

# Damper Creek Doings

July 2019

The newsletter of  
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC  
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## In this issue:

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\*\*\*Council Vote on vegetation strategy

\*\*\* June Working Bee (+ photo)

\*\*\*Kookaburra and Grey Butcherbird reflections (from the archives)

\*\*\*Diary Dates:

Next meeting: Wednesday 24 July 2019.All Welcome to listen to our excellent Guest Speaker: Dr Lindy Lumsden (Arthur RylahInstitute), Topic: "Bats, Fascinating Creatures of the Night", Alvie Hall, Mt Waverley from 7.30 – approx. 8.30pm followed by supper. Business meeting commences at 9pm.

Next working bee: Sunday 28 July 2019 – Planet Ark, National Tree Planting Day – special arrangements – see location details below.

## Vale: Jennifer Louise Carra

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve extend their deepest sympathy to Chris and Di Carra and their families, following the passing of "Jen" Carra, a longtime local resident and a staunch supporter of the Friends. We give thanks for her strong sense of community and the contributions she, together with her family, have made over many decades.

## Council Vote on “Proposed new planning provisions for tree and vegetation removal – Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy (Vegetation Strategy)”

**In Brief:** Council approved that a permit must be sought for removal of a canopy tree of more than 6 metres high and more than 3 metres away from an existing dwelling (2 metres for Oakleigh ward). The revised protection applies to all types of dwellings across all of Monash, including single dwellings.

The following response was given by FoDCR to the Monash City Council, CEO, Strategic Planners and Councillors following the favourable vote at the Council meeting on 25 June 2019.

*The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Mt Waverley extend their thanks and appreciation that the above item was adopted as a stronger planning provision for protecting canopy trees and vegetation across Monash*

*We are particularly pleased to see the adoption of a Significant Landscape Overlay across the City of Monash that will require a planning permit for canopy tree and vegetation removal*

*We urge that the Interim SLO requiring a permit for canopy tree removal be implemented as soon as possible*

*FoDCR wish to thank all involved in the adoption of this planning provision and we were very pleased to have opportunities over recent months to meet with you during the consultation process.*

*Regards, John Clements President*

*On behalf of FoDCReserve Committee and members Mt Waverley*

For further details on the proposal and decisions go online to the Monash City Council website. [www.monash.vic.gov.au](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au) – search Minutes & Agenda/Decisions for meeting of 25 June 2019.

### **June working Bee**

Following the massive Community Planting Day working bee in May, the planting in June was a more gentle affair. A small but dedicated group started by planting a range of aquatic plants in the creek bed behind our Jubilee memorial in Park Road. We also planted extra plants to improve the area around our Jubilee memorial. The day finished by a special planting of three semi-mature gums in the grassy area near the site of the May planting. These gums were provided by the Council and financed by Melbourne Water as part of a special donation to help celebrate our Jubilee. Two *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa* (Silver leafed Stringybark) and one *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box) were planted. These should mature to become

wonderful canopy trees to replace the large Tassie Bluegum which blew down in a storm last year.

This was a very different planting event to our usual tube planting. The trees were in 12 inch pots and a suitably large hole was required. Luckily Daniel, the Bushcrew representative, was equipped with an augur which made quick work of the hole. The soil was suitably moist and the trees were provided with a watering collar and were later mulched. It will be interesting to compare the growth rate of these trees with those planted from tube stock.



Planting the special "Jubilee" trees provided by the Monash Bushcrew with a donation from Melbourne Water

**Contribution from Judy Borg:** Judy was a frequent contributor to our newsletter for many years and her wonderful observations of local birds entertained readers. The following piece was first published in the June issue of Damper Creek Doings in July 2008.

### **Kookaburra and Grey Butcherbird Reflections**

*Last time I promised to tell you something of the eating habits of the kookaburra and grey butcherbird, and I will broaden that to tell of other things. Before even first light – when the magpie calls to welcome the dawn – the kooka has a first, short laugh. Towards noon, when all the other birds are resting, he sits beside his lady on a branch near his fishing pool and they enjoy a chorus. Last thing, when all the currawongs have called in evening [and what a splendid number we have this year], when all the bush is black, he has a final laugh at the world. I've never seen*

*him eat more than a 15cm. lizard – or swoop down to the water for more than a yabby – but...*

*The grey butcherbird – who last season frequented the lake area at duck hatching time – is of a different colour. While he wears a morning suit: grey waistcoat, white shirt and tie and black tails. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about him, besides his glorious song, is his “human” feet. He has no reverse toe, as other birds have. I once saw him alight on a small bush (where the path turns down from Alice St.) and step inside, presumably for small bird prey, like a concert performer stepping behind the curtain. And when he opens his throat to sing he is like Caruso. Once I found him courting his lady from a chest high branch in a small tree above the fern gully. The glorious notes and the passion were equal to anything I’d heard in Grand Opera. I stood transfixed for some minutes. Then they flew off together down the fern gully pathway, he rotating around her, surrounding her with song, as they went.*

**Sunday 28 July 2019 Working Bee –Note Change of Location to participate in Planet Ark - National Tree Planting Dayfrom 10 am – 1pm**  
or until planting is finished. Come for as little or as long as you wish.

FoDCRwill be joining the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve and the Monash District Scouts. Meeting place details as follows:

Planting will take place on the south side of Scotchmans Creek, so entry into Fairway Reserve will be in Forster Road near Wilga Street. Park either in Forster Road or in adjacent streets. Then walk into the Reserve on the Council Management Track for registration just inside the gate – Melway Reference 70E5

Wear solid shoes, all weather clothing. BYO gloves and water.

For catering purposes, please reply to Sally Walker, mobile 0477 006 774. For more information visit website: Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.

All are welcome and there are thousands of plants to be planted.

### **For your diary**

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 AGM, commencing 7.30pm**

At the AGM, as is usual practice, all Committee positions will be declared vacant. We are very pleased to advise that Nominations are in hand for all vacancies. However, if you would wish to nominate for any role, please be in touch before or at the meeting

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 (August working bee)10.00am to 12.30pm.**

**Clean Up and weeding of Damper Creek East**, the area of Damper Creek Eastlocated to the east of Mt Waverley Bowling Club. Enter via the access road off High St.Rd.into the Bowling Club Carpark(East side).

*Content is the responsibility of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc.*

