



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve
inc.

May 2025



Members of the Glen Waverley Happy Seniors Association
with the enormous pile of English Ivy removed during the
April 4th working bee.

Younger members of the Friends of Damper Creek struggle to load the council ute.

The incredible volume of (mostly) English Ivy removed from the reserve near Golf Avenue proved a challenge for all as our bushcrew representative, Rob had to make several trips during the morning to clear the weed pile.



A rare visitor

It's not every day a Powerful Owl is spotted in Damper creek reserve. Justine Khamara not only spotted this magnificent bird in the reserve in early April but managed to capture this great photo. The powerful owl is the largest of the Australian owls with an impressive wingspan up to 135cm. It is an apex predator, feeding mainly on small mammals including possums, rodents and even bats. It relies on diverse vegetation and the fact that it visits Damper creek is an indicator of a healthy environment. It is listed as a vulnerable species in Victoria .

The powerful owl can be killed by eating rats that have been poisoned. Never use poisons for rats or mice as you may end up poisoning tawny frogmouths or owls.





More on the Powerful Owl

Research by Deakin University shows that the powerful owl inhabits urban areas with a more limited range than in natural bushland areas. This shows that the limited areas of urban bushland and backyard vegetation are productive suppliers of prey for the powerful owl and also that small losses of urban habitat are significant to powerful owl populations.

Read more by following link <https://www.deakin.edu.au/about-deakin/news-and-media-releases/articles/hunt,-rest-and-play-deakin-researchers-track-citys-powerful-owls2>

Flowing Loops

During 2024 the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) funded an arts project following the route of the rail loop. The process was facilitated by performance artist Dan Koop who created a series of 12 podcasts of the lands and surface features traversed by the route of the SRL. What was produced was a series which allows the listener to experience the sights and sounds as well as the environmental and cultural aspects of the lands which will eventually be traversed by passengers on the SRL. Episode 5A includes Damper Creek. For this episode Dan was accompanied by Di and Rebecca Carra as well as Dan's fellow performance artist Emily Bowman. This is a carefully crafted series which reveals Damper Creek and other sections of the SRL from the artist's perspective through interviews with locals along the route. Just click on www.floatingloops.com/podcast.



STATE GOVERNMENT CHANGES TO RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The Friends of Damper Creek have recently been notified of changes to legislation which override council standards including C125 which specifies a minimum setback of 7m in "Creek Abuttal Zones". The following is an abridged version of the letter sent to our president. The full version is available on our website.

On 6 March 2025, the State Government announced the new Townhouse and Low-Rise Code (the Code). The Code which applies to developments of two or more dwellings on a lot and includes low-rise apartments up to three storeys in height came into effect in all Planning Schemes on 31 March 2025. What does the new Code do? The new code removes Council standards that are more restrictive than the standard. Where an application complies with the requirements of the Code, (provided there are no other permit triggers, for example a Heritage Overlay) a permit must be issued by Council. Objectors no longer have third-party appeal rights.

You may recall that Council and the community undertook a significant piece of work, successfully increasing rear setbacks, private open space requirements and canopy tree planting requirements in unit developments in the more sensitive areas of Monash, particularly the creek corridors, through Planning Scheme Amendment C125. Unfortunately, The new State Government Code removes the ability of Councils to set a standard higher than the new Code. the default State Government standards now apply throughout Monash. This letter provides only a brief overview of the changes - you can see more detail on the changes at the Council report via this link:

[https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/about-us/council/agendas/2025/29 april/7.1.3-update-on-state-government-planning-announcements.pdf](https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/about-us/council/agendas/2025/29%20april/7.1.3-update-on-state-government-planning-announcements.pdf)

We anticipate that design standards for single dwellings, Clause 54, will also be changed, removing any local variations (as outlined above) for consistency.

Our president has discussed the issue with Sean McNamee, (Monash Manager Strategic Planning) and was advised that the changes were made without consultation with the council who were shocked by the announcement and are looking at other avenues to support community values. The issue is compounded by the delay/refusal of the Planning Minister to approve the proposed tree controls/Landscape Significance Overlay. The committee is preparing a letter to our local member Matt Fregon and the Minister for Planning.



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 May 21st 2025 at 7:30 pm at Alvie Hall

Topic: Local spiders (or How to pick a good Web Browser)

Presented by Ian Moodie

Ian is a prominent local naturalist and photographer. He is an engaging and entertaining speaker. Don't miss this opportunity to see his superb photography. Please see the attached flyer.

Missing the April newsletter?

If you did not receive the April newsletter please let the editor know via email dougscott3149@hotmail.com. Your feedback will help in tracking down the mystery of the missing emails.





Upcoming Events

Our next working bee

Sunday May 25th
10-00am to 1-00pm

Community Planting Day & LIONS Club BBQ

Planting in the Fern Gully Project Area (funded by Melbourne Water)
and the Monash water retention bed.

Meet at the Swayfield Road Park Entrance (Refer to attached
invitation)

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