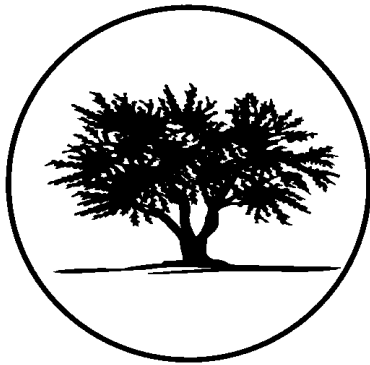


# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



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

Reg No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

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*November 2015*

## **Editorial:**

### **Damper Creek, It's mostly about water!**

Let's face it, Damper creek is a watercourse. In times gone by (before white settlement) Damper creek carried water rarely. When it did it was filtered through a mass of vegetation which protected the stream bed from erosion and ensured that a high proportion of the flow was absorbed into the stream bed. Damper creek never really dried out as there was a regular flow into the creek from the local groundwater. This was an environment which allowed ferns and other semi aquatics to thrive and survive harsh summers.

Now let's fast forward to the twenty-first century. Our civilization has converted the environment surrounding the reserve into a residential, commercial and industrial zone. This has many side effects on our creek. Water from the catchment has little opportunity to infiltrate the groundwater. This is due to the proliferation of "hard surfaces". Hard surfaces comprise roads, rooftops, driveways, carparks and footpaths. Even a modest rainfall results in an almost instant flow into the creek by way of street drains. This can be spectacular as the creek flow is fed by stormwater drains into a series of waterfalls engineered into the landscaping of Damper creek. Do not be deceived. This show is totally artificial. The true price is considerable and highly detrimental to the health of Damper creek. The highly variable flow in the creek created a severe erosion problem. By the middle of the twentieth century Damper creek had been reduced to an eroded drain. Topsoil in the creek bed had been washed away, vegetation stripped by the high flows and the lack of groundwater stopped revegetation by the very plants that prevented erosion. Flooding became more frequent further downstream through to Gardiners creek and the Yarra due to developments in creek catchments. In response to erosion and flooding problems (and also to provide more residential land) a barrel drain was planned for Damper creek and the adjoining land was to be subdivided for housing. Fortunately, a band of locals lobbied successfully to have the area preserved for recreation and conservation. This was followed by a decision to line the stream bed with basalt rocks in a move which slowed erosion and beautified the area. Revegetation of Damper creek has been heavily subsidised by

Melbourne Water with the objective of controlling water flow into the creek and alleviating flooding. Now, in the twenty-first century, population pressures over Melbourne require councils to consider methods of accommodating this population increase. In response to this need, the City of Monash has proposed revised residential zones within the municipality. Two of these zones specifically refer to the water needs of creek catchments. These zones are “Creek Abuttal” and “Creek Environs”. Both zones address (to differing degrees) the needs to control water runoff through specifying setbacks, permeable areas and vegetation coverage. Some property owners and developers see these restrictions as a violation of their right to develop their properties for maximum profit. As a result, the amendments to the Monash Planning Scheme have been put on hold and without community support, may never be implemented.

So, what is to be done?

1/ Lobby your councilors to ensure they are aware of the risks to Damper creek and other watercourses if the two “Creek Zones” are not included in the planning scheme.

2/ Become active in managing stormwater on your own property. This includes minimization of hard surfaces, installation and use of water tanks and installation of landscaping that minimizes runoff to stormwater. Melbourne water publishes much information on doing this under the title of “Water Sensitive Urban Design”.

3/ Talk to your neighbors about what you are doing and why.

## **Proposed new residential zones – Monash Planning Scheme Amendment C125 - Update**

*FoDC responded positively to the first round of information on the proposed Amendment C125 and the newly proposed zonings of Creek Abuttal and Creek Environs.*

Monash City Council recently advised –

*“Further to your submission about the proposed new residential zones, I am writing to advise you that at its 27 October 2015 meeting, Council decided to defer making decisions about the proposed zones.*

*There are different views about the proposals in our community, so Council decided to defer making any decisions until there was an independent review and more community consultation. To get a deeper understanding of community views, Council will write to all residents and property owners again, explaining the proposed changes in straight forward language and images and seeking people’s views.*

*The community feedback will be considered, alongside the outcomes of the independent review, at Council’s meeting in February 2016. Council is expected to form an in-principle position at that meeting and will then seek further community feedback on that in-principle position before making a decision at its April 2016 meeting.*

*If you would like to read Council’s decision from the October meeting or a report by Council staff on the initial community consultation, please visit [www.monash.vic.gov.au/proposed-residential-zones](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/proposed-residential-zones)*

*If you would like a hard copy of these documents sent to you, please call our Strategic Planning team on 9518 3555. Please also feel free to call us if you have any questions regarding the proposed changes or the process from here. Yours sincerely, Sean McNamee Coordinator Strategic Planning”*

As November is FoDC's last newsletter for 2015, you will receive a notification from the Monash City Council in-between this update and FoDC's *Damper Creek Doings* newsletter for February 2016. Your response once again is important.

## **Proposed subdivision - 41–43 Alvie Road, Mt Waverley, 3149**

As you move around the neighborhood take notice of development applications that are posted on a property for a brief period. There have been many cases where objections to these proposals have resulted in permission for developments being refused or significantly modified. If you feel proposals are inappropriate do not hesitate to submit an objection to the Monash City Council.

Recently, many concerned residents wrote objecting to a proposal to subdivide 41– 43 Alvie Road into three separate titles and remove 18 of 25 significant (VPO protected) trees. As a result the Monash City Council refused to grant a permit.

### **Grounds for Refusal**

1. The application does not accord with the State and Local Planning Policy Framework concerning the natural environment.
2. The application is not site responsive and pays little respect to the existing neighbourhood character.
3. The proposed development does not pay due regard to the Garden City policies within the Monash Planning Scheme and will result in the loss of mature trees on the site.

What happens now?

The applicant may apply to VCAT for a review within 60 days. Submissions to a VCAT hearing may be made by interested parties including FoDCR and Monash council.

**Our Christmas BBQ Sunday November 29th** – Members, families and friends are invited to celebrate the end of another successful year. This is our premier social event and will provide an opportunity for you to meet up with old friends, neighbours and your local representatives from Monash Council, State and Federal Parliaments. The event is free as the costs are covered by the City of Monash.

Meet in Damper Creek Reserve at the end of Richard Road Mt Waverley from 12 noon. BYO chairs, special drinks, sunscreen, sunhats, rugs/mats. For catering purposes please RSVP by Thursday 26 November to Helen on 0401 813 502 or [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com). New members welcome.

**Summer is approaching – be fire ready – information for you is available from the Monash City Council website – go to <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au>**

Monash is generally a low risk area, however the city has a number of green corridors which have required Council to develop special fire risk plans for the forthcoming bushfire season. Council regularly carries out fire clearance works by selective dead tree removal, maintaining firebreaks, reducing vegetation density and removing excessive fallen branches and dead vegetation. Fire patrols are also carried out on total fire ban days. A fire management consultant and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade conducted a review of the fire

risk of the Monash bushland reserves and developed an action plan in 2003 which is annually reviewed. There are dozens of fire hydrant access points around DC Reserve and the surrounding streets.

Residents can assist in fire safety by being pro-active ie **\*\*clearing all ground fuel and mowing lawns to create an easily defendable zone around the house, \*\*clearing all waste material from inner roof areas and guttering, \*\* checking and fixing the roof thoroughly for gaps and cracks, \*\*renewing batteries in your in-house fire alarm, etc.** If you see a fire or smell smoke, do not hesitate – Dial 000.

For queries ring Monash City Council 9518 3555 (after hours 9027 0692) or write to PO Box 1, Glen Waverley. Elderly and disabled residents, subject to assessment, may be eligible for assistance from Council's home assistance from Council's home maintenance.

## **Guest speaker program – and dates to remember**

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Meeting</b>	Wednesday <b>25 November 2015</b> 7.30 pm	<b>Guest speaker – Don Bladier</b> <b>“The Making of the Upper Yarra Dam 1951 – 1959”</b>
<b>Christmas BBQ</b>	Sunday <b>29 November 2015 from 12 noon onwards</b>	Meeting place – In Damper Creek Reserve at the end of Richard Rd Mt Waverley
<b>Guest Speaker program 2016</b>	<b>24 February 2016</b> – Host Campbell Miles – The Great Damper Creek Trivia Night	From 7.30 followed by a General meeting.

## **Addresses and Telephone Numbers**

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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  
email:[secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)