

Editorial :

Talking Tanks and Stormwater Management. Guest Speaker for March - Tim Fletcher

Tim will outline an exciting new proposal for residents in the vicinity of Damper Creek. Our reserve has been selected to trial a new technology which has been developed by Iota, a division of South-East Water. Briefly, the system involves domestic water tanks which are remotely controlled to release their contents prior to a major storm event. In this way, the tanks become, not only a source of domestic water but part of a stormwater mitigation system and method of managing environmental flow in the creek.

The project will be monitored by the Waterway Ecosystem Research Group at the University of Melbourne who will evaluate the project.

This new technology is expected to enhance the liveability of existing Melbourne suburbs, by:

1. Reducing the risk of flooding.
2. Providing an alternative water resource supplying on average 40% of household water demand.
3. Maintaining soil moisture in the urban landscape to improve liveability through improved amenity and thermal comfort.
4. Maintaining flows in streams, creating the "babbling brook" that is culturally desirable to residents.

This is a pilot programme and Damper Creek has been selected because of the strong community support for the health of the waterway. If successful, the programme will

have wide ranging implications for the management of stormwater in Melbourne and, ultimately, worldwide.

The residents who participate with the installation of the "Talking Tanks" will be asked to contribute a nominal amount as a commitment to the project.

Please come and bring friends who may be interested in this development.

Riversdale Golf Club Developments

The golf club has applied for funding from the Office of Living Victoria to upgrade their irrigation system and have requested support from FODCR.

In principle FODCR supports the golf club in their submission. However the committee will use this as an opportunity to discuss problems with the eastern boundary fence which result in flooding at the rear of several properties in Yatama court. The committee will also propose that the golf club plant and develop areas of indigenous vegetation within their acreage to encourage more bird life as an "offset" to their works in "formalising" their landscape over the years.

Playground Opening Saturday April 5th

*To coincide with the State-wide 'Nature Play Week', the new playspace at Damper Creek Reserve will be opened on Saturday 5 April. This FREE community 'get together' will be called the **Damper Creek Nature Day**, and will run from 10.30am-12pm.*

A range of activities will be provided for families and children after the opening

ceremony. This includes children's entertainment (face painting, balloons, etc.) and guided nature walks (TBC). Refreshments will be provided.

Working Bees

The FODC clean up on 2/3 was an informal but very successful clean up of Damper Creek between Golf Avenue and the rear of Yatama Court.

Approx 18 adults and children worked hard from 10am – 12.30 and we thank them for a great job as we filled two utility trays with rubbish.

Another cleanup and weeding working bee will be held in the same location on Sunday 30 March 2014, from 10am -12.30 pm,

All welcome,

Please do come if you can

Billy boils at 11am (BYO mug)

We also thank the Sri Lankan volunteer group for their clean up again in the main Damper Creek strip as well as at Bellbird Corner - also resulting in many packed bags of rubbish.

Frogs, Possums and other animals

Our guest speaker for February was John Poppins who shared his knowledge of frogs and some of the images caught by his wildlife camera. The brief talk was followed by a walk through Damper Creek to spot possums and other wildlife.

John's talk educated and entertained but, most importantly, it improved our knowledge of Damper Creek and the wildlife it preserves.

Please keep an eye open for new speakers.

The activity does not have to be a formal presentation but may be simply a discussion on any relevant topic on conservation, local history, travel or community activity. So pull some ideas out of your hat and help contribute to the vitality of our group by tracking down a speaker or activity to enliven our meetings.

New Website address

www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au

Please update your "favourites" as the old website address will cease to operate in the near future.

Don't forget to check us out on Facebook. Your photo submissions, both recent and archival, will be welcomed.

Membership review:

Please ensure your membership is up-to-date. An accurate member register is important in applying for grants and general recognition.

You can renew your membership when attending any meeting or working bee or by contacting the secretary or treasurer.

BYO to FODCR meetings

Let us demonstrate our environmental credentials by bringing our own cups / mugs to FODCR events such as working bees and meetings to reduce our impact on the environment.

Email addresses

Email is the best way of getting your newsletter and some additional notices can also be sent out by email. We cannot guarantee that mailed copies will arrive prior to our monthly meeting. If you are able to receive the newsletter by email please notify

our secretary and the membership list will be updated.

Important dates to remember:

	March	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 26th - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun March 30th 10-00 am to 12-30pm	Golf Ave / Yatama Court
	April	
Meeting:	Wed 23rd- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
W-Bee	Sun April 27th 10-00am to 12-30 pm	TBA

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Responsibility for editorial content is solely that of the editor.

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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.

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The Newsletter of

**FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

Reg No. A0029531G

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DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

March 2014

