

## Editorial

Welcome to another year of "Damper Creek Doings". We promise you news of current and upcoming events in Damper Creek combined with an eclectic collection of articles on the environment, conservation and stories of and by members of the "Friends of Damper Creek Reserve" (FODCR).

The FODCR is one of the longest running friends groups in Melbourne, a tribute to consistently enthusiastic membership and a wide ranging series of guest speakers which spice up our meetings and attract a wide audience.

## Guest Speaker Programme 2012

Jo Anjelica of the Waverley Historical Society will address the March meeting of FODCR. Other speakers are currently being lined up for later in the year. If you know if any potential speakers willing to address the FODCR on a topic of mutual interest, please pass on details to the committee.

## FODCR Working Bees

The working bees are the cornerstone of FODCR. The gathering around the campfire at the tea break has to be experienced. The conversation is always spirited and you never know what tid-bits turn up on "mushroom rock" (Vivienne's fruit cake recipe has become somewhat of a legend and Robert's soups are a special treat). Attendance at the working bees gives you the background to appreciate the plants that belong in the reserve when planting is in progress and the discrimination to recognise the plants that don't belong on the weeding days. Members of the City of Monash are always on hand to answer questions about plants in the reserve.

Working bees are scheduled for Feb 26, April 1, April 29, May 27, July 1, July 29, August 26, Sept 30, Oct 28, Dec 2 (our annual BBQ). Meetings are on the fourth Wednesday in the month and the working bees are the following Sunday.

### "From My Window" (Observations by Campbell Miles)

With the increased rain over the last year we have had a kangaroo apple germinate and grow to substantial size in our backyard. This has afforded observation of the wattle birds eating the ripe fruit. They open the fruit with their beaks and use their fronded tongues to lap up the ripe contents. I have also observed the currawongs eating the fruit. They pluck the entire berry and fly away for quiet consumption. It is interesting that there are still a number of currawongs in the reserve in January; they appear to be summering-over rather than heading back to the high country."

Editor's note: the Kangaroo apple is an indigenous species which grows rapidly and has a short life. It can grow quite large (3m or more). It commonly germinates in domestic gardens (at least, in mine) and is greatly improved by heavy pruning. If it gets too big or too untidy don't feel guilty about pulling it out, another will probably soon take its place.

### Private weeding

There is a tradition among members of weeding in the reserve outside scheduled working bees. This is encouraged but you should download a form from the website and report your activities to the bush crew, put your completed form in the letterbox on the depot gate in the reserve. There is a need to weed

in Golf Av in the area planted out last year. Activity in this area will benefit the new plants and strengthen our application for a Melbourne Water grant.

## Doggie Stories

The stories about Damper Creek dogs are posted on our website and make interesting reading. Helen Clements is keen to expand this project and would like to see more stories. Please submit your stories or further ideas to Helen on [helencleme@gmail.com](mailto:helencleme@gmail.com).

## Remembering Bill Keritz

An early FODCR stalwart, Bill passed away late last year. Bill lived at 2 Dennyse Court. He was a retired senior officer in the RAAF, a keen apiarist and a grower of excellent lemons. The friends group was an important part of his later life and he was a regular attendee at the working bees and barbecues.

## More on Gardening in Narrow Spaces

When we built our house at 101 Stephenson's Rd. in 1984 we followed the advice of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (SGAP) and avoided the English tradition of planting a lawn. Heavily mulched garden beds, with native plants were the order of the day, but no sward. I still needed a mower for that strip of barely tamed weeds, the 'nature strip', (a term which sounds reminiscent of a nudist colony).

Three years ago, I decided I had had enough. The nature strip had to go, and with it, the mower and that back twisting tool, the edger.

Over three months, several applications of Zero™ killed all the weeds, including the oxalis. I broke up the heavily compacted soil

with a pick and dug in mulch, gypsum and water retaining granules. I also buried 20 cm deep several lengths of slotted agricultural pipe for watering. Then off to Bungalook Nursery (Forster Rd, Burwood) for the plants. I was wiser than in 1984 – not just natives this time, but indigenous plants. I incorporated some logs from fallen timber filched from Damper Creek, half buried as recommended by the landscaping books, to retain mulch. My wife insisted on nothing that would grow high enough to block her view as she drives onto Stephensons Rd. During the drought years, many of the plants only hung in with water from the washing machine. The last summer and the recent winter rains have seen the strip flourish. Now it is a strip of nature. And, if you had been fossicking during the last hard rubbish collection you could have picked up a push mower and an edger (both FTAGH\*). Campbell Miles

*\*FTAGH=free to a good home*



The Stephensons Rd "Nature" strip  
*True low maintenance gardening*

### Friends of Damper Creek Important dates to remember:

	February	Notes
<b>Meeting:</b>	Wed 22nd - 7:30 pm	<b>Alvie Hall</b>
<b>Working Bee</b>	Sun Feb 26th 10-00am to 12-30pm	Alice St Bridge
	<b>March</b>	
<b>Meeting:</b>	Wed 28nd- 7:30 pm	<b>Alvie Hall</b>
<b>W-Bee</b>	Sun April 1st 10-00am to 12-30 pm	To be advised
<b>ADDRESSES &amp; TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>		
<b>President:</b>	Frank Carder fcarder@alphalink.com.au	<b>408128862</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Campbell Miles	<b>98037707</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kevin Ryland	
<b>Editor:</b>	Doug Scott Please email material for the newsletter to dougscott3@bigpond.com	<b>0417300866</b>

Printed by courtesy of the City of Monash  
as a community service.  
Responsibility for editorial content  
is solely that of the editor.

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:  
The Secretary  
PO Box 2063  
Mount Waverley 3149

*The Newsletter of*

**FRIENDS OF  
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

Reg No. A0029531G

[www.vicnet.net.au/~damper](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~damper)

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

**February 2012**

