

Damper Creek and The Future

Implementation of New Residential Zones

The March meeting was addressed by Mr Sean McNamee, co-ordinator of strategic planning for the City of Monash. Members of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek & Valley Reserve also attended as well as Michael Gidley MLA and the Friends representatives on Council: Crs Rebecca Paterson, Cr Brian Little and Cr Bill Pontikis. and Ms Angela Hughes, Manager, City Planning. Also attended and Mr Peter Panagakos, MCC Director City Planning sent apologies.

The new Zones are designed to provide greater protections to the Creek Environs (around Damper Creek, Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve, and Gardiners Creek in the City of Monash) from inappropriate developments (including less footprint of proposed building(s)).

Full information regarding the proposed zones can be found on: www.monash.vic.gov.au, referencing Amendment C125. There will be considerable consultation with residents and ratepayers, followed by a Panel Hearing towards the end of the year.

This is an exciting and momentous development as it addresses concerns expressed by the Friends' groups over many years. Our thanks go to our supporters at Council who have succeeded in including this amendment in the Monash strategy.

Working Bees - rear of properties in Tarella Drive

In March an army of volunteers working under the supervision of Bushcrew members Mick and Mark cleared away a huge pile of weeds,

blackberries, exotics and rubbish. The bushcrew returned and removed some larger exotics and mulched the rubbish pile soon afterwards. The next two working bees, Sunday April 26 April and Sunday 31 May will be dedicated to the same area. If you want to be involved, meet on the lower track in Damper Creek near the Tarella Bridge from 10am - 12.30pm - Billy boils at 11am for morning tea.

Guest speakers

April - Be prepared to get your hands dirty as a member of Bungalook nursery will assist you in preparing cuttings of *Correa reflexa* for you to take home. The *correa reflexa* is a prime bird attractor to Damper creek.

May - Libby Anthony and Colin Goodwin re-hay bale housing and sustainability.

26 August (AGM) - Mr Andrew Kelly, newly appointed Yarra Riverkeeper. Mr Ian Penrose has retired from that position and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Did you know? April 2015

Did you know that Damper Creek was the source of ochre paint pigments? In the late 1890s ochre pigments were being extracted from a mine in Black Flat, (that area around Springvale and Waverley Roads). Eastmund Barnes, who described himself as a house painter with experience with a London pigment manufacturer, had found some ochre samples while digging for water on his property. He dug down some 70 feet to mudstone which contained iron oxides and which when heated, produced some deep shades of pink and red (*see Cattlemen to Commuters pp. 106-108*). The samples he produced were deemed suitable to sustain a commercial operation. In Mt Waverley, enterprising residents, Messrs Lirpa and Loof noted the geology of the mine

at Black Flat and the success of Barnes in his venture and were sure that Damper Creek had similar geological strata that was more accessible. On 1 April 1898, with great ceremony, Lirpa and Loof commenced operations in the rock cliffs on the west side of Damper Creek near what is now the Tarella Drive footbridge. They dug sideways into the cliff avoiding the need to dig downwards with its associated overburden. The initial yields were extremely promising with a palette of potential colours ranging from a green through to pink and red. They had extracted some of tons of mudstone ochre in a matter of weeks and they planned to form a company to exploit the deposit.

To produce usable paint pigments the ochre needed to be finely crushed and roasted. The conundrum was whether to set up a crushing and grinding plant with a roaster or just sell the raw ochre to the pigment manufacturers. Roasting the ochre required a suitable fuel. Unfortunately the local wood supply was limited due to the local forests having been denuded by the timber cutters operating in the district (see Damper Creek Newsletter April 2007). So faced with the option of bringing firewood from afar, they attempted to strike a deal with Barnes in Black Flat to combine their ores. However in 1899, the Grosvenor Paintworks opened in South Melbourne using pigments sourced from the mullock heaps of Ballarat. This was a much cheaper method than that possible in Waverley and so the Lirpa and Loof ochre mining project was abandoned. Barnes continued mining in Black Flat until about 1905 by which time, he had exhausted his finances and was forced to

sell his plant in 1906 together with four acres of land. No traces of the Damper Creek ochre mine have since been found.

References.

Susan Priestley: Cattlemen to Commuters

The first April Files of the Waverley Historical Society.

Eucalypt of the month



The specimen chosen for this month is near the playground in Park Rd. It is (we think) Eucalyptus melliodora, otherwise known as Yellow Box. As with other gums classified as "Boxes", the bark on the trunk is scaly but further up, the branches have smooth bark. The name "melliodora" means "honey scented" and, in the right conditions when it is in full flower, the smell of honey is strong.

Dates to remember:

	April	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 22rd- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun Mar 26 th 10-00 to 12.30	Rear of Tarella Dve
	May	
Meeting:	Wed 27th- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun May 21st 10-00 to 12-30	Rear of Tarella Dve

Community planting days will be in June and August

ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

President:	Helen Clements	0401813502
Secretary:	John Clements	0401813502
Treasurer:	Ian Nicholls	
Editor:	Doug Scott	0417300866

Please email material for the newsletter to
dougscott3@bigpond.com.

Printed by courtesy of the City of Monash as a community service.

Responsibility for editorial content is solely that of the editor.

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc is supported by the City of Monash and Melbourne Water.

Damper Creek Reserve Inc is a member of 'Landcare' and 'Land for Wildlife' Volunteer Nature Conservation.

Damper Creek Bushland Reserve: part of the Yarra Catchment.

Please address all mail to:

The Secretary, PO Box 2063, Mount Waverley
3149 email: secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

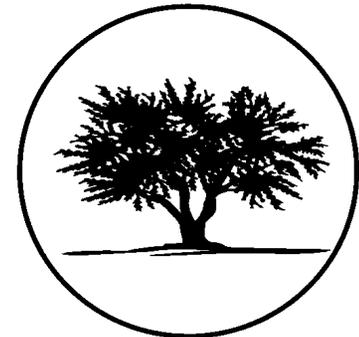
*The Newsletter of
FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.*

Reg No. A0029531G

<http://www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au>

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



April 2015