

## **Echidna's digs to get greener**

Leader - Northcote Leader (Melbourne, Australia) - Wednesday, June 16, 2004

WATCHING native creatures such as echidnas return to the banks of the Merri Creek, makes 21 years hard work revegetating and restoring the waterway worthwhile, says **Carolyn Lunt** .

The Friends of Merri on Parade founding member said a concerted community effort had rejuvenated the section of the creek near Ross St, Northcote, to the extent that animals and birds long-gone from the area had begun to return.

Ms Lunt said she was thrilled to see an echidna establish a habitat on the creek banks last year.

She said the only trouble was that concerned residents kept finding it and taking it to vets and animal shelters, only to be told to return the animal where it was found.

Melbourne Water has given the friends group 1500 plants: mostly ground covers, grasses, rushes and reeds but also shrubs such as river bottle brush.

Community members are invited to attend planting days today (Wednesday) and tomorrow at 7.30am.

Meet at the end of Ross St. Details: 9489 2243.