



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

May 2023



From the President's Desk

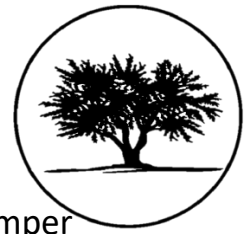
Rain brings benefits

Recent rains have replenished soil moisture in Damper Creek and prepared the soil for our annual planting days. In particular, visitors to the reserve will notice the proliferation of fungi. Generally unnoticed as their tendrils, known as hyphae, spread through the soil infiltrating dead vegetable matter and turning mulch into nutrients. The hyphae bond the soil, helping to prevent erosion and, some say, providing communication pathways between plants.

Mushrooms, toadstools and other fungi are generally invisible, spending their lives below ground, it is only when the fruiting bodies emerge that we see the

Familiar shape of the mushroom or toadstool. The part we see is simply the fruiting body, the distribution mechanism for spores. The variation in size, shape and color of fungi is mind blowing. You will find many different types in Damper Creek ranging from pin head size to the size of a dinner plate. There are even fungi that glow in the dark. There are many of these in the reserve.





Celebrating our 30th anniversary

This year marks 30 years since the formation of the Friends of Damper Creek. (*This should not be confused with our precursor, the Damper Creek Conservation and Development Group, formed to preserve the reserve from subdivision in 1968*). Our working bee on Sunday May 28th will be much more than a standard working bee. Not only is it a community planting day but a free BBQ will be provided by the Friends together with the Lions Club of Ashwood Mt Waverley— sausages, onions, soft drinks, water, billy tea/coffee, and a fruit platter will be provided.

Invitations have been distributed to households in the locality and representatives of local, state and federal government have been invited..

Creative Celebration of Damper Creek

Children and youth aged 3 to 17

Bring along your Drawing or Painting / Photo / Short Story or Poem about Damper Creek Conservation Reserve and why it is important to you.

The Friends would love to use your art in our noticeboard or newsletters.

Requirements: No larger than A4 size and just write your first name and year at kinder or school on the back.

In appreciation there will be give away rewards for all artists as well as families that join the Friends Group.





Before and after

1993

2023



North of the Alice Street bridge (Palma's plummet)

I thought it would be easy to replicate the original photo but the changes in the last 30 years have been profound. The tree fern no longer exists, a victim of the millennium drought. Other key features are difficult to place and the track is scarcely visible from the West side of the creek.



1995

2023

Alice street bridge

Note the steps across from the bridge. These were constructed after earlier attempts with pavers to provide access to Bengal Crescent failed to withstand erosion problems.





Suburban Rail Loop

The SRL Authority will be conducting exploratory drilling in the vicinity of Bengal Crescent between the end of May and the middle of June. We have been assured that full access to the reserve will be maintained during this period.

Flowing Loops - Looping Flows

Art Walkshop at Damper Creek

Saturday 17 June from 10:30am-12:30pm (meet at Park Rd car carpark).

FLOWING LOOPS ~ LOOPING FLOWS, is a PhD project by Dan Koop of Deakin university. Inspired by the interaction between the Suburban Rail Loop, water flows and people movement Dan will hold a number of “Walkshops” as a public art experience. Dan is conducting his research on “temporary Public Art”. Further information can be obtained by contacting Dan at dan@flowingloops.com (www.danjkooop.com).

Please see the noticeboards for more information.

Monash grant “Conserving our Urban Environment”

Funds from this grant have been directed towards equipment for weeding by the “friends”, plants for revegetation and promotional materials. At our community planting day plants funded by this grant will be available for participants.

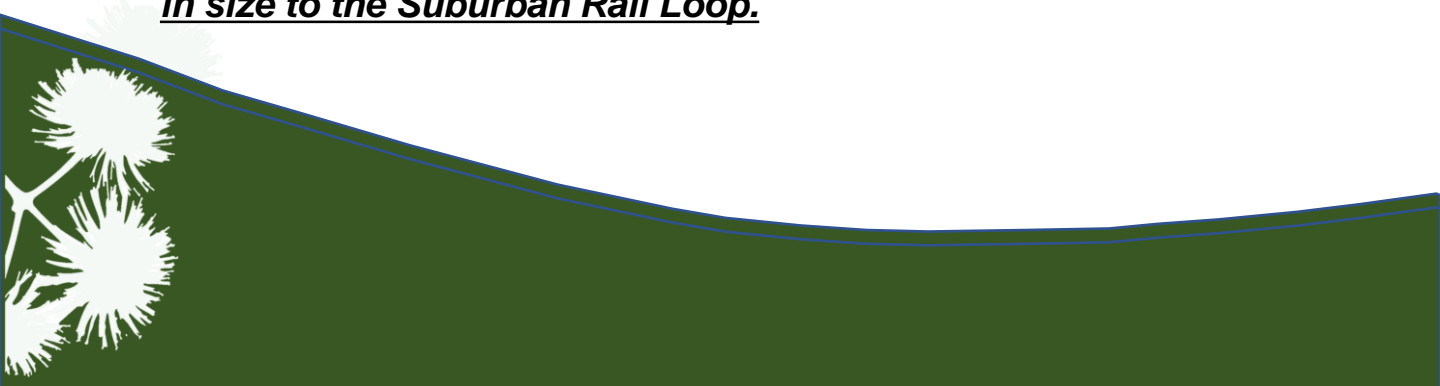
A new Damper Creek brochure has already been printed and a promotional video is being prepared.

Guest speaker

Don't forget that we will have a guest speaker at our meeting at Alvie Hall on Wednesday May 24th . The speaker is Gillis Horner and the subject is:

Restoring the Waterways and Floodplains of the Murray.

Note that this is a major infrastructure project that is comparable in size to the Suburban Rail Loop.



Waiting to be planted:

Supplies for the Community Planting Day May 28th





Upcoming Events

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

Registration is essential

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

BBQ from 12-00

Presentations from 12-45

Working bees June 25th, July 30th

Damper Creek Walkshop Sat June 17th

10:30am-12:30pm (meet at Park Rd car carpark).

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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