

## Editorial : Managing Water

Damper Creek forms part of the catchment of the Yarra river and anything that finds its way into Damper creek eventually becomes part of the Yarra. Melbourne Water is keen to support the work of our group because what flows in Damper creek will eventually affect the quality of water in the Yarra.

We can extend our influence beyond the creek itself by educating members, householders and the City of Monash in ways of improving the quality of water as it flows into the creek. Managing water on our properties is an important way of doing this and there are a few basics to consider:

**1/ Minimise hard surfaces** as these cause rapid runoff from even minor rainfall.

**2/ Cultivate your ground** to absorb water as hard ground is not much better than concrete.

**3/ Collect the water from your roof** and, ideally, use as much as possible, either in the garden or in the house (a full water tank will not help to mitigate flow in Damper creek, if you can't use it, it is far better to let it drain out on dry days).

**4/Construct a Raingarden.** What, exactly, is a rain garden? Technically, a Raingarden is a buffer which intercepts stormwater flow to absorb pollutants, slow water flow into the stormwater system and to maximise the uptake of stormwater into the ground.

Melbourne Water has a lot of information on Raingardens and will tell you how it's done in a technical sense. It can be a little daunting the way Melbourne Water describes it as they make it look as though expensive plumbing works are involved. There are easier ways....If you read the Melbourne Water website you will find reference to a type of Raingarden called a *swale*. This can simply be a depression in the

garden modified by the addition of coarse material to enhance absorption and restrain water flow. The "garden" part is completed by the addition of plants which can use the additional moisture collected. These need not necessarily be wetland plants. On the MW website an overflow is shown which is connected to the stormwater system. This is not necessary if you are using existing surface runoff and normal garden watering to feed your Raingarden. In the case of my garden, I have constructed a swale which I feed from a water tank. Thus, I have a normally dry watercourse which absorbs water which would normally be discharged to the street drains.

The addition of Raingardens to Damper creek has been promoted by the "Friends" since the concept was introduced by our , then, Waterwatch coordinator, Trish Grant many years ago. I believe the adoption of Raingardens has been inhibited by an excessively technical interpretation of the principle and that a series of swales would go a long way to providing the benefits of Raingardens with very little expense. The watercourse constructed at the Stephensons road end of the reserve comes close to being a Raingarden with plants, pebbles and ponds constructed to control water flow and erosion. I suggest you check it out at any time, but preferably in the rain.

## Guest Speaker Programme 2012

At our forthcoming meeting our guest speaker will be MarJo Angelico of the Waverley Historical Society who will address the group at the May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The title of MarJo's talk will be *"Early Days Around Mount Waverley"*

## The Weird and Wonderful World of Fungi

Our sister organisation, "Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve" has organised a guest speaker, Geoff Lay, to talk about Fungi on Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7-30 in Alvie hall. Everybody is welcome.

## Delivery of Damper Creek Doings

We endeavour to ensure the newsletter is delivered prior to the monthly meeting. Unfortunately this cannot always be done and we need you to tell us if this is a concern. Please let us know if on time delivery is important to you by phone, mail, email or by the old fashioned method of talking to a committee member. If you have email, that is the best way of getting the newsletter.

**Doggies of Damper Creek** (by Helen Clements) A link can be found on the FoDC website which now contains 10 doggie stories and we would love to have more.

The stories can be written by you or your dog telling the reader about how you met, the joys, tears, funny and quirky moments you have shared, the friendships made for you both, as you walk in Damper Creek reserve.

You may have a story about a beloved dog you had had in the past, and which you would like to share with us all.

For privacy reasons only your doggie's name will be used, together with the date of submission.

A favourite photo of your pet may accompany your text if you wish, and the number of words can be anything from a few paragraphs to an A4 page or more. Helen will assist with editing if you wish.

Perhaps this could be an enjoyable writing

task for your children to complete?

Please send your stories to Helen Clements at [helencleme@gmail.com](mailto:helencleme@gmail.com) (My aim is for at least 20 doggies stories and I would be delighted to hear from you).

Note that two new stories have recently been added to the website.

### May Working Bee a Community Planting Day

We have 3000 plants to put in on May 27<sup>th</sup> and will be looking for anyone from the local community who is willing to help. A leaflet drop has been organised for the local area. We would also like to have members to "meet and greet" and hopefully sign up new members. Help is also needed for the BBQ so if you're not up to planting there is still plenty to do.

### Issues raised at the April meeting

1/ Use of FODCR funds.

The meeting decided that the use of FODCR funds for general reserve maintenance was not appropriate but funds should be held in reserve to purchase plants should funding not be forthcoming from the City of Monash. It should also be noted that the Melbourne Water grants are only applicable for the riparian strip (i.e. immediately adjacent to the stream.)

2/ Community Planting Days

The working bee days for May and June will be designated "Community Planting Days", there will be a leaflet drop in the vicinity and a BBQ will be provided. The May planting will be based at the end of Golf Ave and the June planting (i.e. on July 1<sup>st</sup>) will be based at the Stephensons road car park.

3/ Frogwatch: Frank Carder and Kevin Ryland will investigate FODCR participation.

4/ FODCR brochures will be placed in Alvie Hall

### Important dates to remember:

	May	Notes
<b>Meeting:</b>	Wed 23rd - 7:30 pm	<b>Alvie Hall</b>
<b>Working Bee</b>	Sun May 27th 10-00am to 12-30pm	Golf Av
	Jun	
<b>Meeting:</b>	Wed 27th- 7:30 pm	<b>Alvie Hall</b>
<b>W-Bee</b>	Sun July 1st 10-00am to 12-30 pm	To be advised

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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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### The Newsletter of

### FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

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May 2012

