



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

August 2022



From the President's Desk

AGM Time Again!!

This is where I trot out the time-honored requests for office-bearer nominations!! This is not a pleasant subject but it must be raised as the composition of an effective committee is vital to our future. Any organization requires re-vitalization and this cannot be achieved by recycling the same old committee members. If you have ideas for improving the way the Friends group runs, please put yourself forward either as an office-bearer or as a general committee member. Nomination forms are available on the website. The secretary would be happy to mail a copy if you don't have a printer.



A welcome visitor



Everyone enjoys a visit from Kookaburras. Their infectious laughter brings a smile to our faces, especially when the early morning chorus strikes up and a number of birds seemingly compete for the volume and variety of their calls. Do not be deceived; these birds are predators and they will devour small lizards, worms and insects. Do you want Kookas to visit your garden? If so, you will need to provide a food source. Dense vegetation including ground cover, rocks for basking lizards, fallen timber for insect habitat and permanent water will help.

Kookas are also very compliant photographic subjects, they don't seem to be bothered by people and Noisy Miners can't drive them off.

Fences and the reserve:

You will notice the mesh fence behind the Kookburra. If you are lucky enough to look out on the reserve, any type of open fence (or no fence at all) is a logical choice. Mesh fences may cost more than a traditional paling fence but they last longer and allow you to share your garden with the reserve.

Conversely a view into the reserve is priceless. Any garden can contribute to the environment but those adjoining the reserve have the potential to either enhance or detract from the reserve.

To avoid causing problems to the reserve, avoid any weedy species along the property boundary. Native grasses are ideal and a wide variety are available from indigenous nurseries such as Bungalook and Greenlink. You can find additional advice by contacting Monash's Gardens for Wildlife programme.



Pretty flowers but a prickly customer!

These blooms belong to *Acacia paradoxa*, otherwise known as the Hedge Wattle. This is a great habitat plant but not something to plant along a pathway. Instead, find a corner dedicated to habitat and plant this beauty. Give it a prune after flowering and it will reward you with a dense show of flowers the following year. The tiny scrub wrens will love you for planting this iconic species.

New Ritchies app.

Further to last month's notice, if you have an existing Ritchie's card, this will still work and will direct the benefit towards the Friends of Damper Creek.





Habitat Gardening. 6.30pm to 8.00pm Thursday September 1

You might be interested in this upcoming workshop on creating a habitat gardens by well-known gardening expert, author and journalist AB Bishop.

You can attend the workshop at the Monash Civic Centre Glen Waverley or participate in a live stream of the event.

AB has written a couple of fantastic books on Habitat Gardening and also writes for The Age on indigenous gardening. She will be giving lots of tips on how to design a garden that wildlife will enjoy and showcase native plants that would be suitable for your garden.

For those of you who are interested in Nature Strip Planting there is an opportunity to ask questions about plants suitable for nature strips.

Please register for this free event: [In person](#)
or [Live streamed](#)

Alternatively, If you can't make the date please register for streaming and we will email you the recording after the event.

New Website

Our new look website is now available. You will be able to use the existing link to access the new site. Congratulations to C.C. Hua for the excellent work.

You can see the new website on: <https://www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au/>

I am sure you will agree that the new website presents our organization in a modern light. Be sure to tell your friends to take a look. No information has been lost from the old website. Philip Johnstone has kindly offered to continue as webmaster.

Suburban Rail Loop

The overview of the Planning Panels for the SRLA can be seen by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/environment-assessment/browse-projects/projects/suburban-rail-loop-east#overview>



AGM to Zoom or not to Zoom?

Feelings are mixed around the issue of Zoom meetings. During Covid lockdowns there was little alternative, Zoom allowed us to continue our normal meetings. Lots of us liked to meet on Zoom. You didn't have to dress up, there was no travel involved, you could leave and rejoin the meeting, there was no setup required for the hall, there was no need to organize catering, you didn't even need to be in town.

BUT, there was no opportunity for person to person communication. You know, those odd off-the-record chats, usually one on one, involving topics that were not necessarily related to the agenda. Our meetings are pretty informal but this sort of interaction doesn't really happen on Zoom.

This month's meeting and AGM will be on Zoom. This doesn't suit everyone but it was voted on at the July meeting. There is an alternative if you have a problem with Zoom. That is to join another member in their home for the meeting.

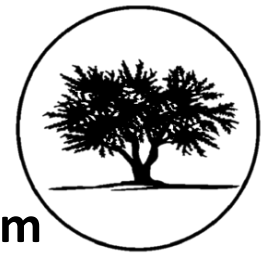
Social interaction is an important part of the way we operate. We see this happening during working bees. Please come along to the working bees, if only for the social interaction. If you can't work, because of time or physical limitations, you are always welcome to come and join us for a cuppa.

Midweek weeders:

The weeds are taking off with the good rains we have been having and they will explode once the weather warms up. If you are available during the week, please indicate when and we will organize extra working bees to keep weeds in check in the recently planted areas. Send an email to me on dougscott3@bigpond.com and I will coordinate a midweek weeders group.



Dates to remember:



Wednesday August 24th at 7:30 pm

AGM on Zoom (Link below)

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84382754478?pwd=QjNPOTBZUE1XeTA4SXRHWDIlnTmM3UT09>

August Working Bee

When: August 28th 10-00 am to 12-30pm Morning tea at 11-00am

Where: Duck pond (along the path from Park Road entrance,
Park in Park Road car park)

What: Maintenance of recently planted areas

Bring: gloves, mug for morning tea, weeder, warm clothing,
wet weather gear may be needed.

Alvie Hall meetings:

The resumption of meetings in Alvie Hall is under constant review.

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

Phone(03) 9518 3555 or download the App – Snap, Send, Solve

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Damper-Creek-133557736847306/>

The content of this newsletter reflects the opinions of the editor and the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve. Content is welcome and should be emailed to dougscott3@bigpond.com or to the secretary at secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

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