

# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

September 2019

The newsletter of  
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## Editorial:

Spring is well and truly with us and Damper Creek is blooming. The birds are in good voice and are busily checking out nesting sites and the frogs are making their presence felt. The first flush of wattles is coming to an end and other wattles are following in quick succession. The cream flowers of the Blackwood wattle are now in evidence and the normally shy Hop wattle (*A. stricta*) is showing its true form. Prickly Moses is still flowering well and you can still see good flowering examples of Myrtle wattle and Hedge wattle. Many other plants are now flowering, there is a great example of the Showy Bush Pea just North of the noticeboard in Park Road. The spectacular flowers of Austral Indigo, Sarsparilla and Golden tip (*Goodia lotifolia*) showcase the diversity of the pea flowered plants. Two plants that have more subtle flowers are now showing: the Tree Violet (*Melichitus dentatus*) and Native Hemp (*Gynatrix pulchella*) both have very small flowers which are carried in profusion and are best appreciated on close inspection. The more shady areas of the reserve are now lit up by the Snowy Daisy Bush (*Olearia lirata*) and the Small Leaved Clematis is about to burst into flower.

The weather may be unsettled but a walk through the reserve at any time will be well rewarded. Many of the flowering plants only display for a short time so I urge you to walk frequently. There may not be roses to smell but there are many flowers to spot.

This winter has brought good rains which has resulted in good growth of vegetation in the reserve. Unfortunately the weeds also benefit from all that extra moisture and they can swamp the indigenous plants (more to be said later). It is gratifying to note that the council has contracted out weeding in some areas and this has been followed through by infill planting by the bushcrew. If you wish to help see the following item.

## **Volunteer weeding**

There has long been interest from several of our members in conducting weeding sessions outside the usual working bee schedule. This activity is supported by the council but members seldom record details of this work. We will discuss this at the next meeting and hopefully an arrangement can be made which will allow appropriate scheduling, recording and training. Michael Grant is keen to have these activities recorded for OH&S and as indication of community commitment.

## **Council Motion to Declare a “Climate Emergency”**

At the August council meeting a motion to declare a “Climate Emergency” was put by Cr Fergeus on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Committee. I would like to extend thanks to all members who attended as your attendance was an important indication of the level of community concern on this matter. Many other community members were also present and the visitor’s gallery was filled to overflowing. The motion was debated passionately by Crs Fergeus and Saloumi but the motion was ultimately defeated for a number of reasons. All councillors who spoke to the motion were careful to proclaim that they were not “climate change deniers” but the motion as it stood did not propose measurable outcomes for the city. Additionally several councillors expressed the opinion that the proclamation of a “climate emergency” was a distraction from the core business of the council which should be primarily concerned with local matters. In response Cr Fergeus proposed amendments to the motion which will be presented at the next meeting of the council on September 24th. You are urged to attend this meeting at 7-00pm at the council offices.

There can be no doubt that the City of Monash has a wide-ranging environmental programme. It is not surprising that several of the councillors feel that Monash is doing all that it could (or should) do within the economic restraints of the council’s budget. However, this narrow-minded view underestimates the power of the council to influence policy on a wider scale. As Cr Fergeus points out, there is an extensive movement within Melbourne’s municipalities to undertake actions which mitigate climate change. This movement represents a groundswell of community concern and frustration with lack of action by upper levels of government which, ultimately, has the capacity to influence state and federal policy on climate.

In addition to their personal motivations, councillors respond to the concerns expressed by their constituents. One councillor reported that he had only two items of correspondence related to concerns about climate change. From this, he concluded that climate change was not an item of concern to his constituents, hence he could not support the motion. As concerned citizens it is not sufficient to assume that the strength of the argument is so strong that it is not necessary to add our voice to the commentary. When items of such great concern come before the council we must tell the councillors how we feel, otherwise those with the loudest voices will prevail.

We will continue to report progress of council’s actions and urge members to express their feelings to the City of Monash councillors.

**Friends of Damper Creek on Facebook** A link to our Facebook page can be found on the Friends of Damper Creek website. Access is as simple as clicking on the link on our website. You will find a range of photographs and notifications which make interesting reading. In future we intend to make greater use of this page which has existed for a number of years.

Our secretary has requested that any queries be forwarded to the secretary’s email as the Facebook page is not continually monitored. More details will be added in the next newsletter.

## Gardens for Wildlife and Nature Strip Planting event

Sustainable Monash will be creating a Garden for Wildlife in the road reserve of Glen Tower Drive in Glen Waverley. There are 1000 seedlings to plant and you can also participate in a short workshop on how to plant out your nature strip with indigenous plants, followed by a free BBQ.

It's a great opportunity to have a chat to some of our Parks team, meet other residents who are supporting natural habitat in their own gardens, learn about indigenous plants and how to create a Garden for Wildlife, and how to extend your garden to the nature strip.

### When and where:

10.00am – 12.00pm Sunday 22 September

The circular road reserve at 2 Glen Tower Drive, Glen Waverley.

Bring a raincoat and sturdy shoes.

Please RSVP to [anna.mezzetti@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:anna.mezzetti@monash.vic.gov.au)

## Some Plants Currently in Flower in Damper Creek Reserve

Sarsparilla



Golden Tip



Snowy Daisy Bush



Showy Parrot Pea



Native Hemp



Austral Indigo



## Pollution in the creek

A white discharge was seen in the creek on September 13<sup>th</sup>. This seemed to dissipate by the following day or it may have settled out to pollute the sediment on the bottom of the pond. The EPA was notified. Contacting the EPA is as simple as ringing 1300372842.

### September Guest Speaker:

Guest Speaker: Lucas Skelton, Manager Horticulture Services, Monash City Council - *Green Shoots program* - Urban Diversity and Bushland Protection

#### For Your diary

**Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>** 10-00 to 12-00

#### **Gardens for wildlife workshop**

2 Glen Tower Drive Glen Waverley

**Tuesday September 24<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Monash Council meeting**

7-00 at the Council offices.

**Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup>** 7-30pm at Alvie hall

#### **Guest Speaker** Lucas Skelton

MGR Horticulture Services City of Monash

**Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Working bee** 10.00am to 12-30

location Alice Street bridge (Palma's Plummet)

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