



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

October 2025



Striped Marsh Frog Image source : Australian Museum

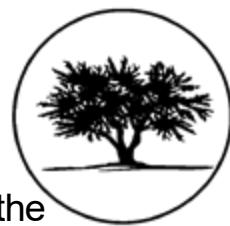
Daylight Savings has begun, the days are getting longer and the sounds of the Pobblebunks and Striped Marsh Frogs can be heard in Damper Creek.

According to the Wurundjeri seasonal calendar we are now in the middle of **Poorneet**, Tadpole Season, which occurs between September and October.

As you walk along Park Road and through the Reserve you will soon notice that the native grasses are flourishing. November is **Buarth Gurru**, or Grass Flowering Season.

The seven seasons of the Wurundjeri calendar provide an accurate description of what we are observing in our natural environment.





What's that abuzz in Damper Creek?

Keep your eyes open this spring for some strange pollination tactics.

There are many problems to overcome when you are fixed in the ground- how to access food? Reach water? And importantly, how to reproduce?

In flowering plants, reproduction can only occur once pollen has been transferred from the male part to the female part of the flower. For some plants, self-pollination is an easy and highly reliable method. However, it is always better to increase genetic diversity and have offspring with another plant. To overcome the challenge of how to transfer pollen to another plant while staying rooted in one place, plants have evolved a wide range of tactics to co-opt, coerce, and capitalise on natural phenomenon and other creatures to be able to procreate.

One example found in Damper Creek, is the Trigger Plant (*Stylidium* spp.), a small indigenous herb. These plants are protandrous, this means that the male (pollen producing) parts mature before the female reproductive tissues.

Trigger plants are named because of their unusual pollination strategy. If you look closely at the centre of the plant, you will see a fringe nestled amongst its petals.

This fringe is like a big red button. Native bees and flies approach the flowers seeking the sweet nectar at the red centre. When the insect lands upon the fringe- BAM! - the trigger reflex is activated, and an arm comes out and whacks the insect on the back. In the male phase, this arm is covered in pollen and showers the insect in yellow dust. When the insect flies on to visit a flower in the female phase, the pollen will be transferred to the arm and pollinate the flower. A rather violent reproductive tactic, but also quite successful.



Another flowering plant found in Damper Creek that has a strange pollination tactic is the Kangaroo Apple (*Solanum aviculare*). Kangaroo Apples, and most other members of the Solanaceae family (which includes tomatoes and potatoes), are pollinated by a method called buzz pollination. Pollen is only released from these flowers when a bee lands upon the flower and vibrates at the right frequency. In this manner the flowers ensure that their pollen is only going to be transferred to an insect that will visit another flower of the same species. A good method to prevent wasting pollen.



Blue Banded Bee Image source : Australian Museum

Interestingly, while both European Honey bees and native bees, such as the Blue Banded Bee, are successful buzz pollinators, these two bees perform buzz pollination differently. European bees land on top of the flower, grasp the pollen-producing anthers with its mandibles (effectively the bee's jaw) and physically shakes the anther while flapping its wings until pollen is released. In comparison, blue banded bees tap the anther with the top of their head and flap their wings at a much higher frequency, resulting in pollen being released quicker from the flower.

So, while you're wandering around Damper Creek taking in the lovely scents of spring, spare a thought for the strange happenings of the flowers and the bees.

Rebecca Carra, Plant Scientist



Annual Membership Renewal

Just a reminder to any annual members – your subscription is now due.

Our secretary will notify you by email with the new membership form. You might like to consider upgrading to an enduring membership.

Water Watch Program

The Water Watch team have made the following observations:

Thursday 11 September – We have had regular rain and light showers over the past month which has left the catchment with plenty of moisture. Combined with the low temperatures this means that both creek branches were running strongly. The water and the creek environs both look clean and healthy, and the chemical results appear to confirm this.

Thursday 9 October – The water quality is still very good. However it was observed that the East Branch (from under the Bowling Club) had high flow. The reason for this gushing is not known. Richard Akers, the Melbourne Water Co-Ordinator, attended and verified our testing methods and results.

Committee News – SRL Grant

The committee are working with Monash Sustainability team to prepare a grant application for the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) Community Projects Fund. This grant will cover renewal of the wooden seats and educational signage within the reserve. The existing seats are over 30 years old and the signage is over 20 years old. Fingers crossed that our application will be successful.





Image –
September
Nature Walk with
Monash Council
staff

October Nature Walk

FDCCR hosted a Positive Ageing Lifestyle Program (PALS) Event as part of the Monash Seniors Festival. Doug Scott and Rebecca Carra lead this ***Gentle Stroll Through Nature*** and provided an informative tour for the group. It was enjoyed by all.

Tree Control Update

The State Government have released the new Urban Forests Policy. This is now embedded in the Victorian Planning Provisions and has an objective of achieving a 30% tree canopy coverage.

The Planning Minister also approved and released a canopy tree control that requires a permit for removal of canopy trees in residential areas. There are conditions to where this actually applies – essentially in practice it applies to the front 6 metres and rear 4.5 metres of a residential block and to trees over 5 metres tall with a canopy diameter of at least 4 metres.

It will be interesting to see if this will be practically achievable under the new Residential Planning Codes or if this is just paying lip service to urban greening.



Upcoming: November Nature Walk – Thursday 13 November



Be active in nature - Guided walk through Damper Creek

CLOSED



ABOUT
Exercise in the outdoors and learn about the nature of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve during this leisurely walk through this beautiful conservation reserve in Mount Waverley.
The 2km guided walk will start at Alvie Hall with a short presentation and finish back at the hall for a cuppa tea.
Led by members of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve, a dedicated volunteer group who help care for this special bushland. They'll share stories about the reserve's history, native plants and wildlife, and the important conservation work they do.
Please wear sturdy walking shoes and dress for the weather conditions. Hat, sunscreen and water bottle are recommended.

DATE
Thursday 13 November 2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (UTC+11)

LOCATION
[Get directions](#)

Meet at Alvie Hall
Corner of High St Road and Alvie Road, Mount Waverley Vic 3149

[CONTACT EVENT ORGANISER](#)

Upcoming Citizen Science Events

Great Southern Bioblitz - October 24-27 2025

The 'Great Southern BioBlitz', or 'GSB' for short, is an international period of intense biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species (flora, fauna, fungi and aquatic life) within designated areas across the Southern Hemisphere.

The purpose of this event is to highlight both the immense biodiversity spread across the Southern Hemisphere in the springtime, as well as to engage the public in science and nature learning using the citizen science platform iNaturalist.

To contribute to the event, all you need to do is download the iNaturalist application to your handheld device or make an account on your computer and make observations between October 24-27, 2025. You can visit the City of Monash Great Southern Bioblitz Project on iNaturalist [here](#).



Great Southern Bioblitz: A Nature Walk with Ian Moodie

To celebrate the Great Southern Bioblitz and the Aussie Bird Count, join Ian Moodie, environmental educator, nature enthusiast and wildlife photographer, for a walk through Valley Conservation Reserve. Ian has a wealth of experience photographing native wildlife, from tiny insects to reptiles and birds.

Together we will explore the wonderful bird life of the local environment and record your wildlife observations into iNaturalist.

When: Sunday 26 October 2025, 10am-11:30am

Where: Valley Conservation Reserve, Education Hub (entry from Waimarie Drive carpark, Mount Waverley), 80 Waimarie Drive, Mount Waverley, 3149

Book: [Register](#) to attend this **FREE** event

<https://events.humanitix.com/great-southern-bioblitz-monash>



[The Aussie Bird Count](#) (20-26 October) is a fun, easy way for all of us to take a national snapshot of the birds we see and start noticing the nature around us. With just 20 minutes, you can help build a picture of how our feathered friends are faring and contribute to something that really counts.

Register now at: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>

Upcoming Events



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

Next Working bee - Sunday 26th October

10am – 12.30pm

Same place as last month –

**Meet at upper track / grassy dog off leash area
(above duck pond / behind Park Rd houses)**

Billy tea at 11am

Active Monash Nature Walk

Thursday 13th November

Meet at Alvie Hall at 10am (til 12noon)

<https://www.trybooking.com/DGNGU>

General Meeting - Wednesday 26th November

7-30 pm at Alvie Hall

Guest speaker: Zoologist Nathaniel Nguyen

Topic: “A bunker for Bugs – How to provide refuge in the insect apocalypse”

Save the Date

End of year “Thank You” BBQ

Sunday 30 November 12noon

at the Richard Road Entrance Area / Depot

More information in the next newsletter.

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 for the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve news. Content is always welcome and should be emailed to secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com