

# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

September 2018

The newsletter of  
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC  
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## Doug's Deliberations

This month we celebrate 50 years of achievement in Damper Creek. It's hard to realise what poor condition the creek was in back in 1968. I'm sure for many the only way forward back then was to barrel drain the area and subdivide the land. The early photos show a heavily eroded creek bed and weed infested surrounds. Some of the infrastructure was already in place to extend Alice Street to meet up with Swayfield Road so the sale of the land was nearly a done deal. How different things are now! Things are not perfect, there are weeds, there is erosion, not everyone is in tune with the wildness of the area but the reserve is a credit to those who, in 1968, saw that

the creek and its surrounds were an asset, too valuable to lose to housing.

Fast forward to the present day. Damper Creek is frequently visited by bushwalking groups, school groups, dog walkers, runners, walkers, Probus, etc etc. It is widely recognised as a peaceful haven and refuge for wildlife, not only by Monash residents but also by the wider community. You can even see reviews on Tripadvisor! So, let us give thanks to those who, fifty years ago, saw potential in a degraded creek gully. Also give thanks to those who supported them, especially within the City of Monash (and previously Mount Waverley), Melbourne Water and the genius of the Two Tonys whose engineering work created a naturalistic masterpiece.

## Your New Committee

At the AGM on August 22<sup>nd</sup> Romy Orfanelli (the Public Officer) conducted the election of office bearers and committee members. Your new committee is now:

President: John Clements

Vice President: Doug Scott

Secretary: Helen Clements

Treasurer: Jenny Scholes

**General Committee:** Isabella Blick

Campbell Miles

Kevin Ryland

## Tagged Roles

Joan Wolf: Subscriptions and membership database

John Wolf: Noticeboards

Paula Blick: Assistant to John Wolf

Mube Desem: Catering

Tahsin Desem: Catering

Philip Johnstone: Webmaster

Doug Scott: Newsletter Editor

Frank Carder: Waterwatch

John Clements welcomed the new committee and sincerely thanked the outgoing committee from 2017-2018.

He noted special thanks to Campbell Miles, the outgoing secretary and Doug Scott, the outgoing president for their exceptional work and achievements over their terms.

## **Monash Biodiversity Strategy:**

The reserves of Monash are not simply a collection of trees and plants. They are home to a vast range of wildlife, birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. This wildlife is vulnerable to a range of threats including habitat loss or fragmentation, pest plants and animals, population increase, climate change and impacts to water quality. The Monash Biodiversity Strategy (currently in draft form) identifies opportunities to enhance biodiversity and a range of initiatives to minimise these threats.

The Council's vision for biodiversity is to create:

- 1/ Thriving indigenous vegetation communities.
- 2/ Stable and sustainable refuges for native birds and other fauna
- 3/ Resilient ecosystems that can adapt to environmental changes
- 4/ An active and engaged community that participates in ongoing biodiversity protection.

Like the Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy and the Street Tree Strategy this is a well researched and voluminous document that deserves close scrutiny. It is simple to find on the Monash website, go to [www.monash.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-strategy](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-strategy).

As this is a draft document, it has to pass council to be adopted. It is important that you understand the content of this document and urge your councillors to vote for its adoption. This is merely the first stage prior to implementation. As a member of an environmentally aware organisation I urge you to contact your councillors and implore them to vote for the acceptance of this report. Feedback closes October 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **September meeting**

There are two important items to be attended to on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

- (a) To ensure we are prepared to make our Jubilee celebration a success and approve expenditure.
- (b) To prepare a response to the biodiversity strategy on behalf of FODCR

## **Our Jubilee Celebration**

There will be no working bee on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The committee has prepared a welcoming lunch to be held at Alvie Hall. This will be far in advance of our usual BBQ so don't eat before coming. The hall will be decorated with displays about the history of Damper Creek. You will be surprised at the furore in the local papers about Damper Creek back in 1968. The progress photos show what a massive transformation the creek has undergone in the last 50 years. You will have a chance to chat with characters who have played a key role in the preservation and development of the reserve.

Following lunch, we will go to the Jubilee rock to unveil the plaque commemorating the achievements of those who saved our reserve and made it into the precious place it is now. There will be speeches, but hopefully brief ones.

***If you know of anyone who has been involved with our group or its predecessor, please ask if they have received an invitation. We have tried to contact anyone who has been involved in the past, but we may have missed some.***

***All are welcome, especially past members who have moved away and lost contact.***

## August Working Bee

The planting area for the August working bee was a radical departure from the usual Damper Creek planting. With extensive preparation works by the City of Monash, removal of grass from nature strips, landscaping of the surrounds to the Jubilee rock and installation of the plaque on the Jubilee rock. With an extensive letter box drop in the area, many members of the wider community turned up to plant a massive 8000 plants. Most of the plants were low growing varieties which, with time, will create a native meadow effect along Park Road. Together with the ephemeral wetland, the playground, the extra trees adjacent to the playground and maintenance on the car park, the approach to Damper creek from High Street Road along Park Road will be really special.



Planting the Jubilee strip in Park Road

### For your Diary

Wednesday September 26<sup>th</sup>, 7-30pm General meeting (Final preparations for Jubilee Celebration)

Sunday September 30<sup>th</sup> 12-00 noon BBQ lunch at Alvie Hall

1-30pm unveiling of the plaque in Park Road

Wednesday October 24<sup>th</sup> 7-30pm Guest Speaker Ben Critchfield-Smith "Landscaping with Indigenous Plants"

Sunday October 28<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Working bee location TBA

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