Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) Rapid Response to Litter after rainfall Project Report 2024





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The MCMC Rapid Response to Litter after Rainfall program is proudly funded by the Cities of Darebin, Merri-bek, Whittlesea and Yarra. The program is supported by the Friends of Merri Creek, Friends of Edwardes Lake, and the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek. Thank you to Elahe Sarafian for helping with data analysis.

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Cover photo: Westbreen Primary School students involved in a Litter Cleanup of the Westbreen Creek, April, 2024

1. Introduction

The Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) <u>Rapid Response to Litter after Rainfall</u> (RRLC) program has been running for six years since its inception in 2018 via a grant from the <u>Port Phillip Bay fund</u>. The aim of the program is to support the local community to safely remove litter from the waterways of the Merri Creek catchment and to extend the existing litter clean-up program run successfully for over 22 years by <u>Friends of Merri Creek</u>. As well as the tributaries and wetlands within the Merri Creek Catchment, in 2021 the program extended to the Plenty River and Moonee Ponds catchments.

In 2024, MCMC supported a broad range of litter clean-up events conducted by residents and local conservation groups including Friends of Merri Creek (FoMC), Friends of Edwardes Lake, and the Chain of Ponds (Moonee Ponds Creek). Over the past two years, MCMC has been continually streamlining and improving litter data collection, data submissions procedures and community access to litter collection kits.

The program continues to be generously funded by the Darebin City Council, Merri-bek City Council, City of Yarra, Whittlesea City Council, and the City of Hume. Funding has enabled MCMC to provide residents and local groups with advice, equipment, and support to organise their own clean-up events.

Ninety-five per cent of litter that washes up on Port Phillip Bay beaches begins its journey after being dropped on suburban streets. From cigarette butts to plastic bottles, most of the litter dropped on our streets is washed into the stormwater system by rainfall¹. After heavy rainfall events, stormwater deposits a large amount of litter on the banks of the creeks. This litter combines with locally generated litter dropped along creek-side paths, picnic areas and nearby sports facilities. As a result, creek corridors will continue to be a focus location for litter collection.

Litter clearly has both amenity and ecological impacts. Over 2.5 billion pieces of litter and microplastics are estimated to flow into Port Phillip Bay each year from the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers ². In MCMC's experience, concern about levels of litter in Merri Creek is the most frequent 'negative' comment made about the condition of the creek by users of the Merri Creek parklands. This has been confirmed by Melbourne Water, who identified the reduction of litter as a key objective for improving the values of Melbourne's rivers and creeks.³ It has also established targets for relative 'absence of litter' in waterways. The target for Merri Creek lower is to move from 'moderate absence' to 'high absence' of litter in the lower Merri. Currently, the upper Merri has a 'high absence of litter'. The target for the Moonee Ponds Creek is to 'retain the current 'high absence of litter', while the Plenty River lower aims to increase from the current "moderate absence" to "high absence" of litter. The Upper Plenty River target is to increase from the "high" to a "very high" absence of litter.

¹ 2020 Litter tracking - Melbourne waterways | Healthy Waterways Strategy

² Port Phillip EcoCentre. October 2020. Clean Bay Blueprint- Microplastics in Melbourne

³ Healthy Waterways strategy 2018-2028 and report card. This is a strategy for managing waterways in five catchments of Port Phillip and Westernport region. Report card | Healthy Waterways Strategy

Dog droppings are one litter type that are on the increase Australia wide. This is due to a notable increase in dog ownership since the pandemic in 2019⁴, with some Melbourne Councils reporting a 50% increase in dog ownership in the last six years⁵. "Droppings contain harmful nutrients and bacteria, and some ends up in natural waterways and the ocean via the stormwater system. This can contribute to excessive E. coli readings on beaches after rainfall." MCMC 2024 data included 48 bags of bagged droppings and at least 40 unbagged dog droppings. This is an extremely conservative estimate as droppings are often not handled and included in the final count. The RRLC program can play an important role in recording the dog dropping data and confirming hot spot sites. Possible solutions could include increased education programs⁷ and hot spot site based composting and localised septic systems⁸.

Another litter type steadily increasing Australia wide is e-cigarettes / vapes. Rates of people vaping is increasing steadily in younger users⁹ despite State and Federal government public education programs. 2024 litter data included 102 single use and rechargeable vapes. In 2024 the RRLC program recorded 93 disposable and rechargeable e-cigarettes. This was an increase of over 24% from the 2023 figure of 75 pieces. Vapes are a particularly concerning litter stream as "the heavy metals, including the lithium in vape batteries take hundreds of years to break down in the environment and the E-liquids leaking from vapes can harm aquatic life and contaminate water". MCMC data on this waste stream could represent valuable data to feedback to relevant government agencies.

Container Deposit Legislation came into effect in November 2023. Anecdotal litter volunteer feedback seems to indicate a reduction in plastic bottles entering the waste stream in and around the waterways. We will continue to observe and record data to see if a litter reduction pattern is emerging with plastic bottles and other containers in the scheme.

⁴ Pets and the Pandemic <u>AMAU005-PATP-Report21 v1.4 WEB.pdf</u>

⁵ Pet lovers guide City of Melbourne A pet lover's guide to living in the City of Melbourne | City of Melbourne

⁶ Litter Prevention Kit Dog Poo <u>Litter-Prevention-Kit DOG POO 2014.pdf</u>

⁷ Litter Prevention Kit Dog Poo Litter-Prevention-Kit DOG POO 2014.pdf

⁸ Doggy Dooley septic system https://doggiedooley.com/how-it-works

⁹ Over 3.5 million Australians aged 14 or over vape or smoke, new data has revealed - ABC News

¹⁰ E-cigarettes are a triple environmental threat https://www.cleanup.org.au/e-cigarettes

2. Location of litter community clean-ups (maps: www.litterwatchvictoria.org.au)

Figure 1: Litter clean-ups within the Plenty River catchment, 2021–2024 (City of Whittlesea). Red dots indicate clean-up locations.





Figure 2: Litter clean-ups within the Moonee Ponds Creek catchment, 2020–2024 (City of Merri-bek). Red dots indicate clean up locations.

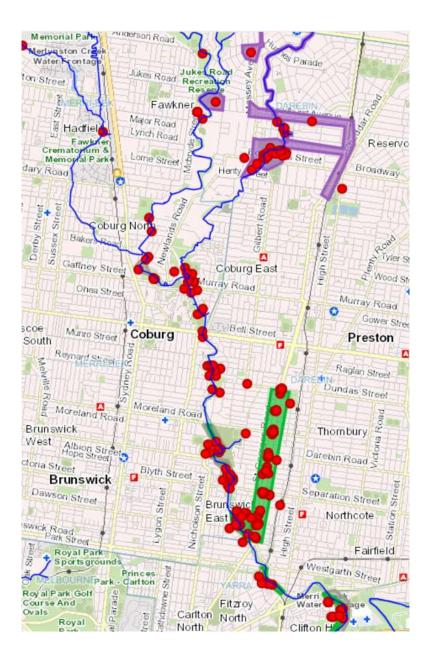


Figure 3: Litter Clean Ups within the Merri Creek catchment 2018-2024 (Cities of Darebin, Merribek & Yarra) Red dots and shaded coloured areas indicated clean up locations.



Figure 4: Litter Clean Ups within the Merri Creek catchment 2018 -2024 (City of Hume) Red dots and shaded coloured areas indicated clean up locations.

*School and Early Years participants are not included

| Date | Group | #Participants | #Sessions | Location | Funder |
|------------|--|---------------|-----------|--|--|
| 29/02/2024 | Wild Daisy Nature Play Group, Early Years | 10 | 1 | Edgars Creek, Newlands | City of Darebin & City of Merri bek |
| 03/03/2024 | Local community | 8 | 1 | Sun Moth Park, Malcolm Creek, Craigieburn | City of Hume |
| 05/03/2024 | Fitzroy North Primary School | 50 | 2 | Merri Creek, Fitzroy North | Friends of Merri Creek |
| 05/03/2024 | Reservoir Joeys | 17 | 1 | Edwardes lake & Edgars Creek, Reservoir | City of Darebin |
| 06/03/2024 | Fitzroy North Primary School | 75 | 3 | Merri Creek, Fitzroy North | Friends of Merri Creek |
| 12/03/2024 | Abergeldie Complex Infrastructure | 14 | 1 | Merri Creek, Fawkner & Reservoir | Fee for Service- Corporate Group |
| 21/03/2024 | GHD | 10 | 1 | Edgars and Merri Creek, Coburg | Fee for Service- Corporate Group |
| 25/03/2024 | Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary, Years 9 and 11 | 28 | 2 | Pascoe Vale shopping strip and surrounding streets | City of Merri bek |
| 26/03/2024 | Westbreen Primary School – part of the Litterarty program | 69 | 3 | Westbreen Creek, Pascoe Vale | City of Merri bek |
| 28/03/2024 | Galada Kindergarten | 22 | 1 | Reserve near the Kinder, Epping North | City of Whittlesea |
| 04/04/2024 | ELK Clothing | 23 | 1 | Edwardes Lake and Edgars Creek, Reservoir | City of Darebin |
| 14/04/2024 | Friends of Bracken Creek and community | 19 | 1 | Bracken Creek, Northcote | City of Darebin |
| 22/04/2024 | Westbreen Primary School – part of the Litterarty program | 46 | 2 | Westbreen Creek, Pascoe Vale | City of Merri bek |
| 22/04/2024 | Xavier College student placement program-supporting clean up sessions with Westbreen Primary School students | 4 | See below | Westbreen Creek, Pascoe Vale | Greater Western Water (Chain of Ponds) |
| 22/04/2024 | Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary, Years 9 and 11 | 33 | 2 | Pascoe Vale shopping strip and surrounding streets | City of Merri bek |
| 15/08/2024 | Coburg High School Basketball group | 11 | 1 | Merri & Edgars Creek, Coburg | City of Merri bek |
| 17/08/2024 | Merri Creek Primary School Parents group and students | 26 | 1 | Merri Creek, Fitzroy North | City of Yarra |
| 31/08/2024 | Merri Paddle and Rotary community litter clean up | 29 | 1 | Merri Creek, Coburg | Friends of Merri Creek |
| 04/09/2024 | Friends of Malcolm Creek- meeting to support litter projects with the invigorated Friends of Malcolm Creek | 10 | 1 | NA- meeting | Friends of Merri Creek and City of Hume |
| 21/10/2024 | Northcote Joey Scouts | 27 | 1 | Merri Creek, Brunswick East/Thornbury | City of Darebin |

*School and Early Years participants are not included

| Date | Group | #Participants | #Sessions | Location | Funder |
|------------|---|---------------|-----------|--|-------------------|
| 22/10/2025 | Glenroy College | 15 | 1 | Coburg Lake, Coburg | City of Merri bek |
| 22/10/2024 | Preston Secondary College | 42 | 2 | Edgars and Merri Creek, Coburg | City of Darebin |
| 24/10/2024 | Preston Secondary College | 45 | 2 | Coburg Lake, Coburg | City of Darebin |
| 28/10/2024 | Walker Street Kinder | 22 | 1 | Merri Creek, Hall Reserve, Clifton Hill | City of Yarra |
| 31/10/2024 | Walker Street Kinder | 24 | 1 | Merri Creek, Hall Reserve, Clifton Hill | City of Yarra |
| 12/11/2024 | Preston Secondary College | 66 | 2 | Coburg Lake, Coburg | City of Darebin |
| 14/11/2024 | Preston Secondary College | 55 | 2 | Edgars and Merri Creek, Coburg | City of Darebin |
| 15/11/2024 | Barry Beckett's Children Centre | 24 | 1 | Merri Creek, Coburg | City of Merri bek |
| 24/11/2024 | Merri Bek Primary School Parents group and students | 25 | 1 | Merri Creek, Tate Reserve, Coburg | City of Merri bek |
| 11/12/2024 | Brunswick North Primary School | 52 | 2 | Moonee Ponds Creek, Brunswick West | City of Merri bek |
| 12/12/2024 | Brunswick North Primary School | 75 | 3 | Moonee Ponds Creek, Brunswick West | City of Merri bek |
| | TOTALS | 976 | 45 | | |
| | | | | | |

3. Community clean-ups with MCMC

The 2024 data MCMC submitted to the LitterWatch Vic data portal recorded that 977 people participated in 75 events.

The full list of events can be accessed in Appendix A

Table 1 lists the groups to which MCMC staff delivered education sessions in 2024. Photos of some groups are below:

Photos below-Community Clean Up Days in the catchment from left: Friends of Bracken Creek and local residents clean up the Bracken Creek, a tributary of the Merri Creek, in Northcote; the Merri Paddle (sub group of the Friends of Merri Creek) held their annual clean-up day at one of the platypus monitoring sites, Merri Creek at Coburg; Staff from ELK clothing had their 3rd annual litter clean up with MCMC, this time at Edwardes Park Lake, Reservoir; and bottom: Friends of Malcom Creek held 2 x clean up sessions with the community at Sun Moth Park in Craigieburn.





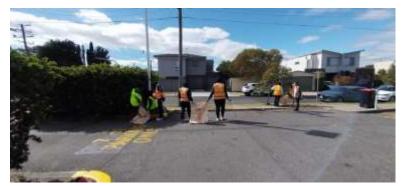




Photos below-School and Early Years Community Clean Up Days in the catchment from left and down: Children and their parents clean up litter from the Edgar Creeks in Newlands as part of the Daisy Nature Play Group; students from Preston High School clean up the Edgars and Merri near the confluence in Coburg; Pascoe Vale Girls College clean up litter form a local littler "hot spot" – the local shopping strip; Parents and Children from the Merri Bek Primary School parent group cleaned up the Merri Creek in Coburg around Tate Reserve and the

Harding St suspension Bridge.













4. The data: what litter is being found and removed?

MCMC uploads the litter data collected from clean-ups to the <u>LitterWatch Victoria data portal</u>. This publicly accessible system allows users to manage and view different datasets from all over Victoria. The mapping features of the portal provide centralised access to litter records and provides tools to compare litter from different areas and time periods.

The <u>2024</u> data MCMC / Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and Friends of Edwardes Lake submitted to the LitterWatch Victoria data portal showed **990 participants** helped out at **75 events**. In total, **75 litter surveys** were logged and **78,815 pieces of litter** were collected.

The <u>2023</u> data MCMC / Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and Friends of Edwardes Lake submitted to the LitterWatch Victoria data portal showed that **849 participants** helped out at **78 events.** In total, **75 litter surveys** were logged and **110,392 pieces of litter** were collected.

The <u>2022</u> data MCMC submitted to the LitterWatch Vic data portal recorded **747 participants** helped out at **71 events.** In total, **71 litter surveys** were logged and collected **94,418 pieces of litter.**

The three most common litter items collected at all sites in 2024 were, in order:

- Unidentifiable plastic fragments and remnants (macro-plastics i.e., above 5mm)
- Polystyrene fragments and remnants (macro sized i.e., above 5mm)
- Single-use food packaging / packets (chip, snack, and lolly packets)

By far the largest portion of all the litter collected at both sites was single-use plastic bags and plastic food packaging. These items are found intact and as broken up smaller pieces, or remnants, known as secondary macro-plastics.

Table 2: 2024 Litter data in categories

| Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) | |
|--|-------|
| Total of 26,236 pieces of litter collected | |
| Total of 822 participants | |
| Total of 43 sets of litter data entered in the LitterWatch portal | |
| Top 5 litter items collected | |
| Unidentifiable soft plastic remnants / fragments | 9,308 |
| Polystyrene fragments | 2,771 |
| Food wrappers (soft includes metallic type) chips, confectionary | 2,365 |
| Cigarette Butts | 2,033 |
| Unidentifiable hard plastic remnants | 1,439 |

| Friends of Edwardes Lake | |
|---|--|
| Total of 32,009 pieces of litter collected | |
| Total of 52 participants | |
| Total of 4 sets of litter data entered in the LitterWatch portal | |

| Top 5 items | |
|--|-------|
| Unidentifiable soft plastic remnants / fragments | 8.537 |
| Food wrappers (soft includes metallic type) chips, confectionary | 5,400 |
| Cigarette butts | 3,050 |
| Napkins | 3,000 |
| Polystyrene fragments | 1,297 |

| Friends of Merri Creek | |
|--|-------|
| Total of 10,734 pieces of litter collected | |
| Total of 47 participants (regular volunteers participated on multiple events) | |
| Total of 26 sets of litter data entered in the LitterWatch portal | |
| Top 5 items | |
| Food wrappers (includes metallic type) chips, confectionary etc | 1,523 |
| Cigarette butts | 1,353 |
| Paper sheets/ remnants / brochures | 1,071 |
| Unidentifiable soft plastic remnants / fragments | 1,005 |
| Unidentifiable hard plastic remnants/ fragments | 437 |

| Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek | |
|---|-------|
| Total of 9,836 pieces of litter collected | |
| Total of 69 participants | |
| Total of 2 sets of litter data entered in the LitterWatch portal | |
| Top 5 items | |
| Unidentifiable soft plastic remnants / fragments | 2,604 |
| Food wrappers (includes metallic type) chips, confectionary etc | 2,230 |
| Unidentifiable hard plastic remnants/ fragments | 1,070 |
| Cigarette butts | 827 |
| Glass Bottles | 429 |

The full list of litter clean-up events (or surveys) can be accessed in Appendix A.

Thank you to the Cities of Darebin, Hume, Merri-bek, Whittlesea, and Yarra and the Friends of Merri Creek for their funding and continued support of this program.

Contact Details

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Appendix A

Community Litter events within the Moonee Ponds and Merri Creek catchments 2024- [Grouped by organising body then dates]

| Date | Group Name | Litter Collection Location | Participants |
|------------|------------|---|---------------------|
| 17/02/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, near Moreland Rd, Thornbury | 2 |
| 17/02/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, near Moreland Rd, Thornbury | 2 |
| 03/03/2024 | MCMC | Malcom Creek, Golden Sun Moth Park, Craigieburn | 8 |
| 05/03/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck Trail, Rushall Station, North Fitzroy | 25 |
| 05/03/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck Trail, Rushall Station, North Fitzroy | 25 |
| 06/03/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck Trail, Rushall Station, North Fitzroy | 25 |
| 06/03/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck Trail, Rushall Station, North Fitzroy | 25 |
| 12/03/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, BT Connor Reserve, Reservoir | 14 |
| 21/03/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck /Edgars Ck Confluence, Coburg | 10 |
| 25/03/2024 | MCMC | Westbreen Creek, Lake Avenue, Pascoe Vale | 17 |
| 26/03/2024 | MCMC | Westbreen Creek, Cornwall Rd, Pascoe Vale | 120 |
| 28/03/2024 | MCMC | Edgars Creek, Epping | 21 |
| 04/04/2024 | MCMC | Edwardes Lake, Reservoir | 21 |
| 14/04/2024 | MCMC | Bracken Creek, Thornbury | 14 |
| 22/04/2024 | MCMC | Westbreen Creek, KW Joyce Reserve Pascoe Vale | 13 |
| 22/04/2024 | MCMC | Westbreen Creek, KW Joyce Reserve Pascoe Vale | 20 |
| 05/05/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck Trail, Rushall Station, North Fitzroy | 8 |
| 17/07/2023 | MCMC | Merri Ck, Ida St, North Fitzroy | 26 |
| 09/08/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, Edna Gv, Coburg | 10 |
| 11/08/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, Brunswick East | 6 |
| 15/08/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck /Edgars Ck Confluence, Coburg | 11 |
| 31/08/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, De Chene Reserve, Coburg | 27 |
| 21/10/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, CERES, Brunswick | 27 |
| 22/10/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck /Edgars Ck Confluence, Coburg | 45 |
| 22/10/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, Coburg Lake | 15 |
| 24/10/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, De Chene Pd, Coburg | 27 |
| 31/10/2024 | MCMC | Halls Reserve, Esplanade, Clifton Hill | 1 |
| 31/10/2024 | MCMC | Halls Reserve, Esplanade, Clifton Hill | 22 |
| 04/11/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, De Chene Reserve, Coburg | 1 |
| 12/11/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck /Edgars Ck Confluence, Coburg | 1 |
| 12/11/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck /Edgars Ck Confluence, Coburg | 1 |
| 15/11/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, De Chene Reserve, Coburg | 25 |
| 24/11/2024 | MCMC | Merri Ck, AH Cap Reserve, West Preston | 19 |
| 10/12/2023 | MCMC | Malcom Creek Craigieburn | 16 |
| 11/12/2024 | MCMC | Moonee Ponds Creek, Brunswick West | 47 |
| 12/12/2024 | MCMC | Moonee Ponds Creek, Brunswick West | 75 |
| 14/12/2024 | MCMC | Merri Creek, Coburg Lake, Coburg | 50 |
| | | | |
| 08/02/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 07/03/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 03/04/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |

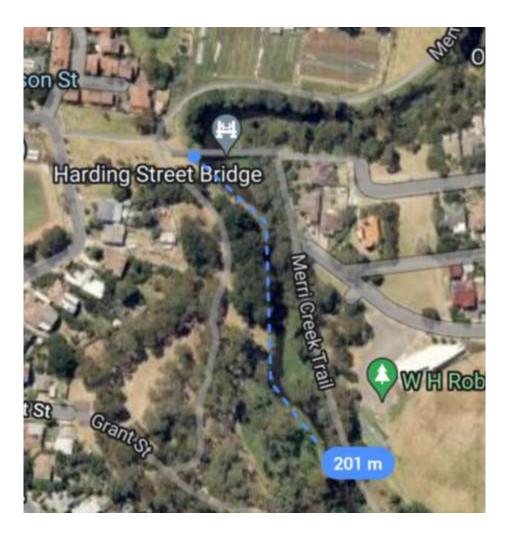
| 04/04/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
|------------|--------------------------|--|----|
| 04/04/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 07/04/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 07/04/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 08/04/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 09/04/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 18/04/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 25/05/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 2 |
| 06/06/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 2 |
| 13/06/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 20/06/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 27/06/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 04/07/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 2 |
| 11/07/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 01/08/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 2 |
| 08/08/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 2 |
| 15/08/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 2 |
| 22/08/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 2 |
| 29/08/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 05/09/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 10/10/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 3 |
| 17/10/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 3 |
| 24/10/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 3 |
| 30/10/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 3 |
| 09/12/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 11/12/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 1 |
| 12/12/2024 | FoMC | St Georges Rd bike path- Northcote / Thornbury | 3 |
| | | | |
| 07/07/2024 | Friends Moonee Ponds Ck | Moonee Ponds Ck, Mile Creek, Pascoe Vale | 4 |
| 31/03/2023 | Friends Moonee Ponds Ck | Moonee Ponds Ck, Woodland Park, Pascoe Vale | 65 |
| | | | |
| 29/01/2024 | Friends of Edwardes Lake | Edwardes Lake, Reservoir | 7 |
| 19/02/2024 | Friends of Edwardes Lake | Edwardes Lake, Reservoir | 6 |
| 03/03/2024 | Friends of Edwardes Lake | Edwardes Lake, Reservoir | 30 |
| 07/04/2023 | Friends of Edwardes Lake | Edwardes Lake, Reservoir | 9 |
| | | | |
| | I | 1 | 1 |

Appendix B

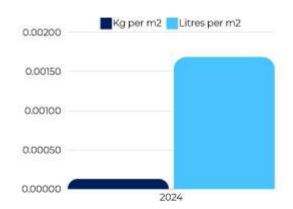
Litter survey completed by Tangaroa Blue Foundation, Merri Creek, 2024

Tangaroa Blue Foundation or TBF (an Australian registered charity) works to prevent and remove marine debris in Australia and across regions. TBF use the <u>Australian Marine Debris Initiative framework</u> to inspire behaviour change, innovation and empower communities, industry, and government to make data-driven decisions that improve ocean health.

In December 2024, TBF conducted their first round of monitoring (a litter survey) at Merri Creek. This was situated near Tate Reserve in Coburg (refer to map below). The Merri Creek monitoring site will be used to collect a range of detailed data sets (through transect sampling) that will be entered into the Australian Marine Debris App for Tangaroa Blue Foundation to contribute to a national understanding and response to marine pollution.







Summary

This report details the successful completion of the first clean up event at the Merri Creek Monitoring site. This site will be a part of a continual monitoring project that will be audited quarterly to record the prevalence of pollution within the area.

AMDI coastal monitoring started in 2023 to capture detailed data sets and has seen an increase in both average volume per m2 and weight of debris per m2 in transect studies.

By aligning our efforts with national monitoring sites across Australia, we aim to strengthen our data collection on marine debris, improve our understanding of debris patterns, and contribute to ongoing environmental conservation efforts.

Tangaroa Blue Foundation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the Lands and Sea Country on which we live and work. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and acknowledge their continuous relationship to this land and the ongoing cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

Data Acknowledgement: Tangaroa Blue Foundation & the Australian Marine Debris (AMDI) Database.

Data Enquiries: data@tangaroablue.org



Merri Creek Clean-up December 2024 Report



2

Participants



4

Total Hours



1.7

Total Kilograms Removed



302.3m (13301.2m) Total Distance Covered



22.4L

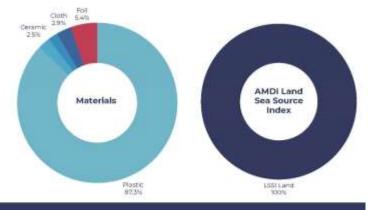
Volume of debris removed



216

Total items removed





Tangaroa Blue Foundation