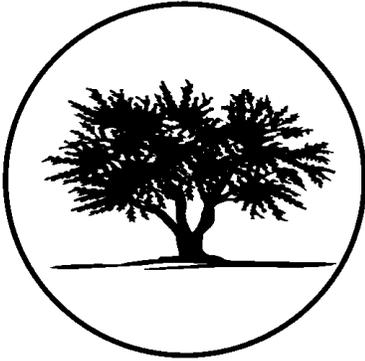


DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



The Newsletter of
FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

April 2016

Editorial: Trees

I will make no excuses for continuing to write in the topic of trees. They are contentious organisms, responsible for both the serenity generated by their presence and angst as they threaten infrastructure, provide obstacles for traffic and restrict developers' ability to maximise profit. It's just as well they have friends to lobby on their behalf as economic imperatives often win out over environment, for trees are an environment within themselves.

I have a poster of a River Redgum, illustrating the ways a mature tree can support a myriad of lifeforms, from the bacteria around the roots to the insects that burrow under the bark and even in the leaves to the hollows that provide nesting sites for birds. This is a true habitat tree, a gnarled veteran of many droughts, floods and storms. Sadly, such trees are rare in suburbia. Damper Creek does not have any river redgums but there are many old stringybarks, swamp gums, yellow box and many more which are venerable specimens. These trees provide food for bees, insects and birds, nesting sites for possums and birds and are a vital part of the serenity Damper Creek provides.

Most of us do not live in a forested arcadia, so the problem of choosing garden trees becomes one of softening the brutality of suburbia. We do this with our gardens and the council does this with parks, verges, street trees and playgrounds. A lawn is a start, garden beds are better, but only trees and shrubs provide the environment that refreshes the soul and provides a haven for wildlife. The selection of these plants is a vital part of creating a "home", not only for ourselves but also for the myriad of creatures that share our world. The council has attempted to address this issue by insisting that developers and home builders incorporate a certain number of "canopy trees" onto a block. To me, this is admirable, if not a little tokenistic. You can choose one of many exotics, many of them neat and pretty. Not a risk to foundations, they let the light in when they drop their leaves for winter and don't create a mess in summer. Many will provide food for creatures, if something is edible an

animal, bird or insect will not care whether it is native or not. However, they will not be part of our ecosystem, a complex network of associations that has developed over thousands or even millions of years. Precious little of this ecosystem remains in the suburbs. Damper Creek is an oasis of bushland which gives us a hint of what our suburb was like before we covered it with roads and houses.

So, how does this help me in choosing a tree to comply with the council's "canopy tree" requirement? Franky, the requirement is minimalist. Any nursery will supply suitable trees, exotic or native, pretty, manageable, non threatening. I would challenge anyone to consider going beyond the minimalist requirements by adding a range of indigenous shrubs and groundcovers, grasses, lilies and wildflowers in an attempt to restore some of what we have lost. The sourcing of such plants is problematic, a nursery might charge \$15 for a clump of native grass (gasp)! Fortunately, there is an alternative in one of the many indigenous plant nurseries. These are usually run by volunteers, have only limited opening hours and can be hard to find. The good news is that plants can be had for as little as \$2. I will tell you how to find these places in the next newsletter.

Amendment C125 to Monash Planning Scheme

<http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/about-us/council/council-meetings/minutes-decisions/29march2016-decisions.pdf> Via this link you can read the in principle decisions made at the last council meeting.

Further comments can still be sent to Monash council.

Changes to "Creek Abuttal and Creek Environs are as follows:

- **Changing site coverage in the NRZ 3 *Creek Environs* area from 40% to 45%.
- **Deleting proposed changes to side setbacks across all zones
- **Deleting the specification of a height for canopy trees
- **Linking the height of canopy trees to the height of the dwelling.
- **Reducing the number of canopy trees required in each schedule to a minimum of 2.
- **Changing the minimum parcel of private open space from 60m² to 50m² across all zones, except for Neighbourhood Residential Zones 2 and 3 (*Creek Abuttal* and *Creek Environs*).
- **Noting that Council is currently preparing *an Open Space Strategy* that will review the provision of, and requirements for, public open space for all of Monash.
- **The MCCouncil undertakes community consultation on the "in principle" position by inviting submissions (note: FoDC will present a verbal response at a special meeting of Council on 3 May 2016 particularly asking for more details on the decision on the height of canopy trees – to be discussed at next FoDC meeting).
- **Following consideration of all submissions received, MCCouncil will make a final decision on the Amendment at the **Council meeting of 31 May 2016** on the form of the amendment to be submitted for consideration by a Ministerial Planning Panel, if

Council decides to proceed with the Amendment. All FoDC members are encouraged to attend this meeting. More information in the DCDoings May newsletter.

Individual comments on the above can be forwarded to MCCouncil via their email – mail@monash.edu.au

De-silting of Damper Creek

Work has been undertaken recently on both these projects.

(a) Damper Creek Ponds Wetlands

Silt from the wetlands ponds has been removed by MCC and laid out on the adjacent footpath to allow for drying prior to transfer to an area above the top track (in the section below the Park Rd, Warren Crt houses) to be buried. Part of the lower walking track is closed to pedestrians until the silt piles are removed.

(b) Damper Creek East

De-silting has been undertaken (and almost completed) by contractors for Melbourne Water in DCEast between High St Rd and the Mt Waverley Bowling Club. Rock chutes have been installed and access tracks created to enable future de-silting to be undertaken in the future when required.

While some damage has inevitably occurred to vegetation along the creek banks in both places, we have been assured that re-planting will be undertaken.

Update on proposed subdivision and development at 41 – 43 Alvie Road Mt Waverley.

The developer has submitted amended plans that allow retention of 5 additional trees, and decreased the size of the buildings.

Monash Council will oppose the amended plan, which are available for viewing at the MCCouncil office. .

The VCAT hearing will be on Thursday 19 May 2016. If you wish to attend contact Leanne Boucher via email: alviecommunity@gmail.com

MCCouncil Draft Monash Street Tree Strategy

(consultation closing soon on 15 April 2016)

Council is seeking community feedback on their online Draft **Street Tree Strategy** document via *Have Your Say* at www.monash.vic.gov.au – or send your comments to MCCouncil at email - mail@monash.vic.gov.au

Did you know? April 2016

Did you know that a group of artists occupied the area of Damper Creek in what is now the Riversdale Golf Club. These artists had similar *plein-air* principles to that of the “Heidelberg School”. Indeed, it has been suggested that it was the artists from Waverley that actually inspired the group of McCubbin, Stretton, Roberts and others to set up their camps on Gardiners Creek in the late 1880-1890s in what is now the Box Hill Golf Club.

The Waverley Artists’ campsite was established about 1881 and this preceded the Heidelberg school camp by a few years! It was located on the south side of High Street Rd near a billabong pool. From aerial photographs of the district one of the current retarding basins in the Riversdale Golf Club would appear to be the area. In the 1880s gum trees were thick in the district and the artists camped among the trees using canvas and tree branches to construct their sleeping quarters while painting. There was little agriculture in this part of the Waverley area and the artists were able to easily roam to find a suitable site to set up their easels. From the higher points in the Frank Carmody property (now Federal Reserve) a view of the Dandenong ranges was possible while to the south west, a view towards Port Phillip Bay was available. Seaview Street appears to be somewhat a misnomer, as a view of sea seems to be difficult from here.

The Waverley artists, although reportedly most competent, didn’t go on to gain the same fame as those of the Heidelberg group however they did exhibit their works at the *Waimarie* property on Stephenson Rd (currently occupied by the Shell Service Station). Ironically, this was very close to the current location of the Highway Gallery (which currently displays works of local Waverley artists) in The Highway, Mt Waverley.

References.

The *First April* Files of the Waverley Historical Society.

Guest speakers

Wednesday 27th April, 2016

Andrew Kelly Yarra Riverkeeper and Chris Chesterfield, Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Committee.

Topic: *Our Yarra: Healthy, Protected, and Loved - Update on the progress of the Yarra River Protection Act and Trust Project*

Time: 7:30 pm - 8.30pm followed by supper (after which guests may leave if they wish as a FoDC general meeting follows)

Venue: Alvie Hall, Cnr Alvie Road and High St Rds, Mt Waverley. Ample parking at the rear.

Wednesday 26 October 2016 Professor Tim Fletcher,

Topic : **"Urban Storm Water Management and Projects"**

Tim has visited FoDC over the years and one of his special projects is Little Stringy Bark Creek and he will give updates on that project as well as his involvement in Urban Storm Water Management research.

Dates to remember

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
27 th April	General meeting Guest speakers <u>Andrew Kelly</u> <u>Yarra Riverkeeper</u> and <u>Chris</u> <u>Chesterfield,</u> <u>Topic: Our Yarra: Healthy,</u> <u>Protected, and Loved - Update</u> <u>on the progress of the Yarra</u> <u>River Protection Act and Trust</u> <u>Project</u>	From 7-30pm followed by a General meeting.
23 rd March	Sunday May 1st	10:00 to 12:30 meet the Bushcrew at the Noticeboard just below the Stephensons Road carpark
25 th May	General Meeting	From 7-30pm
May 29 th	Working bee	10:00 to 12:30

Addresses and Telephone Numbers

President	John Clements	0401 813 502
Secretary	Helen Clements	0401 813 502
Treasurer	Ian Nicholls	0447 774 144
Editor	Doug Scott	0417 300 866
Please email material for the newsletter to the Editor	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.

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.

Please address all mail to: The Secretary, PO Box 2063, Mount Waverley 3149
email: secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com