

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

February 2019

The newsletter of
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC
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URGENT

Please attend

Wed Feb 27th 2019 from 7-30 at Alvie Hall

February Meeting C-125,

Was C-125 a wasted effort?

We were looking forward to a pleasant and productive 2019 until we were confronted with the first test of NRZ-2 (Creek Abuttal). It is my sad duty to tell you that the council allowed concessions on 31 Bengal Crescent with reduced setback and increased site coverage compared to the C-125 strategy. We were incensed that the council backed away from their strategy. Many, both from the broader community and the council, had fought hard to have C-125 adopted. Every assurance had been given that this strategy had been adopted and would be enforced.

Our February meeting will be devoted to the issue of implementation of C-125. There will be representatives from the City of Monash including several councillors and the Planning Department. This is an issue of high importance and we have also invited members of the Friends of Scotchman's Creek and Valley Reserve, the Friends of Dandenong Valley Parklands and

the Friends of Gardiners Creek. Numbers are important, we need to show the council that we consider the lack of support for C-125 a critical issue for the community.

When houses were being built 40 or 50 years ago, a house of 15 squares was considered large. All houses were surrounded by vegetation which contributed to the reserve in many ways. Fast forward to 2019 and houses of 50, 60 squares and more are common. Most subdivisions around Damper Creek are insufficient to allow such large houses without coming close to the rear and side boundaries. Until recently they could be built, overlooking the reserve, built close to the rear boundary and contributing little to the environmental envelope of the reserve. The provisions of C-125 (NRZ2) were formulated to moderate the advance of the built form towards the reserve.

Jubilee Plantings

The Jubilee planting in Park Road is surviving the summer well thanks to some supplementary watering from the council staff. The plants will need a year or two to start spreading and colonise the area but this process is already under way. There are large patches of native violets and many of the grasses are doing well and setting seed. In particular the kneed wallaby grass with its fluffy seed heads is right at home and by next year will have colonised the nature strip. It's tough to find anything flowering at the height of summer but it is still possible to find bluebells in flower. If you were observant around Christmas you would have seen the trigger plants that surround the memorial. These are quite inconspicuous when not in flower and one of the delights is to watch for them to reappear later in the year. Some weeds are starting to appear and the area will require ongoing attention to give the Australian plants a chance to establish themselves.



Left: Knead Wallaby grass

Above: Australian bluebell

Below: Kangaroo grass



Our Guest Speaker Programme

For our March meeting (March 27th) we will be hosting Dr. Greg Moore of the Burnley Horticultural College, Melbourne University (retired). Greg is an inspiring advocate for trees and has particular interest in the economic effects of trees. He continues to pursue an active research profile and supervises post graduate students in any matters that relate to trees in the urban environment and revegetation.

For our May meeting (May 22nd) we will be hosting a workshop on “Gardens for Wildlife” presented by Monash council staff Anna Mezzetti and Daniel. Gardens for Wildlife is a programme which focuses on assisting property owners to provide vegetation that is beneficial to wildlife. Whether you are interested in assisting others or simply learning about appropriate plants to include in your garden, you are sure to learn plenty from this workshop.

On July 24th we will be hosting Dr Lindy Lumsden of the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research. Her topic will be “Bats, Fascinating Creatures of the Night”. She is an honorary life member of the Australasian Bat Society. The Northern free-tailed bat—*Ozimops lumsdenae*—was named after her.

We are seeking a guest speaker for September and would welcome any suggestions.

Note that the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve will have a guest speaker for their March meeting. Peter Uhlherr will talk on “Fungi in Valley Reserve”. Peter presented a talk on the same subject last year and all those who attended were most enthusiastic. March 20th at 7-30 at Alvie Hall.

For your diary:

Wednesday February 27th, 7-30pm **Special meeting on C-125** followed by general meeting

Sunday March 3rd 10-00am to 12-30, **Clean Up Australia Day**. Meet at Park Road car park.

Wednesday March 27th 7-30pm **Guest Speaker Dr. Greg Moore “Economic Effects of Trees.”**

Sunday March 31st Working Bee 10-00am to 12-30, Meet at Park Road car park.

Wednesday April 24th 7-30pm. Business Meeting.

Sunday April 28th Working bee 10.00am to 12-30 location TBA

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