

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

SEPTEMBER 2015



The Newsletter of

***FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK
RESERVE INC.***

Reg. No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063, Mount Waverley, 3149.

Guest speaker: Wednesday 23 September 2015 – Dr Sharron Pfueller

Topic: ‘Sustainable Living and Gardening’

From 7.30pm – Alvie Hall, Cnr Alvie Road and High St Rd, Mt Waverley.

Do come along if you can. All welcome

Sharron has, throughout her life, had a passion for healthy living and protecting the natural environment. A graduate of Sydney, Adelaide and Monash Universities, she has had a varied career as a researcher and teacher, commencing in biochemistry, then medical research and finally environment and sustainability. Now retired from formal employment, she has been working with several different environmentally oriented organisations. Her current most time-consuming activity, apart from establishing a new garden, is sharing the running of *Sustainable Gardening Australia*. Sharron's presentation will refer to a few aspects from her life's experiences, her work with *Sustainable Gardening Australia* as well as a discussion on how to go about sustainable gardening.

Thanks again to our FoDC volunteers -

Update on the new Damper Creek Wetlands Boardwalk – plantings

The construction of the new Damper Creek Boardwalk and Wetlands (situated just below the Park Road playground) and its landscaping and tube stock plantings have now been completed. Many thanks again go to a Monash City Council Capital Works program funding allocation, and also to Michael Grant, Chris Gittens, and Mick and Mark from the Bushcrew for their assistance and guidance to help complete the plantings at that site.

On Friday 21 August 2015, FoDC welcomed volunteers from ***Carsales.com Ltd, Richmond***, who undertook the planting of 1,850 tube stock around the new boardwalk with great gusto. It was a fantastic team effort, and an occasion greatly appreciated by us, and enjoyed by all. FoDC have sent a thank-you letter to the CEO at *Carsales.com Ltd*. for this wonderful team effort in enthusiastically participating in this task as part of their community outreach volunteer time allocation.

Sunday 30 August 2015 – Community planting day

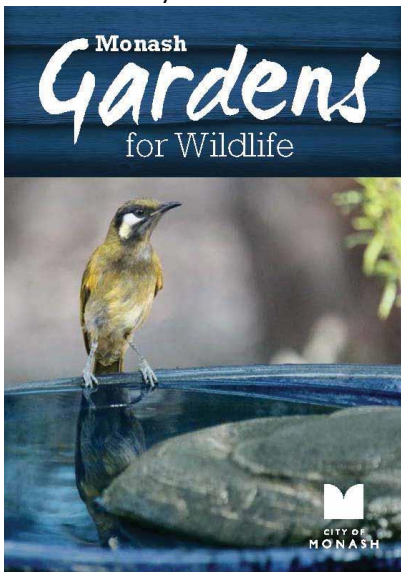
A big thank you to over forty enthusiastic volunteers, who planted out 1,500 tube stock along the creek riparian strip on the lower pathway from the Park Road entrance towards the Alice Street bridge. The day was cool but clear and all volunteers were keen and enthusiastic! Thank-you to Mick and Danny from the MCC Bushcrew who worked alongside the volunteers. A sausage sizzle was enjoyed by all afterwards. Because of the success of these very enjoyable community days, again funded by a Melbourne Water project grant, FoDC will plan to hold further Community Planting Working bees in 2016. It is so pleasing to have this response and especially to welcome families and children. FoDC could not achieve these outcomes without the support of the Bushcrew and the help of so many willing volunteers. A BIG thank-you to all!

Response to MCC Amendment C125: Proposed new residential zones.

www.newresidentialzonesmonash.com.au - FoDC have responded positively to the proposed Amendment C125 and the newly proposed zonings of *Creek Abuttal* and *Creek Environs*. Thank you to all who responded to Amendment C125 individually as well. A Panel Hearing will be held towards the end of the year, and FoDC will keep you informed of the details of this Hearing when they come to hand.

Monash Gardens for Wildlife

The Monash City Council Sustainability Team has recently produced a new publication '*Gardens for Wildlife*'. The booklet explains the importance of the natural environment and biodiversity, details flora and fauna of the Monash region, and provides planting advice for indigenous vegetation.



The aim of this resource is to encourage residents to create indigenous gardens on their properties in an effort to increase biodiversity in Monash. Such gardens would provide greater habitat and 'stepping storeys' for wildlife through this highly urbanized landscape.

Along with this booklet, Monash Council is planning to develop a *Gardens for Wildlife* program. Such a program may include household visits to help residents determine what weeds exist on their property, what indigenous species could replace them and advice on starting and/or further developing their own indigenous garden.

Household visits will be run by a volunteer site assessor who will be trained in how to perform such a visit. Time commitment for volunteers is not likely to be more than approx. one hour for each visit, and they would only have to perform a visit if they are able to at that particular time and date. If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested in becoming a volunteer site assessor, or you have queries, please contact Nick Chester at nicholasc@monash.vic.gov.au

There is also now a webpage where residents can request a hard copy of the booklet (some copies will be available at the next FODC meeting) and an electronic copy is available at <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/monash-gardens-for-wildlife>

Bird of the Month – Tawny Frogmouth

Text reference from: [http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Podargus-strigoides'](http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/species/Podargus-strigoides)

What does the Tawny Frogmouth look like?

The general plumage of the *Tawny Frogmouth* is silver-grey, slightly paler below, streaked and mottled with black and rufous. A second plumage phase also occurs, with birds being russet-red. The eye is yellow in both forms, and the wide, heavy bill is olive-grey to blackish. South-eastern birds are larger than birds from the north. *Tawny Frogmouths* are nocturnal birds. During the day, they perch on tree branches, often low down, most cleverly camouflaged as if they were part of the tree.

What does the Tawny Frogmouth do? - Feeding:

The bulk of the *Tawny Frogmouth's* diet is made up of nocturnal insects, worms, slugs and snails. Small mammals, reptiles, frogs and birds are also eaten. Most food is obtained by pouncing to the ground from a tree or another elevated perch. Some prey items, such as moths, are caught in flight.

Breeding - *Tawny Frogmouths* have a regular breeding season, but birds in more arid areas may breed in response to heavy rains. Both male and female incubate the eggs. The male sits during the day, but both the male and female share sitting at night. The nest is a loose platform of sticks, which is usually placed on a horizontal forked tree branch. Normally only one brood is raised in a season, but birds from the south may have two.

Did you know ? - The leading edges of the first primary wing edges of the *Tawny Frogmouth* are fringed to make for silent flight.

Listen out for the *Tawny Frogmouth's* call and sightings already enjoyed in Damper Creek Reserve – near the end of Sunhill Road, or in the trees at end of Richard Road or trees just near the main pond on the upper hillside in the backyards of the Park Road houses.

A soft deep continuous ooo-ooo-ooo sound – at sundown – it is a beautiful experience to hear this call.



Have you had a chance to visit the Top 40 Chart of Bird Calls? Go to <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/birds/featured/Top-40-Bird-Songs>

Check out No. 4 on the Top 40 Chart for the Tawny Frogmouth's call. It is categorized as a Hooter together with the Southern Boobook.

More References: *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*, *Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds*, and *The Robins and Flycatchers of Australia*.

Proposed subdivision of 41–43 Alvie Road & removal of significant trees: possible conflict with newly proposed Residential Zoning “Creek Environs”

Recently, many concerned residents' in this neighborhood responded to MCCouncil objecting to a proposal to subdivide 41 – 43 Alvie Road into three separate titles and remove 18 of 25 significant (VPO protected) trees (in an area proposed to be covered under “Creek Environs”, under Amendment C125). As a result of the considerable number of objections, TPA/44432 will now go into further consultation and re-advertisement. Revised proposed planning application signage will be placed on that property (or the MCCouncil website) which will indicate a deadline for a further opportunity to provide comment to MCCouncil.

FoDC Annual Subscriptions are now due – August 2015

To assist, an invoice reminder was attached to your August 2015 newsletter, only if your annual subscription was due for renewal. We would love to hear from you to help keep our database up to date. Thank you for responses and subscriptions already received. The annual single subscription is \$5 and the annual family subscription is \$10. The Enduring (life-long) membership of \$50 is a once only payment. Having a significant number of current financial members is vital to the effectiveness of FoDC as an incorporated group, to gain grants and support. To help FoDC to maintain a current subscription database, please note that **members who have been non-financial over the past year or longer will be deleted**. An updated database will now include all financial members (single/family); Officials (Local and Federal Government; Expert environmental advisers; Enduring memberships and Honorary Life Memberships.

To save paper etc. associated with hard copy mail-outs, please note that in future, if members list their home address and their email, the email address will be the preferred mode of delivery. For any queries, or if we have not recorded your details correctly, please - email - secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com, or write to PO Box 2063 Mt Waverley 3149. We would love you to re-subscribe if your membership has lapsed. A BIG THANKYOU to all our members.

Guest Speaker – August – Mr Andrew Kelly, Yarra Riverkeeper

As Damper Creek is part of the Yarra River catchment, FoDC were most pleased to welcome Mr Andrew Kelly, Yarra Riverkeeper, as guest speaker at our August meeting. It was a very interesting and thought provoking presentation including the following update from Mr Kelly on the YRK's future goals:

“The Victorian State Government has followed up on their election commitment for the Yarra River Protection Act and a Yarra Trust, and allotted \$1million in the May budget to this initiative. Planning reports have repeatedly identified fragmented responsibilities and

inconsistent planning as issues along the River. A Yarra Trust would ensure that there is co-ordinated management on the River and the Trust would be able to carry initiatives for protecting and improving the Yarra through from one government to the next. The Yarra Riverkeeper Association advocates for an Act that covers both planning and water issues, including storm water management across the catchment."

Mr Kelly encourages your support of this important initiative and the support of YRKA- if this is right for you, please write to your State members in both the Upper and Lower houses to support the Act and the Trust - or for further information please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Kelly, Yarra Riverkeeper, 0434 892 772 - info@yarrariver.org.au - PO Box 210 Fitzroy, Vic 3065

AUGUST AGM – new Committee

The outgoing President Helen Clements presented an annual report to the AGM, firstly thanking each of the Committee members and all the Friends for their wonderful support in achieving another successful year as FoDC enters its 22nd year of being an Incorporated Friends' group.

Helen's report highlighted significant events in that FoDC celebrated its 21st birthday at its November 2014 Christmas bbq. In 2015, FoDC held monthly meetings and monthly working bees, including four extra planting working bees and a vibrant and interesting Guest Speaker program.

FoDC were awarded a further Melbourne Water project grant for 2016 including a grant for the purchase of tube stock for the riparian strip, together with an administrative grant to fund activities and admin expenses throughout the year.

The Friends also actively liaised with MCCouncil together with the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve on the possibility of introducing greater protections for *Creek Abuttal and Creek Environs* through the ongoing process of *Amendment C125*.

A further exciting outcome was the launch of a new MCCouncil booklet "*Gardens for Wildlife*" and its future program (see above). The MCCouncil and its Heritage Team and the Bushcrew members were thanked for their wonderful support and organisation in making FoDC's working bees and extra working bees come to fruition.

Under Romy Orfanelli's guidance, the new Committee for 2015 – 2016 was elected as follows: John Clements (President), Helen Clements (Secretary), Ian Nicholls (Treasurer), Kevin Ryland (Vice President), with general committee members being Joan Wolf (subscription database), John Wolf (Noticeboards), Doug Scott (Editor), and Robert Yates (catering). Frank Carder was also nominated to continue as water watch co-ordinator. The new Committee was warmly welcomed by the new President, John Clements.

Guest speaker program – and dates to remember

Dates to Remember	Month	Notes
Meeting	Wed 23 Sept 2015 from 7.30pm. Guest Speaker: Dr Sharron Pfeuller followed by supper	Topic: ' <i>Sustainable Living and Gardening</i> ' A general meeting commences at 8.45pm

Working Bee	Sunday 27 September 2015 from 10 am – 12.30 pm.	Meeting place: end of Richard Rd, off Alice St in Damper Creek Reserve
Meeting	Wednesday 28 October 2015	General meeting at Alvie Hall from 7.30pm
Working Bee	Sunday 1 November 2015	Meeting place TBA
Meeting	Wednesday 25 November 2015	Guest speaker – Don Bladier “The Making of the Upper Yarra Dam 1951 – 1959”
Christmas BBQ	Sunday 29 November 2015 from 12 noon onwards	Meeting place – In Damper Creek Reserve at the end of Richard Rd Mt Waverley

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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.

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