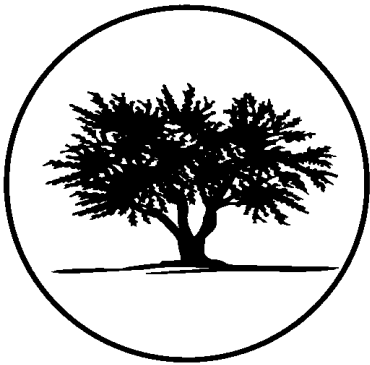


DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



The Newsletter of
FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

<http://www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au>

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

October 2015

Editorial:

Spring is here again and Damper Creek is looking magnificent. I was especially delighted to see the magnificent display of flowers at the Stephenson's road end of the reserve, a sight enjoyed by all who attended the September working bee. Prominent among the flowering shrubs is *Olearia lirata*, (Snowy Daisy bush), *Indigofera australis*, (Austral Indigo) and the Bulbine lily. For those who can make it to the reserve for an early morning walk, the dawn bird chorus leaves the listener in no doubt of the value of our modest patch of bush. Likewise, in the evening the frog calls are almost deafening. Frogs may be in danger worldwide but at least Damper Creek provides a valuable refuge for local species.

Thank you to FoDC volunteers – September working bee

The September working bee was attended by many enthusiastic volunteers who did a great job of weeding at the Stephenson's Road end of Damper Creek Reserve concentrating along the lower track below the carpark. An extensive general clean up of rubbish, bottles and litter alongside and around the main ponds towards the Park Road entrance to the Reserve was enthusiastically carried out by Vas and Eva and we sincerely thank them for a huge effort. A BIG thank you to all who helped on the day in so many ways.

Response to MCC Amendment C125: Proposed new residential zones - – Upcoming MCCouncil meeting on Tuesday 27 October 2015 – (to be held at the Clayton Community Centre) - agenda item

Ref: www.newresidentialzonesmonash.com.au - FoDC have responded positively to the proposed Amendment C125 and the newly proposed zonings of *Creek Abuttal* and *Creek Environs*. Thank you to all who responded to Amendment C125 individually as well

Agenda item -Monash City Council October meeting will be on Tuesday 27 October 2015 from 7.30pm at the Clayton Community Centre 9 – 15 Cooke Street - The Agenda will be made available on the MCCouncil website from 5pm on Friday 23 October 2015 – members encouraged to attend.

Following on from this decision it is likely that a Panel Hearing will be held towards the end of the year, and FoDC will keep you informed of the details of this Hearing when they come to hand.

To show your interest and support to this important decision please attend if you can. Thank you.

Harvesting of new fern growth within the Reserve

It has been observed that large amounts of new fern tips have been taken illegally from Damper Creek Reserve. All plantings in the Reserve are protected and **must not** be removed. The Monash City Council has been advised.

Red paint in Damper Creek

An extensive and very ugly spill of red/orange paint in Damper Creek was reported by many FoDC members to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and the Monash City Council with the source being successfully identified. Thank you to all who took time to make these phone calls or online reports which resulted in a speedy response from the authorities.

Please note that the storm water for over 1,000 properties (close to, and from the feeder streets around Damper Creek Reserve drain into Damper Creek) sometimes resulting in unacceptable levels of pollution entering the waterway – visually obvious and extremely detrimental to river health.

All storm water outlets from your residence must be treated with care and consideration to the environment. PLEASE DO NOT wash paint, oils, chemicals or other contaminants down your storm water drains – either check with the Monash City Council Depot in Ferntree Gully Road and/or with the EPA on how best to dispose of it.

Editor's note: I spoke with the owner and contractor involved with this incident. The owner was most embarrassed but the contractor was nonplussed at the problem. He was unaware that the stormwater discharged directly into the creek and in fifteen years in the industry had never encountered a similar problem. The issue, it seems, is that the roof resurfacing industry is largely unregulated and it appears that there is little or no education provided regarding

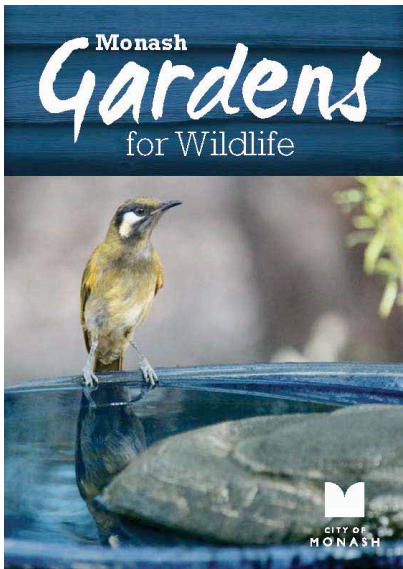
their environmental responsibilities. The contractor was unaware of techniques that could be applied to prevent the problem.

The EPA registered and responded to the complaint quickly but unfortunately it was unable to pump out the creek as they could not gain access for their equipment in that area. They determined that the pigment was inert and could safely be allowed to settle or be flushed with normal water flows. Meanwhile walkers in the reserve were treated to a section of the creek that, for a time, was bright red. Ducks seemed to be happily feeding in this section. Rocks that have been stained red remain in that state and it is not known how long it will take for them to regain their normal appearance.

Pollution is a significant threat to waterways and incidents of discoloured stream flow are common. It may be likely that large sectors of the building industry are unaware that stormwater drains cannot be treated as sewers and this shortcoming should be notified to the EPA so appropriate education programmes can be implemented. Until this happens, it is only the vigilance of users of Damper Creek that can place pressure on the industry and its regulators. FoDC will follow up its concerns with Mr Michael Gidley, MLA, Mt Waverley.

Monash Gardens for Wildlife

The Monash City Council Sustainability Team has recently produced a new publication '*Gardens for Wildlife*'. The booklet explains the importance of the natural environment and biodiversity, details flora and fauna of the Monash region, and provides planting advice for indigenous vegetation.



The aim of this resource is to encourage residents to create indigenous gardens on their properties in an effort to increase biodiversity in Monash. Such gardens would provide greater habitat and 'stepping storeys' for wildlife through this highly urbanized landscape.

Along with this booklet, Monash Council is planning to develop a *Gardens for Wildlife* program. Such a program may include household visits to help residents determine what weeds exist on their property, what indigenous species could replace them and advice on starting and/or further developing their own indigenous garden.

Household visits will be run by a volunteer site assessor who will be trained in how to perform such a visit. Time commitment for volunteers is not likely to be more than approx. one hour for each visit, and they would only have to perform a visit if they are able to at that particular time and date. If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested in becoming a volunteer site assessor, or you have queries, please contact Nick Chester at nicholasc@monash.vic.gov.au

There is also now a webpage where residents can request a hard copy of the booklet (some copies will be available at the next FODC meeting) and an electronic copy is available at <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/monash-gardens-for-wildlife>

Have you had a chance to visit the Top 40 Chart of Bird Calls?

Go to <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/birds/featured/Top-40-Bird-Songs>

Check out No. 5 on the Top 40 Chart for the Grey Butcherbird call. It is categorized as a Caroller together with the Magpie and Currawong

More References: *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*, *Reader's Digest Complete Book of Australian Birds*, and *The Robins and Flycatchers of Australia*.

Proposed subdivision of 41–43 Alvie Road & removal of significant trees: possible conflict with newly proposed Residential Zoning “Creek Environs”

Recently, many concerned residents in this neighborhood responded to MCCouncil objecting to a proposal to subdivide 41 – 43 Alvie Road into three separate titles and remove 18 of 25 significant (VPO protected) trees (in an area proposed to be covered under “Creek Environs”, under Amendment C125). As a result of the considerable number of objections, TPA/44432 will now go into further consultation and re-advertisement. Revised proposed planning application signage will be placed on that property (or the MCCouncil website) which will indicate a deadline for a further opportunity to provide comment to MCCouncil.

FoDC Annual Subscriptions due August 2015

Thank you to all who have re-subscribed. FoDC does appreciate your support and participation to help FoDC sustain its care of the environment in and around Damper Creek Reserve.

Damper Creek Doings – New Format

After many years the change from the compact, single page, triple fold newsletter has been made. This change has allowed for greatly increased coverage of items of interest at a cost of increased size. Environmentally, we are maximising the use of emails to reduce paper waste. We are interested in your opinion of the new format, font selection or layout. Please forward your feedback to the Editor on dougscott3@bigpond.com.

Diary date reminder – A thankyou invitation is extended to all FoDC volunteers to celebrate the end of another successful year at its Christmas BBQ – Sunday 29 November 2015 funded by Monash City Council. Please meet at the end of Richard Road Mt Waverley from 12 noon. Working bee postponed on that occasion. BYO chairs, special drinks, sunscreen, sunhats, rugs/mats. Further information and RSVP date TBA. New members welcome.

Summer is approaching – be fire ready – information for you is available from the Monash City Council website – go to <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au>

Monash is generally a low risk area, however the city has a number of green corridors which have required Council to develop special fire risk plans for the forthcoming bushfire season. Council regularly carries out fire clearance works by selective dead tree removal, maintaining firebreaks, reducing vegetation density and removing excessive fallen branches and dead vegetation. Fire patrols are also carried out on total fire ban days. A fire management consultant and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade conducted a review of the fire risk of the Monash bushland reserves and developed an action plan in 2003 which is annually reviewed. There are dozens of fire hydrant access points around DC Reserve and the surrounding streets.

Residents can assist in fire safety by being pro-active ie ****clearing all ground fuel and mowing lawns to create an easily defendable zone around the house, **clearing all waste material from inner roof areas and guttering, ** checking and fixing the roof thoroughly for gaps and cracks, **renewing batteries in your in-house fire alarm, etc.** If you see a fire or smell smoke, do not hesitate – Dial 000.

For queries ring Monash City Council 9518 3555 (after hours 9027 0692) or write to PO Box 1, Glen Waverley. Elderly and disabled residents, subject to assessment, may be eligible for assistance from Council's home assistance from Council's home maintenance.

Guest speaker program – and dates to remember

Dates to Remember	Month	Notes
Meeting	Wednesday 28 October 2015	General meeting at Alvie Hall from 7.30pm
Working Bee	Sunday 1 November 2015	Meeting place – Meet on the lower pathway in Damper Creek just below the Stephenson's Road carpark
Meeting	Wednesday 25 November 2015	Guest speaker – Don Bladier “The Making of the Upper Yarra Dam 1951 – 1959”
Christmas BBQ	Sunday 29 November 2015 from 12 noon onwards	Meeting place – In Damper Creek Reserve at the end of Richard Rd Mt Waverley
Guest Speaker program 2016	February 2016 – Host Campbell Miles – The Great Damper Creek Trivia Night	From 7.30 followed by a General meeting.

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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.

Friends of 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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