

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

AUGUST 2015



The Newsletter of
***FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK
RESERVE INC.***

Reg. No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063, Mount Waverley, 3149.

Thank you again to our FoDC volunteers

FoDC has been busy planting. On Sunday 19 July 2015 a small group of FoDC volunteers enjoyed the crisp sunny morning air planting out approx. 1,400 tube stock in the newly prepared mulched spaces at the rear of the Park Road/Warren Court houses. Thanks to Mark and Danny from the Bushcrew, who pre-prepared the holes with augurs which made the job skip along at a great pace. The new plantings will provide screening from the built area, thereby enhancing the bushland walking track experience, as well as attracting birds and butterflies to the new and vast variety of indigenous plant stock. To give you some inspiration in your own gardens the species planted on this occasion included - Myrtle Wattle, Common & Kneed Wallaby-grasses, Cut Leaf Daisy, Bulbine Lily, Common Correa, Thatch Saw-sedge, Hop Goodenia, Purple Coral-pea, Austral Indigo, Native Flax, Spiny-headed Mat-rush, Common Rice-flower, Common Flat-pea, Purple sheath Tussock Grass, Grass Trigger Plant, Kangaroo Grass, Tufted & Tall Bluebells, Silver Wattle, Lightwood, Blackwood, Silver-leaved Stringybark, Longleaved Box, Red Stringybark, Yellow Box, Messmate, Narrow-leaf Peppermint, Hop Wattle Prickly Moses, Sweet Bursaria, Shiny Cassinia, Prickly Currant-bush, Narrow-leaf Bitter pea, Hemp Bush, Bushy Needlewood, Tree Everlasting, Golden Spray, Tall & Knob Sedges.

Next Working Bee: Sunday 30 August 2015. Our second Damper Creek Community Planting Day for this year

Over 1,000 tube stock to be planted along Damper Creek. Funded by Melbourne Water Project grants. A lunchtime sausage sizzle follows. Please do come along if you can and help further enhance our wonderful bushland reserve. *See 'Dates to Remember' section below for further details.*

Response to MCC Amendment C125: Proposed new residential zones. URGENT – HAVE YOUR SAY – closing date 31 August 2015

If it is right for you, individual Monash residents are urged to respond to MCCouncil - HAVE YOUR SAY –to support the introduction of the proposed new planning zones.

FoDC are very encouraged by the new zonings to protect our creek environs. FoDC encourages each individual resident to write an email or letter to Monash Council if you are in support of the two new zones: *-NRZ2'Creek Abuttal' and NRZ3'Creek Environs'* which will give greater vegetation and landscape protection to bushland/creek environs in the City of Monash.

Residents who approve of the newly proposed zoning protections may not feel that they need to respond as they are in agreement, but it is vitally important that your messages are sent to Council to show balance to the final decision.

If it is right for you, a very brief email or letter is all that is required. Even a few words such as 'I *approve of the new zonings*'; or 'Monash needs to protect its treed environment'; or 'thank you for proposing the new zonings to protect the creek environs in the City of Monash' etc....

No need to write a lot... Please send your message either via email to:

mail@monash.vic.gov.au - or for more information go to

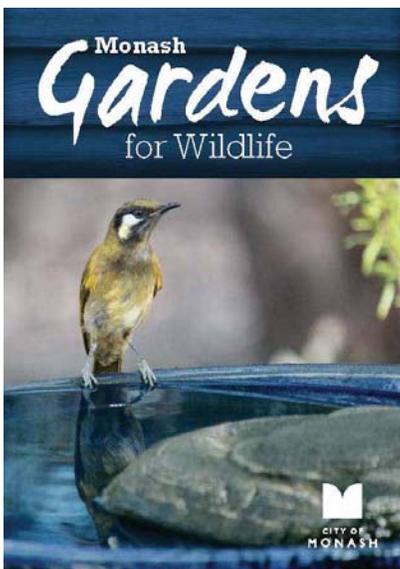
www.newresidentialzones.monash.com.au

or by post your response to : Amendment C125, Monash Council, 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley 3150.

If appropriate, please encourage your neighbours who live near bushland environs and who approve of greater environmental protections to respond as well. Email or write any time from now up until the closing date of **Monday 31 August 2015**

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 stories' 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>

Bird of the Month - Pied Currawong

Ref: <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>



The Pied Currawong prefers a habitat of forests and woodlands, and has become well adapted to suburban areas. It feeds on a variety of foods including small lizards, insects, caterpillars and berries. In urban areas where suitable cover is scarce they may feed on small prey immediately. Prey may be stored in a 'larder' (hung on a hook or in a tree fork or crevice) and either eaten straight away, or in the case of larger prey, such as young possums, over a period of time.

The Pied Currawong is a large, mostly black bird, with a bright yellow eye. Small patches of white are confined to the under tail, the tips and bases of the tail feathers and a small patch towards the tip of each wing (visible in flight). The bill is large and black and the legs are dark grey black. Both male and female are similar, although the female may sometimes be greyer on the underparts. Young Pied Currawongs are duller and browner than the adult.

Did you know that there is a Top 40 Chart of Bird Calls? Go to <http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/birds/featured/Top-40-Bird-Songs>

And check out No. 12 on the Top 40 Chart for the Pied Currawong's song –It is categorized as a 'Caroller' along with the Australian Magpie and the Grey Butcherbird. Take time to listen to other bird songs listed on the 'Top 40 Chart' known as The Sorrows, The Screechers, The Hooters, The Whistlers, The Cacklers, The Criers, The Peepers, The Clocks, The Waverers, The Trillers, and The Coos. Can you identify any of these songs from the birds in your backyard?

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

Fungi in Damper Creek Reserve

If you look carefully, you will now be able to spot many different types of fungi in the Reserve at the moment. Just recently, one of our FoDC members spotted a stunning *Star Fungi* close to the Alice Street bridge on the lower pathway. Please let us know if you spot one too. If you would like to see pictures of this short lived wonderful fungi, search on <https://www.google.com.au/> and type in "Australian Star Fungi"

Annual Subscriptions are now due – August 2015

To assist, an invoice reminder is attached to your August 2015 newsletter, only if your annual subscription is due for renewal.

Thank you to all who have replied to our annual subscription reminder sent towards the end of last year. We appreciate your ongoing support very much. The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. could not keep going without its important and dedicated volunteer members.

The annual single subscription (\$5) and the annual family subscription (\$10). The Enduring (life-long) membership of \$50 is a once only payment. Having a significant number of current financial members is vital to the effectiveness of FoDC as an incorporated group to gain grants and support.

To assist FoDC to maintain a current subscription database, please note that **members who have been non financial over the past year or longer will be deleted**. An updated database will now include all financial members (single/family); Officials (Local and Federal Government; Expert environmental advisers; Enduring memberships and Honorary Life Memberships.

For any queries, or if we have not recorded your details correctly, please - email - secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com, or write to PO Box 2063 Mt Waverley 3149. We would love you to re-subscribe if your membership has lapsed. A BIG THANKYOU for your support.

Doggies of Damper Creek

There are now quite a number of wonderful stories about our “Doggies of Damper Creek” on the FoDC website, and if you and your dog enjoy the special bushland environs of Damper Creek you might like to share your story (how you met, funny, sad, human interest stories) – For privacy reasons, a photo and profile will only be of your dog and the story can even be ‘written’ as if by him/her. Contact Helen on helencleme@gmail.com if you are interested.

Damper Creek Wetlands Boardwalk

The construction of the new Damper Creek Boardwalk and Wetlands situated just below the playground in Park Road is well under way. Plantings, under the guidance of the Bushcrew, will include 40 different species of tube stock, including trees, understory plants and aquatics. FoDC looks forward to staff from a city business who will assist with a planting day planned for late August as part of their community assistance program.

Fox sighting in Damper Creek

Imagine the stunned surprise of residents and their dog who live at the end of Sunhill Road, when a fox boldly scampered across their front garden, leapt over the north fence into the reserve, and scurried past the MCCouncil workers who were planting in the Reserve on the other side of the fence! The song/poem has been re-written by us now as “*A Fox Went Out on a Chilly Day (not Night)....*” It is most unusual to sight a fox in the daytime. Please do not leave pet food out which not only encourages hungry foxes, but rats too.

Guest Speakers at forthcoming meetings

August – AGM Wednesday, 7.30pm, 26 August, 2015.

Mr Andrew Kelly is the new **Yarra River Keeper** and he is keen to speak to the Friends' groups on his activities in caring for the Yarra River and environs

The FoDC AGM will commence at 8.45pm, following Andrew's talk and supper. *Please be assured that all Committee positions will definitely be nominated by the time of the August meeting. If any members wish to nominate please complete a Nomination Form, available from the FoDC website. So come along, relax and enjoy the talk and being an active member of the Friends.*

September: Wednesday 23 September 2015

Dr Sharron Pfueller. Topic: " *Living and gardening sustainably*

November – Wednesday 25 November 2015

Don Bladier – Topic: 'Construction of the Upper Yarra Dam 1951 – 1959'

<u>Dates to Remember</u>	August	Notes
Meeting	Wednesday 26 August 2015 From 7.30pm Guest speaker: Mr Andrew Kelly, Yarra Riverkeeper Followed by AGM commencing at approx.. 8.45pm	Venue: Alvie Hall, Cnr Alvie Rd and High St Rd Mt Waverley, from 7.30pm.
Working Bee	Sunday 30 August 2015 Community Planting Day ALL WELCOME BYO Special drinks, mugs, chairs, mats, all weather gear, solid shoes.	Register at the Park Rd entrance to Damper Creek Reserve, Mt Waverley Time: From 10am – 12.30pm Free sausage sizzle as a thank you to volunteers available from midday
	September	Notes
Meeting	Wed 23rd September 2015 from 7.30pm. Guest Speaker: Dr Sharron Pfueller. Followed by a general meeting commencing at approx.	Topic: ' <i>Living and Gardening Sustainably</i> '

	8.45pm.	
Working Bee	Sunday 27 September 2015 from 10 am – 12.30 pm.	Meeting place TBA

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The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. is supported by the City of Monash and Melbourne Water.

<p>Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. is a member of 'Landcare' and 'Land for Wildlife' Volunteer Nature Conservation. <i>Damper Creek Bushland Reserve: part of the Yarra Catchment.</i></p>
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