



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

May 2021



From the President's Desk

Each of us has their own ways of enjoying Damper Creek Reserve. From the activity focused joggers and dog walkers to the avid naturalist who may focus on some small detail. To each his own, I say, but I urge you to develop an additional perspective on our precious reserve. To those who plug into your device, unplug and listen to the sounds of the bush. Recognizing birdsong is an acquired skill. Time and patience will reward you with the skill of recognition. Birds nest in vastly different ways. The tawny frogmouth balances her eggs on an impossibly minimal platform of sticks. Willy wagtails form a cup of cobwebs on a bare branch and others weave balls of sticks and cobwebs in thick foliage. Magpies form a classic nest of sticks but more careful observation will show an unlikely assemblage of materials. I once saw a magpie steal a bunch of bonsai wire, one piece at a time, to help with nest construction. I have even seen lengths of fencing wire woven into magpie nests!

Rainbow lorikeets are fond of using tree hollows. Some of these are obvious, where a hollow has developed after a branch has broken off. Others, not so obvious. A narrow fissure in a tree trunk can be the entry into an internal cavity. Rainbow lorikeets can be observed testing points of weakness in tree trunks. This testing can occur over years and even generations of birds until a cavity suitable for nesting opens up. Pardalotes may burrow into the stream bank or into the ground around fallen timbers. I hope you can spot one. They are the true jewels of Damper Creek.

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

www.friends of dampercreek.org.au



Return to Alvie Hall

Future meetings of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve will be held in Alvie hall. During Covid restrictions the hall was not available and essential committee work was conducted via Zoom. The Zoom facility is still available and may be activated as required, but for the time being we will revert to our monthly meetings on the fourth Wednesday each month at Alvie hall.

Several members have expressed a need to meet face to face and the resumption of “real” meetings is in response to this request. To make these meetings relevant, we ask members to suggest guest speakers for future meetings. Topics can be any vaguely related topic from nature, local history or municipal development. Guest speakers give us the opportunity to connect with other organizations similar to ours.

Jubilee book

The second printing of the Jubilee book quickly sold out. There will be a copy available for viewing at the next meeting. At this point we are awaiting a special offer in order to produce copies at an economical cost.

April Working Bee

The April working bee was well attended. Weeding continued behind the Park Road houses and the Western side of the path. This area is beginning to show vigorous establishment of native species from previous plantings and diminished re-emergence of weed species.

Midweek Weeders:

The Midweek Weeders met on April 1st to continue weeding in the area around the track junction by the duck pond. This area is responding to repeated weeding sessions and the native species are dominating over the weeds. The next midweek weeding session is proposed for the Thursday June 3rd. Commencement at 10-30 till 12-00.

Note that the planting scheduled for the Community Planting Day will take place to the North of this area.



Conservation Management Plans

The City of Monash, has engaged the consulting firm “Practical Ecology “ to survey and report on the conservation status of Damper Creek, Valley Reserve and the Glen Waverley Golf course. At a meeting on April 29th, held at the bushcrew compound and attended by a number of the friends group, council representatives, councillors and the Practical Ecology team, the wide range of topics relative to the ecology of the reserve were discussed.

These Conservation Management Plans

aim to provide clear evidence based guidance on the ongoing activities that will support the enhancement of each reserves ecological values.

The plans will update baseline data collected in 2017 as part of the Urban Biodiversity strategy.

We look forward to seeing the results of the survey and appreciate the ongoing commitment of the council to its reserves.

Street Trees and Nature Strip planting

The nature strips of the City of Monash contribute significantly to the character and ecological value of our city. Guidelines for nature strip planting have been revised and are available on the council’s website. The creation of a nature strip garden is a worthwhile challenge and the council’s own efforts in Park road are and inspiration.

The planning, provision and planning of street trees is a council responsibility.

Maintenance and provision of replacement trees is conducted on a street by street basis and the community is consulted before older trees are removed and replaced. Residents are provided with a range of options for tree replacement.

If you have concerns regarding street trees or if you feel your nature strip could accommodate more trees feel free to contact the council:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/contact/request-a-service

Bungalook Nursery Open Day

On May 29th The Whitehorse Community Indigenous Nursery will be holding its annual open day. Details in the attached flyer. This is your opportunity to see the nursery in operation and to purchase their low cost plants.



Dates to remember:

Wed 26th May Alvie Hall from 7.30 - 9pm

Sunday 30th May Working Bee –

meet at Bushcrew Compound to assist with tube stock plantings in that area (tube stock provided by MCCouncil) commencing at 10am - 12.30pm.

Thursday 3rd June Mid Week weeders –

10.30 - approx 12 noon at Main Pond

Sunday 27th June

Community planting day and sausage sizzle

Melbourne Water grant project

location - hillside northwards from the main ponds along the lower track.

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
- (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 or to the secretary at secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

PO Box 2063 Mount Waverley 3149