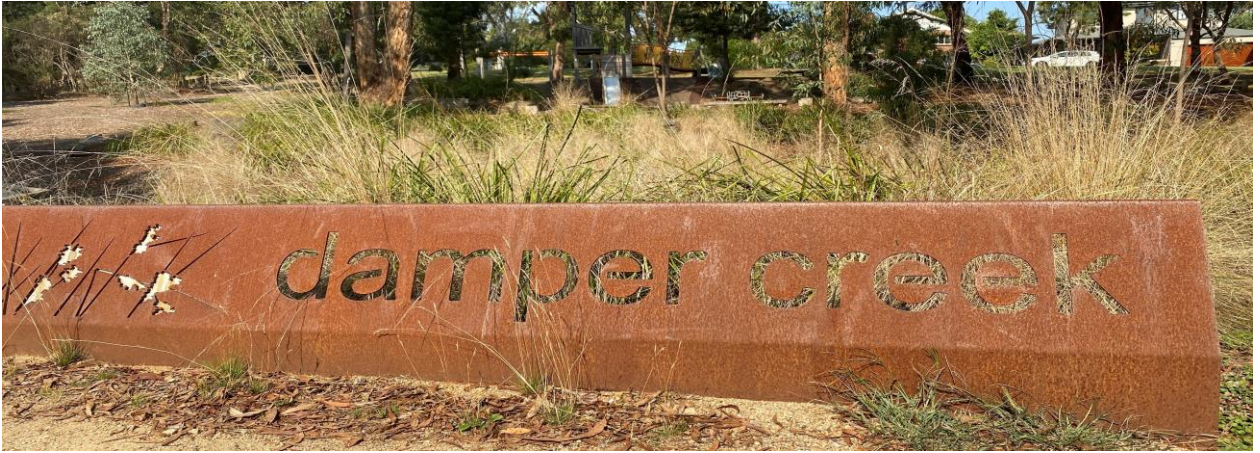




Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

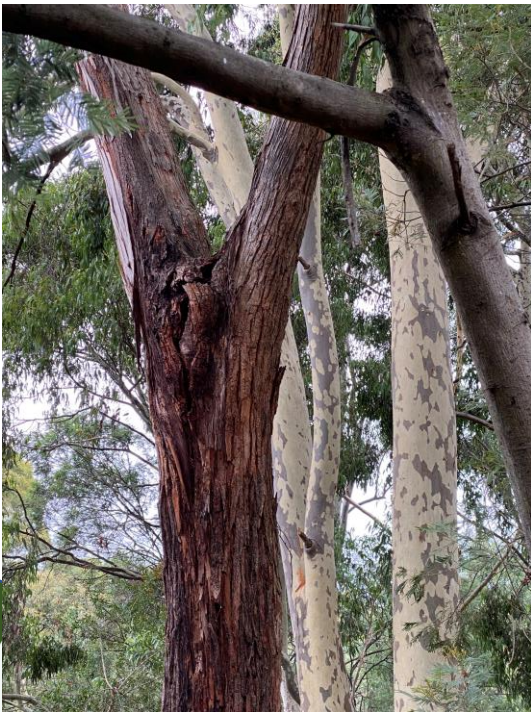
March 2023



From the President's Desk

Working to keep the reserve safe for users.

Monash employs a firm of highly skilled and environmentally sensitive arborists to maintain the trees in the reserve. To watch them in action is a delight as they perch in seemingly impossible positions to bring down dangerous limbs. Trees are never unnecessarily removed, dead trees are left to provide habitat, fallen timber is left on the ground for insects and bacteria to nourish the soil.



This tree had developed a highly dangerous "bifurcated trunk" and was on the verge of splitting. This would have destroyed the tree and the nesting hollow that had developed where the trunk branched. By removing the upper limbs the arborist has allowed the tree to regenerate as well as preserving the nesting hollow.



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



February Meeting

Our guest speaker, Emma Farone, spoke about the upcoming “Nature Challenge” and how we can contribute to this “Citizen Science” activity by providing photos through the iNaturalist app. Anyone with a smart phone can download the app and contribute to the project.

City Nature Challenge

The following information was taken from the Monash website:

*In 2023, more than **30 councils** across metropolitan Melbourne are collaborating to participate in the City Nature Challenge. Help Melbourne compete with cities from around the world by taking pictures of wild plants and animals between **Friday 28 April and Monday 1 May 2023** using iNaturalist. Let's show the world the incredible biodiversity of Melbourne!*

*During the four-day window of this challenge, **snap a photo of a plant or animal and upload it to iNaturalist**. The observations will automatically be pooled to this project so that we can compete with participants from cities all over the world over number of observations. It also gets added to Australia's database of plants and animals, helping scientists with their research to improve outcomes for our environment.*

*The Council website also contains a link to a webinar on using iNaturalist. Go to monash.vic.gov.au and search *City nature challenge 2023**





Before and after. The waterfall planting!



August 2021



March 2023

It is difficult to believe the change in this scene over 18 months. What was once a bare slope is now so thickly vegetated that the original viewpoint could not be replicated. Grasses and shrubs now completely cover the stump and logs which are so prominent in the original scene. Careful weeding of this site has been a significant factor in its success.

Please visit this spot when it is raining, the waterfall is spectacular!

Community Planting Day May 28 th
Commencing 10-00am at the Park Road car park

All members please note: this is one of our big events for the year. As it is a community event, **everyone is invited**. **The Lions club will be running a free sausage sizzle** for all participants. Tell your friends and neighbors, the more the merrier!

A year's progress

Making a difference! It seems hard to believe that the “Meadow Project” is only a year old. The mulch was spread in March and the wildflowers planted in July / August. Many plants flowered in October and some are still flowering. We look forward to seeing the effects of another year's growth, particularly with the small shrubs which take a few years to flower. Thanks to those volunteers who work to keep weeds out of the patch! Note that three gums were planted in the area in 2018, one did not survive and another replanted in 2021.



Pauridia glabella



Upcoming Events



March 26th Working Bee

Meet at the duck pond
10-00 to 12-30

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

May meeting

When: Wednesday May 24th 7-30 to 9-30
Where: Alvie Hall

Guest Speaker :Gillis Horner

Topic:

Restoring the Waterways and Floodplains of the Murray.

Community Planting Day and anniversary celebration
May 28th

Commencing 10-00am at the Park Road car park

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

August meeting August 23rd (AGM)

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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