

Editorial : Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO); again.

The Monash council has voted on Cr Lake's VPO proposal and the result, predictably, favoured the amendment. An in-depth analysis of this not merited here, but it is relevant to say that the process is far from over. All residents of Monash should, by now, have a copy of the proposed VPO amendments. Any interested party, and I assume that includes members of Friends of Damper Creek Reserve, should respond in writing to the:

**Chief Executive Officer
City of Monash
293 Springvale Rd
Glen Waverley 3150**
By March 15th.

If you do not have a copy of the amendment, it can be viewed at the Council offices, town Planning Department 293 Springvale Rd. Glen Waverley or on the website:
www.monash.vic.gov.au/planning/amendments.

Members of the committee have been conducting investigations to determine the most effective method of responding to the amendments. The conclusion is that the vague and unworkable nature of the amendments would be sufficient cause to disallow the amendment when it is submitted to the state planning authority.

The Committee will draft a response on behalf of the FODCR for approval by those who attend the February meeting. It should be emphasised that this should not be used as a template for the responses of individual members who should frame a response in

their own words and add any concerns perceived in addition to those expressed on behalf of our group.

Another way of bringing your concerns to public attention is to write to the local papers. The VPO is a hot topic and there is a good possibility of getting your letter published. As we have seen, interest groups can easily create the impression of an overwhelming desire for change when those of the majority view remain silent. Therefore it is important to keep up a flow of letters to the local press prior to the March 15th deadline for responding to the proposal.

The Feb 12th issue of the Leader has an article on the VPO accompanied by a photo of Sally Walker of our sister organisation "Friends of Scotchman's Creek and Valley Reserve".

Guest Speakers

FODCR will continue its programme of guest speakers during 2013.

March: Mark O'Loughlin of the Museum of Victoria will talk in the topic "Discoveries in Marine Biology". Mark is an expert in echinoderm marine animals sea stars, sea cucumbers, feather stars, sea urchins and brittle stars and will make special reference to his research work in Antarctica.

May

Robin Drury. "The activities of the Fauna Survey Group of the Field Naturalists Club." Robyn's special areas of interest are frogs and the use of remote cameras.

A list of potential topics for guest speakers has been developed. Members will be asked to arrange speakers on these topics. This does

not preclude members from suggesting speakers on other topics.

A Conservation Story

Not everyone has the means to save a significant piece of the environment for the future but a combination of circumstances has seen Rob McNaught, founder of Peregrine Adventures, instrumental in saving 286 hectares of the Tootgarook Swamp on the Mornington Peninsula. Rob bought the land in 2001 after environmentalists sabotaged an auction of the land by implying that permits for development would never be granted.

He began talking to "Trust for Nature" to secure a covenant over the land to prevent development, a process that stalled due to legal hurdles.

The solution to Rob's problem came from an unexpected quarter. Construction of the Peninsula Link Freeway required an environmental offset to be provided for destruction of native vegetation along the freeway route. The freeway funds will finance rehabilitation of the area, removal of cattle and feral animals and protection of remnant vegetation and endangered species

This is the biggest offset covenant administered by Trust for Nature. A conservation success bought about by a strange combination of "greenies" sabotaging an auction, a businessman with a love of nature and a freeway.

(The Age Feb 17th 2013 Page 9)

Exit Indian Mynahs

FODCR members have been motivated to take direct action regarding an explosion in numbers of Indian Mynahs. These birds are not native to Australia, are particularly aggressive and exclude native species from

suburban gardens and bushland. Following investigations by our secretary, Maryann Hawthorn, Frank Carder and Maryann purchased a number of traps designed specifically to catch these birds. To date over 100 have been caught in these traps and humanely destroyed. The traps can only be used on private property. Benefits to the environment have already been observed as native birds are returning to trees previously occupied by these "rats of the air".

Feedback requested on walking and cycling strategy

The City of Monash has developed a draft "Walking and Cycling Strategy". This was published in the Monash Bulletin dated February 12th. If you wish to make a submission you'll have to be quick as the deadline for feedback is March 1st. Responses should be sent to:

walkcycle@monash.vic.gov.au or posted to the Carly Goodrich, Youth and Recreation Dept., c/o PO Box 1 Glen Waverley 3150.

So you think it's dry!

Conversation overheard recently in the northern part of our state;
Traveller: "It sure looks dry around here".
Local: "You think it's dry now. When it gets really dry the trees start chasing the dogs".

Working bee March 3rd

We will be working in the Golf Ave / Alvie Rd areas and at the rear of Yatama Crt., maintaining the area we planted in 2012.

Important dates to remember:

	February	Notes
Meeting:	Wed27th - 7:30pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun Mar 3rd 10-00 am to 1-00pm	Golf Ave / Alvie Rd
	March	
Meeting:	Wed 27th- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun Mar 31st 10-00am to 12-30 pm	TBA (Easter Sunday)

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Damper Creek Bushland Reserve: part of the Yarra Catchment.

Please address all mail to:
The Secretary
PO Box 2063
Mount Waverley 3149

The Newsletter of

**FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

Reg No. A0029531G

www.vicnet.net.au/~damper

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

February 2013

