

Editorial

Good news on the environment is rather hard to come by at present. On the local front, the next Council meeting on September 27th will vote on the retention of the current VPO. At this stage only councillor Male, the current mayor and a small group of other councillors have indicated their support of the current VPO. Thus, it seems likely that the council will vote to ditch or modify the VPO. However, there is still time to act by contacting your councillors and voicing your opinion on the VPO retention. Phone numbers and email addresses for each councillor can be found on the Council website www.monash.vic.gov.au or in the community directory. The committee of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve strongly urge you to contact each councillor as there is still time to sway their opinions.

In an age when restrictions are being placed on wind farms, where Dick Hamer's "Green Wedges" are being reconsidered, where a tax is being proposed on carbon but coal mines are expanding exponentially, where can we turn to for a glimmer of hope on matters environmental? Well, it seems that the new head of the federal Treasury, Dr Martin Parkinson, has been busy setting a new course for the Treasury and, by implication, the government and the country as a whole. Dr Parkinson's address was titled "Sustainable Wellbeing" and he addressed some concepts that would have some of the more conservative members of society feeling uneasy. Briefly (very briefly) Dr Parkinson defines sustainability as ".....Each generation bequeath a stock of capital that is at least as large as the stock it inherited." His definition of "Capital" includes:

**physical and financial capital,
human capital,
environmental capital and
social capital**

Implicit in this definition is that there may be a tradeoff between the four types of capital but he adds the following proviso: "When you think about wellbeing rather than gross domestic product it becomes apparent that society does not get an adequate return on many environmental goods". And further "...to do its job Treasury needs an understanding of wellbeing that recognises that wellbeing is broader than just GDP, that sustainability is more than just an environmental issue."

Let us hope other arms of government are taking a similarly wide ranging view of their role in society.

(extracted from article by Ross Gittins in the financial pages of The Age on August 27th 2011)

HONOUR TO SAVIOUR OF DAMPER CREEK , PETER DAVIES

Peter Davies, pioneer environmental campaigner, has been presented with the "Caroline Chisholm Award" at a community ceremony earlier this month. Peter, formerly head of the Surveying Department at RMIT, was instrumental in saving Damper Creek, Scotchmans Creek and many other pockets of bushland in the Waverley municipality.

Peter Davies
being presented
with the Caroline
Chisholm Award
by Anna Burke



He was a city of Mount Waverley councillor, elected on an environmental platform and was later mayor of the Municipality. Peter is still very active in local environmental matters and freely gives his time to the Friends groups for Damper Creek and Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.

LATE WINTER MAGIC

August 2. Today I stood and watched a pair of brown wood ducks eating, either side of a rock beside the pond. I stood next to them, watching, not even sure they were wood ducks, at such close range. I was transfixed by the female's round spots on the lower part of her body, shining like silver sixpences. She became uneasy and went to move, so I walked off, wondering if they were wood ducks or no.

August 3. A lovely morning, so I set off very early on my quest to see our visitors. They were already on the lake and yes, I saw the male had a "short cut" mane, while *her* round spots shone brightly above the water line. I left them to go walking along the path to the Wetlands sign, then turned back. In the low sunshine, I noticed lovely patterns on the rocks near the waterfall that separates the third, upper pond, from the second. On a large brown rock (near the ancient, five-branched tree trunk) there was green moss and grey and silver patterns made by dew. I looked more closely then behind the main trunk and found it had been cut on an angle and there were more rings there than I could count. What a wealth of beauty and information from getting up early!

When I retraced my steps towards the lake I found the wood ducks standing on the rock wall between the second pond and the main AND to my surprise, a gangly grey baby, also with silver spots, beside them. [No wonder the female had been so nervous yesterday!]

Waterwatch in Damper Creek

Good rains prior to the Waterwatch testing resulted in excellent results. Results were consistent with seasonal variations and high water flow. Dissolved oxygen was close to the maximum level that could be measured as a result of the recent rain. Recent results have shown an increase in Nitrogen levels and this anomaly is under further investigation.

Website Additions

In the "LINKS" section of the website you will find "Doggies of Damper Creek" and "Birds and Ducks of Damper Creek". There are lots of interesting stories and photos. Photos are welcome and we particularly want photos of birds.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

BRING YOUR SUBS TO OUR MEETING,
WORKING BEE OR POST TO OUR P.O. BOX

Your New Committee

President: Frank Carder
Vice President : Helen Clements
Secretary: Campbell Miles
Treasurer: Kevin Ryland
Public Officer: Romy Orfanelli
DCD Editor: Doug Scott
Noticeboards: Judy Borg
Additional Committee Members:
John Clements, Robert Yates, Ian Nicholls

Friends of Damper Creek Important dates to remember:

	September	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 28th - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
W-Bee	Sun Oct 2nd 10-00am to 12-30pm	Middle Bridge
	October	

Meeting: Wed 26th- 7:30 pm Alvie Hall
W-Bee Sun October 30th To be advised
10-00am to 12-30 pm

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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:
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The Newsletter of

**FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

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DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

September 2011

