



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve
inc.

June 2025



May Planting Day (2025)

National Volunteer Week activity

(Extract from address by the president of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve to those present.)

“Damper Creek is a very special place that we must continue to care for and protect its habitat, biodiversity and open space for future generations to enjoy. Traditional owners believe if you care for country it will care for you.

It is National Volunteer Week this week and I want to recognise the important contribution that volunteering makes to the community, the environment and most importantly to your own health & well being.

I encourage everyone to continue to care for our environment and urge you not to be a bystander. Little steps help and everyone has something to contribute whether it be attending working bees, recording sightings on iNaturalist, planting your garden for wildlife, writing to the government advocating for climate action and appropriate urban planning, or being active on our committee or another Friends Group.

I think that you maintain a sense of hope through taking action and when you feel a bit despondent spending time in nature and seeing the resilience of our environment gives you strength and clears your head.

I want to give special thanks to the Monash Bushcrew for caring for the reserve and supporting the Friends Group activities. They have helped us order the plants, prepare the site and oversee the event and much more.

I also want to give special thanks to our many supporters who have helped preserve and maintain this special place.”



2025 Projects

The area planted covers two complementary project areas.

The first is the Fern Gully mid story restoration project funded through a Melbourne Water Grant that the Friends applied for. The aim is to increase habitat for small birds as well as to improve water quality.

The other area is the Monash Council stormwater retention garden bed which aims to keep water in the landscape and to reduce erosion by slowing down the flow of water coming down Swayfield Road.



Happy planters at the
Community Planting day





Volunteers getting close to nature





Guest speaker for May

We were privileged to have *Michele Phillips, from the South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter (SOWS) talk to us on caring for injured wildlife.*

Across the country dedicated individuals and teams recover and care for injured animals and birds. Cars are the usual culprit but other causes of injury include attacks from other animals, entanglement and poisoning, accidental or (sometimes) deliberate.

Michelle had a wide range of photos of animals and birds she had cared for. Most eventually recover but some found a permanent home with Michelle if they could not be returned to the wild.

It is important to check marsupials, even when they appear to be dead, as they may have young in their pouch. With possums, which are highly territorial, you are legally obliged to check for possum occupancy before conducting pruning operations on large trees. Relocating a possum displaced by building or arborist work is a job for a specialist as you cannot remove it from its home territory.

Care is needed when using poisons around the home as birds such as Tawny frogmouths and owls have been poisoned by ingesting rats and mice which have been poisoned. It is preferable to use one of the many types of trap available.

If you find injured wildlife you can call the South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter (SOWS) 0411600591

Mount Waverley Secondary College Duke of Edinburgh Award

Students from MWSC participating in the Award have completed a review of nesting boxes in the reserve as part of the environment section of the Award.

Jubilee Rock

Located near the corner of Park Road and High Street Road, the rock and its accompanying plaque commemorate the 50th anniversary of the preservation of the reserve. Of recent years the rock has become obscured by weed growth. The Bush-crew will mow the approaches to the rock to give it the prominence it deserves.



New planning rules update

The imposition of universal “Deemed to comply” planning rules by the State government has created outrage amongst councils, environment and heritage groups. The new regulations effectively remove the ability of councils to intervene in planning decisions and, for reserves in Monash, the hard fought for provision of a 7metre rear setback for “Creek Abuttal” properties has been overridden.

Approaches to our State member have only served to confirm the application of the new planning rules.

The position of the Friends of Damper Creek is that the removal of the 7m setback to creek abuttal properties will do nothing to increase housing availability and will be detrimental to the environmental value of the affected reserves.

Midweek Weeding

With the return of some rainfall weeds are beginning to emerge in the reserve. The midweek weeders are continuing to work outside the usual working bees, supported by the bush-crew. The work done by this group is specific to revegetated areas and aims to preserve the value of our planting days.

All are welcome to join in this activity with the attendant benefits of a provided morning tea and social chat as well as learning the finer points of preserving the more delicate plants that are part of our revegetation programs.

To join this dedicated group and to receive notification of planned midweek weeding days please contact:
secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com





Upcoming Events

Our next working bee

Working Bee
Sunday June 28th
10-00am to 1-00pm

Infill planting in the Swayfield Road /Fern Gully Project Area (funded by Melbourne Water) and the Monash water retention bed.

Meet at the Swayfield Road Park Entrance

National Tree Day planting Sunday July 27th

(in conjunction with Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve)

Stanley Reserve (enter from 37A Therese Avenue)

Commences from 10-00am followed by BBQ

Our next guest speaker
(Topic to be decided)
Including AGM

Wednesday August 27th
- Alvie Hall from 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 for the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve. Content is welcome and should be emailed to dougscott3149@hotmail.com or to the secretary at secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

PO Box Mount Waverley No longer available