Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

October 2026



Welcome to Buath Gurru - grass flowering season (November)

Buath Garru is the sixth of the seven seasons of the Eastern Kulin Nation. This is a time when temperatures noticeably rise and much rain falls. Flourishing native grasses, such as kangaroo grass, bloom and the Victorian Christmas bush (known as coranderrk) starts budding and flowering.

You will observe many finely patterned common brown butterflies in the air. These flying butterflies are usually males as the females rest in cool, shady places waiting for mates to come.

Buliyong (micro bats) feed avidly on flying insects. If you listen carefully, you can hear the echolocation of certain microbats at night.

Acknowledgement – To our Wurundjeri elders, past and present, for sharing their knowledge of country with us.



Image: Grasses in Damper Creek Reserve

Themeda triandra (Kangaroo Grass)

Kangaroo grass was an important resource for the traditional owners of the Kooyong Koot and Damper Creek. The seeds were ground into flour and mixed with water to make damper. The stems and leaves could be crafted into string to make fishing nets, eel traps and bags.
Research undertaken by CSIRO, in conjunction with the Wadawurrung traditional owners, found that that the nutritional profiles of the native grass species were consistently better than those of domesticated wheat varieties.
The results showed that the kangaroo grass contained higher protein than whole wheat. It also offers a better supply of essential amino acids to meet dietary needs and is high in carbohydrates, one of the key macronutrients we need for energy.
(Information & Image Source:
https://www.csiro.au/en/news/all/articles/2024/january/wadawurrung-grasslands-nutrition)



Swap unsafe netting for free and help protect local wildlife

Published on 01 October 2026



Did you know that some types of fruit tree netting are **illegal** in Victoria due to the dangers they pose to our native wildlife?

You can now **swap your unsafe fruit tree netting** for safe wildlife-friendly alternatives as part of a new **Net Swap program.**

From **Thursday 1 October**, netting can be exchanged **free of charge** at Monash Recycling and Waste Centre.

Choose from new **netting (2.8m x 2.8m) or 10 fruit protection bags**.

Net Swap helps protect native wildlife, including birds, possums and flying foxes, from becoming trapped or injured in illegal fruit tree netting.

By making the switch, residents can continue protecting their fruit trees while helping create a safer environment for local wildlife.

Report it!

Have you seen something along Damper Creek that you think needs attention?
Please download the App – **Snap, Send, Solve** and report it.
Also contact Monash Council and leave a report. You can contact them at:
www.monash.vic.gov.au/contact/request-a-service
Or Phone (03) 9518 3555
If it is a Yarra Valley Water Faults (Water or Sewerage Leak) – Call 132762

November Guest Speaker – Protecting Our Grey Head Flying Foxes

Brooke Henderson will be presenting on Grey headed flying foxes and the Friends of Bats and Bushcare Inc. (FOBB) work protecting the Yarra Bend colony.



FOBB's goals are to advance the conservation of flying foxes and other bat species and to help maintain the sustainability of their colony sites; and to assist in the care of Melbourne's bush and native floral diversity.

Brooke will speak on Grey Headed Flying Foxes and the activities that FOBB do to protect the species - ranging from bushcare and habitat conservation, colony monitoring, soft release programs and advocacy.

This image is of Brooke with a Grey headed flying fox named Quinn, who Brooke rescued when she was a pup. Quinn was raised by one of the dedicated Fly by Night carers and then came back to FOBB as part of the soft release program.

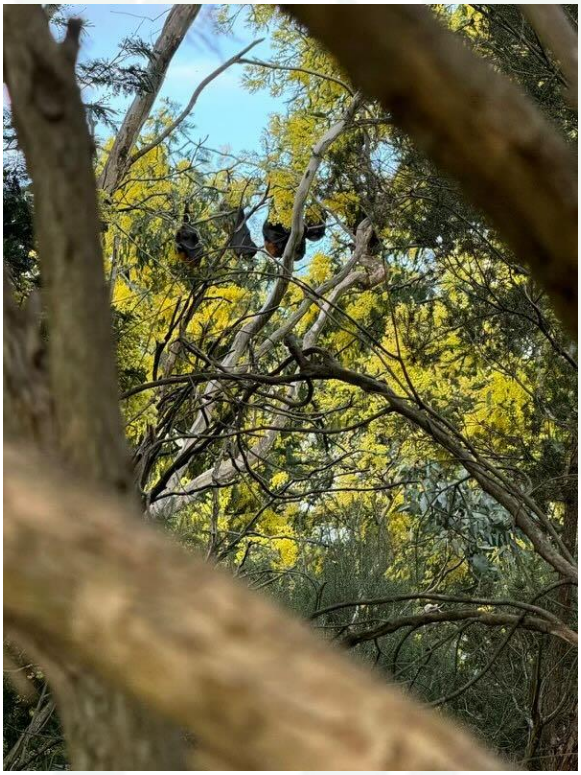


Image – Flying Foxes roosting in Damper Creek Conservation Reserve in 2024.

Water Watch Results

Test site: confluence of Damper Creek East & Damper Creek West (behind Alvie Hall)

For August and September the results were in line with what we like to see in late winter and early spring. The flow was strong, and the creeks in pretty good condition, as shown by the high dissolved oxygen levels and the benign readings for less desired additives.

The creek was tested on October 8th, and the results were generally very encouraging. Disolved oxygen levels were excellent and most other indicators were pretty good. Conductivity levels were a little higher than average but that often seems to happen after a heavy rainfall, which certainly occurred in the last week.

Streambourne waste in the form of plastic bottles and wrapping, along with fast food packaging, was nearly entirely absent.

One might surmise that that new regulations for recycling cans and bottles have been effective in reducing the number of discarded containers and the reduction in other litter on the creek banks maybe due to litter traps upstream being less overloaded.

Thanks to Frank, Campbell & Wayne (the Water Watch Team)

Editor note – Packaging and litter is still evident along the main section of Damper Creek, much of this seems to be blown in from construction sites. The water sensitive design of the creek and ponds filters and traps this waste and sedimentation.

(Images: Damper Creek Restoration Work)





Citizen Science Events



Bugs In My Backyard Week

Become a bug detective during Bugs In My Backyard Week (16–22 November 2026) and help create a springtime snapshot of bugs across Australia.

There's a hidden world living all around us. During Bugs In My Backyard Week, Australians are invited to explore their backyards, school grounds and local parks to discover the fascinating insects, spiders, snails and other tiny creatures that keep our environment healthy.

All you need to do is snap photos of bugs and upload them to iNaturalist. Join the Bugs in My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project to be in the running for some great prizes.

Every photo contributes to Australia's national Bug Hunt project, helping scientists better understand native species while improving early detection of invasive species.

Join thousands of Australians helping protect wildlife – one bug at a time. All you need is a smartphone and curiosity.

Sign up at bughunt.org.au and join the Bugs in My Backyard Week 2026 iNaturalist project.



Great Southern Bioblitz 2026 - City of Monash

In 2026, we are joining the Great Southern BioBlitz from 27 to 30 of November to help document native plants and animals across Monash. This project captures all observations made in the Monash area during the Blitz.

All you have to do is download the iNaturalist app, find wild plants and animals in your local park or reserve, take a picture and upload it to the app between the 27 - 30 November. Observations will automatically be pooled within Monash and across the country so that we can compete with participants from other councils and cities all over the world.

Observations from Australia's database of plants and animals is helping scientists with their research to improve outcomes for our environment.

Upcoming Events

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

Next Working Bee – Sunday 25th October

Weeding

10am to 12.30pm

Meeting point – Dog off leash grass area on the upper path behind Park Rd houses above the main pond

(closest park entrance points are Park Rd or Bengal Cres)

Morning tea at 11am

Remember to wear sunscreen and a hat (or rain jacket).

Next Guestspeaker Meeting - Wednesday 25th November

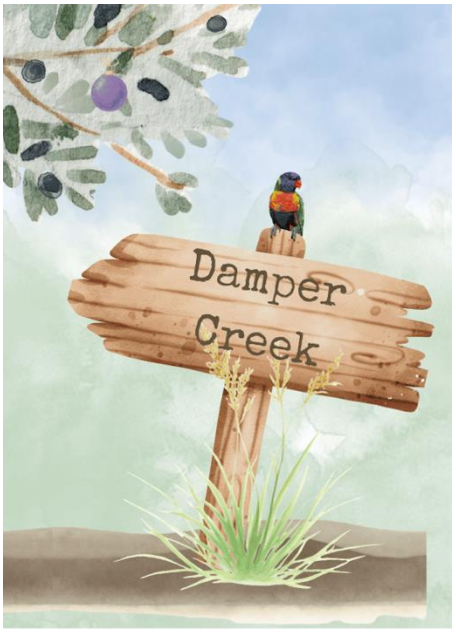
Meet at Alvie Hall at 7.30pm

Speaker – Brooke Henderson

Friends of Bats and Bushcare Inc.

Topic – Protecting Grey Headed Flying Foxes (see page 3.)

(Supper to follow)



Stay tuned for more information.

End of Year Celebration Lunch

Details coming soon.

Location will be at the Richard Road park entrance near the depot

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