
<i>Original agreement subtotal</i>		\$15,000
*Additional items	1) Hire of marquee, chairs, tables	\$1139.76
	2) Staff costs to supervise organize hire and erection of marquee	\$350
<i>Overall subtotal</i>		\$16,489.76
<i>+GST 10%</i>		\$1648.98
<i>TOTAL</i>		\$18,138.74

* The additional items were agreed upon between Eamonn Fennessy (M.C.C.) and Angela Foley (M.C.M.C.)

APPENDIX A: PRESS RELEASE

APPENDIX B: News Item

(unavailable at time of report preparation)

APPENDIX C: POSTER

APPENDIX D: Newsletter inclusions to community groups

1. Brief for Brunswick Bicycle Users Group

Ceres to Moomba Park - Bike, plant, BBQ!

**SATURDAY 31st May 2003 from 11am till 2pm
(Enter from McBryde Street, Melways 8 A 12)**

Merri Creek Management Committee invites you to join in a family ride from CERES to Moomba Park for Moreland City Council's Moomba Park Community Day. The day is part of an indigenous planting festival with a free barbeque that includes vegetarian and Halal food, Merri Creek walks, face and hand painting, waterwatch and, of course - free bike maintenance.

The six kilometre ride is paced for all ages and non-experienced riders are welcome. There is a terrific bike track the whole way which avoids the need for crossing any busy roads. Meet around 10am for a 10.30 start at the CERES café or simply join us at Moomba Park, Fawkner.

2. Brief for Scouting groups

Scouts! - On your bike to Moomba Park

Ceres to Moomba Park - Bike, plant, BBQ!

**SATURDAY 31st May 2003 from 11am till 2pm
(Enter from McBryde Street, Melways 8 A 12)**

Merri Creek Management Committee invites you to join in Moreland City Council's Moomba Park Community Day. The day is part of an indigenous planting festival with a free barbeque that includes vegetarian and Halal food, Merri Creek walks, face and hand painting, Waterwatch and, of course - free bike maintenance, so come on your bike!

Meet at CERES near the café in East Brunswick to cycle north along Merri Creek Shared Path for a six kilometre ride to Moomba Park in Fawkner. The ride is paced for all ages and non-experienced riders are welcome. There is a terrific bike track the whole way which avoids the need for crossing any busy roads. (Meet around 10am for a 10.30 start.) Otherwise, why not cycle on over to Moomba Park and an experienced cyclist will give your bike's brakes and wheels the once over.

APPENDIX E: Mail out letter to community groups

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE



Dear Friends,

Its on again! Autumn Planting Festival “Moomba Park Community Day”

We have enjoyed the presence and performances of many groups at this festival over the years and now, again on behalf of Moreland City Council, Merri Creek Management Committee wishes to invite you to join in the 2003 Autumn Planting Festival on:

Saturday 31st May from 11am to 2pm
At Moomba Park Reserve, Fawkner (enter from McBryde St.)

We can provide a bus to pick up some groups (first in, first served basis) and there will be planting, Waterwatch activities, nature walks and a free barbeque. (Please feel free to bring a thermos for any hot drinks and any food for yourselves.) Also, we are fortunate to have John Lane as Master of Ceremonies once again and we continue to welcome any display of your culture through dancing and singing performances.

Help me plan a terrific festival day. Please let me know how many people would like to come and what performances you would like to do by Friday 14th May.

For further information, please contact Angela Foley at Merri Creek Management Committee during office hours on: 9380 8199. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Foley
Autumn Planting Festival Coordinator

(PS I am sorry to say that festival funding does not stretch to include any money for performances or food.)