



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

August 2026



Unusual sighting in the Damper Creek corridor.

An Australian Owlet Nightjar has been heard calling regularly at night in the Alice St / Richard Rd area. After several nights of searching, Julia Carra managed to sight and photograph this elusive small bird.

More details about Owlet Nightjars and other sightings are on the next page.





Owlet Nightjars are the smallest Australian nocturnal bird, primarily grey-brown with large eyes, relatively long tail, and "whiskers" on the face. During the day, usually seen only if one is peering out of a roosting hollow (often mistaken for a possum). Small size and near lack of eyeshine make this species also difficult to locate at night; the call, a loud, brief "chew," is the best way to locate one. (Source: Ebird)



Other sightings this Month

Above: Tawny Frogmouth – which is a larger relative of the Owlet Nightjar (J.Carra)

Upper right: Little Pied Cormorant (C.Carra)

Lower Right: Krefft's Gliders (J. Carra)





Committee News

Annual General Meeting – NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

The AGM will be held at the end of August. Please consider joining our committee to help plan our working bees, apply for grants, support community environment education, work with other Friends Groups, and meet with the Monash and Sustainability teams to advocate for the Reserve. Contact our secretary if you would like more information on nominating for the committee or on other ways to contribute.

secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

July Working Bee

Thanks to all the volunteers who attended the last working bee near the main pond. A truck load of weeds was removed.

Mid Year Meeting with Monash Bushcrew

- Next years planting focus for Friends will be at the Middle Bridge (near the stairs to Bengal Court entrance). This will be stage 1 of work over several years to work back towards the pond area. Next year the plants will be purchased with the Yarra Valley Water Grant and the Community Planting Day site will be at the Bengal Cres entrance.
- The Bushcrew focus will continue to be on targeted species and canopy tree plantings, especially along the ridgelines and difficult locations.
- The Bushcrew have cleaned up the rubbish at Stephensons Rd Car park. This was a huge task taking a whole day and several truck loads of contaminated garden waste. (See images on the next page).
- The Bushcrew are developing designs for fencing that will prevent or limit dumping at the car park.
- Desilting of the main pond and creek channel are in the works schedule for early next year.
- Early discussions have occurred with the Sustainability Team and Bushcrew about possible new environmental information and signage.
- Friends will continue to report issues in the reserve such as rubbish dumping, water pollution, vandalism, fallen trees, track wash-outs etc.





Stephensons Road Car Park Dumped Rubbish Clean Up Operation



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



**Recent paint / clay pollution event from
Swayfield drainage discharge point.**



Mount Waverley Secondary College Volunteers

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Program, four students and their teacher spent 2 hours weeding the Alice Street Embankment last week. This was a great effort with a trailer load of weeds removed. They will continue working in this area at the August session.



Sinkhole after Rain Event

The Bushcrew detected this sink hole after the heavy rain on 10th August. This subsidence was caused by an issue with the drainage pipe. Urgent civil works required temporary closure of the path at the Stephensons Road end.





Connection to Country Events in Monash



Connecting to Country Walk with Uncle Ian Hunter @ Valley Reserve, Mount Waverley



Sat, 5 Sep, 10:30am - 12pm AEST
[Add to calendar](#)



80 Waimarie Dr
Mount Waverley VIC, Australia



City of Monash
534 followers · [Contact host](#)

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Register

Register at:
<https://events.humanitix.com/connecting-to-country-walk-with-uncle-ian-hunter-valley-reserve>

Description

Join us for a special Connecting to Country evening event with Wurundjeri Elder, Uncle Ian Hunter. Come along for a cultural bushwalk and talk. We will be exploring the diverse local plants and wildlife within Valley Reserve.

Monash Council Library Event (book via their website)

Indigenous Food Fibre and Medicine

Developed with assistance from Wurundjeri Elder Uncle Ian Hunter, this workshop will introduce the gardener to some of the plants used by First Nations Australians and inspire gardeners to grow them in their gardens. Presented by Sustainable Gardening Australia, the workshop will focus on plants indigenous to your local area and also include some popular bush foods from other regions.

When: Wednesday 9 September, 2026 6pm-7:30pm
Where: Wheelers Hill Library, 860 Ferntree Gully Rd, Wheelers Hill
Book: **FREE** ticketed event

Book tickets

www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au

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Upcoming Events



Working Bees are held on the last Sunday each month unless otherwise notified

Next Working Bee – Sunday 30th August

Weeding

10am to 12.30pm

Meeting point – Swayfield Road entrance

Billy morning tea at 11am

BYO mugs

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 26th August

And Guestspeaker:

Monash Council Climate Resilience Strategy

Clare Brace (Manager Sustainable Monash)

Meet at Alvie Hall at 7.30pm

(supper to follow)

(AGM agenda has been emailed to members at end of July)

Save the Dates

Monthly Mid-Week Nature Walk & Water Watch Testing

Thursday 10th September

Meet at Alvie Hall at 10am (until 12noon)

September Working Bee – Sunday 20th September

Weeding

10am to 12.30pm

Meeting point – TBD

(Note: Change of date due to the long weekend)

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