



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation
Reserve inc.

November 2021



From the President's Desk

As our AGM approaches it is time to review what has transpired during what has been a very unusual year. Due to COVID many of our normal events have not been able to proceed. Without our monthly meetings at Alvie Hall, working bees and community events it might seem that our Friends group had been in recess. However, this is far from the truth. Much of our general business has been conducted via ZOOM and this has proven to be an effective way of bringing our group together with attendance higher than many of our "in person" meetings.

We managed to fit in two working bees to prepare and plant the around the ponds adjoining bush crew compound and another midweek working bee to plant part of the Melbourne Water grant tubestock. A final working bee at the end of October saw weeding maintenance completed on an area planted out during 2020.

Throughout the year the support of the City of Monash and, in particular, the bush crew, has been exemplary. Danny Randitis of the bush crew has conceived and overseen the execution of the pond complex adjoining the compound. As well as vastly improving the appearance of the area the ponds serve to manage a complex water runoff problem in the area and already are home to frogs and other wildlife.



Planting of the remaining Melbourne Water tubestock was undertaken by City of Monash staff. Additional funds from Melbourne Water grants were put towards infill planting in the Park road nature strips. The Council has commissioned two surveys from “Practical Ecology” to assess the current state of the reserve and to provide a baseline for future improvements.

During lockdowns we have increased our membership to 135 as people have discovered the importance of the green space offered by Damper Creek and we look forward to this translating to a more active membership base.

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve has responded to a number of Council initiatives including the “Tree Management Policy”, The “Monash Health and Wellbeing Plan” and the “Damper Creek North Conservation and Development Plan”. Participation in the VCAT hearings on 28b Park Road resulted in confirmation of the findings of earlier VCAT hearings on the same property.

The forthcoming year promises a number of exciting opportunities. Resumption of normal meetings, community activities and working bees are at the forefront. Development of the Wildflower meadow, the presentation of the second Practical Ecology report, revised website and an increased Melbourne Water Grant are all reasons for optimism for 2022.

Our AGM will be conducted via Zoom commencing at 7-30 pm on November 24th. Nominations for office bearers and committee members are welcomed.



Vale Len Nicholson

Len Nicholson passed away on 29 October 2021. He was a foundation member of the Damper Creek Conservation and Development Group which saved Damper Creek from development in 1968.

Len was noted for his practical skills and evidence of his work remains within the reserve in the memorial plaques on seats and, in particular, the "Mushroom Rock" plaque. Len also helped with the construction of the middle bridge known as "Palma's Plummet."

Len will be remembered for his calm and friendly nature with a generous community spirit. A loyal and consistent supporter of the Friends, he will be sadly missed.

The Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve wish Len's wife Lesley and all his family, peace and comfort during this sad time.

When a tree falls

The recent combination of high rainfall and strong winds has resulted in a number of trees falling in the reserve. It is sad to see a mature tree tumble, particularly when our group is a strong advocate for greater tree cover.

However, this is a natural process and nature benefits as a result.

A fallen tree is a wildlife haven. Lizards sun themselves and birds perch on the limbs. At ground level myriads of invertebrates burrow in the litter beneath the fallen limbs. As the timber rots fungi colonize the wood, converting it into a rich mulch. The upturned roots open up the soil, allowing water to penetrate and leaf litter accumulates, enriching the soil.

A more enlightened approach sees fallen timber left where it falls, rather than tidied up to suit a neat aesthetic. Nature is not tidy!



A Day in the park by Isabella Blick



Rainbow
Lorikeet



Pale Flax Lily



Cassinia
Cauliflower
Bush



Hop
Goodenia



Hedge Wattle
seed pods



Black
Wattle





Dates to remember:

November 24th

7:30

Annual General Meeting On Zoom

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

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

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