



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation
Reserve inc.

July 2023



From the President's Desk

How do you enjoy your time in Damper Creek Reserve? For some, the reserve is a utilitarian resource. Perhaps a place to walk the dog, a place to exercise or as a stress release, somewhere to get out of the house for a while, to simply "chill out".

It is difficult to see the world through someone else's eyes, but this is precisely what Dan Koop set out to achieve with his "Damper Creek Walkshop". Our vice president, Di Carra, joined Dan on his "Walkshop" and enjoyed the benefits of seeing the reserve from different perspectives.

Flowing Loops Public Art Walkshop

About 6 people joined artist Dan Koop and co-host dancer Emily Bowman for the walkshop in Damper Creek on 17th June. During the walkshop we were guided through gentle movement and mindfulness activities that aimed to deepen our observations of how we move through this special place and what we experience and to explore how other people experience Damper Creek. I really enjoyed this experiential art event that involved slowing down my journey through the reserve and using senses - sight, sound and touch. I look forward to hearing about the next stages of the art project that may include a podcast, written pieces and other art works that explore the flows at special places along the Suburban Rail Loop through music and other media.



The Wattles are blooming

Winter solstice has passed and the reserve is waking up, the first wattles are blooming and more are set to follow. The weather may not be any warmer but the scenery is brighter thanks to the wide variety of wattles to be seen in the reserve.



Wattles galore!

Wattles on the previous page:

Clockwise from top left.

Silver Wattle closeup

Silver Wattle

Hedge Wattle

Hop Wattle

Myrtle Wattle

Thin Leaf Wattle



Some general comments on wattles:

The group of plants known as wattles includes an incredible diversity of forms. The tallest has been measured at 150 feet tall, the smallest an insignificant prostrate plant. There are over 600 Australian species though some count many more .

They are renowned for rapid growth and are often maligned for being short lived. The Blackwood wattle is a long lived forest tree which provides a wonderful furniture timber. The Silver Wattle grows rapidly to a sizeable tree but usually succumbs to insect attack, definitely not a suitable subject for a domestic garden but in Damper creek they contribute to soil development by adding nitrogen to the soil and contributing to the soil biota through the decay of fallen timber.

All wattles start off with feathery leaves and on young plants you can sometimes see both feathery and flat leaves. If you see flat or spiky leaves on a wattle, you are actually looking at a flattened leaf stalk, an adaptation to reduce water loss in an arid climate.





Extra working bees

A considerable number of plants remain to be planted following the low attendance at the June working bee. In order to cope with the number of plants supplied as part of the Melbourne Water grant, extra work sessions were scheduled. On July 10th volunteers planted 300 tubestock near the upper path on the Eastern side of the creek. The area can be accessed through the new fencing which now includes a number of gates.

A big thank-you goes out to those members who turned up at short notice and worked so valiantly.

A second extra working bee is scheduled for 10-30am on July 20th. All are welcome to attend if you read this in time to come. The location is the same and is opposite the new leash-free area.

August meeting.....our AGM August 23rd

It's not too early to consider offering to help run the "Friends" group. We love having you on our membership list but a lot happens behind the scenes and, you know, many hands make light work. Many of our stalwarts have been plugging away for decades and sometimes a new face can bring ideas that help to give our group a new focus.

The standard positions of president, secretary, treasurer are up for grabs as well as membership secretary, newsletter editor, webmaster and waterwatch coordinator and notice board supervisor. We also have unspecified positions for anyone who has a special contribution they are passionate about.





Welcome to our new bush crew member

Sem Alcoba has been appointed to the Monash Bush Crew and is currently assigned to Damper Creek.

Sem has been working on the Mornington peninsula and has extensive experience working with volunteer conservation groups.

Say hello to Sem as he works to help make Damper Creek one of the premier conservation reserves in Melbourne.



Gang Gang

Not common in Damper Creek. If you hear a sound like a creaking door, look around, you may be lucky enough to spot one demolishing seed pods.

Eastern Rosella

One of the “Friends” that permanently resides in Damper Creek Reserve.

Not as common as some other parrot species but, in my opinion, the prettiest. Most commonly found grazing on grasses.





Upcoming Events

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Planting Day July 30th
National Tree Day Scotchmans Creek
Commencing 10-00am
See attached notice
Enter via Sadie Street

Registration is essential

Bring Mug, snacks, water bottle, gloves, aerogard, sunscreen, all weather gear, solid shoes

Working bees

• **July 30th Scotchmans Creek (see attached notice)**

August 27th Damper Creek

August meeting August 23rd (AGM)
Alvie Hall
commences 7-30

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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