

## **Kasia Zygmuntowicz – Building community**

Kasia Zygmuntowicz made an extraordinary contribution to many communities around the Merri Creek in her nearly 30 years of living in the Sumner Estate, Northcote.

Arriving in the neighbourhood in 1992, Kasia already had a passion for documenting social, environmental and architectural legacies from her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in History and Built Environment from the University of Melbourne.

She put these skills to great use in initiating many community activities including Sustainability Street, the Samba Walk community event, the Sumner Share Shed (for swapping local produce, books and household goods - way ahead of the Neighbourhood Libraries movement), local revegetation projects and community enhancement/engagement activities.

From 2010-2017 she was actively involved in environmental projects at the Merri Creek Primary School helping to establish and maintain a much-loved sensory garden, creating a banner with students for the climate change rally, researching and documenting an Aboriginal Reconciliation timeline, initiating and running the 'Envirostall' at the annual school fete.

Kasia's great love of 'crafting' and 'recycling projects' were legendary throughout the local community and she inspired hundreds of kids and parents to become involved. This crafting talent was also put to great use in working with elders at the Aboriginal Elders Service in Brunswick East from 2018-19 and supporting them to recall their memories of the Merri Creek through art, craft and storytelling activities.

Her great love of the Merri Creek continued until her death from cancer in late 2019.

## **Acknowledgements**

Story tellers: Chris Black and Nick Bastow

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