



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve
inc.

February 2025



Looking Forward to 2025

Developments planned for later this year are certain to get the “Friends” and members of the public enthusiastic about the future of the reserve. The major work this year will focus around the Swayfield road entrance, extending through to the fern gully and environs. Planting will be funded by the Melbourne Water grant with additional planting and landscaping funded by the City of Monash.

Additionally, landscaping will be undertaken behind Norman court.

Both projects will address significant erosion control issues as well as improving the biological diversity of the reserve.



Swayfield road preparation works



Our Guest Speaker for February Wendy Clark

Topic: ***A photographic essay of local insects and their importance to the environment.***

Introducing Wendy:

A lover of all things in Nature, Wendy has been a member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria for 50 years and is a past president. Her particular passion is for invertebrates which are the subject of many of her photographs.



An example of Wendy's photographic work, ants with a tree hopper.

Wendy has been a professional photographer for 30 years and has been teaching photography for 10 years through her business 'Master Your Camera'.

Within the FNCV she is currently the organiser of the Invertebrate Study Group and also participates in the Junior Group and the Fauna Survey Group.

She is also involved in Garden Clubs such as:

The Waverley Garden Club, the Waverley Bonsai Group and the Victorian Bulb Society



Why logs?

Logs recovered from City of Monash operations have been placed near Swayfield Road and Norman court. They will intercept stormwater flows and prevent erosion. Additionally they will provide habitat for invertebrates and fungi. Eventually they will rot and contribute to an improved soil structure. Planting programmes for 2025 will further enhance these areas.

Right:
Swayfield entrance
Below:
Norman Court



Park Road Nature Strips



You may have noticed that the nature strips in Park road have become rather untidy of late. These strips were planted out as part of the 2018 Jubilee project and were planned to showcase Monash's original lower-level flora and complement planting in the reserve.

Difficulties in maintaining over the years have resulted in a high level of weed infestation. However, recent work by the bush crew has reduced the level of weeds and highlighted the native grasses and other plants. The "Friends" have been assured that the nature strips will be regularly maintained.

The bush crew are to be congratulated for their expertise in distinguishing the weeds from the native grasses and removing the invaders.

The Jubilee Memorial Plaque

When originally installed, this area was enhanced by a wonderful surrounding of native grassland. Over the years the area became infested with weeds and the native grassland is now mostly gone. Recently the plaque and its supporting rock became overgrown and was largely invisible. The area has now been mown by the bush crew and the Council will clear the area of the weed infestation prior to replanting.



Snippets

Cancellation of P.O.box

In the coming months the P.O. box will be closed down. Users have been notified and reference is deleted at the foot of this newsletter.

January 30th Walk-through with Council staff:

A number of administrative and reserve maintenance issues were discussed.

In brief: Andrew and Luke have been officially appointed to the supervisory role previously occupied by Michael Grant. James and Bill are permanently allocated to Damper Creek Reserve.

Contract weeding –to catch up on work not undertaken due to under staffing. Mostly within 3m of pathways. Excellent work!

Playground/pathogen management update – continue the current mulching regime.

Nature Strips – agreed to maintain and enhance

Bridge surfacing / safety issues raised

Norman Court – logs placed and mulching to occur.

Proposed mid week Monash Staff Corporate Event for planting **with Friends invited to attend**. Date: To be decided

Swayfield – logs placed and site will be prepared for Friends May Community Planting (we will combine MW and Monash planting)

Path erosion / problem areas identified.

Next MW Grant (2025-27) – To continue riparian restoration from Fern Gully downstream to Middle Bridge.

Helping birds beat the heat: notes for bird baths

- 1/Keep the water cool and fresh
- 2/ Provide containers with a variety of depths
- 3/ Keep containers clean
- 4/ Place in a cool location, safe from predators

Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7:30 pm at Alvie Hall

Topic: **Sustainable Monash**, : Presented by Claire Brace

Supporting an environmentally sustainable city *Come and hear from the City of Monash Coordinator Sustainability and Biodiversity Champion on how Council and the community can work together to create a more environmentally sustainable city.*





Upcoming Events

Sunday February 23rd

Clean-up Australia Day

Meet at Park Road carpark
10-00 am to 12-30pm

Wednesday February 26th 2025

General Meeting and Guest Speaker–

Alvie Hall from 7.30pm – 9pm.
Guest Speaker: Wendy Clark

Subject: ***A photographic essay of local insects and their importance to the environment.***

Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7:30 pm Alvie Hall

Guest Speaker for the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Sustainable Monash : Supporting an environmentally sustainable city Presented by Claire Brace

Sunday March 30th working bee in the Fern Gully project area.

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

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Damper-Creek-133557736847306/>

The content of this newsletter reflects the opinions of the editor for the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve. Content is welcome and should be emailed to dougscott3149@hotmail.com or to the secretary at secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

PO Box Mount Waverley No longer available

www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au