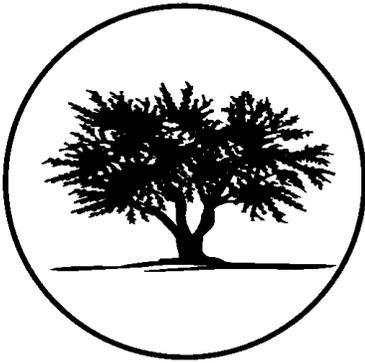


DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



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

Reg No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

May 2016

Editorial:

Canopy Trees. OK, I've rattled on about canopy trees the last couple of newsletters. I've been told that readers want some specific suggestions as to what they might plant to satisfy the "Canopy Tree" requirement. As an aside it should be mentioned that the watered down C125 amendments will accept a canopy tree as one that is as high as the house. This is a definition that is hard to agree with as many shrubs will grow high enough to satisfy this definition. So, I'll start off with some of the smaller trees which won't challenge foundations or sewerage pipes.

First, the Wattles. This is an incredibly diverse genus with members ranging from prostrate groundcovers to forest giants. Some of them have a reputation for short lives and susceptibility to insect attack. Those described here do not have that problem.

Acacia pycnantha. Our national floral emblem. Will grow into a well formed tree of 7m in 10 years. Like most wattles the flowering period is relatively short. Indigenous to Mount Waverley.

Acacia implexa: (Lightwood). An interesting tree, a little larger than *A. pycnantha* with pale yellow flowers. The trunk is rough, this is a feature of the tree in the same way that the rough trunk of the ironbark is attractive. Another wattle indigenous to Mount Waverley.

Acacia melanoxylon: (Blackwood). This tree is famed for the beautiful furniture timber it produces. It can grow very tall (30m) in the deep soils of east Gippsland. It is indigenous to Mount Waverley but it is unlikely to grow taller than 10m here.

Other local wattles are either shrubs or too tall for a domestic garden. Plant nurseries can help you out with any number of quite spectacular wattles, mostly from the drier areas of Australia. Note that the popular Cootamundra wattles can become weeds and are best avoided.

Next, the Gums: Most of the gums indigenous to the area are either potentially very large trees or are susceptible to insect attack. The following are some of the best species suitable for local gardens:

Eucalyptus radiata (Narrow Leaved Peppermint)

Eucalyptus viminalis (Ribbon gum)

Eucalyptus melliodora (Yellow box)

The three gums above are all potentially large trees. Their ultimate size will be determined by soil and other growth conditions such as moisture and proximity to other trees.

There are many other (non-indigenous) gumtrees suitable for the home garden, some of which are cultivated varieties of species which are normally much larger. One of the best is **Eucalyptus leucoxylon** (White Ironbark) which is available in a number of varieties of different growth habit and differing flower size and colour. Dwarf varieties are available for the Spotted gum, Sugar gum, Snowgum and the classic Red Flowering gum (**Corymbia ficifolia**). Many other gums are naturally small trees such as the mallees. Visit a native nursery such as Kuranga in Mt Evelyn or pay a visit to the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens to investigate further.

Other trees which will suit are Banksias (only **Banksia marginata** is indigenous), Casuarinas, (**Casuarina littoralis** is indigenous), Melaleucas and Tea-trees (local varieties are more shrubs than trees) and Bottlebrush (**Callistemon sieberi** is indigenous). Expand the choice to all native plants and the range of choice is considerable. Expand the choice to exotic plants and the range of acceptable plants becomes bewilderingly large. (Birds and animals don't care if a plant is indigenous or not, provided requirements for food and shelter are met, though an indigenous plant is more likely to harbour a wide range of invertebrates and may help promote an appropriate range of fungi in the soil).

For anyone planning an initial garden on a bare block there are no excuses for not planting the required number of canopy trees. Be wary if you engage a landscaper, they are likely to plant an advanced specimen which may have restricted root growth which will eventually have stability problems. Alternatively, they may plant a fast grower which produces quick results but may ultimately be too large for the site.

Diary date reminders

Community Planting Day Sunday 26 June 2016

Come along and help plant out 2000 tube stock funded by Melbourne Water Project Grant - 10am - 12.30pm. Free BBQ sausage sizzle in Park Road carpark commences from 12 noon. BYO cups/mugs

Meet at the Park Road entrance to the reserve for sign-on registration.

Wear all weather gear and solid shoes. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. BYO gloves (some will be provided by the Monash Council Bushcrew who will supervise the planting). All welcome.

Guest speaker program

Wed 27 July 2016 - FoDC meeting -7.30 Alvie Hall

Bruce Lindsay- lawyer - Environmental Justice Australia – Yarra River Act Community Reference Group. Bruce will speaking on the final draft submission to Ministerial Advisory Committee for establishment of a Yarra River Act and Trust. Your feedback after the presentation would be greatly appreciated. Please do come along if you can to support the work of the EJA and the YarraRiverkeeper. Damper Creek, Scotchmans Creek and Gardiners Creek are all tributaries of the Yarra River, and the Friends are aiming to have protection of the tributaries included in some way in the proposed new Yarra River Act and Trust.

Wednesday 24 August 2016

Dr Tiffani Howell - "Dogs as Human Companions" Dr Howell is a researcher at La Trobe University. Her main research interests are dog behaviour and cognitive processes, the dog-owner relationship, and animal welfare. She has been part of a study reviewing socialisation and training practices for racing greyhounds. She is also studying the possibility of training dogs to act as diabetes alert dogs for owners with diabetes. The health benefits of a dog as a companion will be shared as well.

41 - 43 Alvie Road Mt Waverley

VCAT Hearing - Thursday 19 May 2016, 55 King Street Melbourne, from 10am - contact Leanne Boucher for further information/queries on meeting up at Mt Waverley station to travel together if you wish- email: alviecommunity@gmail.com

Monash City Council will not support the developer's amended plans due to overdevelopment and loss of significant trees.

Update on C125 Planning Amendment

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve thank you for the tremendous support you have given us in working towards achieving greater protections for the creek and bushland areas in Mount Waverley under the C125 Amendment proposals.

The special meeting of Council on 3 May 2015 was attended by several FODCR members and our president John Clements gave a presentation on the 'In principle' decision changes proposed by Council (based on a draft discussed at our April meeting - this presentation will be uploaded to FoDC's website). It was encouraging to see so many people at the special meeting of Council prepared to speak up in support of the original C125 proposals, and to express their concerns regarding inappropriate development and the rapid loss of treed vegetation in Monash.

A summary of approximately forty 5 minute presentations made to the special meeting of Council will be uploaded to the Monash Council website shortly.

The C125 Amendment proposals have been somewhat modified following the public consultation process. While some important protections for the Creek Abuttal and Creek Environs zones remain unchanged, other changes such as canopy trees (now 2 not 3), building side setbacks and site coverage have been weakened. It is disappointing also to see that the original amendment proposals for greater environmental protections in other parts of Monash have been reduced or abandoned. However, the final form of C125 has not yet been set and we are concerned that the developer pressures that led to the watering down of protections that has occurred with the '*In principle*' changes may lead to even further weakening of the Amendment.

The next Council meeting will be held on **Monday 31 May 2016 at the Civic Centre Glen Waverley**, where a final position on Amendment C125 will be voted on. At this meeting Council will also decide on whether or not the Amendment should go to a Hearing Panel. FoDC members are encouraged to attend if you can.

How you can help further at this stage:

Residents can continue to email Mt Waverley Ward representatives and also Cr Bill Pontikis who represents the Mt Waverley Ward creek reserves at MCCouncil using the discussion points in the guide below:

Their email addresses are:

Cr Brian Little: email: brian.little@vic.gov.au

Cr Rebecca Paterson – email: Rebecca Paterson, Deputy Mayor –
Rebecca.paterson@monash.vic.gov.au

Cr J-Y Lo – email:

Jieh-Yung.Lo@monash.vic.gov.au

Cr Bill Pontikis – email: bill.pontikis@monash.vic.gov.au

Or send your message to MCCouncil at : email: mail@monash.vic.gov.au – for distribution to those to whom you wish your message to be sent.

And you can email six other Councillors if you wish. Go to for their email addresses at MCCouncil website - www.monash.vic.gov.au

Please note that Cr Stephanie Perri has now stepped down from MCCouncil as a Councillor and as Mayor as she prepares to stand for election to Chisholm at the Federal Election on 2 July.

As a guide - FoDC suggest consideration of the following in any responses to Council:

- 1. Canopy trees:** retention of the original proposal for 3 canopy trees in NRZ2 and NRZ3 is highly desirable. Maintaining the green and leafy environment of the creek areas is vital not just for character retention but also to complement and assist with the sustainability of flora and fauna in the creek reserves.
- 2. Setbacks and hard surface coverage:** the setbacks and site coverage restrictions originally proposed for Creek Environs are highly desirable. It is so important for the sustainability of our very narrow bushland reserves to have nearby gardens of a size that tree planting and good vegetation coverage is possible, and that extra hard surface coverage is limited so stormwater does not adversely impact further on the creeks (flooding, erosion and silt build-up).
- 3. Request a Panel Hearing:** It will be important to have the original Amendment C125 proposals noted/reviewed, and the shedding of protections under the 'In Principle' decision noted/reviewed by an independent Hearing Panel with expert witnesses. We see the original Amendment proposals as having presented a compelling model of how to manage housing development in Monash to protect and improve the garden city character of the City and achieve better long-term liveability outcomes.

Councillors should be encouraged to vote for the final C125 Amendment decision to be reviewed by a Hearing Panel, as was the case with the Vegetation Protection Overlay hearing.

If I is right for you, please do contact the Councillors as above.

Agatha Christie Theatre Night – Ashwood/Mt Waverley Lions Club

A theatre night is to be run by the Ashwood/Mt Waverley Lions. The Lions have been a supporter of FoDC working bees in the past and it would be great to return the favour by supporting their production.

"And Then There Were None" by Agatha Christie **Thursday 16 June 2016**. Time: Arrive at 7.45pm for 8.15pm performance. Malvern Theatre, 29a Burke Rd East Malvern. Ticket Price \$20 (for all). Contact Keith Irwin 0418 392 418

Working bee routines: 10AM - 12.30pm. Billy boils at 11am. BYO cups/mugs. Please wear all weather gear and solid shoes. Some equipment supplied by the bushcrew.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Sunday May 29th	Clean up, weeding, spreading mulch to prepare the ground around the ponds for the June planting day (see date below)	10:00 to 12:30 - Meet at the main wetlands ponds. Please bring along a spade/mattock to help prepare the earth for tube stock planting.
Wednesday June 22nd	General Meeting	From 7-30pm – 9pm
Sunday June 26th	Community Planting Day Come along and help plant out 2000 tube stock funded by Melbourne Water Project Grant - 10am - 12.30pm. Free BBQ sausage sizzle in Park Road carpark commences from 12 noon. BYO cups/mugs	10:00 to 12:30 Meet at the Park Road entrance to the reserve for sign-on registration. Wear all weather gear and solid shoes. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. BYO gloves (some provided). All welcome.

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Friends of 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
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