

## Maranoa Gardens—Balwyn

It is a sunny day, you have just finished lunch and are wondering what to do next, why not take in the Maranoa Gardens in Balwyn? Laid out in 1901 by John Watson, the gardens cover 4 acres and are planted with native plants from a wide range of climatic areas. Being a botanical garden, unlike Damper Creek Reserve, the plants are labelled and maintained to show their best. This is an excellent time of the year to pay a visit as many species are in flower. The gardens are maintained by a Friends Group and by Booroondara Council. Entry is free and although dogs are not allowed, Maranoa Gardens is adjacent to Becket Park which is leash-free and has extensive playing areas and a fine play ground. Car parking is also free. If you are taking the children, throw in a bat and ball.

The Gardens close at 4pm during the week and at 5pm on weekends. So fill the thermo flask, pop the dog onto the back seat and head of Maranoa Gardens for a very pleasant few hours. Entry is from Parringa Road running north from Whitehorse Road & west of Union Road. You will not be disappointed.



### Friends of Damper Creek Important dates to remember:

Meetings	Date	Venue
General meeting	7.30pm, Wed.	Alvie Hall
Working bee	10am, Sun. 30 October	Alice St bridge
Annual BBQ	12noon 27 November	End of Sunhill Rd

Important contacts for Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc.

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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 and Yarra River Keepers.

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



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

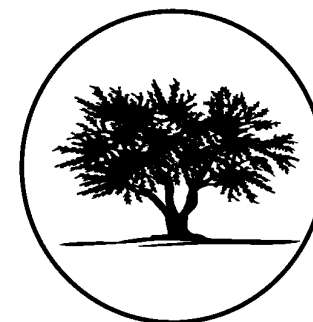
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P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

**October 2011**





## Trees Protected for Future Generations in Monash

### Monash Councillors Vote on VPO Proposals

All members of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve will be aware that the Friends Group decided early on that the ill-defined changes proposed by Cr Lake to the Monash Council's Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) were unacceptable. Our decision was taken following a unanimous vote in favour of opposing the changes at a general meeting of members in July.

Following a brief mention at the August public meeting of the Council, the issue was resolved at the recent September Council meeting. Members of the Friends of Damper Creek joined members of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek & Valley Reserve to witness an enthralling debate made more interesting by the previously announced absence of the Mayor, Cr Male. This meant 10 Councillors were in attendance. All Councillors spoke on the issue of the VPO and the final count was five votes for removing the policy and five for its retention. The Acting Mayor (Cr Driberg) used her casting vote to retain the VPO without change. She based her vote on precedence and the fact that Cr Male had made clear at the August Council meeting that he would vote for the retention of the policy. Our three ward Councillors (Crs Banerji, Lo and Morrissey) all voted to the VPO to be retained.

### Street and Reserve Trees

Whilst the VPO policy applies to mature trees on private land, the street and reserve tree policy applies to

trees on public land through out the City. This includes the trees in Damper Creek Reserve and those in our nature strips that are such a feature of the suburbs that originally made up the City of Waverley. We were never clear why street and reserve trees were lumped together. Unfortunately the changes proposed by Cr Lake were approved by Councillors, albeit with an important amendment proposed by Cr Lo to the effect that Reserve trees that were dead or dying but considered by Council officers to be safe after appropriate trimming of dead branches, would be retained in Reserves as these are important habitat trees for indigenous fauna.

Full details are available on the Monash website under 'Public Tree Management'.

### Implications of Retaining the VPO

We realise that Monash Council, having introduced the VPO ten years ago, needs to provide appropriate support for residents. Some of the complaints from residents that prompted the review, reflected their inability to maintain trees on their property. As you get older it is more difficult, of not foolhardy, to clean your own gutters of leaves; large trees do need occasional maintenance by an arborist. Residents living on pensions or retirement savings find these services expensive and so the one-off cost of removing a mature tree becomes attractive. Undoubtedly the average age of Waverley residents is increasing. We all enjoy the treed environment of these suburbs and so perhaps it is appropriate that we all contribute to the maintenance of this environment. We will be recommending to Council that they offer financial support with tree maintenance as already occurs in other Councils' jurisdictions such as Knox.

Cr Lake stated in his presentation to Council when speaking in favour of repealing the VPO, that the Council had closed the office that provided staff to inspect trees and to give advice to residents if a tree is or is not safe. We will be asking that the office be re-opened as part of Council's responsibilities to resi-

dents. Whilst the battle to retain the VPO has been won on this occasion, we need to ensure that Council continues to provide support to residents to ensure that it remains good policy. Without support, the issue will return.

## Meeting Wednesday 28 October

At the next meeting, we will have a guest speaker. Dr Meg Ralph is a member of the Friends Group and her presentation is titled 'Environmental sustainability at Monash University: developing the living laboratory'.

On the agenda for the business meeting to follow will be:

- ✧ 2011-12 Melbourne Water Community Grants
- ✧ Report on our meeting with the State Minister for Planning
- ✧ Arrangements for the end-of-year barbecue

## Annual End-of-Year BBQ

Every year Monash Council funds our end-of-year barbecue to thank the members for their work in the Reserve over the previous 12 months and for the fund raising that allows us to reimburse Council for the tube stock they supply for planting in the Reserve. Please put the date in your diary - **Sunday, 27 November** at 12 noon. Bring a rug, seats and plates and cutlery for a great afternoon in our beloved bushland reserve.

## Annual Subscriptions Now Due

THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE. INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION: \$2, FAMILY SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$5 AND ENDURING MEMBERSHIP: \$50. PLEASE PAY AT THE BUSINESS MEETING OR WORKING BEE.

**Please address all mail to: The Secretary  
PO Box 2063, Mount Waverley 3149**