

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

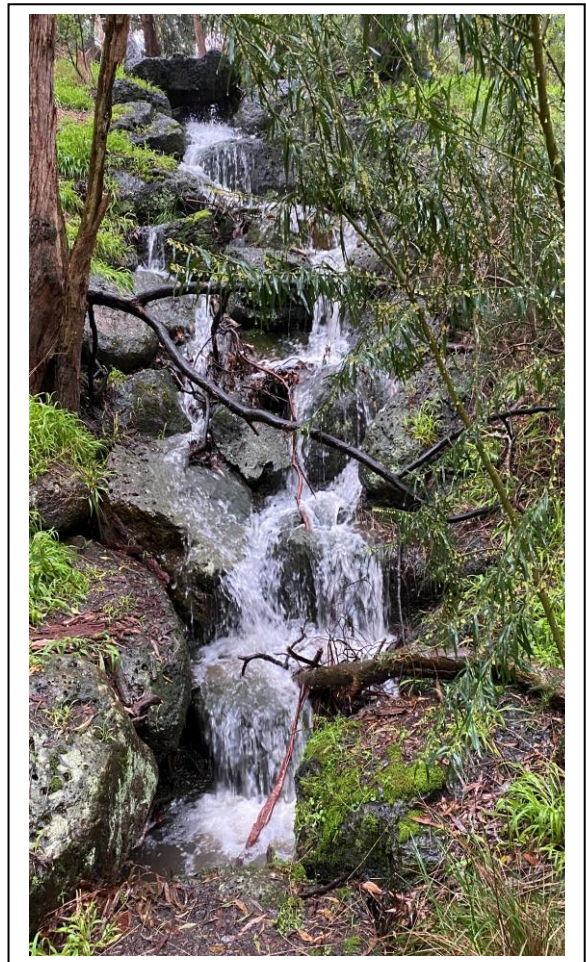
October 2020

The newsletter of
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC
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What does Damper Creek Reserve mean to you?

During Melbourne's lockdown the activity within the reserve has been remarkable. The reserve has provided an escape for hundreds of locals, many of whom have discovered our little oasis for the first time. The benefits of the reserve are many, it provides a location for exercise, a place to connect with nature and, during the coming warmer months, it will provide a refuge several degrees cooler than the surrounding streets. The wildlife appreciate it too. Lizards, tortoises, possums and birds are frequent inhabitants and visitors to the reserve. While the influence of the reserve on birdlife is obvious, it is difficult to quantify. For the last six years Birdlife Australia has conducted the "Backyard Bird Count". You, too, can participate and become an important part of this citizen science project. You don't have to be an expert and Birdlife Australia provide all the resources you need. More details further on in this newsletter. With the changing nature of Mount Waverley, larger houses, smaller gardens and fewer trees, such monitoring is vital to document the effect our changing neighborhood has on our wildlife.

It is sobering to consider that fifty-two years ago a small group of passionate locals fought against authorities who planned to barrel drain the creek and subdivide the land. When you look at what we have today, such a development proposal would seem incomprehensible. How many of today's development proposals will deprive future generations of a similar oasis in suburbia? The transformation from an unloved wasteland does not happen without effort and vision. The landscaping of the creek bed, elimination of weeds and a continual program of replanting are the result of a long partnership between the council, Melbourne Water and the passionate membership of the "Friends". Long may it continue.



P.S. The reserve needs more friends to continue the good work.

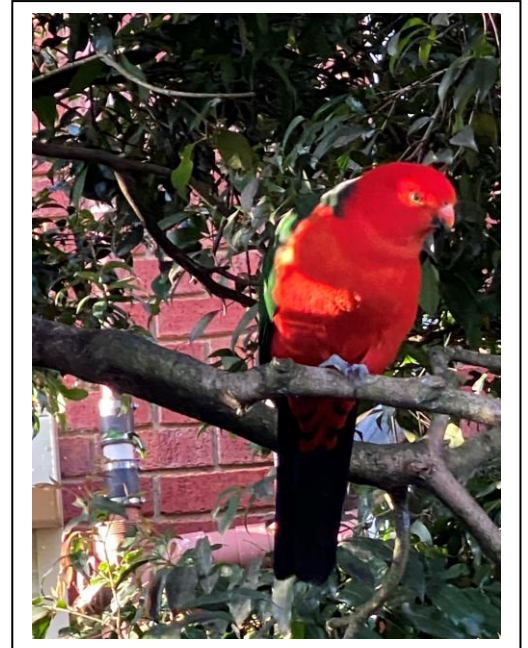
Go to www.friendsofdampercreek.org

Backyard Bird Count

Bird Life Australia are running their annual Backyard Bird Count from October 19th to 25th. This is a real opportunity to become involved in a citizen science project. It does not require an extensive knowledge of Australian birds, just a commitment to register and spend any number of 20 minute blocks of time during the week of the survey to record the birds seen (including invasive species).

You can choose your own backyard or any outdoor space including Damper Creek.

There are many resources available through the Birdlife Australia website. However, for the beginner birdwatcher I came across a publication "Melbirds" which, though written for children, provides an easy to use guide for the most common birds found in Melbourne. There are 63 species included, each illustrated with an excellent photo. The guide can be downloaded as a pdf from the Melbirds website.



King Parrot

Gardens for Wildlife

The City of Monash is providing a wide range of resources in support of the Gardens for Wildlife programme. They are hosting two webinars which are free. The topics are as follows:

[Attracting small birds](#) on October 21st at 7-00pm

[Attracting native bees and butterflies](#) on November 11th at 7-00pm

In addition, links to the following resources are provided:

[Gardening Australia: Backyard Biodiversity](#)

[Sustainable Gardening Australia: Gardens for Wildlife](#)

[Victorian Government: Make Your Garden a Wildlife Haven](#)

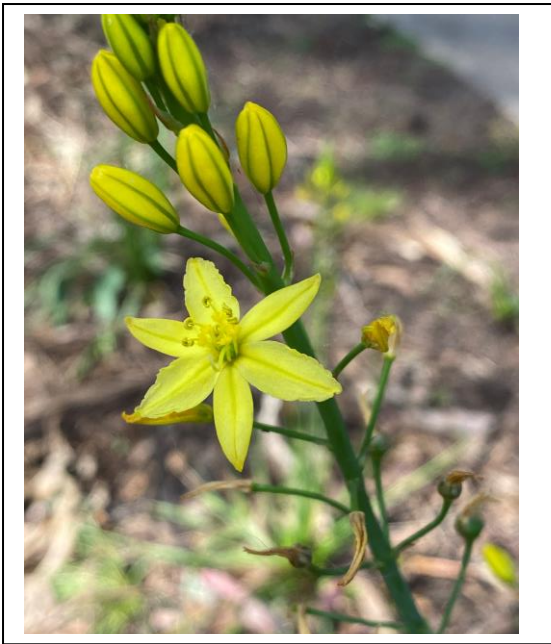
If you want to be involved in Gardens for Wildlife email GardensforWildlife@monash.vic.gov.au

When you register you will be rewarded with a free booklet, a voucher for 20 free plants from Greenlink nursery and an invitation to online events.



**Left
Australian
bluebell**

**Right
Veronica
gracilis**



Bulbine lily



Trigger plant



Clustered everlasting



Spear grass

All photos above were taken in the Park Road nature strip planting

Diary Notes : Please be assured that FODCR continues to be active behind the scenes.

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 .

If you see something in Damper Creek that you think needs attention, please contact Monash Council on their website and leave a report:

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

Damper Creek is part of the Yarra catchment and is financially supported by Melbourne Water and Monash City Council