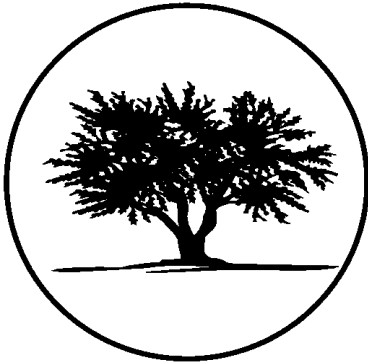


DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



The Newsletter of
FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

February 2016

Diary Date Reminders:

The Great Damper Creek Trivia Night -Wednesday 24th February, 7.30pm Alvie Hall - a special night to remember!

To launch our 2016 activities off to a fun start we are for the first time ever having a Trivia Night. An exciting Great Damper Creek Trivia Night challenge! Hosted by the enigmatic, inestimable, entertaining, erudite (and he's also quite tall) Campbell Miles. Anything but trivial! What he has in store nobody knows! Whether you know the answers or not you will have a jolly good time in fine company and some tasty food for supper as well.

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 28 February 2016: 10am – 12.30pm

FoDC's registered site - Clean Up Australia Day and it is a registered online as an "open site" named "Golf Avenue" - All welcome. Morning tea – billy boils at 11am.

A special welcome to volunteers from the Lions Club, Ashwood/Mt Waverley group.

All participants **must** register! Registration table & meeting place & sign on: Meet 10am at the rear of the Yatama Court houses in Damper Creek Reserve. Carpark at rear of Alvie Hall

All rubbish bags to be returned to registration table for collection by MCCouncil Bushcrew.

Please wear solid shoes, suitable clothing, sunhats, sunscreen, byo solid gloves (some available), byo rubbish grippers (some available). Children under 14 yrs must be accompanied by a responsible adult. For OHS reasons please do not enter the creek bed

and take care along the creek banks – please advise Supervisor of the location of larger items to be collected by Bushcrew.

Areas to be cleaned up: Damper Creek Reserve cul de sac at Golf Avenue and behind the Yatama Court houses, also clean up across the Bowling Green carpark to Damper Creek East, (follow Bowling Green fenceline – to enter DC East from gravel pathway off Wadham Parade) then onto Bellbird Corner (Cnr Stephenson's Rd and High St Rd).

Editorial: New residential zones – Amendment C125

Express your opinion! – deadline Friday 4 March 2016

The Friends have made a submission to Monash City Council supporting the introduction of two new residential planning zones, *NRZ2 Creek Abuttal* and *NRZ3 Creek Environs*, under the C125 Amendment proposal. The Friends' submission supported the added protections the new zonings will offer against inappropriate development and the potential loss of the treed environment in areas adjacent to the Reserve.

These two newly proposed zones incorporate much of what the Friends have been trying to achieve for over 20 years. The development at 28 Park Road, for which the Friends made strong representation, with the support of Council, at VCAT, is an example of how appropriate development can be combined with environmental protection, to the benefit of the Reserve (ie greater setbacks from the rear boundary abutting Damper Creek Reserve, less hard surface coverage, reduced height and a "terrace" configuration instead of "tandem" dual front and rear occupancies).

It is vitally important that individual members of the Friends write to Council expressing support for the new zones under Amendment C125, as there has been a great deal of adverse reaction to it, especially from the 'development lobby'. To show support for the two new zonings under Amendment C125, please write to Mr Sean McNamee, Strategic Planning, Monash City Council, PO Box 1, Glen Waverley 3150.

If you live in Monash, you will, by now, have received your information brochure on the proposed planning changes. The changes are intended to allow Monash to accommodate population growth without destroying our neighborhood character or damaging our precious environmental zones. Your brochure is specific to your property and the rule changes that affect your property may be different from properties in other parts of the municipality. You may have opinions about how these changes affect your own property, please express these feelings.

You can find more details on "Creek Environs and Creek Abuttal" zones on the following website (www.oursay.org/monash/residentialzones), or from the council offices at Glen Waverley or Oakleigh, or at any Monash public library

You can also express your support to Mt. Waverley Ward councillors (Cr Rebecca Paterson 0437 959 163, Cr Brian Little 0407 878 033, or Cr Jieh-Yung Lo, 0400 235 363).

Please respond before the consultation process ends, the last date for submissions is Friday 4 March 2016

Editor's advice column - Your Property and "Canopy Trees" : The planting of "Canopy Trees" is a requirement of Amendment C125. When one considers the environment, trees are probably the first thing that comes to mind. Trees are really important, they provide shade, homes and food for birds, insects and animals, they can help control groundwater levels and, best of all, & they look really beautiful. Trees create the most intense environmental emotions (with the possible exception of cute furry things) but they can also be quite scary. Why? Because some of them can grow very large. You don't have to travel far in Monash to see some very large, very beautiful trees, trees like the Angophora costata (Sydney Red Gum), Lemon Scented Gum and Spotted Gum. They can look fantastic but they can also create problems like blocked drains, cracked driveways or falling limbs. Like a pet, trees are for life. They will outlive pets, they will outlive you, they will probably outlive your house. Furthermore, you may not be allowed to remove them if they grow too large. So, what rules can we adopt when choosing trees? **1/ Keep what you already have.** If you are redeveloping a garden or a whole house block, the trees that are already there have a 20 year headstart on anything you are likely to replace them with. And besides, the wildlife already calls them home. Just make sure you don't leave environmental weeds as your canopy trees (e.g. Pittosporum , Cotoneaster or Desert Ash). **2/ Choose carefully.** It's not hard to find street trees that are far too large for the nature strip, trees that require ugly pruning to keep them clear of power lines. Research and observe! There are hundreds of species that will shade your house without becoming towering monsters. It is even possible to find small growing cultivars of some of the larger trees; enjoy the beauty without the risk. On the other hand, if you have the courage, plant a large tree where it will be a legacy for future generations. **3/ Site carefully.** Look at power lines, drains, overshadowing solar panels, shadowing a potential vegetable patch. **4/ Maintain.** Watch your chosen tree throughout the year. You can control how much shade the tree provides throughout the year by pruning selected branches. It is amazing how much the shade varies throughout the seasons so you can customize your tree according to the time of year. Most trees will respond well to a light prune, they will come back thicker and bushier than ever. Over the decades, you may need to employ an arborist to keep your tree well shaped. **5/ Create variety.** Mix your canopy trees with smaller trees and shrubs. Filling in under canopy trees provides a complete environment for wildlife.

Re 41-43 Alvie Rd – proposed subdivision into 3 lots, 18 out of 25 (VPO) significant trees proposed to be removed.

Update: Monash City Council has issued a **Refusal to Grant a Planning Permit.** A VCAT hearing is confirmed and will be held Thursday 19/5 from 10am at 55 King Street Melbourne, please attend if this is a concern to you. Your presence is important to the outcome. Contact Leanne Boucher for further queries and updates - via Email: alviecommunity@gmail.com

Recent works at the Bushcrew compound in Damper Creek Reserve

It has been proposed by the Bushcrew staff that several old sheds are to be removed and replaced with a new steel storage shed. A large old and unsafe Eucalypt unfortunately had to be removed from within the Compound. . The tree trunks have been saved for use along the gravel entrance road for landscaping purposes. Landscape works will be undertaken

within the Compound area to replace the loss of vegetation. Following concerns expressed by a number of FoDC members, as to the visual and environmental impact of these works, a meeting took place onsite on 12/2 with the Bushcrew staff and some FoDC members. It has now been agreed to reconsider the total plan for the site and a further onsite meeting with the Bushcrew, Council staff & the Friends, will be held shortly.

Gates – closure of short section of “goat track” in Damper Creek Reserve - at the rear of some properties in Tarella Drive/Kay Street.

For OHS reasons two wire gates have been installed by the MCCouncil to close a short section of the “goat track” located as above. The area has, overtime, been informally formed and has now been deemed as too dangerous for pedestrian access, especially in winter, because of exposed tree roots, slippery ground and a steep and uneven slope. The closed area will be replanted with low level tube stock and re-mulched (in accordance with fire regulations applicable to the Reserve).

Guest speaker program – and dates to remember

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
24 February 2016	Host Campbell Miles – The Great Damper Creek Trivia Night	From 7.30 followed by a brief General meeting.
28 th February	Working bee, Clean up Australia Day	10.00 to 12.30 meet in DC Reserve at rear of Yatama Court houses – off Alvie Rd or off Golf Ave
20th March (note change of date)	Working bee	10.00 to 12.30 meet at Bengal Cres reserve entrance Note revised date due to conflict with Easter Sunday
23 rd March	Guest speaker: Doug Scott “Walking in the Cascades”	7.30pm followed by supper and a brief General meeting.

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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.
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