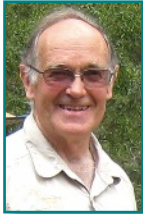


Damper Creek Doings

April 2018



DOUG'S DELIBERATIONS

Local Planning Rules.

Over the last few years the City of Monash has been working on amendments to the local planning codes known as C125. These rules create special zones, including a "Creek Abuttal" zone which recognise a need to provide

additional protection to Monash's creek-land reserves. Increased setback from the rear boundary, reduced site coverage and overall height restrictions apply for these areas.

At the March meeting of our group, Keith Irwin notified those present that plans for a house to be built adjacent to his in Dennyse Court appeared to contradict C125 guidelines. Subsequently, a meeting was organised on site with Keith, Campbell Miles, Rebecca Patterson, myself and Daniel Masnat. Rebecca consulted a number of her contacts and confirmed that the council did not have the power to control the replacement of a single dwelling outside the state guidelines. This was extremely disappointing to all those present and is a significant setback to the hopes of those who saw C125 as a significant step forward in preserving the environs of Damper Creek and other reserves. I was prompted to write the following letter to The Age which was subsequently published on 17 April.

Urban renewal comes at a high cost

The demolition of perfectly good houses as highlighted by John Hillel of Mount Waverley (Letters 15 April) is one aspect of dysfunctional government policies. Efforts by local authorities to preserve areas of special value have been stymied by State government regulations. The replacement of a single house with a multi-unit development has to comply with many regulations such as open space, landscaping and drainage, is subject to community comment, council oversight and, ultimately, appeal to VCAT. Local councils can apply zoning to control the character of the municipality. This is not the case where a demolished house is replaced by a single dwelling. As a consequence, efforts by councils to create special zones have limited value and issues such as loss of vegetation and habitat cannot be addressed if the development is a single dwelling. In the special case, where the land faces a public open space, the minimal setback diminishes the recreation and habitat value of the reserve. Local councils must have authority to control single dwellings in the same way that multi-unit developments

The newsletter of

FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley 3149

Email: secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

are controlled. This will benefit the community, infrastructure and the environment.

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve will continue to work with the City of Monash to implement the intent of C125 to the benefit of all reserve users and the environment.

Street Trees in Park Road

As a result of feedback from residents, the council has modified proposals for street trees in Park Road. The original three species remain, Native Frangipanni, Drooping Sheoak, and Weeping Bottlebrush. Two Eucalypts have been added to the choice, Eucalyptus leucoxylon "Eucy Dwarf" and Eucalyptus leucoxylon rosea "Scarlet". None of these plants are indigenous to Mount Waverley. The two varieties of Eucalyptus leucoxylon are cultivars, chosen for their form and floral display. It is the intention of the council to provide a single species for the street to provide a consistent streetscape. The species are to be chosen as a result of a poll of street residents.

Additionally, notification has been given of an additional 12 canopy trees (Eucalyptus melliodora) to be planted in the reserve on the Norman Court side of Damper Creek Reserve. These trees will replace those originally planned for the nature strip. The nature strip will be planted in smaller indigenous plants as part of the Friends' group Jubilee Project.

Next Working Bee: Our next working bee will be on Sunday, 29 April. We will meet at the Stephensons Road car park at 10-00 am.





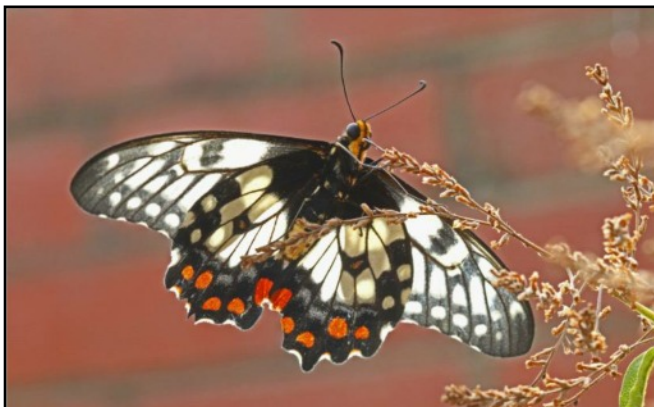
FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE

You are invited to attend the next meeting of The Friends of Scotchmans Creek & Valley Reserve who have a very interesting invited speaker for their meeting at Alvie Hall on Wednesday 16 May at 7.30 pm.

The speaker, Dasarath Jayasuriya, is from the Bureau of Meteorology and the topic is relevant in the light of the current prolonged autumn drought - 'Floods and Droughts'. He will discuss climate change, variability and their impact on ecological sustainability.



Red and blue damselfly



Dingy swallowtail or small citrus butterfly



Golden-green stagbeetle



Above: Powerful owl with chicks

Damper Creek Doings is printed by Michael Gidley MP, as a community service. Content is the responsibility of The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc.

Damper Creek is part of the Yarra catchment and is financially supported by Melbourne Water and Monash City Council.

Contributions to *Damper Creek Doings* are welcomed by the Editor. Please submit content by email to the secretary: secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

If you see something in Damper Creek that you think needs attention, please contact Monash Council on their website and leave a message:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/contact/request-a-service

All the photographs on this page were amongst 183 superlative wildlife photos taken by our guest speaker at our March meeting, Ian Moodie, a Mount Waverley resident. His photos ranged across birds, animals, butterflies, plants, and fungi, all taken locally. He also played a short clip of the sugar gliders in Valley Reserve gliding from tree to tree - absolutely thrilling!

FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wednesday, 25 April, 7:30 pm: Business meeting, Alvie Hall. Before the meeting starts we will show some of Ian Moodie's excellent photography.

Sunday, 29 April, 10 am: Working bee at the Stephenson Rd end of Damper Creek. Meet at the Stephenson Rd carpark. Please bring gloves and gardening tools for weeding. The billy boils at 11 am for a cuppa. Consider mozzie repellent too.

Wednesday, 23 May, 7:30 pm: Meeting, Alvie Hall