

MCMC brings thousands of indigenous plants to schools

July 2015 was a great month for biodiversity and water conservation at Brunswick North West Primary School and Thornbury Primary School. Staff members from Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) were integral to the accomplishment of both projects.

Brunswick North West Primary School:

Nearly 3,000 plants were planted at this Brunswick school by nearly 1,000 of the school community to completely transform a derelict area beside the school's grounds. The students participated in the landscape design process, then explored the newly landscaped area before planting up learning areas and wetlands. One very young student said she thought the place looked "all wild-ey now;" and another said that she loved the place so much now, she wanted to go and kiss it. The revolution at school is drawing more than admiring remarks though, as birds are turning up in bigger (noisier) numbers every week to enjoy this fantastic new environment. This project was funded by a water grant from the State Government.

Photos at right: students planting at Brunswick North West Primary and some filming of the event. The plantings are above the now buried Melville Creek.



Thornbury Primary School:

After the removal of a large concrete path and all non-indigenous plants at the eastern entrance to Thornbury Primary School, about 300 students slowly dug, watered, mulched and planted about 350 indigenous plants during NAIDOC Week to create a Woiwurrung Garden. The new garden is an outdoor place for teaching of the school's innovative Woiwurrung Language Program and it now has a very permeable surface. The school received a state government *Communities for Nature* grant to do this work, assisted by MCMC Catchment Program staff.



Photos of Thornbury Primary School: Top row: Removing concrete; and two photos after planting. Bottom row: Thornbury Primary School students preparing for the planting; and the school celebrating NAIDOC week.



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