

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

March 2020

The newsletter of
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC
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In this issue:

Please note – Next general meeting Alvie Hall, Wednesday 25 March 2020 has been cancelled due to health concerns regarding COVID-19

Please note – Next scheduled working bee Sunday 29 March 2020 and morning tea has also been cancelled.

Clean Up Australia Day 1 March – thank you to volunteers

Gardens for Wildlife – highlights and inspiration

28b Park Road VCAT hearing - update

Council Meeting 25 February 2020 – Excellent outcome for Damper Creek Reserve: named as a Conservation Reserve

Power Line Pruning – update

Federal Reserve – soil testing – Suburban Rail Loop

Bushcrew Compound refurbishment

Guest Speakers for 2020

Extra Weeding in the Reserve

Our intrepid Editor, Doug Scott, is travelling with his wife Jenny for the next six weeks so our "Editorial" writeup for the next two months will be missed. However, please read on.

Clean Up Australia Day working bee – Sunday 1 March 2020 – thank you to all volunteers

With 22 volunteers including two children present on a clear sunny day, 30 kg of rubbish was collected from Damper Creek Reserve, including Bellbird Corner.

Thank you to all the enthusiastic volunteers present, and thank you to Matt Fregon MP for Mt Waverley and his executive assistant John Mullahy, who joined the Clean Up, and spent time answering questions at morning tea about a range of issues including the proposed Suburban Rail Loop.

Gardens for Wildlife

The Monash Council's Gardens for Wildlife Education Officer Anna Mezzetti has invited interested residents to become volunteer Gardens Advisors. If you are interested please register with her. Training is available. Please phone Anna on 9518 3555 if you would like further information. An informative hard copy booklet is also available from Anna, or it can be viewed or downloaded from the Monash City Council website – <https://monash.vic.gov.au>

The Friends would like to highlight this small booklet which contains a wealth of knowledge. There are pages on garden design, creating your habitat gardens and key elements of design; look for the sections on native animals (a bee hotel, attracting butterflies, plants to attract small and large birds, parrots and honeyeaters). There is a wonderful section on attracting frogs to your garden, how to build a frog pond, and hints and plants to choose to attract lizards and skinks. Wildlife in Monash includes the Southern Bell Frog, Common Grass Blue Butterfly, Powerful Owl, Sugar Glider, Musk Lorikeet, Tawny Frogmouth, Blue-tongue lizard. Many of these unique creatures are regularly seen in Damper Creek Reserve, and your garden can add to the habitat needed to grow the population. Autumn has arrived so you may be inspired to use some of these ideas, now that the weather is beginning to cool.

Please note that due to COVID-19 concerns, the 25 March meeting has been CANCELLED

FoDCR will reschedule the Guest Speaker Dominic Bowd - "Ecological Restoration at Riversdale Golf Club" for later in the year .

Council Meeting Tuesday 25 February, 2020

Councillor Rebecca Patterson put up a notice of motion to the February council meeting to rename *Damper Creek Reserve* to *Damper Creek Conservation Reserve*, and to rename Valley Reserve also as a Conservation Reserve.

The advantage is that, as Conservation Reserves, the primary focus will be on protecting and enhancing the flora and fauna and maintaining the Reserves as passive recreation areas where people can enjoy the bushland environment. Developments such as paved cycle paths, lighting and other intrusive infrastructure would not be considered. We are delighted to record that the item was unanimously approved by Council. We most sincerely thank Cr Rebecca Paterson for her diligent work in bringing this forward. We also thank the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Committee members for the submissions they have presented to the Council over the past few years on this matter, as well as to their recent valuable submission to support this agenda item.

28b Park Road VCAT hearing

Following a failed hearing at VCAT in December 2019, a further set of plans has been submitted by the owner to Monash Council for planning approval. The decision of the Council will be advised shortly.

Power Line Pruning

Further to our report in the February 2020 newsletter, we advise that for safety reasons, some modest pruning has now been carried out under the HV wires which run from the end of Sunhill Road and (over the creek) up to the end of Tarella Drive. Pruning has been completed and no trees were removed, nor is it anticipated any trees will need to be removed in the near future. Council will continue to monitor the trees and prune where necessary for safety reasons.

We thank Michael Grant Co-ordinator Heritage and Conservation Services, Monash City Council who arranged our onsite meeting with David Edwards, Co-ordinator Arboriculture, Monash City Council.

David has now liaised with Energy Safe Victoria and United Energy to address the safety concerns of large trees under HV wires with a significant ongoing management plan in mind, with the pleasing outcome that all correct management practices have ensued, whilst respecting the environmental concerns of the Friends of Damper Creek. The Friends particularly thank David Edwards for his professional approach and we plan to keep in touch and also meet him onsite each year prior to the summer season to monitor safety within the Reserve.

Federal Reserve – current soil testing – Suburban Rail loop (Residents will have now been advised by mail in regard to the above.)

Residents will have noticed that a section of Federal Reserve has been cordoned off for soil testing operations. (There are currently multiple soil testing sites across the City of Monash). The testing commenced early in March (and plan to be completed by mid-March), and works will operate from 7am -5pm Monday – Friday, and 7am – 1pm Saturdays. The timing of these works may change depending on weather and ground conditions. The Monash Bushcrew were consulted prior to the chosen test site going ahead, to ensure that no trees or bushland would be damaged during the process.

A snapshot for future planning is that it is anticipated that Melbourne will have a population of 8 million people by 2050. It is planned that the Suburban (underground) rail loop Stage 1 (Cheltenham to Box Hill) project works will commence in 2022 and take approximately ten years to complete. The new suburban rail loop will connect to underground stops at Cheltenham/Clayton/MonashUniversity/GlenWaverley/Burwood/BoxHill/Heidelberg/Bundoora/Reservoir/Fawkner/Broadmeadows/MelbourneAirport/Sunshine/Wyndam Vale/Werribee.

For further information, please access the 2019 Suburban Rail Loop Newsletter – Works notification – and scroll down to “Federal Reserve Mt Waverley” by going to <https://suburbanrailloop.vic.gov.au/works> - (note the “ll” in suburbanrailloop - within this address). For your information, this newsletter contains sub headings “What we are doing” and “What to be aware of” as well as phone numbers for you to access more information - listed on Page 2 of the above Newsletter. FoDCReserve will keep you updated.

Bushcrew Compound

In the near future, Monash Council plan to refurbish the Bushcrew Compound. The Friends will have input into the process and will be kept informed. The Friends will also be involved in replanting and future landscaping of the area.

Guest Speakers

Guest speaker for March 2020 (meeting cancelled) was to be Dominic Bowd, Horticulturist, Riversdale Golf Course. The presentation will be rescheduled for later this year. (TBA)

In May and October 2020, Ian Moodie, a noted local naturalist and photographer, will join us (topics to be advised). Ian is also the recipient of the 2019 Sir John Monash Environmental Award.

Mid year we are planning for Dr Steve Sinclair, a plant ecologist with the Arthur Rylah Institute, to talk on his special areas of research (title to be advised) and, at the November meeting, Campbell Miles will present a video of his latest overseas expedition.

Extra Volunteer Weeding

A small group of enthusiasts have been undertaking extra weeding, for a couple of hours each time, in the Reserve.

BYO morning tea.

If you would like to join in with any *ad hoc* extra weeding please be in touch with Helen 0401813502

For your diary

Next meetings and scheduled working bees – to be advised

The content of this Newsletter is the responsibility of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. Mt Waverley

Damper Creek is a tributary of the Yarra River and the Yarra River Catchment.