

## Editorial : People Power

How many people does it take to reverse a degraded environment? This was not meant to be a trick question, but from my perspective the answer is one! Each one of us can do something and what we do, no matter how little, matters. Now that I've placed a burden of responsibility on your shoulders, it shouldn't surprise you that it's more enjoyable, more productive and more memorable if we join forces with others to achieve wonders in a short period of time.

A week or so ago your esteemed president, secretary and newsletter editor travelled to Myrning to take part in a planting by **“Grow West”**. This report from our erstwhile secretary follows:

*The ‘Grow West’ initiative had its genesis 10 years ago with the long-term aim of rejuvenating 10,000 hectares of the Upper Werribee River catchment. This involves re-establishing vegetation corridors linking the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Lerderderg State Park. In the first instance, the corridors follow the creeks. The first planting began seven years ago and at the working bee on Sunday 15 July, attended by three members of the Friends of Damper Creek, we witnessed the 1 millionth tree being planted by the state Minister for the Environment.*

*Much of the planting is on privately owned land, as was this most recent planting day. It was attended by over 165 volunteers from many organizations, including Landcare and the Victorian National Parks Association. In all, 6,000 indigenous trees and shrubs were planted on the day along a fenced off length of a sadly eroded creek running through a sheep property at Korobeit, north of Myrning. The*

*creek banks had recently been fenced off to prevent stock accessing the creek banks and contributing to erosion and fouling of the waterway. The fencing is done with concrete strainer posts and steel star stakes. These are resistant to bush fires. The funding for the fences is derived from the parks and gardens levy that we all pay in our water rates. The extensive planting will aid erosion control and provide corridors for the movement of wildlife. Further information is available on their excellent website: [www.growwest.com.au](http://www.growwest.com.au) If you would like to be involved next year please speak to Campbell Miles.*

Of course the prime motivation in attending such events is to benefit the environment but the social benefits are considerable and it was a pleasure to see Campbell and Frank sounding out potential guest speakers for FODCR as well as spruiking the achievements of our group and increasing the general awareness of our beloved Damper Creek.

### More on Green Roofs

Since I penned the little piece on green roofs last month there seems to have been a rash of articles in the papers about their use. A notable example that I had missed was our very own Civic Centre which sports a green roof, installed last year with financial assistance from Melbourne Water and supported by Monash University. The green roof sits above the council chambers and is expected to considerably reduce the airconditioning costs for the building. This sounds like an opportunity for a guest speaker! If you want to check out more details on the Monash Civic Centre project go to the City of Monash website :

[www.monash.vic.gov.au](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au) and click on

Community, Sustainable Living and Lifestyle. Alternatively type “Living Roof Project” into the search box.

## Banyule Flats Reserve and Banyule Homestead

Mid-week, mid-winter, predicted maximum 16 degrees and wind a zephyr...what to do outdoors?

Why not a 15 minute drive from Mt Waverley to Banyule Flats Reserve and wetlands (Melway 32 F2)? Pack lunch and the binoculars, fill the Thermos flasks (optional dog in the back seat) and head off west along the Eastern Freeway, take the Bulleen exit and aim for Scarborough Drive. You can park in the dead end and in two strides and you are on the yellow brick road, or yellow concrete path. Shortly after turn left on the bridge over Banyule Creek and walk across the northern end of the wetlands (Banyule swamp).

As you go, you will see on your left a large notice regarding a famous painting by William Withers (‘Tranquil Winter’) painted from just this spot in 1885. It depicts the waterway and a house that still stands at 7 Walker Court, just a short walk up the hill. As you walk, tend right so the sports fields are on your left (with tall light towers) and the wetlands on your right. As you keep walking, you will enjoy excellent views across the wetlands of Banyule Homestead, a substantial gothic house built atop the cliff by a very successful squatter, Joseph Hawdon in 1846. Eventually you join the Main Yarra Trail and you can veer left, away from the wetlands, or right to continue around the lake and wetlands. You can check out the details on Google maps before you go. A word of warning...no toilets that I could find, so go before you go.

Campbell Miles



### Guest Speaker Programme:

Don't miss our August guest speaker, columnist for "The Age" Michael Green. Michael will speak on living an environmentally sustainable lifestyle. You can read Michael's work in The Age on Sundays. His segment is titled "Living Green".

### Container Deposit Legislation

The June meeting unanimously agreed to support container deposits for Victoria. Our secretary has sent a letter to our local MLA, Michael Gidley, supporting the introduction of such legislation.

### Forthcoming elections for FODCR

If you wish to serve the Friends group as a member of the committee, or if you know anyone you would like to nominate, we are having our elections as part of our AGM in August. In particular, our secretary has served the maximum term allowable by our

constitution so we are in need of a new secretary.

### Important dates to remember:

	July	Notes
<b>Meeting:</b>	Wed 25th - 7:30 pm	<b>Alvie Hall</b>
<b>Working Bee</b>	Sun July 29th 10-00am to 12-30pm	Stephensons Rd car park
<b>August</b>		
<b>Meeting:</b>	Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 7:30 pm	<b>Alvie Hall</b>
<b>W-Bee</b>	Sun August 26th 10-00am to 12-30 pm	<b>TBD</b>

### ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<b>President:</b> Frank Carder	<b>O408128862</b>
fcarder@alphalink.com.au	
<b>Secretary:</b> Campbell Miles	<b>98037707</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b> Kevin Ryland	
<b>Editor:</b> Doug Scott	<b>O417300866</b>
Please email material for the newsletter to dougscott3@bigpond.com	

Printed by courtesy of the City of Monash  
as a community service.

Responsibility for editorial content  
is solely that of the editor.

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.

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

Please address all mail to:

The Secretary  
PO Box 2063  
Mount Waverley 3149

*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

# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

**July 2012**

