

Merri Merri Wayi

A community-led collaboration to enable our natural and urban worlds to thrive along the Merri Creek

Workshop 4



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TOWARDS A NEW PROSPERITY

Welcome and Introductions



Why we are here

Because we care

To guide and inform council planning


To foster connections

To explore ideas



Acknowledgement

- To the thousands of people who have volunteered and worked to protect Merri Creek. Notably:
 - *Friends of Merri Creek*
 - *Merri Creek Management Committee*
 - *...and many others*



"Merri Creek, its tributaries and its environs will be of high environmental quality and deeply treasured by the community."

(MCMC Vision: From the Merri Creek Management Committee 2020-2024 Strategic Plan)

**Our work together
tonight**



Agenda

- 6.00-6.20pm – Getting oriented around *Collective Impact* and the community priorities established so far
- 6.20-7.00pm – Workshop session 1 (incl intro to World Café)
- 7.00-7.15 – Refreshments
- 7.15-8.30 – Workshop session 2

Collective Impact principles to guide us



The 5 conditions of Collective Impact



It starts with a common agenda

This means coming together to collectively define the problem and create a shared vision to solve it.



It establishes shared measurement

That means tracking progress in the same way, allowing for continuous learning and accountability.



It fosters mutually reinforcing activities

That means integrating the participants' many different activities to maximize the end result.



It encourages continuous communications

That means building trust and strengthening relationships.



And it has a strong backbone

That means having a team dedicated to aligning and coordinating the work of the group.



Towards mutually reinforcing activities

The goal

A community-led collaboration to enable our natural and urban worlds to thrive along the Merri Creek

Sharing knowledge

Community education and involvement

Recognising, celebrating and learning from Aboriginal ecological and cultural knowledge

Caring and immersing

Connecting to and caring for nature

Peaceful and safe space

Active use

Recreational use

Shared pedestrian and cycle use



To inform

Place based planning



A common agenda guiding Merri Merri Wayi



Unpacking the community priorities



A thriving & healthy ecosystem

- *Biodiversity is thriving and native animals can be seen and heard along the creek as a result of increased indigenous plants and removal of invasive species.*
- *Habitat features, logs, leaf litter, hollows are functioning and support connected ecosystems.*
- *The Merri Creek is a clean natural environment free from litter and other pollution.*
- *Merri Creek's water quality is monitored and the data is used to inform the community on water quality improvement.*
- *Native plant species are prosperous along the creek because of little to no weed competition.*

Connecting to and caring for nature

- *People protect, care for and connect to the unique biodiversity values of the Merri Creek.*
- *The community can be actively involved in caring for Merri Creek and their contribution is acknowledged.*
- *There is evident community respect for the ecosystem and human roles within it.*
- *The community understands the interconnected nature of different parts of the creek.*
- *The community is engaged in initiatives and activities along the creek.*

Recreational use

- ***Active and passive recreation for all ages is enabled.***
- *People who don't currently visit the creek feel more comfortable and welcome.*
- *Merri Creek is a place where recreation is inclusive and all people are respected.*
- *Merri Creek is accessible by all and there are accessibility features along the full length of the creek.*
- *There are nature-based and environmentally friendly play areas for kids.*
- *There are open spaces to enjoy the natural surroundings and reflect.*

Community education and involvement

- *Learning is cross cultural, intergenerational and nature based*
- *Youth and culturally diverse communities are engaged in volunteering, leadership and management of the creek.*
- *There's more story telling signage along the length of the creek*
- *There are educational and wayfinding resources*
- *Smart technology (that is publicly available and engaging) is used to promote education along the creek.*
- *More people are engaged in helping the environment along Merri Creek regularly There are more celebrations of women who are significant to the creek.*
- *The community are aware of the future plans for the creek and are involved in the decision-making processes.*

Aboriginal ecological and cultural knowledge

- ***Recognising, celebrating and learning from Aboriginal ecological and cultural knowledge.***
- *Caring for Country is at the forefront – through storytelling and the arts led by the Wurundjeri.*
- *There is support for Aboriginal language, knowledge and culture, including recognition of the six Woi-wurrung seasons in creek management and activities.*
- *Wurundjeri woi-wurrung language relating to the environmental features of the creek is actively communicated to the community and used in describing indigenous flora and fauna.*
- *There is greater reflection of Indigenous values, knowledge and ways of interacting with the environment*

Shared pedestrian and cycle use

- ***Walking and bike paths increase community activation to preserve nature***
- *Pathways ensure safe use by pedestrians and cyclists including where possible separate pathways and speed caps.*
- *There is harmony and respect amongst all Merri Creek users.*
- *Both pedestrians and cyclists feel comfortable and safe travelling along Merri Creek.*

Peaceful and safe space

- ***Safety is balanced with a thriving natural environment***
- *All members of the community feel safe when using the creek.*
- *People identify with the creek and interact with the natural space respectfully.*
- *Community engagement along the creek is increased as a result of individuals sharing positive experiences at the creek.*
- *Organised events by local community groups encourage the wider community to feel comfortable using the creek and be involved in its wellbeing.*
- *Climate change impacts are accounted for in planning to enhance resilience of the creek despite disruptive events.*

Place based planning

- ***A creek that enables us to learn, share and grow***
- ***Planning at a local level***
- *Sensitive sites along the creek are respected and protected.*
- *There is additional support for people to make sustainable choices when using the creek.*
- *Merri Creek is seen as part of a natural network*
- *Rewilding areas of the creek are supported by local and state governments.*
- *Local and state governments are proactive in making the creek a more welcoming space for all.*
- *Areas of the creek are dedicated to human use, while others are more intended for biodiversity.*

Workshop session 1



World Café principles



The key question for all tables

**How can delivery of this community
priority contribute to
a thriving and healthy ecosystem?**

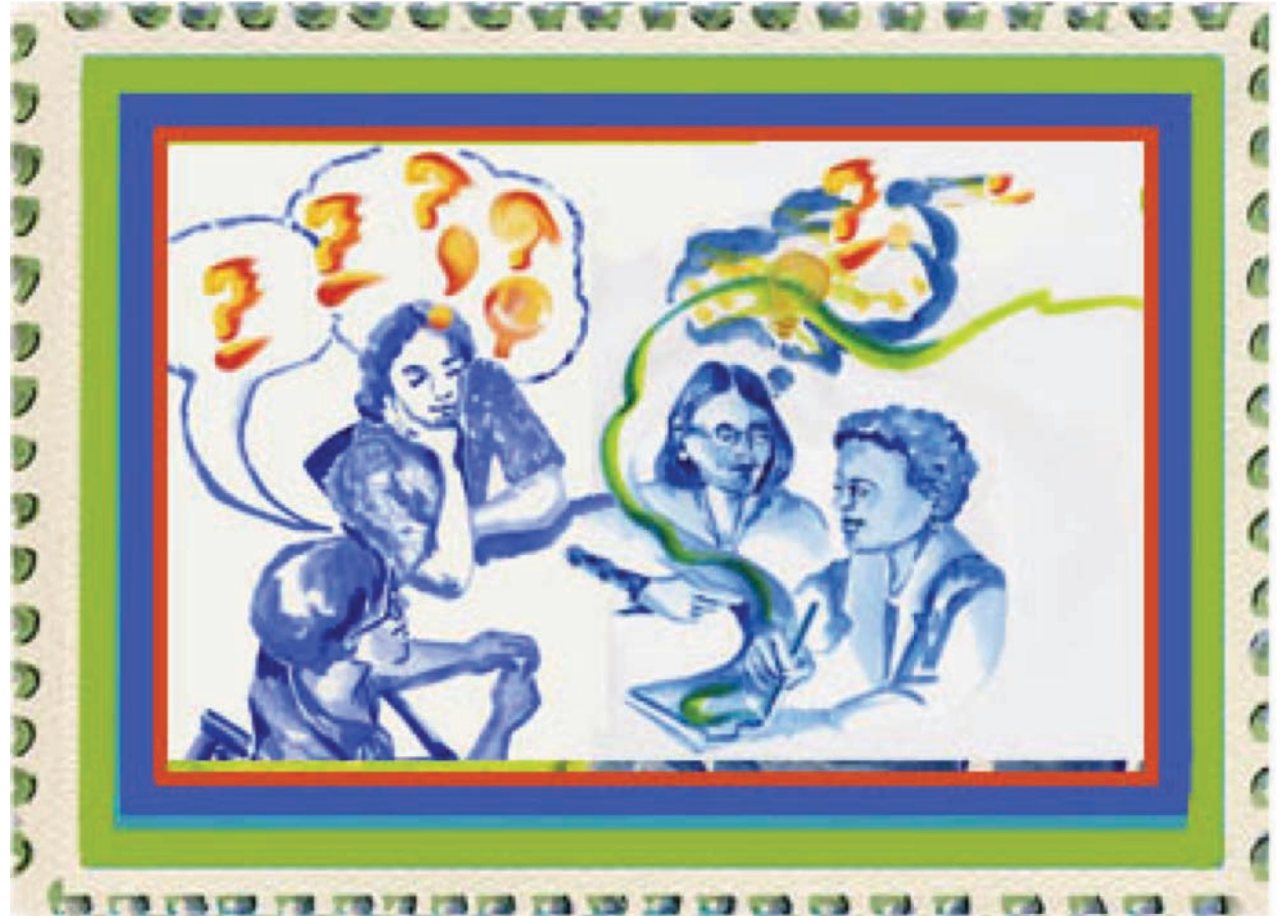
Focus on the context



Create a hospitable space



Explore the questions that matter



Encourage everyone's contribution



Connect diverse perspectives



Listen together for insights



Share collective discoveries



Doodle!



The key question for all tables

**How can delivery of this community
priority contribute to
a thriving and healthy ecosystem?**

**Thank you, and where
to from here.**





QUESTIONS?

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Thank you