



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

June 2022



Monash Gardens for Wildlife Program

Damper Creek Reserve was recently renamed as a Conservation Reserve which acknowledges the environmental significance of the reserve and its valuable flora and fauna. The reserve is a home to a great variety of plant and animal species including birds, skinks, insects, waterbugs, mammal and fungi

The biodiversity value of this reserve is extensive, with some of these species considered significant as there are few left in the area, such as the Grey-headed Flying Fox, Powerful Owl and Eastern Snake-necked Turtle. The last bird survey in Autumn 2021 recorded 16 different bird species in the reserve. Monash Council and the Friends of Damper Creek have worked together for over 50 years to revegetate and restore the bushland area to its current condition.

Does your property abut Damper Creek Reserve?

The following is a message from Monash City Council, Sustainability team/Anna Mezzetti

If you are a resident adjoining the reserve, you may be surprised to know that your backyard contributes significantly to the Damper Creek ecosystem. The latest biodiversity health audit showed there is a lower diversity of smaller native birds than previously recorded. What you plant in your garden can greatly support the health of the bushland area.



For example, planting more bushy shrubs such as Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) or Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*), (see picture below) is likely to provide nesting sites for small birds and perhaps increase their abundance. For more suggestions on indigenous plants refer to the ***Monash Gardens for Wildlife*** booklet available free from the Monash City Council



Habitat features such as bird baths, frog ponds and rocks and logs can make a huge difference in encouraging birdlife, frogs and skinks, as well as butterflies and other wildlife.

If you are interested in creating a habitat garden, Council can provide a voucher for 20 free indigenous seedlings under its *Gardens for Wildlife* program. The *Gardens for Wildlife* program encourages householders to plant indigenous and native plant species and other features which support local native wildlife to create a healthy natural environment.

You can also book a visit from the Monash City Council volunteer Garden Guides. The Garden guides can provide friendly advice on garden design and plant species selection that might be successful in your garden, with the aim to create a healthy garden



which looks good and helps support the habitat in the reserve. This program is also supported by the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve Inc. Please email gardensforwildlife@monash.vic.gov.au or call Anna Mezzetti on 95183555 for more information.

Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) Update

SRLA installed a drilling rig just north of the Alice Street bridge on the creek pathway for soil testing and water table investigations. This site was chosen to ensure that minimum damage would occur to the bushland. A detour walking path route was established. The equipment was brought in from the Stephenson's Road entrance to avoid a turning circle being required. The works began on 2nd June 2022 for approx. seven working days. SRLA apologised for any inconvenience caused. <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/suburban-rail-loop>
Queries: SRLA 1800 105 105.

Sunday 29 May 2022 Community Planting Day

The day fortunately dawned crisp and clear and the sun shone. After a lengthy hiatus due to Covid19, a Community Planting Day was enjoyed by approx. 35 volunteers adults and children. It was particularly pleasing to see family groups attend. 2,500 tube stock were planted along the riparian strip north of the main ponds, purchased from a Melbourne Water project grant, sourced, grown and distributed by the Monash City Council and Bushcrew. We thank Danny and Rish for setting out the tube stock for the volunteers and for the soil preparation such as auguring of the holes and supervising the event.. Thanks to all who participated in this very pleasing community activity. We also thank the Ashwood Mt Waverley Lions Club for their catering as many enjoyed a well deserved bbq afterwards

Tall tree project — The aim of the Friends' Tall Tree project is to restore tree canopy in identified clearings to assist with the movement of wildlife such as sugar gliders and tawny frogmouths. This project also supports other ecological restoration outcomes such as the replacement of Mealy Stringybarks (*Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*) in or near remnant areas. The Friends thank the Bushcrew and Danny for his enthusiastic support, who has already commenced plantings, starting with 3 – 4 sites in the area between Gillian Road and Alice Street, and near the main pond. It is planned that our volunteers "adopt a site" to assist with watering and weeding until the trees become established. We are hoping to repeat these new plantings yearly and are seeking ideas for sites in the Reserve and volunteers who are willing to assist.



Update - Tall Trees - The Friends are extremely pleased to confirm that up to a dozen new plantings have just been completed by Danny including Eucalyptus Obliqua (Messmate stringybark); Eucalyptus Cephalocarpa , (Mealy Stringybark); Eucalyptus Macrorhyncha , (Red Stringybark); Banksia Marginata (Silver Banksia).

These new plantings have been staked, guarded and mulched to assist their growth and contribution to the future of the tree canopy.

Fungi in Damper Creek Reserve - Orange Pore Fungus (Favolaschia claudopus)

- often found on old logs. Autumn and winter is the ideal time to enjoy the colour and shapes of some spectacular fungi found in Damper Creek Reserve. My daughter (Julia) and I believe we saw up to about 40 species on a recent walk. I am not sure if the diversity of fungi in the reserve has increased or that I am just becoming more aware of the amazing diversity in our urban area. This is a very good indicator of a healthy ecosystem.

If you are looking for fungi, remember to take a small compact mirror with you as this is a great way of seeing the gills underneath without disturbing the fungi.
Di Carra, Vice-President.





Dates to remember

Meeting Wednesday 22 June 2022 at 7-30 pm

Via ZOOM – new link tba

Working bee Sunday 26 June 2022 10am – 12.30pm

Continue planting Melbourne Water project grant tube stock – Meet at main ponds in DCR.

Meeting Wednesday 27 July 2022, 7.30pm – details tba

Working bee Sunday 31 July 2022 – 10am – 1pm - transfer DCR working bee to Scotchmans Creek & Valley Reserve Planet Ark planting day and BBQ – meeting place Fairway Reserve Mt Waverley Registration at First Scout Hall. Parking at the end of Fairway Ave)



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. Content is welcome and should be emailed to dougscott3@bigpond.com or to the secretary at secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

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