



# Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

April 2021



## From the President's Desk

Whatever your particular interest in Damper Creek Conservation Reserve, the development of properties adjoining the reserve has been an issue which has united and galvanized our membership. Over the years there have been many occasions where we have had to concede that our power over developer and property owner rights have been limited. Throughout the history of the Friends, the support of the City of Monash has been critical but there have been many instances where the limitation of the Council's powers have been evident. The recent findings by VCAT in respect to 28B Park Road have been a confirmation of the importance of properties adjoining Damper Creek to the ecological value and public amenity of Damper Creek Reserve. (More on this later). The power of the City of Monash to act on the nature of property developments adjacent to the reserve has been boosted by the recognition of Monash's planning scheme by the State Planning Authority. In Particular, properties adjoining Monash's creekland reserves are now covered by a "Creek Abuttal" zone which dictates a minimum setback from the reserve boundary of 7 meters. This setback is important in allowing property owners to develop vegetation which compliments the reserve and allows a visual separation of buildings from the users of the reserve.

(ctd)



### **From the President's Desk (ctd.)**

Vigilance over new builds adjoining the reserve is still needed and I draw your attention to 5 Warren Court which will be auctioned this coming Saturday. There is a loophole in Council's zoning which allows for special consideration for irregular blocks and this property is quite irregular.

It will be interesting to see how architects and planners manage this property as it has a long boundary to the reserve. It is vital to ensure this loophole is not exploited to the detriment of the reserve.

### **Jubilee book**

Those who attended the March monthly meeting of our group saw the excellent production which documents the Jubilee celebration and the history of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve and its "friends".

A number of extra copies of this important record of our work has been ordered. The number of copies is strictly limited so please come to the next FODCCR meeting at Alvie Hall to reserve your copy.

### **March Working Bees**

The March working bee was well attended and was centered around the ponds adjacent to the Bushcrew compound. Many cubic metres of mulch were spread and the whole area is now looking more settled. If you have the opportunity, please complement Danny on the results.

### **Midweek Weeders:**

The Midweek Weeders met on April 1<sup>st</sup> to continue weeding behind the Park Road houses and the Western side of the path. This detail work was vital in tackling the re-emergence of weeds which threaten the plantings from 2020.

The next midweek weeding session is proposed for the Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup>. 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).



## VCAT update - 28b Park Road

Following on from the 3rd VCAT hearing a ZOOM meeting was held on 1st March and a site visit by Member Jane Tait on 18 March 2021, a final decision dated 23 March 2021 has been received.

*Point 69 within the report by Member Tait quotes: I therefore agree with the findings of the previous Tribunal member that removal of the deck will reduce the visual impact on the adjoining rear yards and views from the adjoining creek reserve. I will delete the ground floor deck as a condition on the permit and require reinstatement of the stair access as shown on the previously endorsed plans.*

Therefore the outcome is very pleasing for the Friends as the decision continues to protect the interface with the Reserve and the abutment of properties within Creek Abuttal NRZ2 zoning. The "*findings of the previous Tribunal member*" referred to above is in regard to the outcome of the original VCAT hearings in 2007.

## Farewell to "Lady"

We are sad to announce that Lady, Kevin and Jeannette's beautiful doggie had to be put down on Monday after quite a few months of declining health. Lady was a constant companion on our working bees and enjoyed many pats from our members and passers-by. It is so very sad and quite heartbreaking to lose a beloved furry friend.

Lady was at our last working bee where she went for a short walk in DCR with Kevin and Jeannette before going home

## Nest Box Project for City of Monash Bushland Reserves

Would you like to help us to build parrot and micro bat nest boxes for our bushland areas?

We have 60 nest boxes kits that need to be put together by residents, which we will then install in our bushland areas in Mt Waverley. The Monash Men's Shed have kindly cut out all the pieces and we need your help to put them together. Instructions and all the parts you need will be included in the kit. All you need is a screwdriver and/or hammer and drill.

If you would like to have a nest box kit delivered to you please fill out this [form](#). Once the kit is constructed we will pick it up and install it in the bushland area.



## Dates to remember:

Wed 21 April Committee meeting via ZOOM from 7.30pm

Wed 28 April Alvie Hall from 7.30 - 9pm

Sunday 2 May Working Bee - meet at the Main pond

Thursday 6 May Mid Week weeders - 10.30 - approx 12 noon  
at Main Pond

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June Community planting day and sausage sizzle

*Special notes regarding working bees:*

*Until further notice, byo water, snacks - there will be no morning  
tea/supper provided*

## 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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