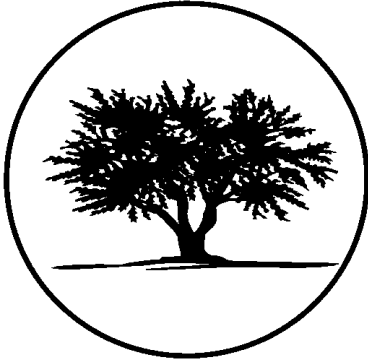


DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



The Newsletter of

FRIENDS OF

DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

<http://www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au>

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

August 2016

Editorial:

Seasonal Changes:

You may feel the chill of winter in your bones but the plants in Damper Creek know spring is on its way.

Several of the wattles are now starting to display their golden blooms. One fact you may not know is that it is possible to choose wattles which bloom at any time of the year. Within Damper Creek wattles start to bloom as early as July when the golden balls appear on the Silver Wattle. The Silver Wattle has grey-green feathery leaves and can grow into quite a large tree. It is quite common in Damper Creek. Other wattles follow in quick succession. You should be able to find Prickly Moses, Golden Wattle, Spreading Wattle, Hedge Wattle and Myrtle Wattle currently in flower. Later expect to see the Black Wattle, similar to the Silver Wattle but with dark green leaves and paler flowers. Later still, look for the Blackwood and Hickory Wattle.



Golden Wattle



Silver Wattle



Myrtle Wattle



Spreading Wattle

As a group of plants, the wattles are incredibly variable. There are around 950 species in Australia. They range from insignificant ground cover plants that can be lost within the grasses, to forest giants. Many are short lived but others grow to be large trees with superb timber such as the Blackwood which, in the Gippsland forests grows to over 30m and provided timber for much of Australian furniture in the early 1900's. They all have hard seeds which survive in the soil for decades. The seed case can split under the heat of fire and wattles can be the dominant vegetation following a bushfire. Wattles also fix Nitrogen and make it available to other plants as a fertiliser. Many associate wattles with hay fever but the pollen of wattles is heavy and doesn't remain airborne.

The nursery industry has developed many cultivars. Some that come to mind are *A. Cognata*, *A. Baileyana* and *A. Pravissima*, all of which are available in a variety of forms ranging from prostrate to upright and even standard forms. For a magnificent example of a prostrate *A. Baileyana* (Cootamundra Wattle) look at the garden in front of St Stephens and St Mary's church in High St. Road

A controversial plant?

This picture of a Hardenbergia violacea, spotted near the Alice Street bridge is very healthy and rather beautiful specimen. Commonly known as a “Happy Wanderer” or Native Sarsparilla, this species is indigenous to this area. So what is controversial? There are several examples of this plant in Damper Creek Reserve but all are what is known as the “Bushy Form”. It is not certain where this plant originated from but it is extremely attractive and will not be removed unless it is in some way detrimental to the ecology of the reserve. The usual form of this plant is as a twining climber.



Damper Creek Reserve management issues

FODCR members have met with the MCCouncil Bushcrew recently to discuss various matters regarding the reserve including -

Signage

Reserve signage at various entrances, which is looking decidedly tired is due for replacement next year. FoDCR will have input into the choice of signage that we hope will compliment the bushland environs.

Closure of track

The track across the rocks of the wetlands main pond (the 'duck pond') which then leads steeply to the gate below the Bushcrew compound, has been deemed by the Council to be dangerous and will be closed.

Dogs in Damper Creek Reserve

Damper Creek Reserve has the privilege of being an “off leash” for dogs. To protect the amenity of the Reserve and its plants, dogs owners need to ensure their dogs are under voice control and to pick up dog droppings. An education program will continue with the Council increasing the number of patrols in the Reserve to reinforce appropriate behaviour. Information will be displayed on the noticeboards and brochures will be available at working bees and meetings. Another doggie bag dispenser will be installed at the Park Road entrance, together with signage to be displayed adjacent to the dispensers to remind dog

walkers of their responsibilities.

Owners obligations in “off lead” reserves

When a dog is being exercised off a lead in an “off lead” reserve the owner must:

- remain in effective voice or hand management of the dog so you can promptly place the dog on a lead, if that becomes necessary.
- Carry a lead no longer than 1.5m which can bring the dog under effective control if the dog threatens any person or animal.
- Not allow the dog to worry or threaten any person or animal
- Always keep the dog in sight
- Carry a bag, receptacle or other means of picking up, and removing from the public place, any of the dog’s faeces
- For Damper Creek Reserve - bring the dog under control if it is or is likely to be within twenty metres of the occupied children’s playground in Park Road

If a problem arises regarding the above please phone or email Peter Wisdom, Senior Animal Management/Community Laws Officer, 9518 3257, email peterwi@monash.vic.gov.au

Clearance of wattles

The Bushcrew have undertaken a clearance program of some wattles to balance the canopy and to allow understorey indigenous plants to flourish (including orchids).

July Guest Speaker, Bruce Lindsay, Lawyer, Environmental Justice Australia

Bruce spoke about the proposed Yarra River Protection Act and Trust which has been developed in response to the need to provide a coordinated approach to managing the Yarra River which is currently administered by numerous councils and regulatory bodies. As Damper Creek is a tributary of the Yarra, FODCR has been a contributor to the Environmental Justice of Australia’s report. Bruce’s talk was both entertaining and informative, covering a wide range of issues. If you missed the talk and wish to catch up with the issues, you can look at the report from Environmental Justice Australia titled “The future of the Yarra: Proposals for the Yarra River Protection Act” at www.actfortheyarra.org.au or at www.envirojustice.org.au.

August 2016 AGM

As a number of positions will be vacant there is a need to find willing FODCR enthusiasts to fill

the following positions.

- President – vacated by John Clements
- Secretary – vacated by Helen Clements
- Vice President - vacated by Kevin Ryland
- Treasurer - vacated by Ian Nicholls

As has usually been the case, it is expected that there will be at least one applicant for each position at the time of the AGM. This does not preclude fresh nominations from being presented at the AGM. You can nominate for a position on the night.

Guest speaker program

Wednesday 24 August 2016

Dr Tiffani Howell - "Dogs as Human Companions" Dr Howell is a Research Officer at La Trobe University. Her main research interests are dog behaviour and cognitive processes, the dog-owner relationship, and animal welfare. She has been part of a study reviewing socialisation and training practices for racing greyhounds. She is also studying the possibility of training dogs to act as diabetes alert dogs for owners with diabetes.

Wednesday 26 October 2016

Professor Tim Fletcher, Melbourne University Academic, Ecosystem, and Forest Sciences (whose areas of expertise include water quality modelling and monitoring, urban stormwater, urban streams and green infrastructure) will speak on water quality management research in Australia and overseas.

Sustainable Gardening Australia Event – Native Plant Propagation – Port Melbourne – Saturday 10 September 1 – 2pm.

For more information about these Master Classes and to make a booking to attend you will need to log onto www.sgaonline.org.au and select "Training" and "Master Classes" or ring 8850 3050

Working Bee Sunday July 31st – National Tree Planting Day

Many FODCR members joined the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve for National Tree Planting Day. Community groups such as Scouts and Guides as well as individuals joined the friends to plant over 9000 plants. In a variant of the usual sausage sizzle, we were also able to sample some Sri Lankan food which was provided by the local community. If you want to view the area planted take the Scotchman's Creek bicycle path west from Fairway Reserve (walk between the Scout halls to the path) or take the path that leads west from Stephenson's Road.

Working bee routines: 10am - 2.30pm. Billy boils at 11am. BYO cups/mugs Please wear all weather gear and solid shoes. Some equipment supplied by the Bushcrew.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday August 24th	Guest speaker Dr Tiffani Howell, La Trobe University– "Dogs as human companions"	From 7-30pm

	Followed by supper and then a general meeting & the AGM.	
Sunday August 28th	Working Bee (planting and weeding/clean up)	10am to 12.30pm meet at Richard Road entrance (off Alice St.) in Damper Creek Reserve. BYO cups/mugs
Wednesday September 28th	Monthly general meeting	From 7-30pm

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Friends of 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.

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