

## Editorial :

The community debate continues on the twin subjects of the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) and the management of public trees in streets, parks and reserves. If you have not kept up to date with the public comment in the Monash Leader and Monash Weekly, I suggest a brief read of the comments under “Your Say” on the Leader website.

It is apparent that there is a campaign which has been mounted to review the application of the VPO, culminating in an unrepresentative public meeting which condemned the council's approach to these two issues.

The position of the Friends of Damper Creek is summarised in the response to the “Leader” submitted by our secretary, Campbell Miles.

*“The reasons for introducing the Vegetation Protection Overlay and the active management of Reserve and street trees are as vital now as they were when they were introduced. In fact, they are more important as the Waverley area suffers a loss of trees due to larger houses and multi-unit developments. These developments result in very small gardens with no room for trees. Trees, and in particular indigenous species, are a defining feature of these suburbs. The foresight of the past Waverley Council in planting the wonderful street trees and in fostering the various Friends Groups to plant the bushland reserves is to be applauded. It is distressing to see this growing heritage threatened by the tree vandals who have no view to the future; no appreciation that current residents are not 'owners' but that we are custodians of the future.”*

In cases where public opinion has been inflamed by use of the press it is vital that those who disagree, also make their views known and as a result the FODCR urges you to submit your opinion on these issues.

### How to make your opinion count

1. Visit the Council website and complete the survey titled “Public trees in streets, parks and reserves”. This survey can also be completed by visiting the City of Monash offices or one of the public libraries in Monash. You only have till the end of June to do this.
2. Write to each councillor, expressing your concern regarding any dilution of current regulations and practices. The emails for each councillor are published on the Council website or can be found in the community directory or in the “Monash Bulletin”.
3. Write to the Monash Leader and Monash Weekly expressing your opinion on changes to vegetation management.
4. If you live in a VPO area, you will receive a survey asking your opinion on retention of the VPO. Ensure you complete this survey and urge your neighbours to do likewise.

When making your comment remember that there are two distinct issues involved, the VPO and the management of street and reserve trees. Ensure you express your opinion on both issues.

Does this seem excessive? Remember that those who call for unfettered removal of vegetation will be lobbying in the same manner. This is not a democratic process,

the loudest voice is seen as being most representative in such cases. When change is proposed, silence implies consent.

### June meeting for Friends of Damper Creek.

Our guest speaker, Dr Meg Ralph, has graciously agreed to postpone her presentation to allow Councillors Lo and Banerji to address the meeting.

### LATE AUTUMN JOY

This season of plentiful rain has attracted a number of winged visitors: exotics such as the red and blue rosellas from the Dandenongs and the green and orange King parrots from further north, notably Lake Eildon. There are some glorious songsters too – notably the fast moving band of about eight young male magpies high in the Wetland gum trees. One Field Guide [Thank you, Jill and Ray Anderson] states that they stay together in a group until the end of June. [Afterwards, I expect, they have their long period solo, as initiates.]

Today I went walking in the late afternoon along the Wetlands path. High in a gum a currawong was singing a lovely melody – that was answered by his mate in a lighter, short reply. A number of other male voices then joined in. I recalled, then, other years when I'd heard the currawong give a wonderful vale at Middle Bridge as the sun went down – and that was answered by others at the far end of the Reserve. I haven't stayed out late this year – or gone down before sunrise, but I expect that the last call of all – and the first of the morning – would be the kookaburra. “King of the Bush”? Maybe.

## Working Bee

Our next working bee will be in Golf Avenue. We expect to have another 1500 plants to complement those planted at the rear of Yatama Court last month. Your help is welcome, even if you cannot plant. Help with morning tea, welcoming new members and handing out information is also required.

## Dog Stories

Our president, Helen Clements, is compiling a collection of stories of the "Dogs of Damper Creek". Please share any anecdotes you have with Helen on [helencleme@gmail.com](mailto:helencleme@gmail.com)

## Biodiversity Seminar

Deakin University will be holding a seminar titled "Biodiversity in my Backyard" at its Burwood campus, Burwood Highway on June 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-30 to 8pm. Entry is free and refreshments will be provided. Please email [enviro@deakin.edu.au](mailto:enviro@deakin.edu.au) to assist with catering. Speakers from Parks Wide, City of Whitehorse, Victoria Naturally Alliance, Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society, Jeffrey Street Association, Blackburn Lake Environmental Education Park and Greenlink Box Hill will be presenting. In view of current developments in Monash, it will be valuable to hear what our colleagues in the City of Whitehorse are doing.

## Friends of Damper Creek Important dates to remember:

	June	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 22nd - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
W-Bee	Sun 26th 10-00am to 12-30pm	Golf Rd
	July	
Meeting:	Wed 27th- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
W-Bee	Sun 31st 10-00am to 12-30 pm	To be advised

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

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## The Newsletter of

## FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

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[www.vicnet.net.au/~damper](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~damper)

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

June 2011

