



Damper Creek Doings

February 2021

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve inc.



Over the years, the Friends of Damper Creek has hosted many guest speakers. Those speakers have informed, educated and, sometimes amused those who have attended. Long term partnerships have emerged, not the least of those being the partnership that has developed with Melbourne Water. The obvious result of this partnership is the annual grant we receive from Melbourne Water. Less obvious has been the generous provision of guest speakers by Melbourne Water.

Over many years, the concept of “Water Sensitive Urban Design” has been presented and developed by a number of speakers. Damper Creek is a key element in this concept, being a conduit for stormwater runoff from surrounding streets and houses, Damper Creek forms an essential part of Melbourne Water’s stormwater management. The multiple functions of the reserve become clear in a way that could scarcely have been imagined by those who campaigned to save the land 52 years ago. The revegetation of the reserve has served to provide a buffer to potentially damaging stormwater surges by slowing water flow and allowing a significant portion to be absorbed by the soil, to the benefit of both stormwater management and vegetation survival. The Melbourne Water grant for 2021 will be used to supply plants to revegetate a steep slope to the West of the stream, reducing erosion, promoting absorption of stormwater and enhancing the environmental value of the area.

The second partnership which has been vital for the reserve and the friends group is the partnership with the City of Monash; in particular the Parks and Recreation sector of council which includes the bushcrew who provide the bulk of ongoing maintenance in the reserve.

Doug Scott
President Friends of Damper Creek Conservation
Reserve Inc.

www.friendsofdampercreek.org



New Developments in Damper Creek Bushcrew compound and environs

Over the years the bushcrew have laboured tirelessly with limited resources to bring the reserve to the status it now enjoys. Projects which have reached fruition include the ephemeral wetland adjacent to the Park Road playground and the Park Road nature strip plantings. However, 2021 heralds a significant development within and adjacent to the bushcrew compound. Under construction from late 2020 and set to continue through 2021 is a complex of wetlands which will control water flow from the compound, adjacent properties and surface runoff within the reserve. This work will provide valuable wildlife habitat as well as protecting the walking paths from waterlogging.



One of five ponds constructed to control stormwater runoff and to provide habitat in the vicinity of the bushcrew compound.



Rocks awaiting placement outside the new bushcrew facilities.



Kangaroo apple

Solanum species

Closely related to the tomato, potato and the nightshade family. Either *S. aviculare* or *S. laciniatum* may be found in Damper Creek. Prolific and fast growing it may be mistaken for a weed. If you find it growing in your garden, it may be pruned frequently to keep it under control.



Kangaroo grass

Themeda triandra

This decorative native grass once covered vast areas of Western Victoria. Once established it will effectively exclude most weeds. The seeds were ground to make flour by the aborigines. Cutting back every few years will restore its vigour.



Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

The City of Monash is seeking feedback on its *Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025*. Further details can be found on: <https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/monash-health-and-wellbeing-plan>

This is an important part of Monash's future planning and you are invited to contribute via an [online survey](#).

FODCR membership comprises a significant demographic and you are encouraged to respond in order to ensure the interests of our group are considered in formulating Monash's future policies.

The survey is open to 28th February 2021. If you need any help, please contact simon.harrex@monash.vic.gov.au

Monash City Council Tree Management Policy

The link below provides access to the online consultation where you will find the draft policy, a short survey, frequently asked questions and background information on how we manage trees.

<https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/index.php?cID=501>





Program for 2021

Monthly meetings

At this stage we will not be meeting in Alvie hall. It is probable that the February meeting will be conducted using ZOOM. Notifications will be sent using the FODCR email. For new members note that the monthly meetings (February to November) are held at 7-30pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Working Bees

All working bees are **Sundays from 10am - 12.30pm**

Working bees (other than designated community events) are held on the Sunday following the monthly meeting.

Our first working bee for the year will be held on February 28th.

Meeting location and tasks will be notified via this newsletter, on the website and in the noticeboards.

COVID Safety for Working Bees

Until further notice we will not be providing morning tea for working bees. We ask that you bring your own food, drinks and cups and do not share.

Note that we will **not** be meeting on Clean Up Australia Day March 7th.

VCAT Hearing for 28b Park Road

The hearing will be held on February 18th at 2-15pm. It will be conducted via Zoom. If you have previously registered and interest in attending this hearing you will receive a Zoom link via email. The Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc. have been supplied with a link to the meeting. You can email the secretary for details of this link as there are a number of conditions which must be observed to observe the proceedings.

Report it

Did you see something along Damper Creek that you think needs attention? Please contact Monash Council and leave a report. You can contact them the following ways.

- www.monash.vic.gov.au/contact/request-a-service
- (03) 9518 3555
- download the App – Snap, Send, Solve

We would love to hear from you

The content of this newsletter reflects the opinions of the editor and the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve. Content is welcome and should be emailed to dougscott3@bigpond.com or to the secretary at secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

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