

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

November 2019

The newsletter of
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC
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In this issue:

Editorial

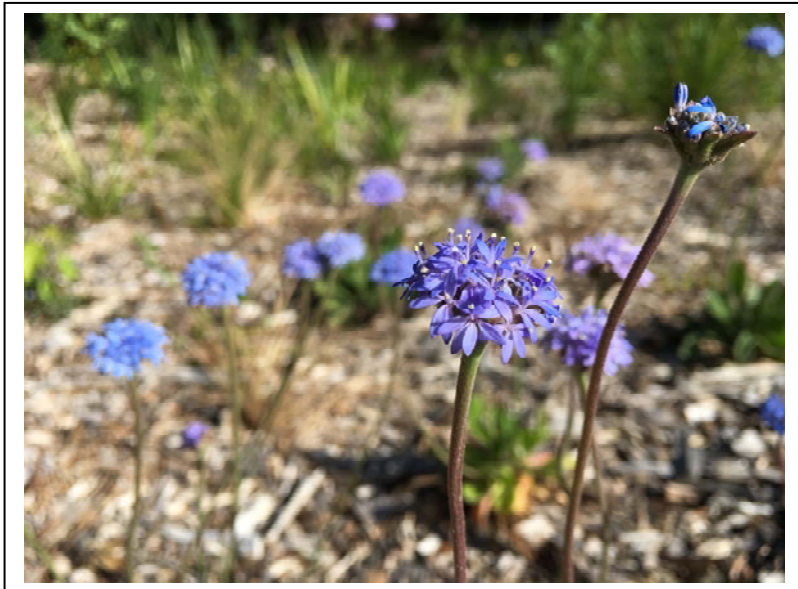
Important - 28b Park Road VCAT hearing Friday 6 December 2019 from 10am – 1pm at 55 King Street Melbourne – please attend if you can

Volunteer weeding

End of Year BBQ invitation

Editorial:

The season to be jolly may be fast approaching but the wildflowers in Damper Creek Reserve are already flowering prolifically. The best places to see these wonderful offerings of nature are in the newly planted areas, specifically the nature strips in Park Road, the Jubilee planting area opposite the Park Road playground and the area behind the Park Road properties.



This delightful plant is in profuse flower in the patch behind the Park Road properties. It is commonly known as the "Blue Pincushion" or Brunonia australis.

As we come to the end of another successful year it is time to reflect on the thousands of plants we have added to the reserve, many thousands of weeds (possibly millions) removed, our continued close relationship with the City of Monash and Melbourne Water, our continued advocacy for the environment and controls over development in the environs of Damper Creek. As an organisation, we also contribute to public education through our programme of guest speakers.

Time, now, to kick back and relax. We have our final guest speaker at our next meeting on Wednesday 27th November and our annual end-of-year BBQ on Sunday 1st December 2019

Weeds and Weeders!

Honestly; weeding cannot be everyone's favourite activity, but it can be enlightening and even addictive. At our last working bee there was a fantastic turnout of about 20 volunteers weeding the patch between Alice Street and the bridge. At the beginning, the activity did not seem promising but as weeds were removed, it was obvious that there was great growth of wallaby grass in the area. Interesting, as the area had been planted out two years previously and the planting did not seem to have survived particularly well the following year. All of which goes to prove that we should not "give up" on a replanted area as our indigenous plants can survive amongst the weeds and lay a foundation of seeds for a new generation.

A much smaller group gathered the following Tuesday to extend the weeded area opposite the duck pond. This area is now looking really good with many patches of Poas, wallaby grasses, Lomandras and other lilies emerging from what had seemed to be a solid bed of weeds. In particular, a large patch of weeping grass (*Microlaena*) was uncovered near the upper path. Weeding might seem tedious but it is a much more productive use of volunteer labour to protect an area of good indigenous growth from weeds than to plant a new area and then neglect it. The habitat value of this area was further enhanced by planting a number of prickly Sweet Bursarias to provide small bird habitat. This area will be managed carefully to ensure the development of a dense thicket to exclude predatory birds and animals.

Other weeding has taken place along the Park Road nature strips and in the newly planted areas at the rear of the Park road properties. All these areas are looking fantastic and are well worth a look with a wide range of interesting species.

Do you want to weed? Your editor is happy to spend time with any member who wants to weed outside normal working bee times. Ring me on 0417300866 and I will provide some instruction so your efforts can be most effectively applied.

28b Park Road VCAT hearing – Friday 6th December 2019 from 10am.

Please come to the hearing to demonstrate the commitment of our membership to the welfare of the Reserve and our advocacy for appropriate development in the Reserve environs. Please read last month's DCDoings (on our website) for further details or email our secretary on secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com or for further information please phone the Secretary on 0401 813 502

Members of FODCR are urged to attend the VCAT hearing.

(revised commencement time) now 10 am – 1pm Friday 6th December 2019,

55 King Street Melbourne

If you wish to meet at Mount Waverley station to travel we will arrive at 8.30am to catch the next train (destination Southern Cross Station, but as trains do not go round the loop at that time of the morning, we will change platforms at Richmond station to proceed directly to Southern Cross)

November Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker: Campbell Miles,

“An Alaskan Cruise”

Members are invited to bring a small plate to share at supper. Thank you

For Your diary

Wednesday, 27th November 2019, 7.30pm at Alvie hall

Guest Speaker Campbell Miles, "An Alaskan Cruise"

Sunday, 1st December 2019

Annual BBQ – please see invitation attached to this email, All Welcome. For catering purposes an RSVP would be appreciated

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