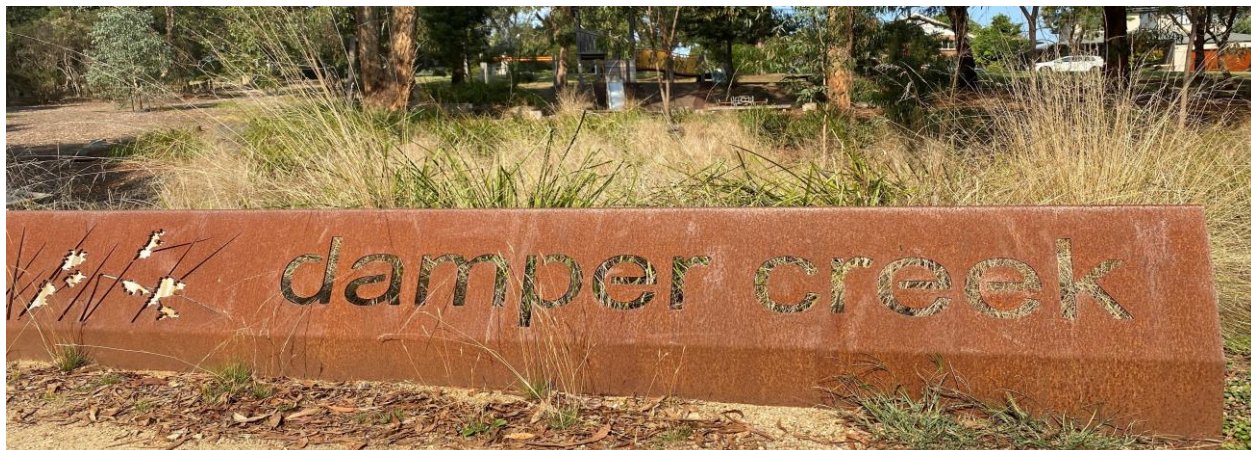




Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation
Reserve inc.

February 2022



From the President's Desk

Who doesn't love a challenge? The history of Damper Creek Reserve is full of challenges faced and (mostly) overcome. The very existence of the reserve is the result of facing those challenges, specifically "saving" the area from housing development, tackling the erosion problem by landscaping the creek with basalt and replacing the weedy vegetation with indigenous plants. Progress can be difficult to observe on a short timeline, but the photos on the next page show how rapidly an area can be rehabilitated. Much has been achieved in the last two years in spite of lockdowns and restrictions on working bees. In many cases the Bush Crew has stepped in to do a sterling job. Members have also stepped in to maintain areas and give the indigenous plantings a sporting chance. I was privileged to accompany our Melbourne Water coordinator, Nathan Mattinson, on an inspection of the reserve last November. Nathan's comments regarding the standard of revegetation are significant. Of the many projects he reviews, Damper Creek is a standout as a strong emphasis is placed on understorey and middle-storey vegetation in contrast to other projects where the emphasis is placed on trees only. This makes Damper Creek a complete environment which qualifies Damper Creek Reserve as a Conservation Reserve, providing a haven for wildlife in an urban setting.

Making a Difference



This may be hard to believe but these photos were taken from the same spot six months apart. The location is alongside the second waterfall (the one closest to the Alice Street bridge). It is easily identified from the tree stump and the rock which conceals the drain outlet. The area was densely planted with Poas, wallaby grasses and Dianellas.

The success of this area is due to a combination of factors. Site preparation (removal of weeds), the auguring of the holes prior to planting and site maintenance (removal of weeds). In the coming months the site will become fully established as the seeds from the native grasses germinate and suppress any weed growth.





Gardens for wildlife

If you are a Monash resident, did you know that you are entitled to a free assessment of your garden and a free “starter pack” of 20 indigenous plants from Greenlink nursery? This program has the potential to greatly assist the revegetation of Damper Creek by encouraging residents to plant indigenous plants. If these plants are located along the rear boundary of properties adjoining the reserve, the environmental footprint of the reserve is increased, making the reserve more attractive to wildlife and encouraging wildlife into backyards.

Imagine the benefits to Damper Creek Reserve if the margins surrounding the reserve were planted out with indigenous vegetation compatible with the vegetation within the reserve. One of the major maintenance problems within the reserve would be reduced, i.e. the contamination of the reserve by weeds spread from surrounding properties. That difficult strip along the fence line which frequently harbours weeds could become, instead, a buffer which spreads beneficial seeds into the reserve as well as welcoming our wonderful local wildlife such as birds, lizards, frogs and (if you're really lucky), Sugar Gliders, into our backyards.

If you are interested in the Gardens for Wildlife program, please email gardensforwildlife@monash.vic.gov.au, and register your interest in joining the Gardens for Wildlife program.

The Monash Gardens for Wildlife program is backed by considerable resources. If you visit the Monash website (www.monash.vic.gov.au) you will find informative videos, information regarding workshops and webinars, an online application form and a link to the Monash Gardens for Wildlife booklet. You may even decide to become a Garden Guide to assist with running the program.

The Monash Gardens for Wildlife booklet is available free from the City of Monash offices and copies are always available at the Friends of Damper Creek working bees and at their meetings.





Preparation of the Wildflower Meadow



Preparation of the site of the wildflower meadow is well under way with spraying of weeds completed and the first loads of mulch delivered. The mulch will conserve moisture, suppress weeds and condition the soil by boosting its organic content. The mulch will be spread by the "Friends" and planting will take place during late Autumn/ early Winter. Thousands of plants are now being grown for this year's planting season with most of them being earmarked for the wildflower meadow. Expect to see a wide range of indigenous plants in this area including many favorites such as Running Postman, Chocolate and Vanilla lilies, Bluebells, Pink Heath and Everlasting Daisies. Additionally there will be less well known plants which originally grew in the area but are now difficult to find. The development of this area will be interesting and educational.



Dates to remember:

Wednesday February 23rd at 7:30 **General Meeting on Zoom**

Members will be notified by email prior to the meeting. Requests for agenda items should be sent to: secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

(We expect to resume monthly meetings in Alvie Hall in coming months)

Sunday February 27th **Clean Up Australia Day**

Meet at the Park Road car park at 10-00am

Note that QR check in is required

This is an official Clean up Australia Day activity and is advertised on the Clean up Australia Day website.

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

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 or to the secretary at

secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

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