



# Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

June 2021



## From the President's Desk

Feathered Visitors:

As a comparative novice when it comes to observing birds, I am nonetheless fascinated when it comes to observing the comings and goings of birds in our backyard and beyond. Here are a few I have seen recently:

Rainbow Lorikeet. What's not to love? Incredible colouring, rivalling the most spectacular tropical species. Nectar loving, feeds on Banksias and Eucalypts. They seem particularly fond of my Silver Princess and are not at all shy.

Eastern Rosella. There seems to be a family of 5 or 6 living in Damper Creek Reserve between Bengal crescent and Park road. They generally graze on mown grass and are very shy. You are lucky to get within 20 metres before they fly off. At the right time of year they feast on the seeds of my neighbour's Chinese Bell Tree which has long seed pods.

Eastern Spinebill. These gorgeous small birds never stay still for long. They love to feast on Correas with their fine bills reaching deep onto flowers to reach the nectar. They are not particular about which flowers they feast on, Weiglas and Fuscias are also common sources of nectar for these birds. When flying in the open they are incredibly fast. It is entertaining to watch them as they evade a larger bird.

Perhaps you could write with your own observations of wildlife in Damper Creek?

[www.friends of dampercreek.org.au](http://www.friends of dampercreek.org.au)



### **Community Planting Day**

The event planned for June 27<sup>th</sup> event cannot be finalized as the number of attendees predicted is not compatible with Covid restrictions. Members will be notified of future arrangements.

Our group will conduct a routine working bee on that day.

### **Park Road Nature Strips**

The Park Road nature strips, particularly on the East side, have suffered badly due to pedestrian traffic. At the time they were set up gaps were left for pedestrian access but in many cases these gaps were not used, became weed infested or new gaps were created by pedestrians trampling the planted areas. The council has addressed these problems by creating clearly defined pathways with hard surfacing. Hopefully these measures will avoid unintended damage and better define those areas which have been carefully planted. The effort to replace nature strips of exotic grass with a mixture of indigenous plants has generally been very successful and an example of the use of nature strips to extend the habitat value of the reserve.

### **Playground Tree Loss**

Some months ago the leaves on a large tree adjacent to the playground turned brown. On examination by arborists it was declared dead. As this tree was adjacent to the playground, it was decided to cut the tree down to remove the risk to those using the playground. Had this tree been in a safe position, it would have been retained as a habitat tree. However, this was not an option in this case. Careful use has been made of the material from this tree. The stump has been left at a height which makes it useful as an adjunct to the playground. Similarly the trunk has been retained and positioned to improve the adventure aspects of the playground. Larger branches have also been retained and will be used for habitat and landscaping elsewhere in the reserve. All options were considered following the loss of this tree and the resultant action was consistent with environmental and safety considerations.



## Ritchie's Card

Have you got your new Community Benefit Card registered? Our group has long enjoyed an income from Ritchies "Community Benefits" scheme. When you support Ritchies they support us. The new scheme will become fully operational from July 1<sup>st</sup> so if you have not registered a new card and directed the benefits to the Friends of Damper Creek, ensure you pick up a new card from Ritchies and follow the instructions to register it and direct the benefits to the Friends of Damper Creek.

## Doggie Stories

Do you have stories about one of our furry friends? The story of the saving of Damper Creek Reserve from development is intertwined with our canine friends who have long enjoyed Damper Creek as a place to walk and run. Our secretary has a compilation of stories of dogs who have enjoyed the reserve as a place of exercise and socialization. If you have a story, please send your recollections and observations to Helen on:

[secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)

## Conservation Management Plan

The draft report from Practical Ecology has been issued. This report covers a comprehensive review of the status of the Northern section of Damper Creek Reserve. This covers that portion of the reserve from Stephenson's Road to Monomeith/ Bengal Crescent. Previous reports were generated in 1998 and 2002 and these reports are used to provide baseline data.

The overall conclusion is that Damper Creek Reserve is "well managed and densely vegetated" This conclusion is a complement to the management and maintenance of the reserve. However, it was noted that there was an almost total absence of small birds in comparison to previous surveys and special attention to the creation of suitable habitat was recommended.

This 45 page report is comprehensive and touches on topics as diverse as dog walking, cyclists, lighting, weeds and nest boxes. The report is attached.

Please submit all feedback via email to Freya McKinnon [freyamck@practicalecology.com.au](mailto:freyamck@practicalecology.com.au). And copy feedback to [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com). Freya will be working closely with Michael Grant and team to finalise the plan which will guide our management of the reserve.



## Dates to remember:

Wed 23rd June Alvie Hall from 7.30 - 9pm

Sunday 27th Working Bee –(Normal FODCCR working bee, Community Planting Day has been cancelled.)

Location Bushcrew Compound Richard Rd entrance to Damper Creek Reserve commencing at 10am - 12.30pm.

Thursday 1st July Mid Week weeders –  
10.30 - approx 12 noon at Main Pond

## 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](http://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 Reserve. Content is welcome and should be emailed to [dougscott3@bigpond.com](mailto:dougscott3@bigpond.com) or to the secretary at [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)

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