

# Damper Creek Doings

October 2017



The newsletter of  
**FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**  
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**October Working Bee - Sunday 29 Oct :**  
Meet at the Park Road carpark 10am. We will be weeding the areas planted during our community planting day and the surrounding areas.

## A Green Future for Monash?

I recently attended a meeting of the Friends of Scotchman's Creek and Valley Reserve. The guest speaker on this occasion was Rob Mineo, Arboricultural Coordinator for the City of Monash. One of the joys in being involved with the Friends group is the opportunity to meet with Monash staff and to gauge their enthusiasm and commitment to the improvement of Monash. Rob is no exception, he is passionate about trees and oversees a department that maintains 88,000 street trees within the City of Monash. Rob is involved at every level including overseeing complaints from residents, through to participating in development of council strategies.

When consideration is given to removing a tree, Rob's approach is to encourage alternatives to allow protection and retention of the tree. This may involve working with developers to alter building design and site access to protect a significant street tree. Rob is impressed with the passion Monash residents have for their trees and will work with them to retain trees which contribute to neighbourhood character.

Unfortunately, there are occasions when a tree must be removed, when it is dead, dying, or dangerous. However, on occasion, the council will go to extraordinary lengths to preserve trees and Rob cited the case of a group of 100-year-old oak trees which were suffering because of soil compaction. An extensive and complicated process of soil modification brought these trees back to health. The council replaces 1600 street trees per year and aims to plant an additional 1000 per year.

Maintaining Monash's trees in good health is an ongoing task, with an annual pruning cycle and care for newly planted trees including watering for the first two years.

Rob has observed, through community consultation, that the attitudes of Council management and senior staff has changed and is now firmly behind strategies to make

*"The Monash street tree canopy a source of neighbourhood and city pride."*

## Three Strategies for the Landscape Character of City of Monash

### 1. Street Tree Strategy

. The Vision for this strategy is -

*“The Monash street tree canopy which will be a source of neighbourhood and city pride. It will create a network of engaging and inviting green corridors, encouraging walking, cycling and street activity and delivering tangible benefits to local communities”.*

<http://www.monash.vic.gov.au> – and search for Monash Street Tree Strategy

### 2. Monash Open Space Strategy – (draft)

Key Issues:

- *The need for additional convenient and functional open space to address existing gaps and serve Monash’s growing population.*
- *Open spaces to suit increasing housing density*
- *Off road trails to allow people to move through open space and connect with nature*
- *Funding the provision and development of open space.*

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve has made a submission to the Monash City Council which will be available on the FODCR website. <http://www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au>

This document will also be available at the FoDCR meeting on Wednesday 25 October 2017.

The closing date for all submissions to MCC is Friday 27 October 2017 We encourage individual to review this strategy and make their own submissions to Council . For more information go to:

<https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Council/Have-Your-Say/Monash-Open-Space-Strategy>

### 3. Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy (draft )

Key outcomes of the strategy are to

- *Establish and articulate a clear understanding of the current landscape character of the City of Monash.*
- *Determine those elements of the landscape character that are valued by the community;*
- *In consultation with the community, develop and articulate a preferred landscape character for each of the different landscape character areas across the City of Monash; and*
- *Identify and describe a range of mechanisms to maintain and enhance the valued and/or preferred landscape character of Monash into the future.*

Monash City Council will further discuss this strategy at its forthcoming Council meetings and after the draft has been approved by MCC, community consultation will take place in the first half of 2018. TBA

For further information go to <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au> – and search for “Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy”

## A PLASTIC OCEAN

You have an opportunity to see this important film next Tuesday. The Monash Greens have organised a local screening of this film which introduces us to a group of eminent scientists who are tackling the problems of discarded plastics and potential solutions for this global disaster. The film will be followed by a Q&A with Trent Williams from Sea Shepherd.

**Where: Wadham House, 52 Wadham Pde, Mount Waverley, Melway 70 E1**

**When** Tuesday, 24th October, **Time, 6:30pm for 7pm start**

**Cost \$5, or gold coin donation for concession holders. Students free.**

**Booking is essential** Please ring **Barbara Williams 0401 545 067**

## **A New Law to Protect the Yarra River**

The Yarra River Protection Bill has passed through Victoria's Parliament. This is the first time a Victorian river has had a single piece of legislation devoted to its protection, covering the entire course of the river through Melbourne and its suburbs.

"The Yarra River Protection Act establishes a Birrarung River Council to advise and advocate for river and its surrounds and will set up a long-term environmental framework for the protection and management of the river.

For many decades the Yarra was seen as little more than a drain – its flows have been modified, its connections to wetlands disrupted, its governance fragmented. The Act will set up an integrated, landscape framework for governance of the Yarra, guided by environmental and social principles.

Congratulations should go to the Yarra Riverkeeper Association and the many friends groups, environment groups, residents' groups and organisations involved in managing particular places along the river – all of which have contributed to making this new law a reality.

Members of FODCR were significant contributors to the formulation of the act.

## **Jubilee Project**

The "Jubilee Project" has been proposed as a celebration and permanent memorial to the fifty years of continuous efforts to improve Damper creek by FODCR and its predecessors. Doug and Campbell met in Damper Creek with our Melbourne Water Community Grants representative - Nathan Mattinson. We discussed the Jubilee project and its importance.

Nathan indicated that, although the planting in the grassed area between the creek bank and Park Rd is not riparian strip, the importance of the project and its significance is such that Melbourne Water will approve a grant application from us for the planting in this area. We also indicated that we intend to invite representatives of Melbourne Water to attend the official celebrations next September.

As a consequence FODCR has applied for a grant for \$4,400 [including GST] for spending on the plants for that area. Additionally, the Friends will provide an additional \$4,000 contribution to the landscaping.

**For Your Diary**

- Wednesday 25th October, 7.30 pm: General Meeting at Alvie Hall
- Sunday 29 October, 10 am to 12.30 pm: Working bee. The billy boils at 11.00  
Meet at the Park Road carpark. We will be weeding the areas planted during our community planting day and the surrounding areas.
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 7.30 pm: Alvie Road Hall.  
The last meeting for the year.

**Don't forget : Last date for submissions to the Monash Open Space Strategy is Friday October 27th.**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November; 12 noon.**

**The Great End-of-Year Barbecue in Damper Creek.**

**At the end of Richard Road, adjacent to the Bushcrew hut. All welcome.**

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