

## Editorial : How green can you be?

If you're reading this, you probably have an affinity for the environment, particularly things "green". You probably have a garden and maybe you even grow your own vegetables. However, what do you do with your roof? Maybe you collect water from it, very noble. You probably have insulation under it to minimise heat transfer into the house. You could even paint it white to reflect summer heat and minimise air conditioning costs. However, would you believe it if I told you that there is a growing movement to place soil on roofs and grow plants there!

You already know one building with a green roof. It is Australia's premier building, Parliament House in Canberra. The green roof on Parliament House may be an expensive architectural statement but it delivers a number of practical benefits. First, it is an excellent insulator. This must have a significant effect on air conditioning and heating costs. Secondly, it absorbs water, reducing runoff into the stormwater system and finally, it reduces heat radiated into the environment; the so-called "heat island" effect which modifies the environment around our cities.

Green roofs are becoming mainstream architectural practice in city buildings. In high-rise buildings they can provide an aesthetic bonus for neighbouring buildings which overlook them, they provide biofiltration of pollutants, an additional evaporative cooling effect and enhance the environment for birds and insects. A soil depth of 150mm is usual but depths in excess of 600mm can be used,

creating an elevated area for outdoor recreation which can support trees or vegetable gardens. ANZ house has a green roof on the 22<sup>nd</sup> level of its building in Adelaide. An adjoining concrete roof recorded temperatures as high as 50°C in summer but the temperatures below the green roofs were as low as 26°C.

The MONA art gallery in Hobart has a green roof as well, but this radical building could hardly be considered mainstream.

You probably won't find too many green roofs in suburban villas in Mount Waverley but with the increased trends towards apartment living, the green roof could help mitigate the loss of green space in the suburbs.

**Guest Speaker Programme:** For our May meeting we were privileged to have MarJo Angelico of the Waverley Historical Society talking on "*Early Days Around Mount Waverley*". MarJo entertained the meeting with stories of the original inhabitants, the Woiwurrung and the Boonerwung who held corroborees in Valley reserve. We heard stories of the early settlers and the reasons behind various road anomalies in the area. For instance, if you have ever wondered why there are a number of wide roads angled away from the usual Melbourne grid? MarJo provided the answer, they were built to feed passengers to the railway station. Also, did you know that many of Mount Waverley's streets are named from Sir Walter Scott's Waverley Novels? The corner of Stephenson's Rd and High Street Road was known as the "Devil's Elbow" due to a number of accidents involving carts plunging into the branch of damper creek known as "Bellbird Corner". The

original road alignment was quite different from the current configuration with a pronounced kink in Stephenson's Road to cross the creek at a favourable angle. Answers to many other mysteries can be found in "*Cattlemen to Commuters*" (available from the Monash Public Library) or "*Then and Now A Pictorial History of the City of Monash*" (available from the WHS or Matilda's bookshop in Hamilton Place.)

Don't miss our August guest speaker, columnist for "The Age" Michael Green. Michael will speak on living an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. You can read Michael's work in The Age on Sundays. His segment is titled "Living Green" and can be found in the Domain section.

Also Mr Graeme Oliver of the Australian Plants Society will be speaking at a meeting later this year.

### May Working Bee

An excellent turn up of 33 volunteers planted around 1800 plants in the Golf Ave area. Many of these plants were wetland plants which will stabilise the streambed in an area which floods in extreme rainfall. After the planting all enjoyed the BBQ.

### July 1st Working Bee

Planting will continue at Golf Ave.

### Forthcoming elections for FODCR

If you wish to serve the Friends group as a member of the committee, or if you know anyone you would like to nominate, we are having our elections as part of our AGM in August. In particular, our secretary has served

the maximum term allowable by our constitution so we are in need of a new secretary.

### Current Planning Issues

You may have noted correspondence in The Leader calling for scrapping of the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO), an issue the FODCR fought hard to retain last year. The committee has carefully considered the letter in question and decided that the arguments as presented are totally lacking in factual basis and no action is contemplated at this stage. However, there are threats to vegetation that require careful monitoring. In particular, we note that Joy Banerji, one of the councillors who supported continuation of the VPO will be not standing at the next council election. Therefore, it is prudent for members to carefully note the policies of new candidates and, where appropriate, lobby to ensure that the commitment of Monash councillors to protection of vegetation is maintained. Members should also feel free to express their own opinion in letters to the editor.

It is also noted that the Victorian Government is introducing a streamlined planning permit process (Vicsmart) later this year. It is unclear what the environmental implications are from this but the current government does not have a good track record in decisions which favour the environment.

### Watch This Space

The editor welcomes any contributions to this newsletter, be they personal reflections or items of relevance to Damper Creek or environmental matters in general.

### Important dates to remember:

	June	Notes
<b>Meeting:</b>	Wed 27th - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
<b>Working Bee</b>	Sun July 1st 10-00am to 12-30pm	Golf Av
	July	
<b>Meeting:</b>	Wed 25th - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
<b>W-Bee</b>	Sun July 29th 10-00am to 12-30 pm	Stephensons Rd car park

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***Damper Creek Bushland Reserve: part of the  
Yarra Catchment.***

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### The Newsletter of

### FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

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# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

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