



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

August 2023



From the President's Desk

In 2021 the City of Monash made a "Community Development Grant" available to the Friends of Damper Creek. We responded to this opportunity with a range of projects which, we expect, will ultimately benefit the reserve, the friends group and the community. The grant has been used to provide extra plants, weeding equipment, rewards for community participation, a revised and higher quality brochure to publicise the reserve and the friends group and a video which will introduce visitors to the reserve and its history.

Damper Creek Video

Activate your phone camera and frame the QR code below. Touch "You Tube" to view an introductory video about the reserve.



. Dogs on Lead

Please be aware that the "on lead" restrictions applied from July 1st and Council officers are patrolling at random to ensure compliance.



Damper Creek Vegetation: Precious or pernicious?

Questions have often been asked about the plants chosen to revegetate Damper Creek Reserve. Sometimes well meaning (or aggrieved) visitors may even remove plants they see as undesirable.

Certainly, some plants have undesirable characteristics but everything planted in Damper Creek Reserve was part of the original flora of the area and has benefits even though some characteristics may be annoying. Here are some examples:

Acaena novae zelandae (Bidgee-Widgee): This plant has the great benefit of establishing itself very quickly and can out-compete many weeds. It forms a dense matt and does a great job of erosion control. It has very annoying seeds which easily detach from the seed ball to lodge in socks, shoelaces and pet fur.

Microlaena stipoides: (Weeping grass): A beautiful grass, not too tall and stands up well to weed incursion. It stays green all year round and has even been used as a lawn. Many of the grasses that grow between the tussocks are *Microlaena* and there are some fantastic patches within the reserve. The seeds can be a problem, they are barbed and stick in clothing. You can't pull them out, better to pull them through. They can work their way into dog paws and a trip to the vet may be necessary. A good reason to keep your dog out of the bush!

Clematis microphylla: (Small leaved Clematis) This is a dense climber which loves to ramble over shrubs and fences. In Spring it displays a dense covering of white starry flowers followed by fluffy white seeds. It can swamp small shrubs and some seem to see it as a weed, possibly confusing it with the dreaded annual weed, fumitory, which has a similar growth habit.

Acacia verticillata: (Prickly Moses): A fast growing wattle with tiny spines which even survive when the plant is passed through the mulcher. Like most wattles it gives a great display in spring and like all prickly plants it provides a protected habitat for small birds.

Rubus parvifolius: (Native Raspberry): Disturbingly similar to the blackberry but with a much finer leaf, this can develop into a dense thicket which is prime habitat for small birds. This has been deliberately planted and is often mistakenly removed.



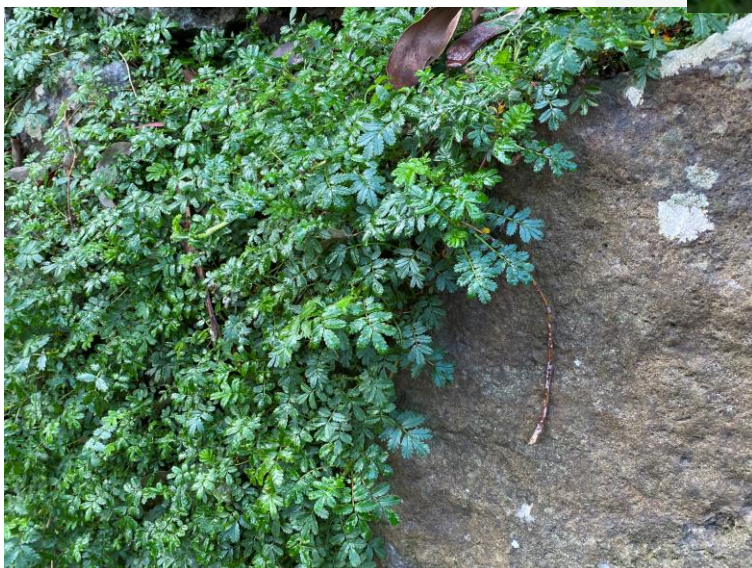
Precious or Pernicious?



Above: Small leaved Clematis



Above: Prickly Moses



Above: Bidgee Widgee
Right: Native Raspberry





Extra working bees

Many thanks to those who helped plant 600 plants on July 10th and 20th. This was a fantastic help to the Bush-crew who are struggling to cope with the number of plants supplied.

There will be one more extra working bee on August 17th, This will take place in the same area as the July 20th working bee and will involve clearing weeds in preparation for future planting.

If you have time available for an hour or two during the week and are keen to make an extra contribution to the reserve contact the secretary and you can be added to the email list.

August meeting.....our AGM August 23rd

It's not too early to consider offering to help run the "Friends" group. We love having you on our membership list but a lot happens behind the scenes and, you know, many hands make light work. Many of our stalwarts have been plugging away for decades and sometimes a new face can bring ideas that help to give our group a new focus.

The standard positions of president, secretary, treasurer are up for grabs as well as membership secretary, newsletter editor, webmaster and waterwatch coordinator and notice board supervisor . We also have unspecified positions for anyone who has a special contribution they are passionate about. You will need to contact the secretary for a nomination form and have it seconded prior to the meeting.





Water Watch

Citizen science is a valuable form of data gathering that boosts information available to fund starved researchers and authorities. Water watch is such a program which provides data on water quality to identify sources of pollution and threats to environmental values of watercourses. The Friends of Damper Creek have been contributing to Water Watch for many years, Frank and Campbell have been conscientiously measuring the characteristics of Damper creek, assisted by others who show an interest in basic scientific measurements.

Recent results for July are as follows:

	North branch	East branch
Dissolved Oxygen	7ppm	9ppm
Conductivity	380uS/Cm	1220uS/Cm
Turbidity	<10	14
Nitrate N	.45	.45
Nitrate NO3	1.994	1.994

The results show the water quality is good to excellent due to reasonable rainfall. They confirm previous observations that the East branch(which flows behind the bowling club) is poorer quality than the North branch,(the main creek). We will have to monitor the changes in the next few months to get an idea of how much drying we're likely to get with the onset of the promised el-nino event expected this summer.

Note that some results were not available due to lack of, and outdated, reagents.

Illegal Tree Removals

The City of Monash has successfully prosecuted landowners for the illegal removal of trees. Some as high as \$40,000 fine.

The link below will give more information on this topic.

[Illegal tree removals in Monash a focus for enforcement | City of Monash](#)



Upcoming Events

Special working bee: Thursday August 17th **10-30 to 12-00am**

Same location as previous special working bees

Bring Mug, snacks, water bottle, gloves, aerogard, sunscreen, all weather gear,
solid shoes

Working bees

(Working bees are held on the fourth Sunday of each month unless
otherwise notified)

August 27th Damper Creek Planting

Meet at the track junction near the duck pond 10-00am till 12-30 pm.
Morning tea at 11-00am

Bring Mug, snacks, water bottle, gloves, aerogard, sunscreen, all
weather gear, solid shoes

August meeting August 23rd (AGM) **Alvie Hall** **commences 7-30 pm**

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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