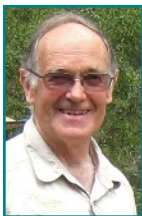


Damper Creek Doings

February 2018



Doug's Deliberations - a Word from Our President

We are looking forward to an extraordinary year for our group. 2018 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the "Damper Creek Development and Preservation Group", the group which developed to become the "Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc."

Friends groups are an important feature of conservation in Victoria but, sadly, many only last a few years. We are proud of our long history and can boast members of the original group as well as a continual stream of new members supporting our activities. To celebrate our fiftieth year, we are planning a special event in September which will create an enduring memorial to our efforts. This celebration will be supported by Melbourne Water and the City of Monash.

To get an idea of the high regard in which our little reserve is held, I suggest a look at the comments posted on TripAdvisor, this will convince you that Damper Creek is a great place to reconnect with nature.

As well as the usual working bees, plantings and BBQs there are many issues the Friends group is tackling this year.

Submissions have been made to the City of Monash regarding the development of the Bushcrew compound. As well as being an aesthetic disaster, the compound offers poor amenity to the workers who use this as a base for working on a number of nearby reserves as well as Damper Creek. We look forward to plans for an improved compound this year which will be less intrusive and provide improved amenity for the Bushcrew workers.

Monash planning amendment C125 (Creek Abuttal) is being enforced by the city planning department. This is a great advance for reserves such as Damper Creek as it specifies a 7-metre setback from the rear boundary, guaranteeing extra area for vegetation and wildlife and reducing overlooking and the visual intrusion of buildings which do not allow space for gardens along the rear boundary. Effectively this planning change recognises that the reserve is public space and the rear boundary is as important as the front boundary in terms of setback. It is probable that 2018 will see some cases of challenge to this amendment and FODCR will act to support C125 provisions.

The newsletter of

FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

<http://www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au>

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Guest speakers are regularly invited to inform and educate our members on a wide variety of issues. Our **March meeting** will be addressed by Ian Moodie, a local wildlife photographer who is also Team Leader for Environment and Education in the City of Whitehorse and ParksWide.

Did you know?

In 1984 a bird sanctuary was proposed for Federal Reserve. The Bird Observers Club recommended the installation of a chain wire fence enclosing approximately a third of an acre and featuring two small lakes.

Does anyone know what happened to this proposal? Councillor Brian Lyndon indicated that Damper Creek would be a better site for the sanctuary. Perhaps the fenced area adjacent to the Bushcrew compound is a remnant of this plan?

Doug Scott



The Friends EOY thank you barbecue.

<<: Keith Irwin and Doug Scott. Keith received Honorary Membership of the Friends of Damper Creek at the barbecue in recognition of his solo effort over many years in establishing and maintaining the best tract of microlaena in Damper Creek.



And what would the barbecue be without Graham playing virtuoso on tongs and hot plate!

Thank you to Maria Urwin for the barbecue photographs.



Our annual thank-you barbecue was held in perfect weather in Damper Creek. We were joined by Rebecca Paterson, our friends from Valley Reserve, our bush crew member - Roger and Michael Gidley. Life Memberships were conferred on two of our stalwarts - John Clements and Keith Irwin. We all missed Robert Yates - and his special condiments!



New banks for rainwater diversion

After the heavy rain in early February (42 mm overnight in my rain gauge), there was the usual significant erosion on the paths in Damper Creek, and not just the steepest such as the path from the end of Sunhill Rd which joins forces with the run-off from Alice Street and thence into the creek. All the eroded gravel ends up in Damper Creek.

The response from MCC on this occasion has been different with a belated realization that just laying more gravel will be followed by the same outcome with the next downpour.

This time, MCC has adopted a 'hydraulic' solution, constructing gentle banks to channel the water off the path and into the planted areas. This will, we hope, break the force of the water and prevent erosion of the toppings. If effective, they will also save the Council money as the same repair work will not need to be repeated after every cloud burst.

Look out for these as you walk through the Reserve.

New Damper Creek crew member

Roger, our most recent bush crew member has moved to join 'head office'. Our new crew member is Liam who will be in our reserve for the next six months. You will recognise him from a neatly trimmed beard.

For Your Diary

Wednesday 28 February at 7.30 pm, Alvie Hall: our first meeting for the year.

Sunday 4 March at 10 am: Working bee and Clean-Up Australia. Meet at the Park Rd carpark opposite the play ground. The billy boils at 11 am.



'Seen in Damper Creek'

This fruiting body of the fungus growing and devouring the dead heart of this eucalyptus was spotted in Damper Creek between Richard Rd and the bush crew compound. Does anyone know the species name?

If you have a photo of something interesting in Damper Creek Reserve please send it to the Secretary (email address below).

Damper Creek Doings is printed by Michael Gidley MP, as a community service. Content is the responsibility of The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc.

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Contributions to *Damper Creek Doings* are welcomed by the Editor. Please submit content by email to the secretary: secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

If you see something in Damper Creek that you think needs attention, please contact Monash Council on their website and leave a message:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/contact/request-a-service