



# Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

March 2021



## WE NEED YOU

It's time to get together and meet in person. If you are a new member, we would like to meet you, if you have been a member for years we would love to catch up.

The great news is that the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve will be meeting in Alvie hall on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7-30pm. This seems such a "normal" occurrence until you remember that it has been over a year since the "Friends" have gathered in this place. "Normal" is not quite the right term, however. The virus is still a concern and several members have indicated that they will not be part of a meeting in the hall until there is certainty over the safety of such a gathering. Like most organizations, we have found ways of operating during the pandemic. Electronic communications have been a boon and we recently had a committee meeting via Zoom. It is now time to take the first step towards normality.

Unfortunately, there will be restrictions, and these will be as follows:

- 1/All attendees must sign in or use the QR code.
- 2/ Hand sanitizer must be used on arrival and carry a face mask.
- 3/ You must bring your own cups, tea or coffee and snacks (hot water will be available)

Note: Numbers in Alvie Hall are limited to 20 attendees.



## **Jubilee book**

In September 2018 our group celebrated 50 years of continuous activity on behalf of Damper Reserve . The event was comprehensively photographed by Isabella Blick and others. The lockdown provided the opportunity to compile these photographs together with much historical information and original photographs. Together these tell the story of Damper Creek Reserve's evolution from an unloved, weedy drain into the showpiece it is today. The book is the work of Kevin Ryland, one of the original group who lobbied to save the creek and our secretary, Helen Clements.

Come to the meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> for an opportunity to browse through this colorful presentation.

## **Activities for 2021**

This much is certain:

We have an allocation of 4000 plants financed by the Melbourne Water Grant. These will be planted as part of the June 27<sup>th</sup> working bee.

The chosen area for planting and maintenance comprises the area bounded by the rear of the Park Road properties to the West side of the creek. From the point where the path divides, the area will comprise the space between the upper and lower paths. This represents a change in philosophy as ongoing maintenance will be provided to the newly planted areas until they are fully established.

Further activities such as guest speakers, BBQ's and community planting days are Covid dependent.

## **Midweek Weeders:**

A midweek weeding session is proposed for the Thursday following the working bee. Commencement at 10-30 till 12-00. Email notifications will be sent

## **Cat Curfew**

From the beginning of April cats will not be able to roam within Monash after dark. This decision was made because of the significant loss of wildlife to domestic cats (which are natural predators).

## **28b Park Road VCAT hearing**

Following VCAT hearings on February 18<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> (via ZOOM) and a site visit by CVAT member Tait on March 18<sup>th</sup>, we await a final decision on this application.

Sharp eyed observers will note this pretty purple specimen on the East side of the creek near the duck pond.



*Lythrum salicaria* (Purple loosestrife)

A pretty plant in Autumn, this plant dies back to a rootstock in winter. To my knowledge there is only one example in Damper creek so look carefully.



Special notes regarding working bees:  
Until further notice, byo water, snacks - there will be no morning tea/supper provided



## Dates:

March 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting at Alvie Hall 7-30

March 28<sup>th</sup> Working Bee

Meet at the end of Richard Road in Damper Creek Reserve  
Bushcrew compound - BYO buckets/tubs, the working bee  
task will be the hand spreading of mulch around the new ponds.

April 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) Midweek Weeders .

10-30 to 12 noon Meet at main ponds

April 21<sup>st</sup> Committee meeting via Zoom 7-30pm

April 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting at Alvie Hall 7-30 pm

May 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Bee (weeding) location TBA

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

## Report it!

Have you seen 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](http://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](mailto:dougscott3@bigpond.com) or to the secretary at [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)

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