



# Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

August 2025



## Wattle season

Damper Creek is glowing with the onset of glorious wattle blossom. There are many different species of wattle varying from forest giants to prostrate shrubs. You will find many different species in Damper Creek Reserve, each with its own characteristics and flowering time. There is so much diversity that it is hard to believe that they are related.



The first to flower is the Silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*). When not in flower this tree is distinguished by its feathery foliage but in late winter it bursts forth with clouds of yellow flowers.

You might view this sight with dread if you suffer from hay fever as this heralds the sneezing season. But don't blame the wattle! Allergy tests rarely show Wattle pollen is the cause. This is because Wattle pollen is heavy and tends to fall straight to the ground. Have you ever noticed the yellow stain on the ground underneath a Wattle? Plants that are wind pollinated are the most likely cause of hay fever. The primary culprit is Ryegrass but many other grasses have been implicated as well.





One of the smaller wattles, the Myrtle wattle may struggle to grow to 2m while others are bushy or prostrate. One prickly character is *Acacia paradoxa*, also known as the hedge wattle as early settlers planted it to contain stock. It flowers beautifully and, though it is not particularly attractive when not in flower, it makes excellent habitat for small birds.

The variety displayed by Wattles is astonishing. In the right location Blackwood is a forest giant which was much sought after for its fine timber. It grows in Damper creek but as a much smaller tree with pale cream flowers. The larger Wattles you will find in Damper creek are either silver Wattles or black Wattles. Both species grow rapidly to a considerable size but are prone to attack by grubs. Black cockatoos rip branches to shreds to get to these grubs. The tree grows quickly but is short lived and many of the logs in Damper Creek are from fallen Silver or Black Wattles. Wattles are an important part of the Australian ecosystem as they have the ability to fix nitrogen which contributes to soil fertility..



## Here's to the team maintaining Damper Creek Reserve



The maintenance of Damper Creek Reserve is the work of many hands. Left to right we have Di (our president), Patrick, (Bushcrew). Andrew, (Coordinator,), conservation and landscapes, Horticultural services Adam, (Bushcrew). Sam (Team leader, natural assets) and in front, Bill (Bushcrew). On August 7<sup>th</sup> we conducted a walk-through to review upcoming programs and maintenance needs. These sessions help to align the requirements of the Friends group and the council staff. On this occasion we were also introduced to Sam, the new team leader Monash Natural Assets.

### Midweek Weeding

The midweek group, supported by the bush-crew extended its operations and conducted a planting session in the area previously weeded. The aim of this session was to provide a dense cover of native grasses to exclude weeds and reduce maintenance.

To join this dedicated group and to receive notification of planned midweek weeding days please contact:  
[secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)







## **Contractors working in Monash reserves**

As part of the City of Monash's commitment to maintaining its reserves, often the Council employs contractors to help keep the Bushcrew on top of (sometimes) overwhelming tasks. In this case Eco-Repair have a team working on rotation through Monash's reserves.



**Thursday September 11th**

## **Monash staff walk and talk at Damper Creek**

As part of Biodiversity Month the City of Monash Sustainability Team will be holding a walk through Damper Creek for Monash staff. Members of the Friends group are welcome to attend to assist the Sustainability Team. If you wish to be involved please notify the secretary([secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)) for catering purposes. Meet at Alvie hall at 11am for the walk followed by a light lunch.





### **Jubilee plaque landscaping**

Installed in 2018, this plaque celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of the reserve and 50 years of work from the Council, the Friends group and Melbourne Water. At the time of installation, this area was planted out with a wide variety of indigenous vegetation.

Unfortunately, infiltration of weeds has swamped the indigenous vegetation. The time has arrived to restore the surrounds and readers are invited to present proposals for landscaping the surrounds of the plaque. Ideas and proposals should be submitted to:

[secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)







## **AGM**

We will hold our AGM on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Most positions already have nominations but we encourage further nominations for all formal positions plus we have positions for general committee members. General committee members can contribute special areas of interest or simply observe the operation of the committee to consider how they can best serve.

Nomination forms are available on the website or by contacting the secretary.

Our guest speaker at the AGM will be Chris Carra who will tell us about off-shore wind farms. We also will have Anjalee de Silva, our local councillor, who will give us an update on the new state-wide planning rules.

## **Mount Waverley Secondary College**

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

Students from MWSC participating in the Award will be conducting weeding, planting and Waterwatch in the reserve as part of the community service section of the Award.





## Visit by U3A group

Last Thursday the Monash Sustainability group accompanied by our president hosted a walk through Damper Creek. The group got to see the Waterwatch team in operation and also the midweek weeders were out planting and weeding. The group appreciated the visit and their letter of thanks is reproduced in part below:

*“Thank you for yesterday! Even the weather was magical. I truly appreciate your time and effort, from setting up and sharing your knowledge to taking us around and cleaning up afterward. As you would have heard from all the thanks, it was genuinely appreciated. The walk really highlighted the incredible work done in rehabilitating the area into such a wonderful reserve—it reminded me of something out of The Lord of the Rings.*

*It also introduced some members to Australian habitats and sparked an interest in growing indigenous and native plants. For others, it revealed a secret path they never knew existed!*

*This was a one-off walk, but with the possibility of future ones if successful. As you heard, there was a unanimous decision to continue these walks. So, thank you again. I look forward to the opportunity to visit again, as well as discovering other similar walks in the future.”*





## Upcoming Events

### **August 31st Working Bee**

Meet at the off-leash area 10-00 to 12-30  
(past the duck pond take the upper path)

#### **Our next guest speaker**

**Chris Carra**

#### **Topic: Offshore Wind Farms**

Wednesday August 27th

Alvie Hall from 7-30

Anjalee de Silva, will give us an update on the new state-wide planning rules.

Followed by **Our AGM**

#### **Wednesday August 27th**

- Alvie Hall from 7-30

- **Thursday September 11th**

*Monash staff walk and talk at Damper Creek  
Further details see page 4*

#### **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)

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 for the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve. Content is welcome and should be emailed to [dougscott3149@hotmail.com](mailto:dougscott3149@hotmail.com) or to the secretary at [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)

PO Box Mount Waverley No longer available