



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve
inc.

March 2025



Photo of a dainty swallowtail
taken by Di Carra on “Clean-Up Australia day”.



Clean up Damper Creek

Clean up Damper Creek / February Working Bee was a great success with 30 volunteers and 6 full bags (1 was recycles) collected and other reports for dumped rubbish made to Council. Many thanks to the Glen Waverley Happy Seniors Association for coming to help out.

Heading off



A well deserved rest





Bushcrew Thank you

The Friends want to congratulate James Pote, Team Leader for Damper Creek Bushcrew, on his appointment to a teaching role at TAFE. We want to thank him for all his support on our projects and care for the Reserve. Hopefully some of his new students will be inspired to attend Damper Creek working Bees.

Water Quality The heat and lack of rainfall are having a noticeable impact on the creek and its environs. There had been a concerning scum in the main pond however luckily a brief rain event on Wednesday created enough flow to dissipate the build up. Let's hope for more rain soon as the plants really need a good watering.



The most picturesque part of Damper Creek is the Duck Pond. Recently, this has suffered due to lack of rain and sedimentation. The Friends are currently discussing the state of the Duck Pond with Council representatives.



Vigilance in Damper Creek

As members of the Friends of Damper Creek we enjoy our walks in a very special place. There are some things which we can do to contribute to making Damper Creek even better. Keep an eye open for the following:

- 1/ Dumped rubbish
- 2/ Branches and trees down
- 3/ Hazards
- 4/ Erosion
- 5/ Vandalism
- 6/ Inappropriate activities
- 7/ Property developments

Reports of problems can be sent to the Monash website via the following link.

<https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Residents-Property/Report-Issue-or-Make-Enquiry>

You can also contact the bush crew directly
Luke.Collins@monash.vic.gov.au

See something you don't like when a property is being redeveloped?

The Friends of Damper Creek have long fought to have properties adjoining Damper Creek treated differently as the rear boundary is effectively the same as a street frontage for users of the reserve. After long and tortuous efforts, the rear boundary was granted a 7 meter minimum setback to allow for a sympathetically developed rear garden which did not detract from the visual amenity of the reserve. All indications are that this restriction is being applied although irregular blocks can be treated differently.

When an existing house is demolished it can either be replaced with a single dwelling or multiple dwellings. In the former case neither the Council nor individual citizens can object provided the required regulations are obeyed.

When a block is redeveloped for multiple dwellings, the requirements are more rigorous. In such cases a notice is posted at the front of the property indicating the general nature of the development and the process for lodging objections to the Council.

The public then has access to all documentation submitted for the application. Objections may be lodged with the Council assesses the validity of the objection. Even if the Council accepts the objection the applicant has the option of putting their case to VCAT.

Removal of trees. The development application is accompanied by a vegetation assessment which will involve an arborist's report if significant trees are to be removed. For the purposes of the Council's Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) any tree over 10m high is protected as long as it is in good health. This is where it is worth checking the arborist's report as it seems that they operate on the basis of finding reasons for removal of the tree rather than reasons for retaining it. If the reason for tree removal is doubtful the Council is likely to support objections to its removal. It is difficult to get support from the Council where trees are smaller than 10m but one could try arguing on the basis of rarity, historical significance, neighbourhood character or aesthetics.

Tree Safety

The hot weather and also windy days have also impacted some trees in the reserve. The Friends have reported several damaged branches or large limb drops over the past month which the bushcrew have promptly attended to. The bushcrew also conduct regular inspections of trees near the paths and patrol on all total fire ban days.

If you notice a dangerous tree or a branch over a path please either contact our secretary (secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com) and / or report to Council via the "Snap Send Solve" App.

The Importance of "Canopy"

Councils across Melbourne suburbs are struggling with the state government's "Plan for Victoria". Tree canopy objectives of 30% canopy cover are in conflict with policies to increase housing density. The complicated arguments associated with this issue are outlined in an article in "The Age" on 14th March. This is recommended reading for anyone concerned for the environment.



Snippets

Mid Week Weeders

Many thanks to Helen for continuing to organise the mid week weeders. So far this year they have already contributed over 40 volunteer hours to weeding.

The midweek weeders work on ad hoc Thursday mornings depending on weather and availability. If you are interested in helping out - please email our secretary Tracey (secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com) so that you are put on the list to get notification for the mid week weeding.

Cancellation of P.O.box

In the coming months the P.O. box will be closed down. Users have been notified and reference is deleted at the foot of this newsletter.

Guest Speaker for May

Put this in your diary - Wednesday 28th May. "What should you do if you find injured wildlife?" Come and hear from Michele Phillips, from the South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter (SOWS) who will share information about what you can do to protect wildlife, what to do in an emergency, how the wildlife shelter cares for injured wildlife and how you can support this work. Supper will be provided afterward.

Guest Speaker

You are invited to support our sister organisation.

Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7:30 pm at Alvie Hall

Topic: **Sustainable Monash**, : Presented by Claire Brace

Supporting an environmentally sustainable city Come and hear from the City of Monash Coordinator Sustainability and Biodiversity Champion on how Council and the community can work together to create a more environmentally sustainable city.



Upcoming Events



Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7:30 pm Alvie Hall

Guest Speaker for the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Sustainable Monash : Supporting an environmentally sustainable city Presented by Claire Brace

Our next working bee

Sunday March 30th

10-00am to 12-30pm in the Fern Gully project area.

Our next guest speaker

- **Wednesday 28th May.**
 - Alvie Hall from 7-30
- *"What should you do if you find injured wildlife?"*
- *Come and hear from Michele Phillips, from the South Oakleigh Wildlife Shelter (SOWS)*

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

www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au

