

## Damper Creek and The Future

### Amendment C125 to the Monash Planning Scheme

Municipalities throughout the Melbourne metropolitan area have been required to respond to a need to accommodate a significant increase in population boundaries.

Why should a municipality such as Monash be required to support a significantly increased population?

The provision of services, public transport, roads, education, sewerage, stormwater management, municipal services such as libraries and social support can be supported more economically in an established suburb than in a new suburb created on the urban fringe. Also, the loss of farmland on the urban fringe is a serious problem, the suburban sprawl cannot be continued indefinitely. These are the opportunities offered by increased urban density, the challenges are also considerable.

The first challenge is to the loss of neighbourhood character. Who has not felt that chill in the spine as we hear another house being demolished to make room for two or more units or a "McMansion" taking up an inordinate amount of the block and pushing the boundaries of the "Residential Code". Perhaps, worse still, every vestige of the original vegetation is removed from the block before building commences. Thus, any wildlife that exists in the suburbs is pushed back into ever diminishing space on residential blocks and into reserves such as Damper Creek.

In 2014 the State Planning Authority presented municipalities with a proposal for increasing population density. Between May and June the City of Monash conducted an informal community consultation on this strategy and the resultant feedback was incorporated into a draft amendment to the Monash Planning Scheme.

Full details can be viewed on the Council website

<http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/reports/24feb2015.htm>

#### "4.1 Stage One implementation of New Residential Zones"

Significantly, for members of the FODCR, the amendment includes two new residential zones:

NRZ2- Creek Abuttal includes properties that share a boundary with the reserve or face the entrance to a reserve.

NRZ3-Creek Environs. in an area defined by the council as within the area of creek topography.

The proposal limits the density of development for such properties by specifying increased setbacks, vegetation and the heights of walls and fences. Many of these conditions satisfy the position maintained by FODCR and respect the principle of the "Third Neighbour".

Once Ministerial Authorisation is granted (expected mid April) a 6 to 8 week community consultation period will commence.

The next meeting of FODCR will be a combined meeting with the "Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve", guest speaker will be Peter Panagakos, Director City Development who will be speaking on the

amendment and will be available to answer your questions. Our councillors Patterson, Lo, Little and Pontikis are also expected to attend.

### Guest Speakers

At our April meeting we will be potting up Correa reflexa plants (free for you to take home).

For the May meeting Libby Anthony will talk about an energy efficient strawbale house and an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

We also hope to engage the new Yarra Riverkeeper as guest speaker.

### Ephemeral Wetland and Boardwalk

The February meeting of FODCR was addressed by Sandra Smith, a landscape architect with the City of Monash, who explained plans for the boggy area near the Park road playground. The area which has long been a bugbear with walkers along the creek, will be excavated to enhance its natural water holding capacity and will have a boardwalk installed over the boggy area so walkers and others can keep their feet dry. The wetland will be planted out with species which can withstand the wet/dry nature of such an area and the surrounding area will also be landscaped to integrate it with the playground. This should be a real asset to the Damper Creek environment as well as a boon to users of the walking tracks and playground. This will, in effect, be Damper Creek's first raingarden.

### Clean Up Australia Day

We had a very successful morning & the weather was perfect. 22 (both children &

adults)came along to pick up 17 bags approx collected from DC behind Yatama court houses, DC East and Bellbird Corner.

Much weeding was done behind Yatama Court as well.

Besides the above bags, a great swag of carpet, wall board, plastic car parts, a large pillow & a number real estate advertising signs were some of the more "unusual" items.

The Alumnist volunteer group worked in the main part of DC as they do this each year - and we appreciate their support to the local community.

All told a successful day. (Helen Clements, FODCR president)

### Monash Environment Sustainability Strategy

Community information sessions will be held to provide residents and community groups an opportunity to provide input into the new strategy for Monash.

Monday March 23 6-7.30pm Monash civic Centre

Wed March 25 6-7.30pm Clayton Community Centre

Friday March 27 10.30am-12pm Batesford Hub Chadstone

Wed April 1<sup>st</sup> 6-7.30 pm Mulgrave Community Centre

### Dates to remember:

	March	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 25th- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun Mar 29th 10-00 am to 12-30pm	Rear of Tarella Dve

### April

Meeting: Wed 22nd- 7:30 pm Alvie Hall

Working Bee Sun April 26th TBA  
10-00 to 12-30

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**Community planting days will be in June and August**

### ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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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.***

Please address all mail to:

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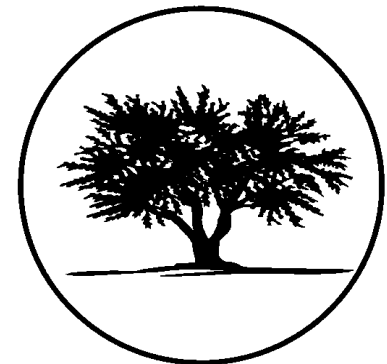
**The Newsletter of  
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DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

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

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# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



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**March 2015**