



# Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation  
Reserve inc.

December 2022



From the President's Desk

*Happy New Year  
to  
the Friends of Damper Creek*



[www.friends of dampercreek.org.au](http://www.friends of dampercreek.org.au)



## From the President's Desk

As 2022 morphs into 2023 it is a good time to reflect on what has passed and what the future holds for next year.

In spite of difficulties caused by Covid restrictions much was achieved in 2022, the most visible projects being the upgrade to the website and Facebook, thanks to the generosity of CC Hua, and the planting of the wildflower meadow, thanks to Danny and the Bush Crew. The "Tall Trees" project has also seen a number of advanced trees planted in the reserve to replace the ongoing losses due to wind and ageing. In particular, the high rainfall has resulted in the loss of many mature trees and dead trees which contribute valuable nesting sites.

We have taken a good look at how we run the organization and decided that quarterly meetings are adequate.

We returned to Alvie Hall for our November meeting and Rebecca Carra presented her work on "Urban Forests and Tree Canopy".

The Deakin University study "Motivation for Membership with Friends Groups" conducted by Aiden Henderson has been completed and it has revealed that the Friends of Damper Creek have a strong sense of custodianship for the reserve.

Surveys of the reserve have been conducted by Practical Ecology and we await the results.

Sadly, 2022 saw the passing of one of our stalwarts, Romy Orfanelli.

The year concluded with our traditional BBQ, which has been cancelled for the previous two years due to Covid. The BBQ was provided by the Lions Club of Ashwood- Mount Waverley. Thanks to Keith Irwin for making this happen. Thanks also to Maria and Helen for the two pages of photos which follow.

2023 will see our usual program of working bees, community planting and Clean Up Australia Day. Most exciting will be the implementation of the Monash Council grant "Conserving our Urban Environment". The \$5000 grant will fund equipment for Waterwatch and working bees as well as additional plants and production of promotional material and community education and engagement.

# Our end of year BBQ

Photos courtesy of  
Maria Irving





Some call it the “Silly Season” but I prefer to call it the “Active Season”. The flowers are active, the weeds are active, the birds and animals are active and there’s lots of activity the Friends of Damper Creek need to be aware of.

### 1/Dogs “off lead in Damper Creek”

Following extensive community consultation the proposal to revoke Damper Creek’s leash-free status was passed by council. This issue generated high emotions as the existence of Damper Creek as an “off leash” area is highly prized by dog walkers. However, the declaration of Damper Creek as a “Conservation Reserve” effectively excludes free ranging dogs due to effects on the environment through weed dispersal, stream bed disturbance and faecal contamination.

Although Damper Creek will no longer be leash-free there is a proposal to create fenced leash-free fenced areas within the reserve. The issues associated with this proposal are controversial and the committee will keep in touch with the council. Members of the “Friends” will meet with our council representative on Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have thoughts on the proposal please contact the secretary for further information. We expect that further community consultation will take place in 2023.

### 2/ ***Conserving our Urban Environment*** grant.

Our group has been successful in securing a \$5000 grant from the City of Monash to promote the environment within the Damper Creek Reserve. Your Committee was forced to put their heads together with a challenging timeframe to come up with a series of ideas for using this money effectively. We will launch this program in the new year and you can be assured that it will drive a number of interesting activities in 2023.



### 3/ Deakin Survey.

Many of you participated in the survey conducted by Aiden Henderson titled: *“Motivations of membership in Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve”*

The executive summary has been emailed to all members and it makes for very interesting reading. Briefly, the relationship of members to the reserve is one of a commitment to active stewardship. This differs somewhat from other friends groups whose motivation is a little more passive. The full survey is yet to be published and, when available, a link will be provided.

### 4/ Bush Crew member moves on.

The Friends of Damper Creek wish Danny Raditis all the best with his new position at DEWLP.

The reserves of Monash are privileged to have a dedicated bush crew to maintain our reserves. The individual members of the bush crew bring their own expertise and enthusiasm to their task and Danny has been part of the Park Road nature strip project and Jubilee garden, the reconstruction of the Bush Crew compound and the construction of the chain of ponds to manage water runoff from the compound. All these projects bear evidence to Danny’s commitment to the reserve.





Photos by Helen  
Clements





# Upcoming Events

## Clean Up Australia Day

When: February 26<sup>th</sup> 10-00am to 12-30

Where: Park Road carpark

## February Meeting

When :7:30 Wednesday February 22nd

Where? Alvie Hall

Council guidelines suggest that if social distancing cannot be maintained masks should be worn.

Masks and hand sanitizer will be available at hall.

## 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 and the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve. Content is welcome and should be emailed to [dougscott3@bigpond.com](mailto:dougscott3@bigpond.com) or to the secretary at [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)

PO Box 2063 Mount Waverley 3149