

A Walk Through Damper Creek

How long has it been since you walked through Damper Creek? As a member of the "Friends" it is fair to assume that your interest in the reserve has been formed through walks through Damper creek but life changes and sometimes simple pleasures can be set aside for more "important" things. If you walk through the reserve at the moment you will be rewarded by one of the best wildflower displays of the year.

First and foremost in displaying their glory are the wattles. The Silver Wattle is finishing its display at this time. It is spectacular in flower as well as being quite a large tree. Similar, but not as tall and without such an intense yellow to its flowers is the Black Wattle. You can expect to see its pale yellow flowers next month.

The remarkable thing about the Wattles is the incredible variability between species and this is amply demonstrated in Damper Creek. The Blackwood would easily pass for an exotic tree. With its dark green leaves and dense canopy it is one of a group of wattles that lose their feathery leaves soon after germination and develop flattened stalks which, in form and function are just like a regular leaf. In the denser forests of Victoria Blackwoods grow to a great size and are the source of that magnificent timber loved by furniture makers. The flowers are pale and may not be noticed, but they are on display right now. You will also see some of our Golden Wattles, with their bright yellow flowers, a smaller tree that also loses its feathery leaves shortly after germination.

Wattles range from tall forest trees to small shrubs and, even prostrate ground covers. In

Damper Creek we have the spiky Prickly Moses and the even spikier *Acacia pradoxa*, so spiky it has been used as a hedge to contain stock. Its flowers are a wonderfully intense yellow but if you want to use it in your home garden, take care! Finally, you may see a small shrub with pale yellow flowers and small, broad leaves. This would be *Acacia myrtifolia*, growing to no more than two metres, it is a most suitable garden specimen.

Wattles are not the only plants on display right now. Many of the pea-flowered plants are coming into their best. Two with purple flowers are looking fantastic. The Purple coral Pea (*Hardenbergia*) and *Indigofera australis*, very different plants with similar flowers, currently grace the reserve. We also have other pea flowered plants with flowers which are red and yellow, otherwise known as "Egg and Bacon" plants. You may have to look a bit harder for these, but *Davesia latifolia* and *Dillwynia cinerascens* are currently on show. There are many other plants currently in flower, perhaps you might like to talk about your own favourites and send a contribution to the editor for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Annual General Meeting and Your New Committee

Did you miss our AGM? Perhaps you needn't have worried as all positions have been filled by willing volunteers. Also you would have missed a fascinating talk by Don Bladier about his recent trip to Lightning ridge, including a lesson about the lack of reliability of camera memory cards.

The new committee is as follows:

President: Helen Clements

Vice President: Kevin Ryland

Secretary: John Clements

Treasurer: Ian Nicholls

General members of the Management Committee:

DCD Editor: Doug Scott

Water Watch: Frank Carder

Membership and Subscriptions: Joan Wolf

Noticeboards: John Wolf

Catering: Robert Yates

General Member: Romy Orfanelli

The minutes of the meeting are available on the website including the outcome of voting on the "Model Rules" and the "FODCR ByLaws"

Guest Speakers

24 September - Janet Hanet, Birdlife Australia. Topic "Birds of Mt Waverley and environs"

22 October - Campbell Miles "The Kimberley, the Spice Islands and Komodo Dragons"

26 November - Dr Caragh Threlfall, Melbourne University, Topic: "Biodiversity in Urban Areas"

We also expect Prof Tim Fletcher to return when the results of his funding application for the "Talking Tanks" programme are known.

Community Planting Day

(funded by Melbourne Water Project Grant)

The Community Planting Day on Sunday 31 August 2014 was a great success, with more than 40 adults and children volunteering to plant over 2,000 tube stock along the riparian strip from Park Road towards the Alice Street bridge. The day

was clear, warm and perfect for planting, followed up with steady rain for most of the following day which has given the new tube stock a much needed watering.

We have now completed this year's plantings and we extend sincere thanks to Melbourne Water for their support and the Bushcrew for planning, ordering, collecting and distributing the tube stock.

Community support for these events has been tremendous. We welcome new members who have joined FoDCR after attending these events.

Family Fun Day Friday October 3rd

As notified in the last two newsletters, the City of Monash is showcasing Damper Creek as part of its "Seniors Festival". The programme is detailed in the Monash Leader dated September 9th. Although we have not been formally asked for assistance, it would be great if members who are available on the day could be present to assist council workers with this event.

Plastic Perils seminar

A public seminar will be held on September 17th at the High Street Rd Uniting Church 482 High Street Road commencing at 7-30pm.

The guest speaker is marine biologist Dr Jennifer Lavers, a Canadian marine biologist who has raised public awareness of plastics pollution following research into seabirds in the Arctic Ocean.

Dr Lavers is an engaging speaker who has presented programmes on "Catalyst" and Radio National.

The topic is particularly relevant to FODCR due to the role of the creek in intercepting litter before it can be transported to the oceans.

Important dates to remember:

	September	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 24th - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun Sept 28th 9-00 am to 12-30pm	Alice Street bridge
	October	
Meeting:	Wed 22nd- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
W-Bee	Sun Oct 26th 9-00am to 12-30 pm	TBA

ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Responsibility for editorial content is solely that of the editor.

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc is supported by the City of Monash and Melbourne Water.

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.

Please address all mail to:

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The Newsletter of

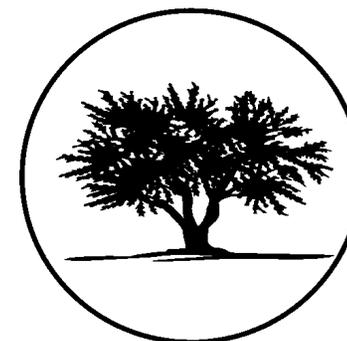
**FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

Reg No. A0029531G

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

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DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



September 2014