

Creeks down the drain

Leader - Northcote Leader (Melbourne, Australia) - Wednesday, January 7, 2004

Author: Steve Pogonowski

RESIDENTS are unhappy about the high level of rubbish flowing into the Merri and Darebin creeks after recent storms.

Ross St resident **Carolyn Lunt** installed her own rubbish collector in the drain outlet near her home after watching mounds of debris regularly flow down the creek.

She said Darebin Council did not work hard enough to maintain the drains and waterways in her area.

``I had to put a bread basket in to collect some of the rubbish," she said.

``They (the council) pulled that out and put their own one in but they never empty it."

Council city services manager Jeff Saker said council records did not show any litter trap had been installed in the drain outlet but staff would check on the problem.

Melbourne Water has warned of the dangers of entering stormwater drains after heavy rainfall earlier last month led to high water levels in Darebin drains.

Managing director Brian Bayley said entering stormwater drains was illegal as well as very dangerous.

``People entering drains face the threat of sudden rises in water level, lack of oxygen or the presence of dangerous fumes," Mr Bayley said.

Melbourne Water has installed warning signs on all its drains and has distributed a brochure about Melbourne's stormwater system to all metropolitan primary and secondary schools.

Copies of the brochure are available on the website www.melbournewater.com.au or by phoning 131722.