



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

July 2022



From the President's Desk



Signs of Spring

Given the current cold snap it seems hard to imagine that Spring is on its way. The Aussie bush continually amazes us with flowers at unexpected times and the early blooming of *Acacia dealbata*, or Silver Wattle heralds a bumper time for the Aussie bush. While the Silver Wattle is the first to bloom it marks the beginning of a sequence of flowering which is led by the wattles and is followed in turn by many other plants which comprise the complexity of the Australian bush. This year merits close examination of the plant life in Damper Creek as much of the work which has taken place over the past few years is now mature enough to flower.



Areas to watch over coming months.

With the increased Melbourne Water grant for this year there has been an explosion of new plants in the reserve. In addition, areas planted out in previous years are maturing and will put on a good show in the months to come.

1/ Meadow Garden: Located behind the Park Road houses and adjoining densely revegetated areas from previous years, there is a stunning array of small plants including everlasting daisies, running postman, chocolate lilies, guinea flowers, bluebells, bush peas and many more. Some will flower this year and others will take a few years to mature.

2/ Bush-crew compound environs: A great deal of planting has taken place in this area over the past few years. The chain of ponds is developing into a dense aquatic ecosystem but there is much more to see here.

3/ The island beds behind Warren Court: These areas have been cleared of weeds by volunteers from the “Friends” and have now been planted out with a range of small shrubs including myrtle wattle, hakea and native hemp.

4/ The pathway between the Alice Street bridge and the duck pond: Intensive planting with grasses, bluebells, dianellas, trigger plants and kidney weed has transformed this area, particularly on the uphill side of the path,

5/ Park Road nature strips and Jubilee area. The nature strips are proving to be a useful extension to the reserve and a showplace of smaller indigenous plants of Monash.

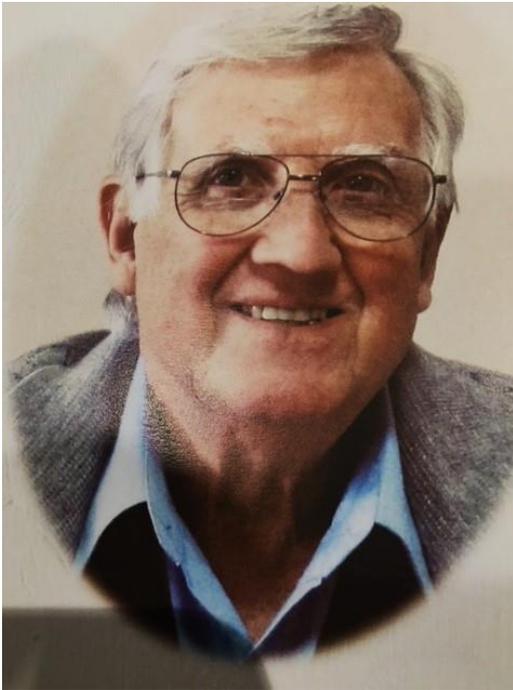
Do you have a favorite area within the reserve? Please tell us about it so we can share your passion with other members of the “Friends”.

June Working Bee

Members who turned out to the working bee on June 26 deserve special commendation. On a cold and rainy Sunday morning ten intrepid souls worked to plant hundreds of plants along the riparian strip.

Bravo to them!

Vale Romy Orfanelli 1936-2022



The Friends are sad to announce that “Romy” Orfanelli passed away on June 26th. Romy migrated to Australia from Egypt in 1958 and became a long time resident of Sunhill Road, Mt. Waverley, where together with his wife Yolanda raised their family.

Romy was always interested in Damper Creek Reserve and attended the original meeting of Residents in September 1968.

Romy was active in our Friends Group and served a time as TREASURER, PUBLIC OFFICER and general Committee Member.

Romy passed away following a short illness. He is survived by his wife Yolanda and children Livio, Gisella and Kevin. He will be greatly missed.

Member Survey

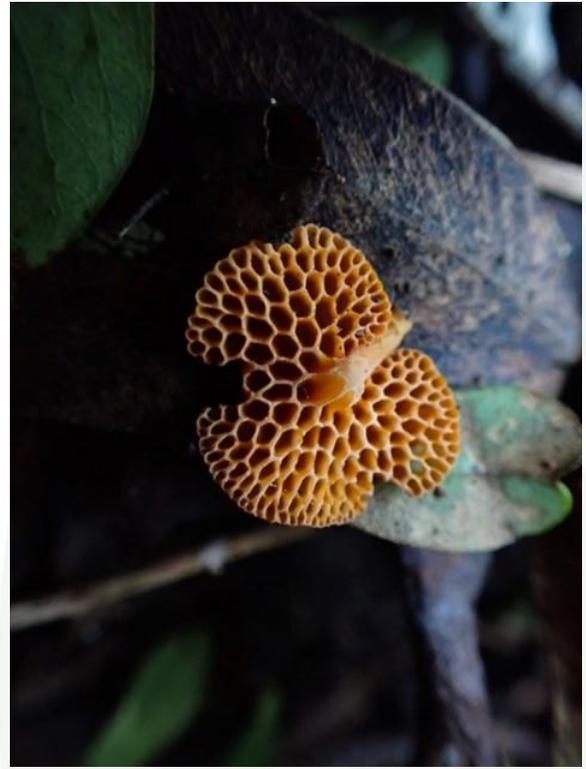
Thanks to all members who participated in the member survey. Aiden now has sufficient responses to conduct the required statistical analysis. We look forward to gaining new insights into the motivations of our members. **New**

Ritchies app

Please note from 20th July All members will be required to log into their account at <https://loyalty.ritchies.com.au> to update their account. Please update your details to ensure that your Community Benefits are paid to the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve. These contributions are an important source of funds for the Friends.



An Invasive Fungus!!!



Weeds and feral animals are problems we can come to grips with. Fungi (a separate “Kingdom” of life) are a bit harder to deal with. This fungus, photographed by Julia for last month’s newsletter, is actually a foreign invader with the potential to alter the local ecosystem.

The Orange Ping Pong Bats fungus or *Favolaschia claudopus* is a wood decomposing fungus that has been spreading rapidly in Australia since the 1990's. It is a threat indigenous fungi as it infests rotting timber and out competes native fungi that help in nutrient recycling. It is able to live in the canopy so airborne spores spread rapidly.

The fruiting body is small, about 1 to 2cm diameter with a distinctive honeycomb pattern underneath. If you see this try not to touch or remove it as this risks spreading the spores. Mark the spot and report it to the bush crew. For more information follow these links:

<https://myco.org.au/tracking-the-invasive-orange-ping-pong-bats-fungus/>

<https://fungimap.org.au/about-fungi/invasive-or-weedy-fungi/>



New Website

Our new look website is almost ready to be uploaded. You will be able to use the existing link to access the new site. Congratulations to C.C. Hua for the excellent work.

Gardens for wildlife

Several gardens adjacent to Damper Creek have been signed up to this program. Participation in Monash's Gardens for Wildlife program has the potential to reduce weed incursion into the reserve as well as enhance the environmental value of your own garden.

C169

C169 involves an increase in contributions to Council open space funding to be paid by developers involved in new subdivisions. The amendment involves a number of revisions to other Council strategies including the Monash Open Space Strategy. The Friends has made a submission to the council on this proposal. For more information type C169 in the search panel on the Council website.

Submissions are currently being reviewed, and it is expected Council will consider submissions at its August Meeting.

Dogs in Damper Creek

Notices have been posted around Monash regarding the revision of off-leash areas for dogs. Damper Creek Conservation Reserve has been listed for removal of its leash-free status. This is consistent with Damper creek reserve being listed as a conservation reserve but many are upset as the very existence of the reserve is due to its value as a dog walking area. The council consultation is open until September 30th so if you have an opinion regarding this issue we encourage you to submit your views to the council.

July Working Bee

We will be joining the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve on Sunday July 31st. Meet at the scout hall, Fairway Ave at 10-00 am.

A BBQ will be provided.



Dates to remember:

Wednesday July 27th at 7:30 pm
Monthly Meeting on Zoom (Link below)

• <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81105131584?pwd=d2Y1U2NEU3grU0zd1VrK1RXQXZ0dz09>

Working Bee Sunday July 31st
The Friends will be joining the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley

Reserve for their the Planet Ark planting day and BBQ

Meet at the scout hall Fairway ave.

Starts at 10-00am
Concludes 12-30pm

Wednesday August 24th at 7-30 pm
General Meeting

Sunday August 28th
Working Bee Location tbd

Alvie Hall meetings:

The resumption of meetings in Alvie Hall is under constant review.
At this stage we will have the July meeting on Zoom.

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 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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