



CITY OF  
MONASH

This plaque was unveiled on  
30 September 2018  
to celebrate 50 years since the formation  
of The Damper Creek Conservation and  
Development Group, on 26 September 1968.

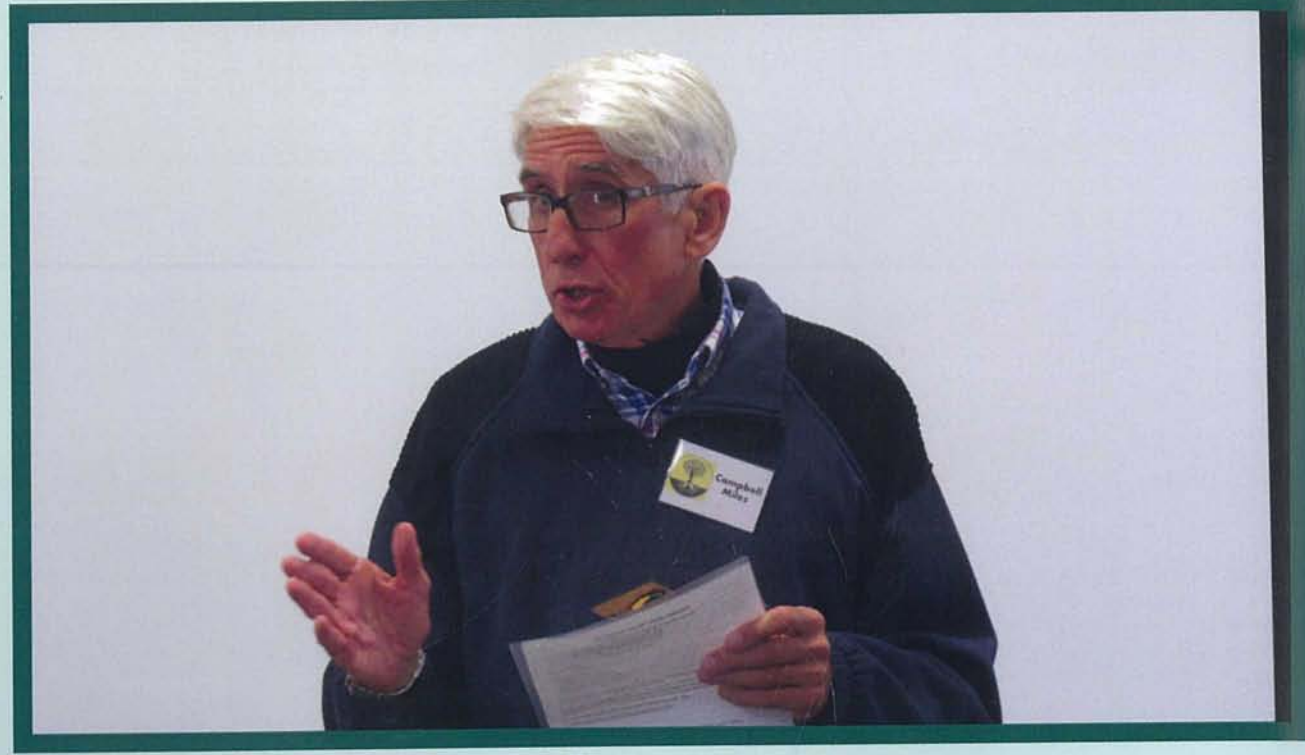
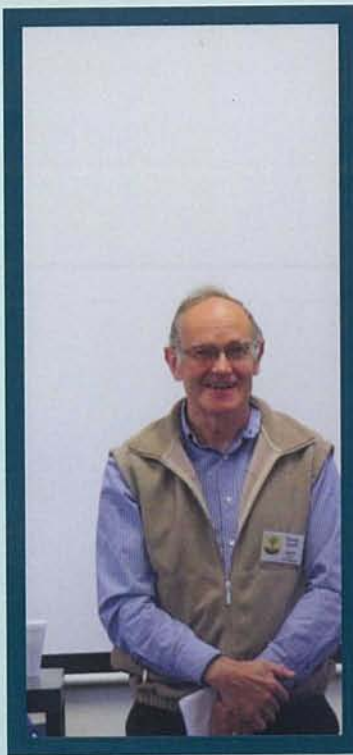
The preservation of this bushland reserve  
reflects the Group's foresight and the 50 year  
partnership between Monash Council,  
Melbourne Water and the Friends of Damper  
Creek Reserve.





**The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve  
Mt Waverley  
50th Anniversary  
Jubilee Celebration  
30th September 2018**





**Top Left: Doug Scott  
Vice President. Above:  
Campbell Miles,  
Master of Ceremonies.  
Left: Councillor  
Rebecca Paterson**





Above: Kevin Ryland. Right:  
Tony Brindley, Landscape Artist  
Below: John Clements, Pres.







**Certificate of  
Appreciation  
presented by  
Nathan  
Mattinson of  
Melbourne Water to  
The Friends of  
Damper Creek  
Reserve Inc. Mt  
Waverley, received  
by John Clements  
President**





Over 100 guests at Alvie Hall for a delicious lunch







Kevin Ryland, Foundation Member,  
cuts the cake





A display of newspaper cuttings from the Archives 1968 and onwards



Amper



Nov-Apr 1966  
1976

# THE FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

<b>APRIL 1973</b> President Barry Hunter Vice President Frank Palma Secretary Kevin Ryland Treasurer Lee Waters	<b>JULY 1980</b> President Barry Hunter Vice President Frank Palma Secretary (Acting) Kevin Ryland Treasurer Remy Orfanelli Public Officer Graham Lawrence	<b>DAVID CURR</b> President Barry Hunter Vice President Frank Palma Secretary Kevin Ryland Treasurer Remy Orfanelli Public Officer Graham Lawrence
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## visionary friends' landmark

By Matthew Burgees

What a vision to create a natural environment in the heart of a city. A group of friends, and community members, established the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve.

Now, more than 10 years later, the group is supported by the local council, and more than 100 members are part of a vibrant community.



Friends of Damper Creek, above, below and right.



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## News



Friends of Damper Creek, above, below and right.

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## Melbourne Water now tips in



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Newspaper cuttings and reports since 1968



# COUNCIL HITS CRITICS ON OPEN SPACE

-TALKS PROPOSED

Two rataplayers' groups organised to oppose Waverley Council's alleged disregard for developing public open space reserves, came under fire at the last council meeting for 1962.

Not the Mayor of Waverley Mr. Leo Allen, agreed in principle to a proposal for talks between representatives of council and of the latter groups, the Dampier Creek Conservation and Development Group.

Mr. Allen, who presided over the meeting, said that the council was not in a position to accept the proposal for talks, but that it was willing to consider the proposal in the future.

**DENIAL**  
The Waverley Council, however, denied the charges that it was disregarding public open space reserves.

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## GROUP: PERMIT WASN'T ISSUED

TO THE EDITOR

Sir, in his letter to the editor, Waverley Gazette, 18-12-62, under the heading "Councilors: 'Get Facts Straight'" Councilor Van Steveren has surprisingly displayed an alarming lack of knowledge of the facts.

It is a pity that Mr. Van Steveren should have displayed such a lack of knowledge of the facts.

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of 19 Mt. Waverley streets are being used to protest at Waverley Council's mit existing open land along Dampier divided for housing.

to residents of surrounding streets, you read recently the alarming news the area will be deprived of natural recreational parkland.

line have been frightened with the news that the area will be divided for housing.

## "Too narrow to be useful"

The council's last meeting decided to give conditional support to an application by Mr. B. H. L. Heslop to subdivide two properties now owned by the Board of Works as proposed public open space, between Alice St. and Waverley Dr.

The City Engineer Mr. C. J. Waverley reported that the council had decided to give conditional support to the application.

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### ROAD LINK

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### GENTLEMEN

THE BOARD OF WORKS, WAVERLEY COUNCIL

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Newspaper cuttings since 1968 from the Archives



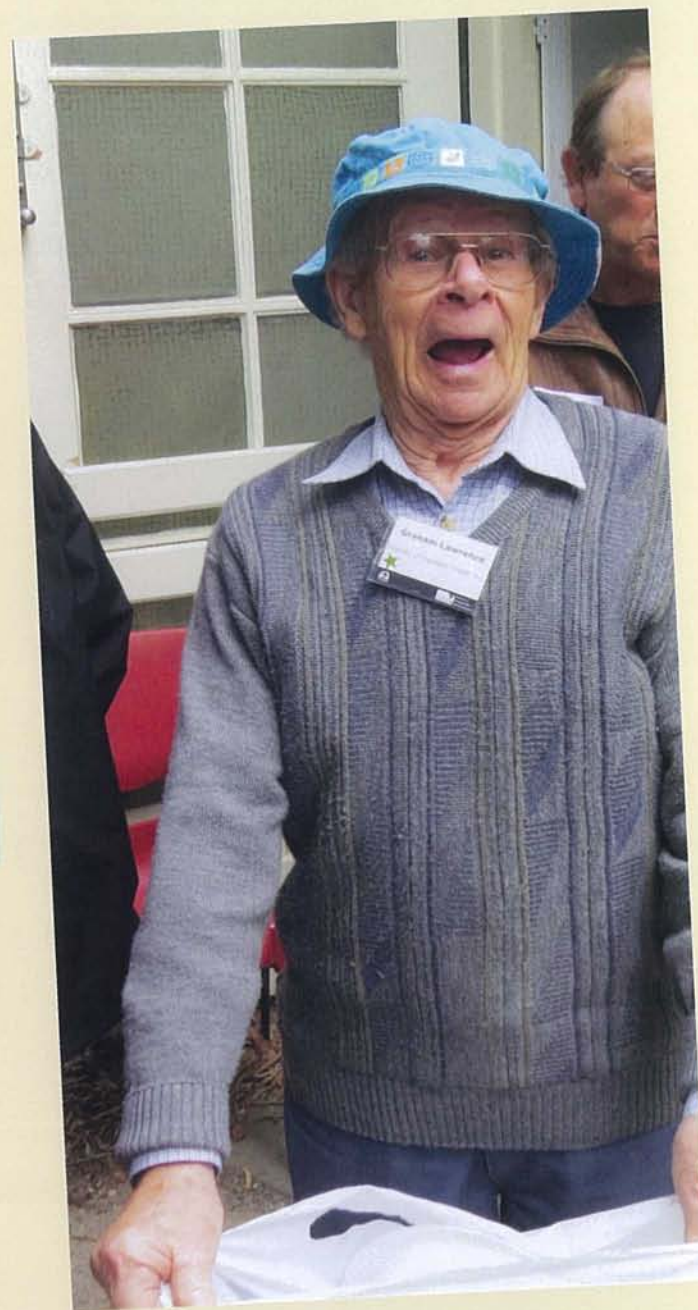
Mr & Mrs Tony Brindley.  
Campbell Miles. Chefs:  
Shirley Clifton-Bligh &  
Graeme Benstead







Romy, Yolanda, Meg and  
Graham; & Graham Lawrence







**Some of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve**





Chis, Julia and Di Carra





**Acknowledgement of Country  
delivered by Jennifer Scholes**









Kevin Ryland and Cr Rebecca Paterson with  
Jeanette Ryland as the photographer





A wonderful moment





Holding hands in a circle of unity - Far L-R:  
Doug, Kevin, Michael, Rebecca, Nathan & Julia





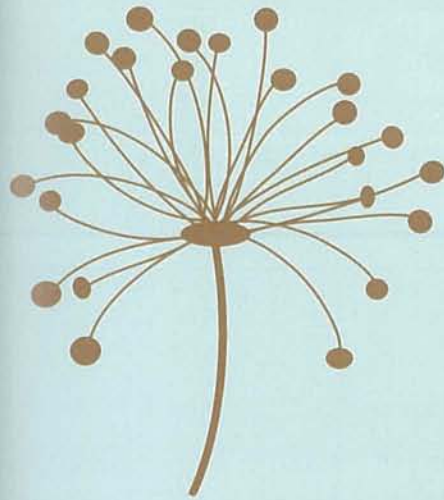
**L-R: Helen Clements, Secretary, John  
Clements President, Doug Scott V/President,  
Cr Rebecca Paterson**





**L-R: James Paterson "A Damper Creek  
Stalwart", Cr. Brian Little, Cr. Rebecca  
Paterson, Doug Scott, Vice-President**



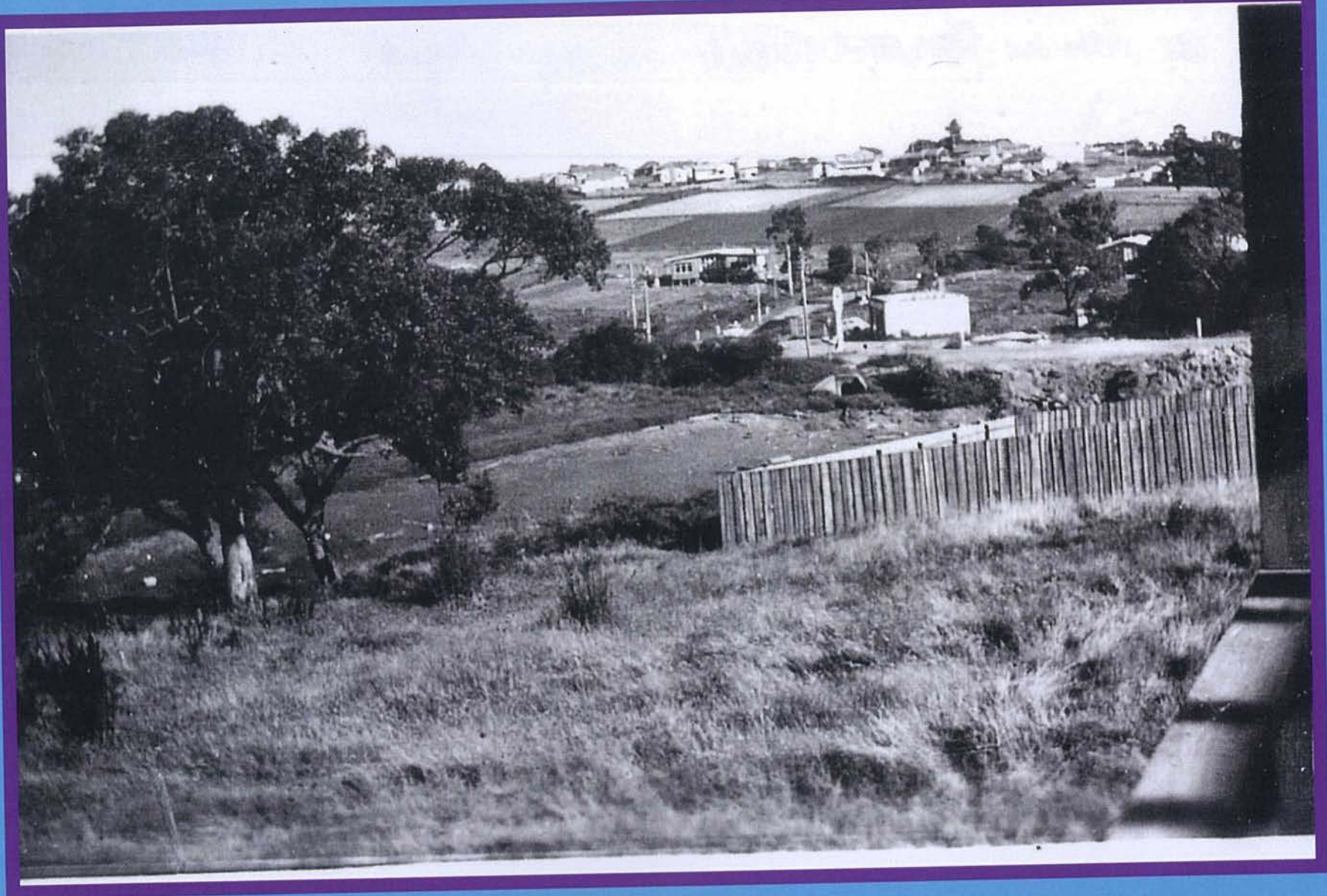


## History

On 26 September 1968 The Damper Creek Conservation and Development Group was formed, followed by the formation of The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. in 1993. Their combined efforts have helped preserve and restore the bushland reserve for future generations







Very early view taken from St Johns Wood Road  
looking towards what is now Alvie Hall



# Creek beds go with progress

## Natural parkland can't be retained

Waverley Council has been asked by a local resident, Mrs M. F. Mander, to preserve an area of land between Alvie Rd. and High St. Rd., through which Damper Creek runs, next to Mt. Waverley Bowling Club.

Waverley's Engineer, Mr Claude Vaughan, said near the bowling club the creek was underground, but in the east it was an open channel.

A large sewerage main is also through the reserve.

He added that when this part of the creek had been cleared by the board and the main sewer built, it had resulted in very little of the surface being left in its original state.

Mrs Mander also told council that her husband

and the MMBW had planted native plants on the reserve.

Mr Vaughan commented that this had been done without council's permission.

He said spoil from the bowling club had been spread with a view to providing additional off street parking.

"This parking area will occupy the area once covered by blackberries and other noxious weeds," he added.

He said that these improvements, and planting trees and shrubs, would make the area far more effective than it had been since development, which didn't allow the natural bush to be retained.

## OPEN SPACE TO BE SUBDIVIDED

Land zoned as parkland by the Board of Works on the corner of High Street Rd. and Park Rd., and between Alice St. and Swayfield Rd., Mt. Waverley, will be subdivided for housing.

This privately-owned land and the remainder owned by Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and Waverley Council, was originally planned as a belt of parkland along Damper Creek from High St. Rd. to Stephensons Rd.

City Engineer Mr Claude Vaughan said the land owned by council and the MMBW was the only valuable parkland area because the creek made the rest too narrow to develop. He added the MMBW had no immediate plans for undergrounding the creek, and if the land was subdivided this work would be part of subdivision.

Mr Vaughan commented the allotment on High St. Rd. could be subdivided into large blocks and would be considerably hampered by the creek.

He said it was most desirable that Alice St. and Swayfield Rd. be connected, with Sunhill Rd. being joined to the road that would result.

He recommended that council tell the MMBW that it approved of the plan as long as Damper Creek was undergrounded to MMBW standards.

Mr Vaughan added that no permit be given until tentative subdivision plans had been approved by council.

*A meeting of residents tomorrow night will discuss the action to be taken to prevent the subdivision of land now zoned as parkland along Damper Creek, between High Street Rd. and Stephensons Rd., Mt. Waverley.*

In 1968, Waverley Council proposed that Damper Creek be barrel-drained, the land subdivided and roads connected



**KEY MEMBERS OF DAMPER CREEK  
CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT  
GROUP 1968-1972**





# Key members of Damper Creek Conservation & Development Group 1968-1972

Photograph taken at the newly installed seat in Damper Creek Reserve, during the Celebration of Achievement bbq November 1998.

Back row from Left: Gavin Nisbet, Len Nicholson, Frank Leahey.

Front row from Left: John Taylor, Terry O'Brien, Barry Counsel, Kevin Ryland, John Ross, Peter Davies

Missing from photo: Lawrie Ryan



# DAMPER CREEK GROUP RESISTS LAND APPEAL

The Damper Creek Conservation and Development Group, represented by its chairman (Mr. B. A. Counsel) and Cr. Peter Davies, last week opposed a land-use appeal by Mr. Bryant Heslop to the Minister of Local Government.

The appeal, heard by a special panel of the Minister's advisers, dealt with Mr. Heslop's objection to a decision by the Board of Works preventing subdivision of about two acres of proposed open space at the north-west corner of High Street Rd. and Park Rd., Mt. Waverley.

This piece of land, together with other areas, forms part of the proposed Damper Creek Reserve which has been subject to considerable controversy since October, 1968, when the Damper Creek Group was formed.

At the appeal Mr. Counsel stated that more than 750 resident ratepayers supported the retention of this land as parkland.

The Damper Creek Group intended to use every inch of the land at the North-West Ward of Waverley, which was poorly serviced by playgrounds and

Cr. Davies announced his appearance as honorary adviser to the group, not as a councillor. The decisions

● Development of the land did not appear possible due to ramifications of the M. & M.B.W. Act through the vesting of the bed and banks in the board.

● The land was an integral component of the Damper Creek concept, and its inclusion to enable penetration of Damper Creek Park to High Street Rd. was essential.

● The council in making its decision to release the land for residential development was unwilling to expend money at this stage, and possibly influenced by an

The Minister of Local Government (Mr. Hamer) will make a decision on the appeal after considering a report by his advisers.

## BOARD'S OFFER

The Board of Works

In 1968, The Damper Creek Conservation & Dev. Group opposed the re-zoning application





A section of Damper Creek, which will be retained as a passive recreation area.

## DEVELOPMENT FOR DAMPER RESERVE

A unique passive recreation area is being developed by Waverley Council at Damper Creek Reserve, Mt Waverley.

The reserve, covering about 35 acres, is off Park Rd.

An ad-hoc committee was formed late last year to plan development of the reserve.

Its members are Cr John Taylor, chairman; Cr Laurie Ryan; Dr T. P.

a series of long walkways and nature trails, with a general picnic area to the south," Cr Taylor said.

Waverley Council has started work at Damper

living near Park Rd would have easier access to Waverley North Primary School and Mt Waverley High School. Provision of tracks and

*Chadstone Program*  
21 May 1975

**Damper Creek Reserve is saved: Waverley Council approves restoration of Damper Creek Reserve**





An example of severe erosion prior to restoration





**An example of pollution and erosion prior to restoration**





The creek in flood prior to restoration





**Erosion and weed infestation prior to restoration**



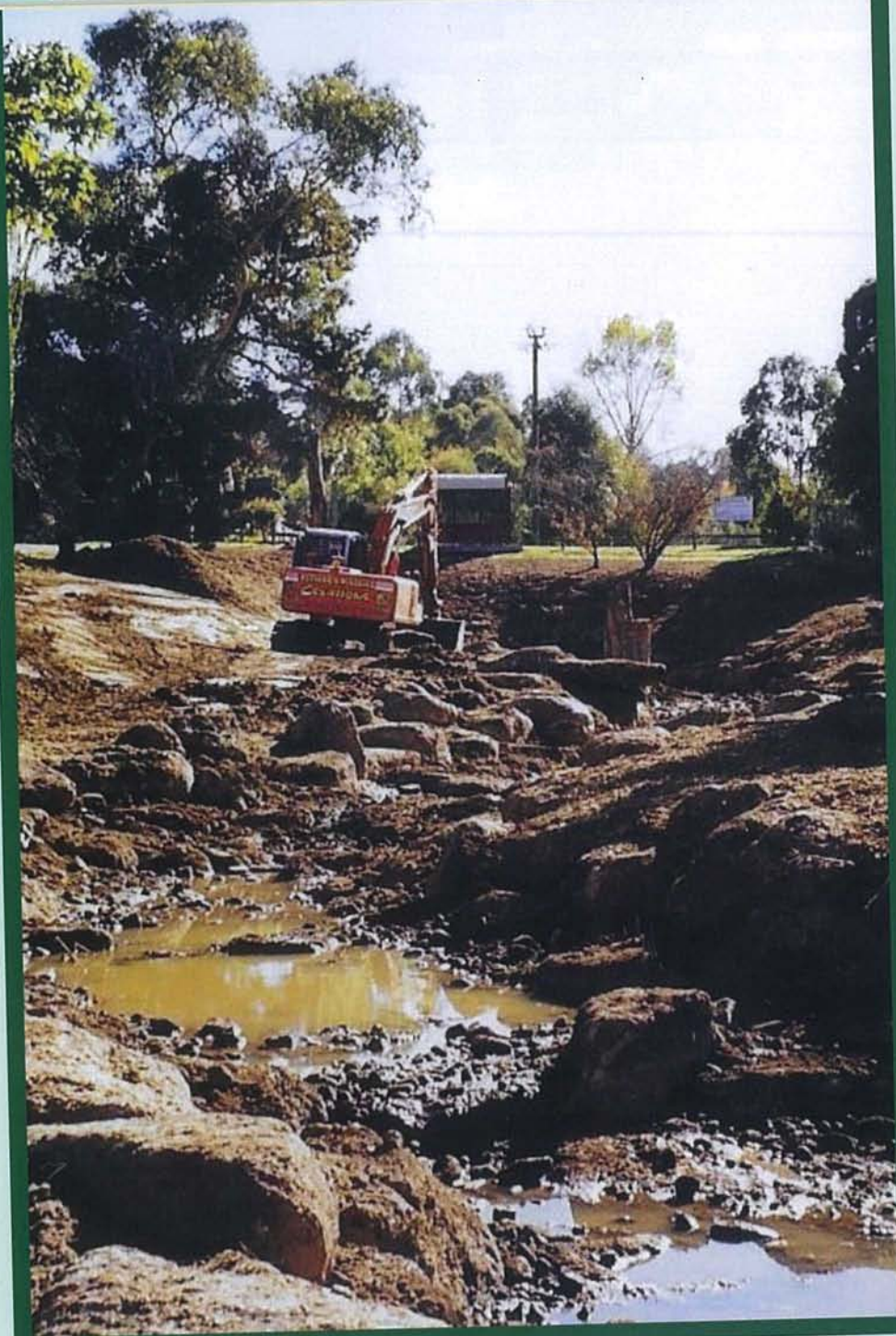
**Formation of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve:**  
Following an invitation dated 14 May 1993 from the City of Waverley to residents to attend a public meeting, the Council announced it planned to commence maintenance work in Damper Creek Reserve, and were seeking assistance from the community. A restoration program was to be partially funded by the Council and the Board of Works. The proposal was strongly supported by the residents. After this public meeting the following were elected to the executive of the Committee: Chairman Mr Barry Hunter, Vice-Chairman Mr Frank Palma, Secretary Mr Kevin Ryland, Treasurer Mr Len Waters.





Tony Brindley and Tony Della Rosa, known as "Artists with a Shovel" - Excavator at work





**Restoration works in  
progress**





## Building Palma's Plummet (Alice St Bridge)



Frank P, Jessie & John F  
(building middle bridge 1995)

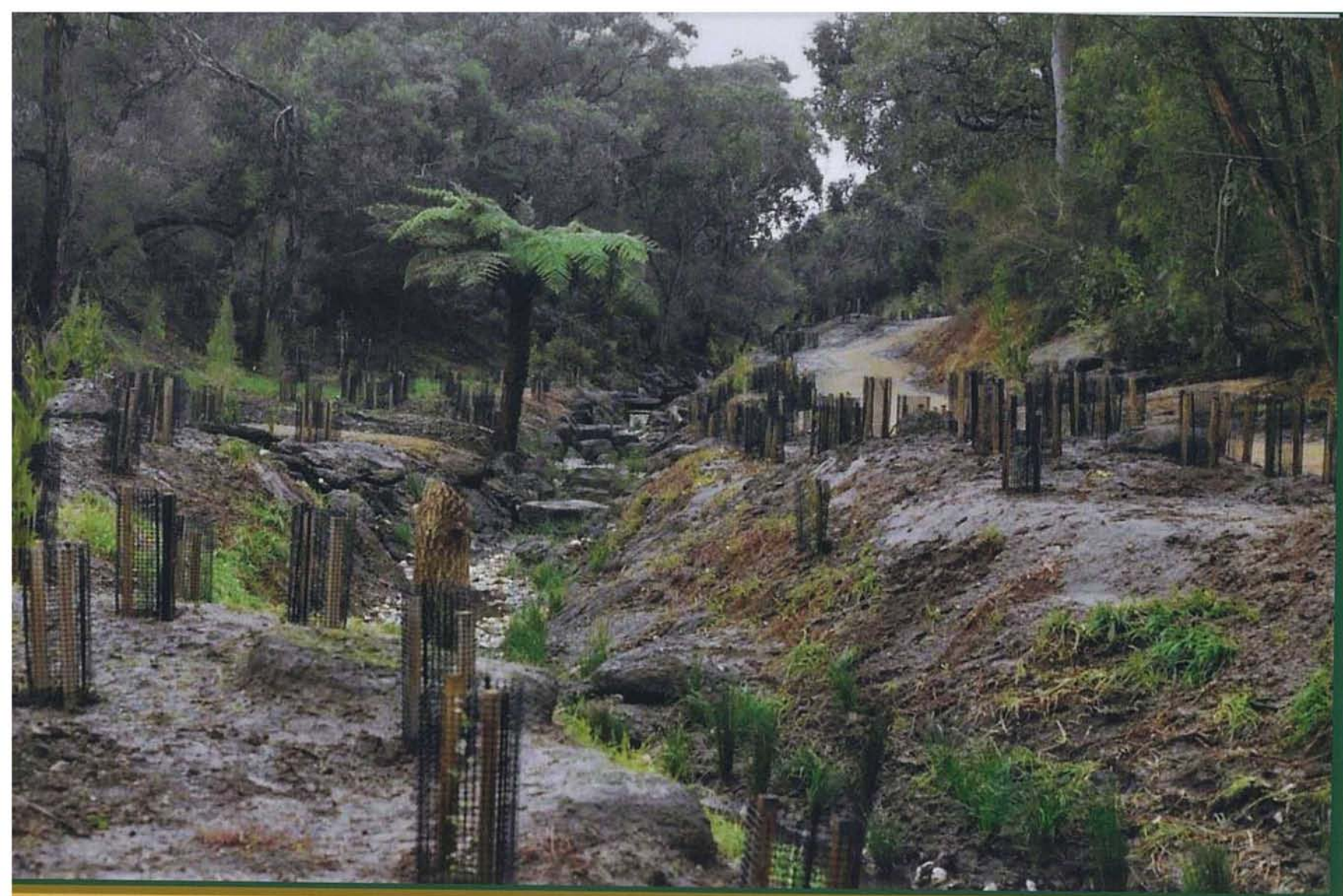






Completed rock work prior to planting





Early plantings on the lower track north of  
Palma's Plummet





Community Planting day with children enjoying stacking the tubes after plantings completed





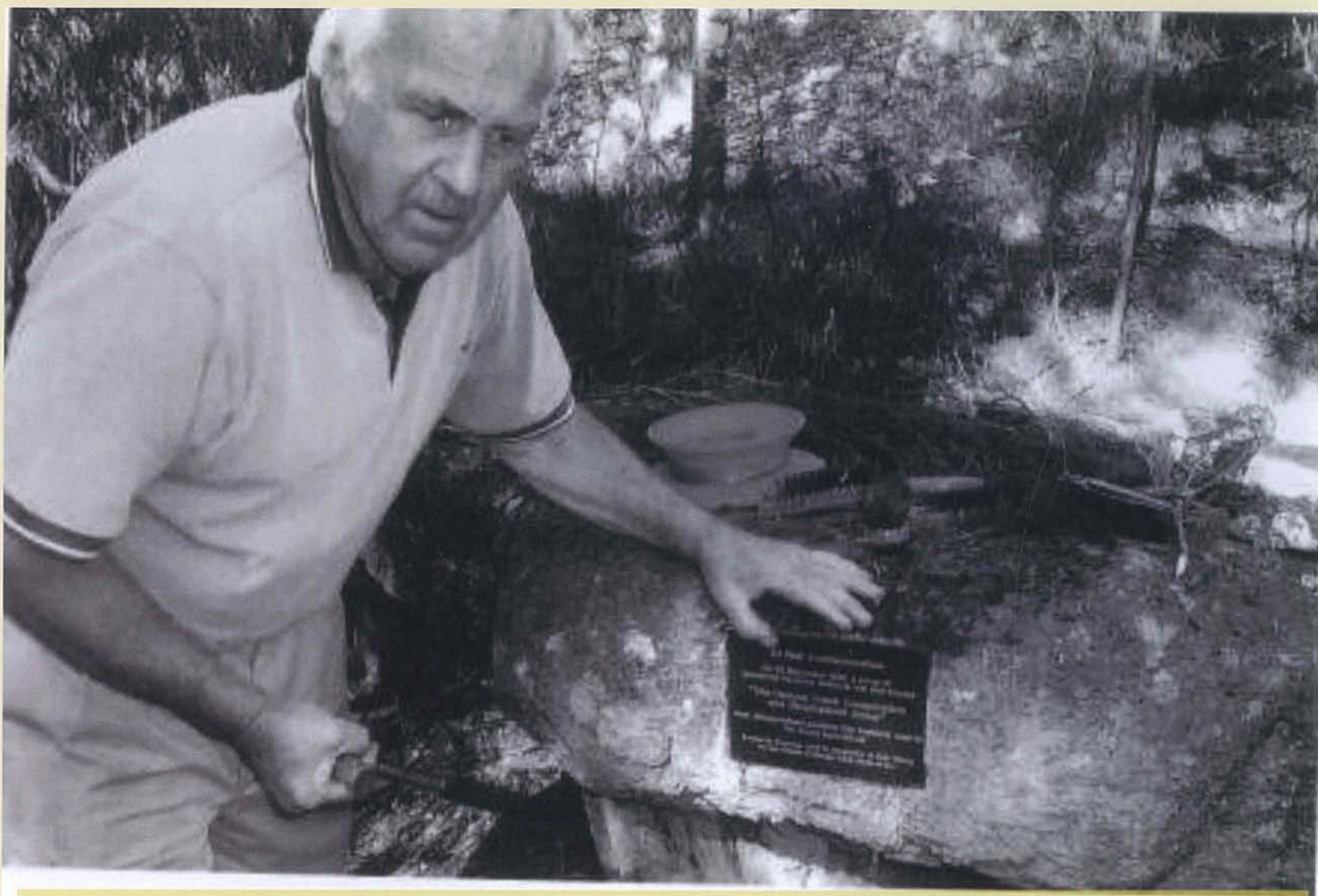
Early working bee to plant tube stock





40th Anniversary plaque on Mushroom Rock  
2008





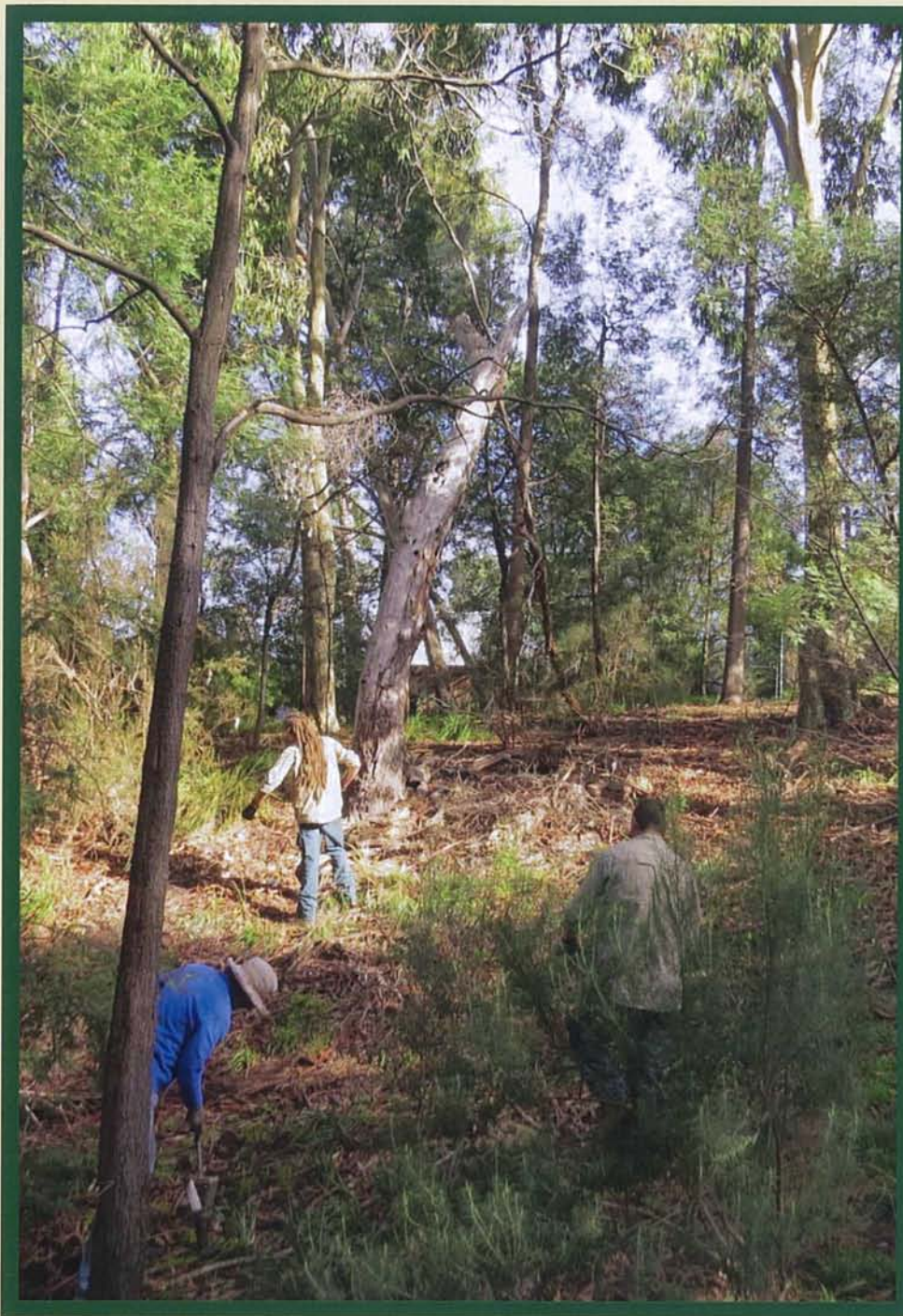
**Len Nicholson, a Foundation Member,  
installing the 40th Anniversary plaque**





**Mushroom Rock near Palma's Plummet**





**Working bee planting  
tube stock with Bushcrew**







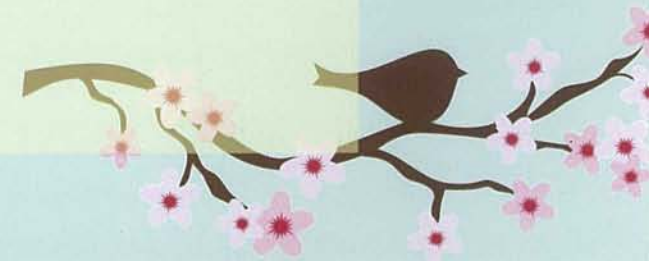
## Community Planting Day





# Community Planting Day August 2018

Park Road  
nature strips  
planted out as  
a Jubilee  
celebration  
project







Park Road entrance to Damper Creek Reserve  
with ephemeral wetland, signage and  
boardwalk





**Flora: Left: Lomandra.  
Top: Clematis. Below:  
Microlaena Stipoides**







Flora: Left: Acacia. Above:  
Wahlenbergia. Below:  
Indigofera Australis







Top L-R:  
Hibbertia,  
Daviesia,  
Below:  
Hakea





Tawny Frogmouths





**Eastern Rosella**





**Main wetlands pond Damper  
Creek Reserve**





The preservation of Damper Creek Reserve (designated as a Conservation Reserve-2019) reflects the foresight of the Damper Creek Conservation & Development Group and the fifty-year partnership between Monash Council, Melbourne Water and the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc., Mt Waverley.



