

This may seem a utopian ideal but we have seen the “Sustainability Street” principles act in Damper Creek, seen the sense of community flourish as we work together and we have seen a growing sense of environmental awareness grow in many ways through involvement in “our” community.

If you want to research further, check out their website at www.voxbandicoot.com.au

Doug Scott

On the same theme, we have been asked by April Williams, the Monash City Council Environmental Management Project Officer to draw our members’ attention the new Council website on **Sustainable Living—a Green Guide**. The website is extremely informative and covers the Top 10 areas: Food, Community, Gardens, Products, Home, Transport, Waste disposal and Rebates. The content is well worth reading. You can check out all the content on the website:

<http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/environment/index.htm>

Important Future Dates

General Meeting: Wednesday 26th September, Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm.

Working Bee: Sunday 30 September at 10 am. Meet at Tarella Drive footbridge (closest to Stephensons Rd) to tackle ivy, onion weed, blackberry, cotoneaster and cleaver. In other words, the usual suspects. Please bring hand digging tools and your own cup for morning tea. Mattocks welcomed.

Please put it in your diary: the 2012 Annual Barbecue will be on Sunday 2 December. 12 noon to 3 pm.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE : Please note that annual subscriptions fall due at the time of the August AGM.

- Individual membership: \$2
- Family membership: \$5
- Enduring membership [life long] \$50

PLEASE PAY AT A WORKING BEE OR BY POST TO THE SECRETARY, PO Box 2063, Mount Waverley, 3149

Friends of Damper Creek

Important dates to remember:

Meetings	Date	Venue
General meeting	7.30pm, Wed. 26 Sept.	Alvie Hall
Working bee	10am, Sun. 30 Sept.	Tarella Drive bridge
General meeting	Wed. 24 October	Alvie Hall

Important contacts for Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc.

President	Frank Carder	fcarder@alphalink.com.au
Acting Secretary	Campbell Miles 9803-7707	cv.miles@bigpond.net.au
Treasurer	Kevin Ryland	Kevandnettie@bigpond.com
Editor	Doug Scott. Please email copy for Damper Creek Doings to 'dougscott3@bigpond.com' Guest editor for this edition: Campbell Miles	

Please address all mail to: The Secretary PO Box 2063, Mount Waverley 3149

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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 and Yarra River Keepers.

Damper Creek Bushland Reserve: part of the Yarra River Catchment



The Newsletter of
the
FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

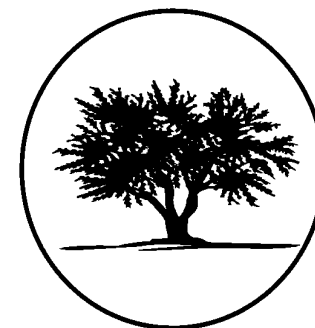
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www.vicnet.net.au/~damper

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

September 2012





2012 Annual General Meeting

At the recent AGM, Frank Carder delivered his President's report to members. Frank thanked the members of the management committee and in particular Helen Clements who has stepped down from the committee after many years contributing to running the organization as secretary followed by two years as our President and most recently as Vice President. Frank reviewed a year of achievement by the FoDCR and in particular noted our success, with the Friends of Scotchmans Creek & Valley Reserve, in persuading Monash councillors to retain the Vegetation Protection Overlay. He noted our continuing success in raising funds through the Melbourne Water support scheme and the IGA Community grants scheme. He thanked Doug Scott for his outstanding work as the editor of our monthly newsletter and Judy Borg for always having the two notice boards up-to-date with informative, current and relevant content.

At the election, the office bearers for 2012-2013 are:

President: Frank Carder

Vice President: Robert Yates

Secretary (Acting): Campbell Miles

Treasurer: Kevin Ryland

Public Officer: Romy Orfanelli

Committee members: John Clements & Ian Nicholls

Notice Board Manager: Judy Borg

Editor, Damper Creek Doings: Doug Scott

Damper Creek Reserve: A Floral Wonder

Is this the time of the year to see Damper Creek Bushland Reserve at its very best? That question receives a resounding YES!

With the benefit of excellent rain, as evidenced by the Melbourne reservoirs being over 77% full, the Reserve is a floral abundance this September. The Acacias are putting on a

great show with the Silver Wattle (*A. dealbata*) and the Black Wattle (*A. mearnsii*) but the golden award this year must go to the Kangaroo Thorn (*A. paradoxa*) with its wavy leaves and prickles but large golden globular heads.

The Tree Violets (*Hymenanthera dentata* - check the small toothed edges to the leaves) have also put on an excellent, if less florid, display. You have to look closely for the elegant tiny flowers along the branches. It scores the name Tree Violet because *Hymenanthera* are a member of the violet family.

And now the pea flowers are putting forth their displays: *Daviesia*, *Hardenbergia* and *Indigofera*. All this is against a background of masses of the white daisy 'flowers' on the Snowy Daisy Bushes (*Olearia lirata*) that dot the stream-side walk. The *Pomaderris* are in bud with the flowers to come on the end of the branches. We have the large-leaved *P. aspera* (Hazel *Pomaderris*), many of which are well on the way to growing into a magnificent middle storey canopy to complement the wattles, and the smaller-leaved *P. racemosa* (Slender *Pomaderris*). *Pomaderris* species belong to the genus *Rhamnaceae*, as does another planting in Damper Creek, the charmingly named 'Dusty Miller' (*Spyridium parvifolium*) not to be confused with 'Dusty' Springfield.

Of course all the pea families and the Acacias are related because eventually they produce seeds in pods and so are members of the family *Fabaceae*. Another shared attribute is nitrogen fixing nodules on the roots, just like the peas growing in your garden. So all these species improve the nitrogen levels in the soil to the benefit of all species. This adaptation allows them to grow in poor soils.

We should count our blessings that we live in proximity to this magic couple of hectares.

Occasional Visitors to the Reserve

We have noted over the last week a pair of bronze wing pi-

geons foraging for seeds under the acacias between the Bushcrew's compound and the wire fence beside the south bank walk.

The male and female are subtly different. If you are not accompanied by a dog, you can approach them quite closely. The male has a white to yellow forehead and a rufous brown cap behind; the female has a grey forehead and lacks the brown cap. You may also hear their call which is a low repeated 'oomm'.

August Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker for August was the wonderfully entertaining Frank Fitzgerald-Ryan. Frank runs an environmental education company called "Vox Bandicoot" and is a consultant to the City of Monash.

Frank bases his training on a concept called "Sustainability Street". Rather than specify a path towards environmental improvement this programme introduces broad concepts and leaves the action up to the individual or the individual acting as part of a small group. One particularly memorable graphic Frank displayed was a listing of groups around the world who are working for the environment. The graphic started with a relatively large font, slowly scrolling through the list. As the font decreased and the scrolling rate increased it soon became evident that there were so many groups listed that one could scarcely live long enough to get through the list.

His main point is that action is accomplished by small groups, each acting according to their own motivation to benefit the environment. That motivation may be to achieve energy efficiency, reduce vehicle usage, reduce waste, reduce water use, composting, growing your own food, encouraging native wildlife or, in the case of the Friends of Damper Creek, to restore a patch of bushland to its former glory. Whatever the action, a community spirit arises which amplifies and motivates far beyond the ability of the individual to change the environment.