



# Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve  
inc.

October 2023



## **Future programmes for Damper Creek**

The committee had an onsite meeting and walk through the reserve with the Monash Heritage & Conservation team (Bushcrew) to discuss the management priorities and opportunities for the next few years.

While maintenance of previously planted areas will continue to be an important activity for the Council and the Friends, the focus for the Melbourne Water grant in the coming years will be in the “Fern Gully” area. The objective for this area is to improve habitat for small birds between Swayfield Road and Tarella Drive and to address erosion problems in the vicinity of the “Fern Gully”.

The Friends will develop a 5 year framework to guide our activities and to identify further projects to both influence and support the Bushcrew management objectives.

The Friends look forward to working in a new section of the reserve and hope to promote our work to new residents. We will continue to support citizen science by promoting the National Bird Count and use of the INaturalist App.

If you have any issues or ideas for the Reserve please let us know.



## **Committee Changes**

At the August AGM the following committee members were appointed:

President: Di Carra

Vice President Doug Scott

Treasurer: Campbell Miles

Secretary: Helen Clements

General committee members: Ray Paterson, CC. Hua

The following members are also “tagged” to perform the following vital functions:

DCD editor: Doug Scott

Webmaster: Philip Johnstone

Noticeboards: John Wolf

Membership: Jill Anderson

Working bee Catering : Chris Carra

Waterwatch: Frank Carder, Campbell Miles, CC. Hua

I would like to thank Doug, Campbell and Helen for agreeing to continue on the Friends Committee and also to welcome Ray and CC as general members.

As you can see, it takes many members to make our Friends group work. If you have a skill, insight or interest which you can contribute, please let us know via the secretary at [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)

## **Are we killing our wildlife?**

Click on the following link to hear about the common use of rat poisons that may be killing our favorite birds.

[https://theconversation.com/rat-poison-is-killing-our-beloved-native-owls-and-tawny-frogmouths-and-thats-the-tip-of-the-iceberg-212184?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Science%20Wrap%202024&utm\\_content=Science%20Wrap%2024+CID\\_b76145648348740946c7f91917897081&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor&utm\\_term=on%20a%20truly%20alarming%20scale](https://theconversation.com/rat-poison-is-killing-our-beloved-native-owls-and-tawny-frogmouths-and-thats-the-tip-of-the-iceberg-212184?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Science%20Wrap%202024&utm_content=Science%20Wrap%2024+CID_b76145648348740946c7f91917897081&utm_source=campaign_monitor&utm_term=on%20a%20truly%20alarming%20scale)



## **Bush crew changes:**

Earlier this year we welcomed Sem Alcoba to the Bush crew team. Sem was an enthusiastic worker for the reserve but, unfortunately he had to move on to a better position. The Friends look forward to working with Sem's replacement.

## **November meeting Guest Speaker: Maxwell Campbell**

### **Subject:**

**Biodiversity, Holobionts and Symbiosis – Understanding or Misunderstanding Our Natural World.** Current President (8+ years) of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. Maxwell is an experienced naturalist, macro photographer and microscopist with a special interest in video microscopy and is heavily committed to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems. His major interest is invertebrates and their symbiotic relationships. He has been a biologist, educator and active naturalist for nearly 60 years.

Maxwell will discuss aspects of biodiversity, holobionts and symbiosis and its importance to conservation and regeneration. The critical importance of invertebrates has been grossly underestimated as there is an over-emphasis on vertebrates. He will illustrate his presentation with micro videos and photographs of lesser-known organisms.

## **Nature Strip Gardening**

The City of Monash has expanded its nature strip planting programme to include the toughest part of the job, removing the original grass. The Council will pay a contractor to remove the existing grass provided there is a total of 100m to be removed in the street. Each householder will get a voucher for 50 indigenous plants and \$50 towards mulch.

Get your neighbours on board and apply for permits from

[sustainability@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@monash.vic.gov.au).





# Observations in Damper Creek



Pacific Black Duck

*Anas superciliosa*

Snowy Daisy Bush

*Olearia lirata*

Bushy Needlewood

*Hakea decurrens*

Photos by Jill Anderson



## Upcoming Events

### Working Bees

**(last Sunday of the month unless notified)**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023 from 10am - 12.30pm

Meet at main pond, creek track - maintenance event

Billy boils at 11am

All welcome

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

### Next meeting

**Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 7-30 pm**

**Guest speaker:** Maxwell Campbell (president FNCV)

**Topic:** Biodiversity and the importance of invertebrates

**Alvie Hall**

**commences 7.30 pm**

### **Annual BBQ**

**November 26th**

### **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](http://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 [dougscott3@bigpond.com](mailto:dougscott3@bigpond.com) or to the secretary at [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)

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