



Damper Creek Doings

January 2021

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

Welcome to 2021



Following a very different year we all look forward to a 2021 which more closely approaches normality. 2020 saw some challenges and some beneficial changes. A small but dedicated group used the lockdown period to clear a significant patch of the reserve of weeds. The council responded by planting out the plants from the Melbourne Water grant in this, and other areas. It is our hope that this area can now be maintained with minimal effort and we will have a really good area to demonstrate effective bushland regeneration.

The reserve was a source of recreation and exercise during the lockdown period. Many users discovered the reserve for the first time and we are pleased to report that we have many new members. We invite all members, both new and ongoing, to think about what Damper Creek Reserve means to you and how you may contribute to the ongoing operations of our group. If you wish to have more insight into the operations of our group, we can include you on our committee mailing list. No pressure is involved, just contact our secretary on secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com and you will be added to our committee distribution.

Doug Scott
President: Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc,

Plant of the month

Bursaria spinosa



Also known as the “Sweet Bursaria”, this plant may not be noticed when not in flower. One of the few plants in flower at this time of year, the Bursaria is aptly named for its sweet smelling flowers.

As a habitat tree it has many benefits, being a prolific producer of nectar and pollen it is a food source for butterflies and honeyeaters. Aborigines extracted honey from the flowers and used the tough wood for weapons and digging sticks. Its spiny branches provide protection for small birds.

In the home garden it will grow to a height of 2-3 metres and responds well to pruning. Don't plant near a pathway as the spines may be uncomfortable. *B. spinosa* is commonly available from indigenous plant nurseries. It is an easily grown plant, tough and drought resistant.

Bushcrew Compound

The surroundings of the compound have been landscaped, taking into account the water runoff from the buildings, driveway and the surrounding area. A series of ponds has been created which should control runoff and eliminate the boggy spot on the main path. The ponds will create an environment similar to the “ephemeral wetland” at the Park Road entrance to the reserve. We look forward to participating in vegetating this area and its development as a wildlife habitat. Ensure you take a walk past the compound to observe the extent of the works.



Program for 2021

Monthly meetings

Until further notice we will not be meeting in Alvie hall. The February meeting will be conducted using ZOOM. Notifications will be sent using the FODCR email. For new members note that the monthly meetings (February to November) are held at 7-30pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Working Bees

All working bees are **Sundays from 10am - 12.30pm**

Working bees (other than designated community events) are held on the Sunday following the monthly meeting.

Meeting location and tasks will be notified via this newsletter, on the website and in the noticeboards.

Clean Up Australia Day February 28th

This will be our first working bee for 2021. Note that the date is a week earlier the official Clean Up Australia Day community event.

VCAT Hearing for 28b Park Road

The hearing has been postponed to February 18th at 2-15pm. The hearing will be conducted via Zoom. If you have previously registered an interest in attending this hearing you will receive a Zoom link via email. If you wish to observe the proceedings a registration via VCAT will be required to access the hearing.



News

Cat Curfew

From April 2021 a curfew will be placed on cats in the City of Monash. This is necessary to protect wildlife and owners are warned that they can be served with a significant fine for having their cats outside between sunset and sunrise.

Foxes in Damper Creek

Foxes are frequently seen in Damper Creek (another reason to keep your cats in at night). Foxes seen in the reserve often shelter in private property. It is the responsibility of property owners to control foxes on their property. Further details are available from the City of Monash.

Fire safety in Damper Creek

The reserve is not at high risk of fire. The City of Monash maintains the reserve in order to reduce the potential for fire to spread. You may notice vegetation being removed as part of this essential service. The City of Monash provides the information leaflet "Bushland Safety Strategy" which outlines council actions to reduce fire risk and preventative action residents should take. You can obtain a copy by ringing the City of Monash on 95183555 or read a copy posted in one of our notice boards.

Report it!

Did you see 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
- (03) 9518 3555
- download the App – Snap, Send, Solve

We would love to hear from you

The content of this newsletter reflects the opinions of the editor and the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc. Content is welcome and should be emailed to dougscott3@bigpond.com or to the secretary at secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

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