

Chain of Ponds Moonee Ponds Creek

Welcome Rachel Lopes, Chain of Ponds Lead!

From the Chair

We're delighted to announce Rachel Lopes as the new CoP Collaboration Lead and City West Water (CWW), one of the CoP's key members and funders, as the generous host of the position over the next two financial years. This is a great outcome that will provide stability and certainty for the role.

Thank you to Ben Fraser and Chris Arabatzoudis at CWW for hosting the role and to Melbourne Water for its commitment to hosting the position through the establishment phase of the collaboration.

Rachel comes to the role with a wealth of knowledge and experience in community and stakeholder engagement having recently been Engagement Lead for the *Healthy Waterways Strategy* Refresh. A familiar face to many, Rachel is "excited to continue supporting the awesome work of this collaboration!".



- **Damien Harrison, Coordinator Biodiversity Strategy, Sustainable Environment Department, Hume City Council**

City West Water on hosting the new role of Chain of Ponds Collaboration Coordinator

City West Water is privileged to service one of the fastest growing regions in Melbourne. More than one million people rely on CWW to provide safe, efficient and affordable water and sewer services across the CBD, inner suburbs and the vibrant communities of the west.

We are excited to host the Coordinator's position, to work with the Chain of Ponds Collaboration group and stakeholders, to advocate, influence and ultimately transform the Moonee Ponds Creek into an iconic waterway for Melbourne.



This collaboration further builds our collaborative 'muscle' and adds to our other successful collaborations through *Greening the West* and *Living Melbourne*. These projects provide high social and environmental benefits, with a diversity of stakeholders, and support sustainability and liveability objectives, including stormwater harvesting, heat and flood mitigation and an increase in vegetation, with outcomes for biodiversity and conservation as well as community health and wellbeing



Good news

State Government \$5 million funding announcement for creek naturalisation

Moreland and Moonee Valley Councils with Melbourne Water completed a feasibility study for creek naturalisation earlier this year.

The report was part funded by DELWP and they are supportive of the concept. Based on this report, in June DELWP announced \$5 million in funding toward the revitalisation of a 600m section of the Moonee Ponds Creek at Brosnan Crescent, Strathmore.

Picture: Site for the proposed Moonee Ponds Creek naturalisation in Strathmore and Oak Park



Related links:

- [Read the media release](#) – Danny Pearson MP, State Member for Essendon
- [Click to read more and download a copy of the Chain of Ponds - Moonee Ponds Creek Concept Plan](#) (excerpt pictured right)

Working for Victoria - creating jobs and protecting the environment



Photo by Jason Edwards, Herald Sun

The \$500-million Working for Victoria initiative helps Victorians, including people who have lost their jobs as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19), find paid work that supports our community.

Melbourne Water, Hume and Moreland City Councils have taken up the opportunity to create over 500 jobs to support their communities. With a variety of jobs on offer we're excited to let you know that waterways and the outdoors was a priority. The Waterway Blitz and other roles will span a range of activities including outdoor land management and revitalisation works such as cleaning up rubbish, weed removal, and preparing waterways for regenerative planting, cleaning services, maintenance and improvement works to council facilities.

Melbourne Water's Manager of Waterways and Land, Rob Considerine, said the project will create a lasting legacy for Melbourne's rivers and creeks, whilst also being proud to be working with the State Government and locals on the Working for Victoria initiative.

Read more on the initiative at:

- www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria
- www.melbournewater.com.au/what-we-are-doing/news/waterway-blitz-program-creating-jobs-and-protecting-environment
- www.hume.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Careers-at-Hume/Working-for-Victoria
- www.moreland.vic.gov.au/about-us/news-and-publications/news/creating-jobs-for-morelanders

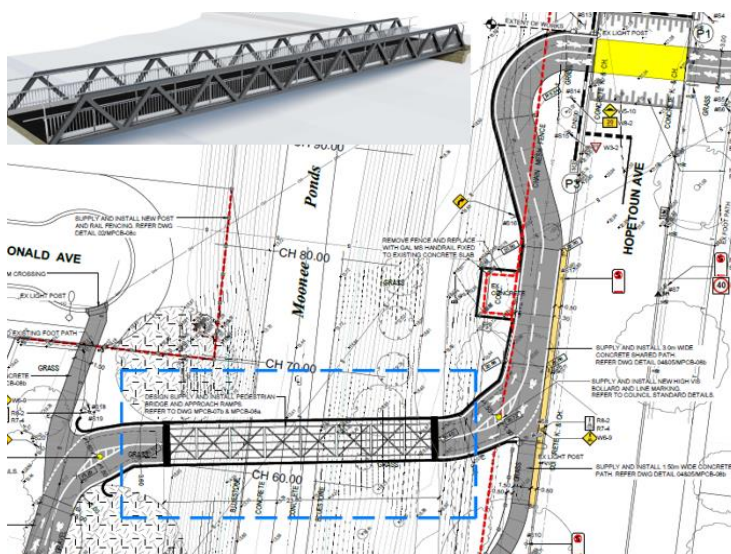




New pedestrian and cyclist bridge

Following the success of the Chain of Ponds Collaboration receiving a *Boosting Recreational Use of Water Initiative* grant from DELWP and additional funding from Moreland and Moonee Valley Councils, a new pedestrian and cyclist bridge is to be built over the Moonee Ponds Creek linking Vanberg Rd in Essendon with Hopetoun Avenue in Brunswick.

Works will commence in the new year and we hope to have the bridge open by June 2021.



West Gate Tunnel Project

Many aspects of the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) impacting on the Moonee Ponds Creek are locked in, but through the WGTP Stakeholders & Community Relations team, CoP Collaboration representatives from Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek and Kensington Association were able to meet via Zoom in May with the Landscape Designers, Tract Consultants, to specifically discuss plant species in the project’s landscape plans. Concerns had earlier been raised about the choice of species from NSW, WA in the face of established guidelines as to species appropriate for the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor. It is pleasing to report that agreement was reached to swap ‘exotic’ native species, such as *Angophora costata* for River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*); *Allocasuarina verticillata* to replace *Allocasuarina littoralis*; and other suggestions were taken on board, given the likely difficult growing conditions in the extensive railway/industrial areas at the lower end of the Moonee Ponds Creek.

Project / working group updates

Whole of catchment litter investigation update

This piece of work currently being undertaken by Alluvium consultants and supported by our creek friends groups, the four Councils in the catchment and Melbourne Water is progressing well, albeit faced with COVID-19 related challenges since commencement. This includes the inability to undertake planned community supported litter site surveys aimed at identifying specific litter sources. To enable progression, we took the change in approach of investigating and drawing from existing data sources such as the Tangaroa Blue database, the Let’s Strain the Drains project, friends groups records, Council and Melbourne Water data and others. The current disruptions have also resulted in some Councils struggling to provide data.

With support from Melbourne Water we deployed an online mapping tool and questionnaire to ask the community and agencies to map hot spots and provide other important information. The image shows preliminary results of the hot spot mapping. The main issues that were identified through this process are building site management, GPT management, cigarette butts, microplastic/polystyrene, community education and litter management in commercial areas.

We’re in the process of analysing the information we were able to obtain and investigating the use of RMIT litter trackers in the lower estuarine part of the creek



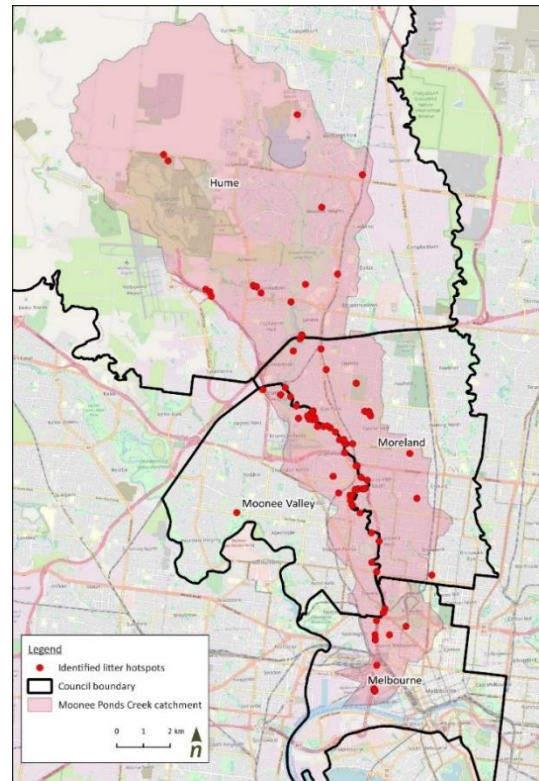


to gain insights into how long litter resides in this area and if and how it moves into the Yarra.

To support the project, Melbourne Water is planning to utilise the new workforce employed under the Working for Victoria initiative, to obtain additional litter data and pick up along the creek.

Many Councils are also planning for additional litter pick up as part of this Victorian initiative. The next steps following the data analysis are an interim report and workshop of the findings and proposed way forward with the Project Steering Group.

Image showing preliminary results of the hot spot mapping.



Mr Trashy Wheel

The Mr Trashy Wheel has been put on hold as the Bandalong litter trap that was planned to be fixed up by the project was beyond repair. The good news is that ideas and opportunities for the next steps of the project are currently being discussed, stay tuned for update.

EcoArts Toolkit Project

The EcoArts project formed a user experience support group to assist project lead Catherine van Wilgenburg and Mandy Nicholson with the testing of the Toolkit. The Toolkit consisting of six templates is currently being developed and designed based on the working groups' experience and understanding of EcoArts. Once the Toolkit is finished the EcoArts project will hold Toolkit discovery workshops with the working groups.





Branding project

March's collaboration group meeting saw the decision made to proceed with a branding project to create a unified brand identify which can be used whenever a project is delivered by the collaboration group and when engaging the community. The project appointed a consultant and started Phase 1 which involved exploring the current and alternative names as a brand. After presenting the Phase 1 to the governance group it was decided to put the project on hold so that we can take an important step back and spend some time working through some of the overarching objectives, goals and deliverables of the project. This includes identifying;

- Target audience (including stakeholders and community)
- Key requirements
- Usage
- Communication channels

This will be presented to the broader governance and collaboration group for approval and support before continuing to work with the consultant.

Trails, Transport & Connectivity Project Update

The final edit of the Trails, Transport & Connectivity report has been received from the editor. The final report will be ready for consideration by the wider CoP Collaboration at the planned meeting in early October.

Nursery Corner masterplan

Moonee Valley will soon be circulating a draft masterplan for the old plant nursery site on the creek, this site is being returned to parkland

Advocacy: CoP submission to Waterways of the West Ministerial Advisory Committee

In November 2019, Chain of Ponds made a formal submission to the Waterways of the West Ministerial Advisory Committee (WoW MAC). The supportive submission particularly highlighted the desirability to:

- Expand collaborative approaches – in particular for litter prevention and clean-up
- Implement stronger and consistent planning controls that protect waterway values
- Increase water quality targets and introduce flow reduction targets
- Protect, increase and better connect habitat corridors.

The WoW MAC recommendations and government response are due to be released in early 2021.

Get involved, meetings, events

Draft Macaulay Structure Plan & Draft Arden Structure Plan

Two draft structure plans for urban renewal areas along the lower Moonee Ponds Creek have been released for comment. They are the '**Macaulay Structure Plan**' and '**Arden Structure Plan**'. They cover the reaches from Racecourse Road down to Dynon Road in the suburbs of Kensington, North and West Melbourne.





Revitalisation and expansion of the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor are proposed in both plans, including integrated water management, open space, connectivity and biodiversity.

To comment, go to:

- Macaulay Draft Structure Plan-Refresh <https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/macaulay-refresh>, closing date for comment is September.

Next collaboration meeting

Thursday 8 October – Agenda Ideas:
Reconnecting with one another and the solid building blocks of the collaboration, celebrating successes, discussing the collaborations Priority Projects. Do they meet the collaboration’s Principles and Objectives? Exciting project updates and something fun!

Please get in touch if you have other ideas.



For all enquiries about the Chain of Ponds Collaboration, email the team at the new email address

mooneeponds.creek@citywestwater.com.au

