

Editorial : Reinventing Ourselves

Voluntary organisations wax and wane, but thankfully ours has always remained strong, with a fine record of community activism in favour of the environment and our beloved Damper Creek in particular. Nonetheless, a review of the way we do business is good business and the forthcoming meeting will be the first example of our new way of doing business.

The key features of FODCR will remain unchanged, i.e.

- 1: To promote the care and maintenance of Damper Creek in the interests of the environment and the community.
- 2: To take an active part in the promotion of environmental issues in our community.
- 3: To provide a range of speakers on topics of interest to our members and to open these talks to the wider community.

Some formalities are inevitable and we aim to complete these with a minimum of fuss. Items for General business are as follows:

- a. VPO – progress and setbacks (Pres)
- b. Setting up the speaker programme –what do you want to see and hear? (Secr)
- c. Should we set up a facebook page? (Secr)
- d. Good news from the members? (Open forum)
- e. Bad news from the members? (Open forum)
- f. Any other business.

The objective is to maximise the input from members and overcome an impression that the majority of decisions are made behind closed doors in committee meetings. Separate committee meetings will no longer be held.

In addition nights with a guest speaker will no longer be burdened with a general meeting, allowing maximum opportunity to socialise with the guest speaker. The effectiveness of these changes will be constantly reviewed and comments and suggestions will always be welcomed.

Guest Speaker Programme

The speaker for May is Robin Drury of the Fauna Survey Group of the Field Naturalists Club. Her areas of interest are frogs, remote cameras and The activities. Of the Field Naturalists Club.

Did you know that Damper Creek valley was used a motorcross (motorcycle) track in the early 1900s. This track arose from the dispute between the motorcycle clubs and Waverley Riding School running events in what is now known as the Jordanville district. The Waverley Riding Club had stables on a site immediately south of the Jordanville railway station. The horses were often scared by the loud noises from the motorcyclists operating in the area bounded by High Street Rd, Warrigal Rd, Scotchmans Creek and Bayview Rd (now known as Huntingdale Rd).

Some motorcyclists began using the area to the north of High Street Rd, between

Huntingdale and Stephenson's Rd taking in the Damper Creek Valley. Early aerial photographs of the district clearly show the series of loop tracks crossing the creek and linking High Street Rd and Boundary Rd (now known as Highbury Rd).

Unfortunately the west bank of Damper Creek, about the area of what is now Bengal Cres, was later to become the site of the local gun and trap-shooting club. This group used the natural valley of Damper Creek to constrain bullets and shot. The motorcyclists upset the gun club members by riding through the range paddock causing them to halt their shooting competitions (although it was alleged by some cyclists that they had found shot marks on their motorcycles and claimed that they had been fired upon). The situation came to a head when a policeman from Oakleigh was run over while trying to stop the motorcyclists on the shooting range. The motorcyclists abandoned the site in the late 1920s and gun club folded in the late 1930s.

References.

The first April Files of the Waverley Historical Society!

More on Healesville Freeway Reserve.

A community day will be held on Sunday May 26th to promote community awareness of the development of the reserve. Full details are not available at this stage but activities will include tours of the community gardens, a guided walk through the length of the proposed development and guided tours of Bellbird Dell which is bisected by the freeway reserve.

Vegetation Protection

Who among us has not gained pleasure from the trees grown on private property? These specimens are in the VPO area (Leeds Rd) and may be at risk from the new Monash policy. Identification of Eucalypts can be a



problem but it is likely that these specimens are Eucalyptus mannifera, a native of the southern tablelands of NSW.

Blank Space

Nature abhors a vacuum and your editor hates to see a newsletter which does not use all the available space. If you, too, hate to see blank spaces, they can be filled with your contributions. If you do not feel inclined to compile your own contribution, the editor is open to any suggestions for content.

Friends of Damper Creek Important dates to remember:

	April	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 24th- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
W-Bee	Sun 28th 10-00am to 12-30pm	Middle Bridge
May		
Meeting:	Wed 22nd- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
W-Bee	Sun 26th 10-00am to 12-30 pm	Middle Bridge

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'Landcare' and 'Land for Wildlife' Volunteer Nature
Conservation.

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

Please address all mail to:
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The Newsletter of

**FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

Reg No. A0029531G

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DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

April 2013

