



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve
inc.

October 2024



Communication

When was the last time you wrote a letter? Modern communication is evolving at a great rate. While those who use emails might think they are keeping up with technology, there are many other modes of communication open to us. The Friends of Damper Creek have a comprehensive website (easily found by internet search), a Facebook page and, of course, this newsletter and the noticeboards. Over the last couple of years members have done a great job updating our information systems but there is still room for improvement. We welcome suggestions and (particularly) offers to improve our ability to reach out to a greater audience. You can send your suggestions or offer to help to:

Secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com





Above: Small Rice-flower
Left: Chocolate lily **Right: Clustered everlasting**



There is plenty of interest for the visitor to Damper Creek at present. As well as the above specimens there are dianellas (three different varieties in the reserve), Bulbine lilies, Cut Leaf Daisies, Bulbines, Native Violets, the Spiny-heads Matt-rush and the Running Postman. Keep an eye open and you will soon see Yam Daisies and Bluebells. The best places to look are the wildflower meadow and the Park Road nature strips but you are likely to see more in other parts of the reserve. What else have you seen?





Our Guest Speakers

For each of our quarterly meetings we endeavour to have a guest speaker presenting on a subject relevant to our members. The advantages of this arrangement are many. Firstly, we are able to provide informative topics and interesting speakers who we can engage in conversation with after the presentation. Secondly, we keep the routine business of the meeting to a bare minimum. In order to avoid duplication, we coordinate with the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve to avoid duplication of presenters and a clash of schedules. Thus, we get to exchange conversations with our “sister” group.

Suggestions for future guest speakers are always welcome.

August: Gary Presland presented on the history of Kooyongkoot
Gary kindly forwarded a comprehensive synopsis of his talk which we have added to our website.

November : Krista Mogensen

Urban beekeeper Krista is an ambassador for the Wheen Bee Foundation, an Australian not-for-profit charity that promotes awareness of the importance of bees for food security, and raises funds for research that addresses the national and global threats to bees.

The Wheen Bee Foundation also supports World Bee Day and Australian Pollinator Week and produces Pollinator Planting Guides to help increase diversity in insect populations in urban landscapes. Have a look here:

<https://www.wheenbeefoundation.org.au/our-work/projects/powerful-pollinators/>

February 2025: Wendy Clark

A photographic essay of local insects and their importance to the environment..

The Tyranny of Weeds

Weeds can be really sneaky. An area cleared of weeds and replanted can look really good for a year or so and suddenly all those plants, lovingly planted and funded by Melbourne Water or the City of Monash seem to be overwhelmed by a sudden influx of weeds. Over summer the lack of water limits growth of all plants. Over winter, low temperatures limit the growth of plants (including weeds) and one can be under the impression that things are under control. Then spring hits! A combination of higher temperatures and plenty of water results in prodigious growth of all plants. Unfortunately, this includes weeds.

Tubestock is slowly establishing itself while weeds, often bred for rapid growth for agricultural or domestic use, race ahead and rob the indigenous plants of light, water and nutrients.

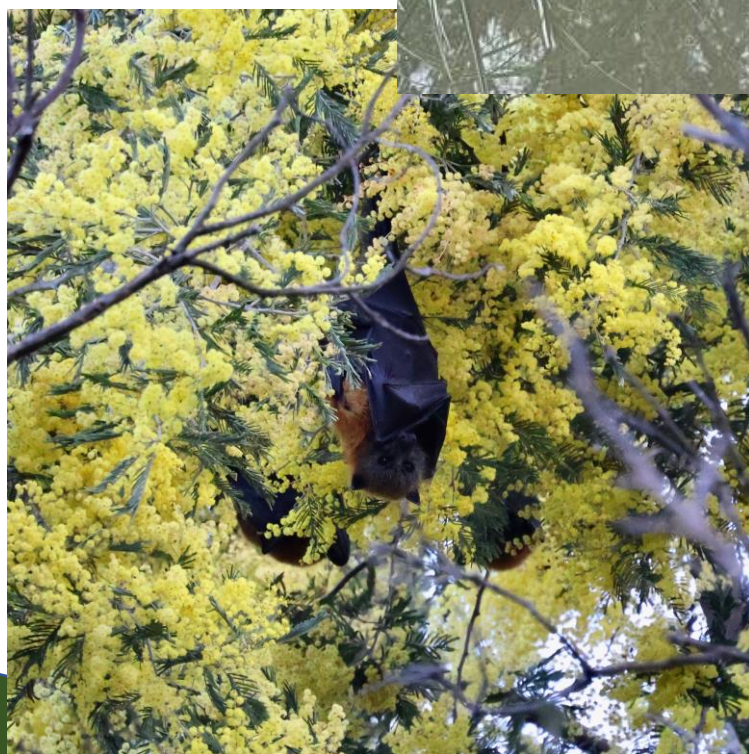
Most weeds have an additional weapon in their armoury: they are prodigious spreaders of seeds, in particular, annual weeds which are invisible for much of the year, their seeds waiting dormant in the soil only to burst forth in spring and race through their life cycle to drop their seeds which lie waiting for the next spring. Then you have perennial weeds. They grow into ever enlarging clumps, often hiding in the indigenous vegetation, all the while dropping seeds into the soil which will rapidly take over if the parent plant is removed.

Techniques for weed control vary. The bush -crew can use whipper-snippers to remove the flowering parts of plants before seeds are produced. Herbicides have their place but even selective weed killers run the risk of damaging indigenous plants. Mulching can suppress the germination of seeds stored in the soil. BUT the best method is persistent hand weeding in combination with dense replanting of the complete indigenous plant community, i.e. ground covers, mid layer shrubs and canopy trees.

Midweek Weeding Join us for a midweek weeding session. Wednesday October 23rd at 2-00pm. Details on our upcoming events page. This is a great way to learn about the vegetation of Damper Creek.



- Forthcoming environmental events to hone your observation skills.
- [FrogID Week](#) (8th - 17th November)
- [Australian Pollinator Count](#) (9th - 17th November)
- **Some visitors to Damper Creek**





Upcoming Events

Working Bees are held on the last Sunday each month unless otherwise notified

Mid-week Weeding

Wednesday October 23rd 2-00pm

Meet by the silky oaks by the upper path

Enter the reserve from either Park Road or Bengal Crescent entrances.

October Working Bee

Sunday October 27th 10-00 to 12-30

Sign in and meeting point is at the duck pond near the Park Road entrance to the reserve. Billy tea will be provided at 11am. Please wear sturdy shoes, sun protection and weather appropriate clothing. BYO gardening gloves and mug.

Next meeting –General Meeting – Wednesday November 27th 2024

Alvie Hall from 7.30pm – 9pm.

Guest Speaker: Krista Mogensen

Subject: The Wheen Bee Foundation

Annual BBQ

Sunday November 24th

Off Richard Road from 11-30

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

www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au