

Monash VPO Amendments

It is unlikely that this saga is over. At the September council meeting the Council accepted the panel's recommendation BUT also accepted a further amendment that:

“Any application that is proposed to be refused be referred to Council for determination”

Effectively, this means that in cases where Council officers reject an application to remove a tree, the decision is referred to a Council meeting.

There are significant questions remaining regarding implementation and interpretation. Does this mean that council officers are under pressure to issue an approval to remove a tree as a default decision and, if approval is not granted is a Council meeting an appropriate forum to evaluate this decision, particularly as Council meetings involve agendas other than those concerned with the environment and tree health?

Our president has forwarded a letter to Monash council on behalf of FODCR expressing these concerns and this will be sent to those members on our email list together with this newsletter.

Plant of the month

Goodenia ovata (Hop Goodenia)

The botanical world is full of anomalies and the genus *Goodenia* contains one of these. The genus *Goodenia* is confined to Australia and some of the islands to our near north. There are over 200 species, mostly perennial tufting herbs which creep unobtrusively through the undergrowth, preferring damp conditions and contributing to the incredibly

diverse ground flora which is so hard to identify and almost impossible to reproduce when revegetating an area like Damper Creek.

Goodenia ovata is different. Unlike its brethren, it is a shrub and, if it were not for its distinctive flowers, there is no way an amateur like me would think that it could be even remotely related. *Goodenia ovata* is a pioneer species. It is one of those plants which springs up in profusion after bushfires and after soil disturbance (if the weeds don't



get in first). As a pioneer species it provides the first level of protection to the soil and shelters slower growing species. Eventually it outgrows itself, becoming lanky and eventually dying, leaving a store of seed in the soil, waiting for the next bushfire or other disaster.

Goodenia ovata is an ideal plant for a revegetation project like Damper Creek. It is easy to propagate by cuttings, will tolerate a wide variety of soil types and moisture levels and provides a valuable mid level foliage which contributes to a “bushy” ambience.

For the home garden it is also an ideal plant as it grows quickly and responds well to pruning, greatly increasing its attractiveness and longevity. The flowers are an attractive brilliant yellow occurring over a long period (mainly August to February but scattered flowers appear over a much longer period). Without pruning it will get very straggly and grow to over two metres if under cover of taller trees. By keeping this plant pruned you will be rewarded with a compact, dense shrub which works well as a “filler” amongst more showy plants.

Damper Creek Observations

(Contribution submitted by Libby Anthony)

I live half way between Damper Creek and Gardiners Creek and for the past 2 years have been hearing and seeing Tawny Frogmouths in my neighbourhood. Sometimes one or two will be perched on the big old *Euc. Nicholii* in my front yard or a big Gum in my neighbour's yard. The Tawny's call at night is an interesting droning sound rather than a “hoot”. I have noticed that the possums go pretty quiet on the nights I hear the Tawny. While the owl doesn't eat possums [too big], they are predators, and the possums probably figure “why chance it”. The biggest problem for the owls is the roaming cats that often prowl at night getting up on people's roofs. As the owls often perch on the edge of the roof to survey the ground, they are at risk of cat attack. If any members of FODC allow their cats to roam especially at night, I would urge them to take up good cat health practice of keeping their cat in at night.

BirdLife Australia is conducting a poll where you get a chance to vote for your favourite

bird. If you go to the voting website (or just click on the link if you are on email) you will get to see a magnificent collection of bird photos and choose your favourite bird from a list of 52 birds.

birdweek@birdlife.org.au.

Vale Ron Shaw

Ron Shaw, a past President and member of the Friends of Damper Creek, passed away at Cabrini Hospital on 9 October. His illness was a rapid onset cancer. Ron was a warm friendly personality and contributed greatly to the Friends.

Guest Speaker

For our November meeting we will have Geoff Lay to talk on the fascinating world of fungi.

Annual BBQ Sun December 1st

Our annual BBQ is a special event and a "must" for keeping up with who's who and what's going on in our "friends" group. We also invite our local members of state and federal parliament and council members, you never know who is going to turn up.

When: Sunday 1 December 2013
Commencing at 12 noon

Where: meet at the end of Richard Road
Mt Waverley
in Damper Creek Reserve
Parking available in Alice Street

All meats and salads funded by Monash City Council as a thank you to all volunteers

BYO chairs, sun hats, rugs, special drinks for catering purposes RSVP to Kevin Ryland 98074833
Or email Secretary

secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

Function supported by Melbourne Water

Important dates to remember:

	October	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 23rd - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
AGM		
W-Bee	Sun 27th 10-00am to 12-30pm	Middle Bridge
November		
Meeting:	Wed 27th- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
BBQ	Sun December 1st 12 noon	Richard Road

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The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc is supported by the City of Monash and Melbourne Water.

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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Mount Waverley 3149

The Newsletter of

**FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

Reg No. A0029531G

www.vicnet.net.au/~damper

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DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

October 2013

