

Editorial : Partnerships

The beauty of a community group such as the Friends of Damper Creek is that our efforts are multiplied by the community partnerships that have developed. The prime partner is, of course, the City of Monash and, in particular, the Bush Crew who tend to Damper Creek and the other 124 reserves in Monash. The attention they can give to Damper Creek is dependant on the perceived level of interest in the reserve and this is strongly influenced by the activity of our group.

One of the principal activities of our group is to apply for grants. I am pleased to announce that we have received a grant of \$3500 from Melbourne Water (another partner) for planting in the riparian strip. The riparian strip includes that part of the reserve in the vicinity of the watercourse and does not include upstream of the drain outlet near Stephensons Road . Full credit must be given to the committee for their persistence and expertise in applying for these grants each year.

Other organisations we partner with are Waterwatch, Environment Defenders Office and Yarra Riverkeepers. Our members also enrich the organisation by bringing their own associations with connections to Monash University, Scouts Australia, the National Parks Association, Bungalook nursery and (undoubtedly) many others. Thus, as members of the Friends of Damper Creek, we should be proud that we are part of a larger community with wide ranging interests in the environment and the value of parklands in the urban environment.

More Nature Strip Gardening

The following details and photos were provided by Michael Adler.

“We built our house in Monomeith Cres in 1968 and were greatly influenced by our neighbours Norm & Shirley Kemble to pull out all the weeds and turn our block into a Native Garden which we did with our infant children crawling around us loving the dirt. The nature strip was the last to be converted resulting in the retirement of the lawn mower.

Despite pleas from neighbours to reduce the size of our trees (which their ‘Veggie’ patches did not appreciate) the native garden around the house flourished and provides us with enjoyment and ample shade & habitat for our native birds including the ‘Frogmouth’.”



Waterwatch:

The work of Waterwatch in Damper Creek continues with our loyal group ensuring that Damper Creek is monitored on a monthly basis. Recent results showing high ammonia content have been a matter of concern as they could indicate a leak from the sewerage system. I am pleased to report that the latest result indicates ammonia levels have returned to normal levels.



The Waterwatch team at work. Dinah Palmer, Frank Carder and Waterwatch coordinator Tiana Preston.

Guest Speaker Programme 2012

Don't forget our first guest speaker for 2012 is MarJo Angelico of the Waverley Historical Society who will address the group at the May 23rd meeting. The title of MarJo's talk will be "Early Days Around Mount Waverley"

The guest speaker programme is an important part of the activities of the "Friends" group and the committee welcomes any suggestions for guest speakers on any appropriate topic.

Myrtle Rust; Update

The destructive plant disease Myrtle Rust, has been found in our locality on a private property in Blackburn South. The infested plant was an exotic hedge but the infestation was particularly severe and all affected plant material on the property has been destroyed. Myrtle rust affects all members of the Myrtaceae family which includes Eucalypts and many other Australian plants as well as many imported plants.

The disease can be recognised by the formation of brown to grey spots on the leaves often with a red to purple halo. Up to 14 days after infection the spots produce masses of distinctive yellow/orange spores. If you think you see an infection contact the exotic pest hotline on 1800 084 881 or email a photo to plant.protection@dpi.vic.gov.au/myrtlerust.

Do not touch the plant or collect samples.

Delivery of Damper Creek Doings

We endeavour to ensure the newsletter is delivered prior to the monthly meeting. Unfortunately this cannot always be done and we need you to tell us if this is a concern. Please let us know if on time delivery is important to you by phone, mail, email or by the old fashioned method of talking to a

committee member. If you have email, that is the best way of getting the newsletter.

Important dates to remember:

	April	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 25th - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun April 29th 10-00am to 12-30pm	Alice St Bridge
	May	
Meeting:	Wed 23rd- 7:30 pm (to be decided)	Alvie Hall
W-Bee	Sun May 27th 10-00am to 12-30 pm	Golf Ave

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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

**FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

Reg No. A0029531G

www.vicnet.net.au/~damper

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DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

April 2012

