

FODCR's submission to council on the Draft Housing Strategy

You may have noted in the last issue of the Monash Bulletin that the City of Monash was preparing a revised housing strategy to bring it into line with other municipalities. Briefly, the strategy involves planning for anticipated urban growth to a greater Melbourne population of 6.5 million by 2050 (current population is 4 million). Suburban areas such as Monash are targeted to absorb much of this growth using a concept known as "Urban Consolidation".

The Monash strategy as it stands in draft form does not incorporate protection for environmentally sensitive areas or a general consideration for environmental factors as urban density increases.

The "Friends of Damper Creek Reserve" and the "Friends of Scotchman's Creek and Valley Reserve" presented the environmental case on behalf of their respective memberships at a meeting with the council on May 13th. Present were the three Mt Waverley Ward Councillors and Sue Wilkinson Director of Planning and her staff, Libby Anthony on behalf of FODCR and Ted Mason on behalf of FOSC&VR.

The "Urban Consolidation" model allows for a high density development within a 400m radius of railway stations. In the case of Mount Waverley and Jordanville railway stations this radius impinges on portions of Damper Creek, Valley Reserve and Scotchman's Creek catchments and other environmentally sensitive areas currently protected (in part) by the VPO.

Loss of habitat and tree cover are significant concerns but so too are water management

issues, exacerbated through rapid runoff caused by loss of suburban gardens and a high proportion of hard surfaces in new developments. The current capacity of our creek systems to handle this runoff is limited as recent flood events in Gardiner's Creek have shown.

Further to our east the "Dandenong Valley Escarpment" has been granted a high level of environmental protection. The two "Friends" groups have asked that an equivalent level of protection be applied to the watersheds of Damper and Scotchman's creeks.

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve extend their thanks to Libby Anthony and Ted Mason (of FOSC&VR) for presenting the environmental case to the Monash council.

May meeting: Special Speaker

Cr Brian Little, one of our three Mt Waverley Ward Councillors, will come to our May meeting to talk about the council's DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY and, in particular the Residential Framework Plan and its effects on Damper Creek and Scotchman's Creek catchments.

Cr Little, is a member of the MCC Environmental Advisory Committee and is keenly interested in environmental issues and can pass on information regarding recycling and composting.

April Guest Speaker

Sue Nicholls was our FoDC guest speaker in April: Sue, a teacher at Heatherwood & a local animal carer, gave a delightful and entertaining presentation on her experiences in caring for sick and injured animals over the past 20 years.

She has cared for wombats, ring tail and bushy tailed possums, fledging birds, and many unusual species over the years.

Sue was passionate about the importance of education in relation to how to care for wildlife, supporting their habitats and how to be a responsible pet owners. Keeping your cat inside, and learning to live with animals from the suburbs.

What can you do?

Support Wildlife Victoria 1300 094 535

Sue's animal shelter.....phone.-.98071583

(Native species only)

RSPCA-.92242222

If you are interested in becoming a foster Carer and trainee please contact Sue or phone Department of sustainability or Wildlife Victoria.

Tom Morrissey Tribute

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. and the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve have submitted a proposal to Monash City Council that the wetlands at Holmesglen Reserve be named '*The Tom Morrissey Wetlands*' as a permanent reminder of his environmental interests, concerns and achievements.

Riversdale Golf Club Interface with Damper Creek

The fence where Damper Creek flows into Riversdale Golf Club has been a cause of flooding for residents of Yatama Court for many years. Works in the vicinity have recently been completed by Melbourne Water including de-silting around the fence, removal of vegetation and re-design of the fence to

minimise restriction of water flow. The site will be visited monthly by the Melbourne Water pit crew to monitor the effectiveness of the modifications and to advise on further planting to reduce erosion and silt buildup.

Cats behaving badly

Cats can behave like a family member but they are also predatory by nature. When allowed to roam outdoors at night they can attack wildlife, particularly birds, get hit by cars, be injured or injure other cats, and transmit diseases such as feline AIDS through fighting. They can also spray, howl and annoy neighbours, especially during mating season. Your neighbours can seize your cat if it has entered their property more than once without their permission, and must then notify Council. If you don't take reasonable action to prevent your cat from entering the property again you will face a fine for a first offence and for subsequent offences. If the cat is impounded you also face pound fees.

For further information about the controls call 9518 3449

Working Bees

June 29th and August 31st are designated Community Planting Days and will be followed by a Sausage sizzle. Both working bees will assemble at the end of Alice Street.

The July 27th working bee will be at Fairway Reserve in conjunction with FOSC&VR. Fairway Reserve is located at Melways 70E5 by the Scout halls. Note that starting time is 9-00am and a BBQ will follow. Car pooling may be advisable.

Important dates to remember:

	May	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 28th - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun June 1st 10-00 am to 12-30pm	Middle Bridge (end of Alice St)
	June	
Meeting:	Wed 25th- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
W-Bee	Sun June 29th 10-00am to 12-30 pm	TBA

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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
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The Newsletter of

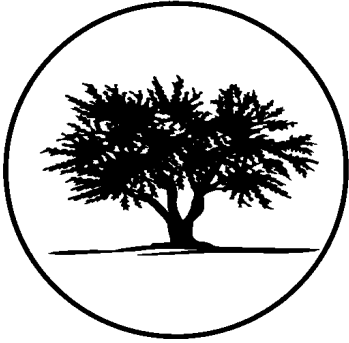
**FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

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

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DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



May 2014