

# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

November 2020

The newsletter of  
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC  
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"The November *Damper Creek Doings*, is the final newsletter for 2020.  
Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and  
safe Festive Season and New Year 2021."

The President, John Clements, and Committee of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve.

## **A Return to Normal?**

We are facing a "New Normal" for the coming year. The recent relief from severe restrictions may have given the impression of a return to normality but, frankly, life will not return to the old ways anytime soon. Throughout the lockdown, Damper Creek Reserve has been an oasis for countless jaded spirits. As you read this please reflect on what Damper Creek Reserve has meant to you and what part it will play in the coming months and years.

Many "Normals" have been bypassed this year. We have had to abandon our monthly meetings, guest speakers, our working bees, community planting days, our annual end of year BBQ and, importantly, our AGM last August. You will have received notification of our AGM which will be conducted by email in December. However much we try to spice up the AGM, its importance inevitably boils down to the election of the Committee and its office bearers. At the best of times it can be difficult to find volunteers to fill these positions. Without a face-to-face meeting, the election of office bearers will probably involve the recycling of the "old faithfuls". If you have read this far, please consider nominating for a position on the Committee. Without new blood the old processes will continue but I know we can do better. If you are hesitant to commit, remember that the "old faithfuls" are there to back you up. With new ideas from a younger Committee, the "Friends" will be assured

of another 50 years, and the amenity of the Reserve to the greater Monash community will be assured.

## **2020: A year of achievement**

In spite of the lockdown things have not ground to a standstill In Damper Creek. Approximately 4000 plants funded from the Melbourne Water grant have been planted in various locations around the Reserve. Unfortunately, the ban on gatherings prevented these from being planted as part of a Community Planting Day in winter. The Council Bushcrew planted these for us in addition to their normal maintenance duties. The usual duties of tree maintenance, spraying of weeds and clearing of paths have continued. Additional staff have been employed to hand weed selected areas of the Reserve. The Park Road nature strip plantings have also benefited from significant infill planting.

Some members of FoDCR have shared their love with certain sections of the Reserve and potential weed outbreaks have been prevented. This preventative weeding allowed Council staff to plant in a comparatively weed free area.

## **Bushcrew Compound**

The long-awaited replacement of temporary structures in the Bushcrew Compound has finally taken place. A handsome new garage and crew amenities building now graces the site. Casual observation will also note other changes. The two entrances on the east and west sides of the Compound have been closed off and a new entrance created at the north end. Landscaping at this entrance will include a wetland area. FoDCR will be consulted on landscape plans for the site with the opportunity for input and assistance with planting.

## **Monash City Council Elections**

We are pleased to announce that Rebecca Patterson and Brian Little have been returned as Mount Waverley Ward Councillors. We also have a new Councillor, Anjalee De Silva.

Congratulations to Brian Little on his appointment as Mayor.

We have had a long and productive relationship with Rebecca Patterson and Brian Little. Anjalee de Silva has a strong background in environmental advocacy and we look forward to working with her and our other Councillors in promoting the interests of the Reserve.

## **Environmental Justice Australia (EJA)**

FoDCR, as an environmental community group, subscribes to EJA. Their advocacy on environmental matters, including expert *pro bono* legal advice, has been important in helping us achieve our objectives in the past. If you wish to subscribe personally please follow this link

<https://www.envirojustice.org.au/donatenow/>

## **Foxes in Damper Creek**

Following reports of wildlife being killed by foxes in Damper Creek, the responsibilities of both the Council and the adjoining landowners, have now been clarified.

Control of foxes within the Reserve is the responsibility of the Council and to this end contractors are employed by them twice a year at denning time.

On private property, the landowner is responsible for the control of foxes. The following guidelines for reducing the hazard of foxes on private property have been provided:

- **Do not** leave pet food in outdoor areas;
- **Do not** leave objects for foxes to climb over onto neighbouring properties;
- **Do** clean up fallen fruit from trees;
- **Do** use a compost bin, or cover up your compost heap;
- **Do** keep chickens and guinea pigs in secure, roofed coops;
- **Do** restrict access to underneath the house and to outbuildings

## **Diary Notes:**

Please be assured that FoDCR continues to be active behind the scenes.

### **11 December 2020 - Friends of Damper Creek AGM (by email)**

You will have already been notified by a recent email that an AGM for FoDCR is planned for 11 December which will include the (1) Minutes of the AGM 2019, (2) the President's Report for 2020, and (3) the Treasurer's Annual Report, (4) Nominations for Committee positions: all to be "Moved", "Seconded" and "Confirmed".

Please respond if you wish to be noted as "in attendance".

Any enquires/comments can be sent to  
[secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)

**New Year 2021** - All activities and meetings will depend on COVID19 restrictions at that time. Meetings depend on the availability of Alvie Hall and this cannot be guaranteed at this stage.

**Sunday 28 February 2021:** It is planned to hold a *Clean Up Australia Day* - 10am to 12.30pm. Details to be confirmed early in February 2021,- this event also depends on current COVID19 restrictions at that time.

Details of this and other activities will be notified via this newsletter and on the noticeboards.

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).

***If you see something in Damper Creek that you think needs attention, please contact Monash Council on their website and leave a report:***  
[www.monash.vic.gov.au/contact/request-a-service](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/contact/request-a-service)

**Snap Send Solve? [Snap Send Solve](#) is a free App for your Iphone or Android device that lets you report issues and provide feedback to your local Council in under 30 Seconds Australia wide.**

Damper Creek is part of the Yarra catchment and is financially supported by Melbourne Water and Monash City Council