

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

August 2020

The newsletter of
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC
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Signs of Spring

One of the delights of the Australian bush is the early arrival of Spring. Even though we are officially in the depths of winter nature is re-awakening and there is plenty to see and hear which can lift the spirits. In addition to the botanical delights it is possible to observe the activity of the birds such as the night-time calling of magpies and the mating displays of the pigeons that like to parade on our rear deck. Also the frogs are starting to call and no doubt the astute observer is aware of much more to celebrate the early arrival of Spring.

Here are some of the plants in flower at the moment.

Pterostylus nutans



Nodding Greenhood A delicate terrestrial orchid. Dies back to an underground tuber in summer to re-emerge as inconspicuous flat leaves in winter. Flower spikes emerge in August. Be careful where you walk, these are easily damaged.

Melicytus dentatus



Tree violet

A spiny shrub that inhabits the shadier and moister areas of Damper Creek. Forms thickets that are excellent habitat for small birds. Flowers are tiny, see if you can spot them.

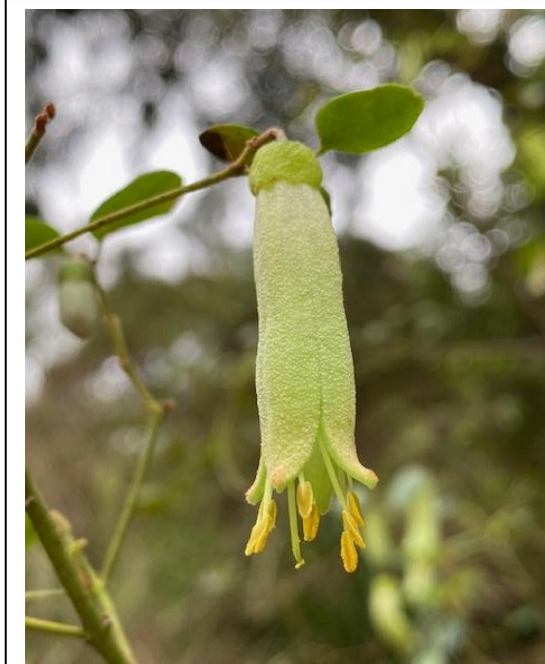
Hakea decurrens



Bushy Needlewood

A prickly customer with beautiful pink or white flowers. Great habitat for small birds.

Correa reflexa



Native Fuchsia

A favourite of honeyeaters. Many forms exist with colors from pink to red. Hybrid forms available from nurseries

Hardenbergia violacea



Purple Coral Pea

The nursery form known as “Happy Wanderer” is also known as “Sarsparilla”.

Acacia paradoxa



Hedge Wattle. Another prickly plant for good small bird habitat. Early settlers used it as a hedge to stop stock from wandering.

Upgrading the Bushcrew Compound

Work is nearly complete with a new garage / storage shed and amenities building for the bushcrew. The new buildings are much neater and look more professional and are finished in dark green which makes them far less obtrusive. We look forward to seeing the finished product when the site has been cleaned up and landscaping has been completed.

Planting of Melbourne Water Grant

The bushcrew has commenced planting out the plants propagated as part of the Melbourne Water grant. Areas cleared by FODCR members prior to the Covid-19 lockdown have been planted out and we look forward to a revegetation that required minimal maintenance.

Cyclists on Damper Creek Trails

It must be noted that the trails within Damper Creek Reserve are not cycle trails. Reasonable use consistent with the enjoyment of others is permitted, however, the use of mountain bikes in revegetated areas is not allowed. If you observe any "off road" cycling please point out that this activity destroys the hard work of decades.

VCAT hearing for - 28B Park Road, Mt Waverley - update

VCAT advises that due to COVID-19 restrictions, the hearing for the above will now be conducted via ZOOM from 2.15pm - to approx 5pm on Thursday 18 February 2021 and we encourage as many Friends to participate online to demonstrate community support for the protection of the Damper Creek environment.

Closer to the time we will advise on the procedure to be taken on the day.

Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Activities during CoVid-19

Members have been notified that all meetings, guest speakers, working bees and community events have been cancelled until restrictions have been lifted. For non-members, please be aware that we often communicate by email. By becoming a member you will be automatically added to our email list. Please direct membership enquiries to the secretary c/o P.O.Box 2063 Mount Waverley 3149 or via email: secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com General information including past newsletters is available on our website www.friendsofdampercreek.org.

Damper Creek Reserve remains a popular walking destination and this use is permitted for exercise purposes provided users observe appropriate "physical distancing".

Diary Notes

Unfortunately, we cannot predict when our normal programmes will resume. The FODCR committee will continue to liaise with the City of Monash regarding all issues that affect the reserve. We will also continue to seek out guest speakers for future meetings and would appreciate any suggestions from members for future guest speakers. Please be assured that FODCR continues to be active behind the scenes.

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 dougscott@bigpond.com or to the secretary at 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

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