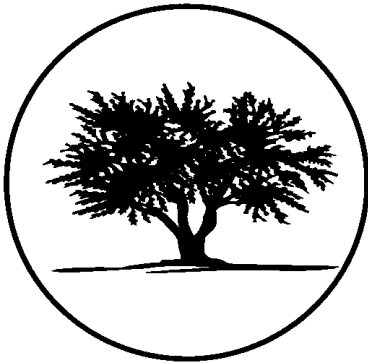


DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



The Newsletter of
FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

<http://www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au>

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

September 2016

Editorial:

The Value of Wilderness:

I recently had the privilege of visiting a true wilderness area in North Western United States. The Cascades area contains some spectacular scenery, tall forests, lakes and waterfalls. It is popular with trekkers, fishermen, and climbers. There are well maintained trails but there are also trails which were formed in the 1930's and abandoned in the 1980's, during the Reagan era. It was in one of these abandoned areas that I spent a week with a friend tracing what is left of one of these abandoned trails. Following them was not easy. Windfalls, landslips and vegetation growth obliterated the trail in many places. We hiked for a week under such conditions and only saw one other person. Surely this was an area that would come close to true wilderness? If wilderness comprises magnificent forests, wild scenery and absence of the evidence of man, then this was true wilderness. If wilderness comprises copious wildlife, I was disappointed. I saw few birds, some small mammals and some evidence, from droppings and footprints, of larger mammals. Perhaps I should be grateful we didn't have an encounter with a bear or mountain lion!

On returning home I reflected on the wildlife within Damper Creek Reserve. Every morning there is a wild chorus from many species of birds, sufficient to drown out the traffic noises of suburbia. Frogs croak throughout the night, possums are easy to spot by the dozen every night. The pond hosts several species of ducks as well as tortoises and frogs. A short period of casual observation will reveal several species of colourful parrots, Lorikeets, Rosellas and Galahs among them. How lucky are we that we have this profusion of wildlife in our own patch of wilderness in the suburbs.

What's in flower?

September is a colourful time in Damper Creek. Here are some of the plants currently in flower.



Hedge Wattle



Prickly Moses

The Hedge Wattle and Prickly Moses are two wattles you may think twice about before planting in your garden. The former has some of the brightest flowers in the Wattle family. However, the spines are extremely long and sharp, hence the name and its use as a temporary fence by early settlers. Prickly Moses is quite irritating to the touch. It is not long lived and is smaller in stature than the Hedge Wattle. Both plants provide excellent habitat for small birds so you should consider finding a corner in your garden for these plants.



***Olearia lirata* (Snowy Daisy Bush)**



Dilwynia cinerescens

Olearia lirata (Snowy Daisy Bush) is one of those plants that form background shubbery in the Australian bush; that is, until it flowers. This is a very attractive plant for a few weeks, the flowers are followed by fluffy seeds which germinate readily. In cultivation it responds well to pruning to control its shape.

Dilwynia cinerescens is one of the showiest plants in the reserve. It is not easy to cultivate and is inconspicuous when not in flower. If you want to try this one in your garden, you will have to go to one of the specialist indigenous plant nurseries.



Indigofera australis



***Kennedia prostrata* (Running Postman)**

Indigofera australis (Austral Indigo) is a showy member of the pea family. A generally untidy plant, it will intertwine with other shrubs.

Kennedia prostrata (Running Postman) is a ground cover plant which is best shown when scrambling over rocks or logs. I have had several attempts at growing this plant and have finally had success in a raised garden bed with well-drained soil.



□

Hakea sericea

Hakea sericea (Silky Hakea). This plant has very spiky foliage. I suppose the term “silky” refers to the flowers. Once again, this is great bird habitat and is also good food for honeyeaters

Update on Amendment C125 – Re: Residential Zonings and the Monash Planning Scheme

John Clements, on behalf of the FoDCR, presented a paper to the Panels Victoria Hearing on Monday 12 September 2016 at the Civic Centre. When the days of the Hearing conclude at the end of September, a report will be completed by the Panel towards the end of

November 2016 for consideration at a Council meeting to be held after that date. The MCC will however, not be bound by the findings. If a decision is made to accept the findings it will then proceed to the Minister for his approval. Thanks are extended to all those who provided feedback and assistance to John in the process of writing up the paper. Other Friends groups and individual FoDCR members have presented papers to the Hearing too.

Park management issues

Following discussions with the Bushcrew re the survival of plants, particularly in relation to damage caused by pedestrians and dogs, the decision was made to protect plants alongside the paths until they are fully established. This may be unsightly for awhile but the reserve will benefit in the long run. The observant walker will also notice that the Bushcrew has also conducted some extensive planting of understorey species throughout the reserve.



FoDCR AGM – Wednesday 24 August 2016

The President's report reflected on the past year's events with thanks to all in helping to keep the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve a vibrant group now working towards celebrating 23 years of its formation this year.

The meeting thanked outgoing Committee members (President John Clements, Secretary Helen Clements, Treasurer Ian Nicholls and Vice President Kevin Ryland) for their contribution towards achieving another successful year in helping to protect and enhance Damper Creek Reserve,

Thanks were also extended to the past and now present general committee members Doug Scott (Editor), John Wolf (noticeboards), Joan Wolf (FoDCR database and distribution of DCDoings), Robert Yates (catering), Frank Carder (Water Watch co-ordinator), Kevin Ryland, Ian Nicholls and Romy Orfanelli. Sincere thanks were extended to the many FoDCR members whose contributions are invaluable including Philip Johnstone (FoDCR website, graffiti cleaner & Federal Reserve noticeboard), Graham Jenkin, Di Carra, Graham Lawrence, and thanks were extended to all FoDCR volunteers who assist at working bees, Community bbq events, and attendance at meetings.

The newly elected Committee members being the President is Doug Scott, the Secretary Campbell Miles, the Treasurer Jenny Scholes and the Vice President Frank Carder were welcomed by the meeting.

Update - Guest Speaker 24 August 2016 - Dr Tiffani Howell - "Dogs as Human Companions"

It was an entertaining presentation by Dr Howell a Research Officer at La Trobe University together with special visitors Jess and Charlotte. Tiffani touched the hearts of many in attendance with pictures and memories from the "Doggies of Damper Creek" link on the FoDCR website. The meeting thoroughly absorbed the information provided on the history of dogs (beginning with wolves), and how dogs have evolved over time into much loved human companions. Tiffani's research interests include dog behaviour and cognitive processes, the dog owner relationship and animal welfare. She is also studying the possibility of training dogs to act as diabetes alert dogs for owners with diabetes.

Dr Howell has passed on the following information and links which may be of interest to you.

A Dog Behaviourist contact

For your training concerns Dr Kate Mornemont contacts and web link can be found at - <http://petsbehavingbadly.com.au> - Mobile 0438 569 610 and also - Email kate@petsbehavingbadly.com.au

Coping with the loss of your pet - contact

Dr Vanessa Rohlf for counselling specialising in coping with the loss of a beloved pet and pet bereavement counselling. Vanessa's email is vanessa.rohlf@unimelb.edu.au. Mobile 0419 322 451

A precious gem can be made

Information on a diamond out of ashes can be found at website www.lifegem.com

Would you like to participate in the Dog Lab group's research project? - If so please email Dr Tiffani Howell at – T.Howell@latrobe.edu.au

The researchers will ask your dog to do fun things and then doggie will be given a treat. The tests will be at a location in Melbourne. Another location will be Bendigo so if you know of anyone interested in participating at that location please ask them to email Tiffani.

Victorian Seniors Festival – MCC Postive Ageing Lifestyles (PALS) - Discover the new Valley Reserve with the "Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve" – Friday 28 October 2016, 10am – 1pm. Valley Reserve Melway 70G2 Mt

Waverley. Bookings 9518 3555. FREE includes BBQ lunch. - Join volunteers from the Friends of SC and VR community group and staff from Monash's Sustainability Team as they give a guided bushwalk (approx. 5kms). Please meet at the Education Hub, close to the Valley Reserve car park (access from Wills Avenue).

The Aussie Backyard Bird Count is back! Register your interest by replying to birdweek@birdlife.org.au In its third year with over 40,000 participants and over a million birds counted last year this is becoming one of Australia's largest citizen science projects – Enjoy participating in the count from **17 – 21 October 2016.**

Guest Speaker - Wednesday 26 October 2016 - Professor Tim Fletcher

Melbourne University Academic, Ecosystem, and Forest Sciences (whose areas of expertise include water quality modelling and monitoring, urban stormwater, urban streams and green infrastructure) will speak on water quality management research in Australia and overseas.

Working bee routines: 10am - 2.30pm. Billy boils at 11am. **BYO cups/mugs** Please wear all weather gear and solid shoes. Some equipment supplied by the Bushcrew.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday 28 September	General meeting	Commences at 7.30pm. Alvie Hall
Sunday 2 October (Sept w/bee)	Working Bee (planting, weeding/clean up)	Meet at the end of Richard Road in DC
Wednesday 26 October	Guest speaker Professor Tim Fletcher followed by supper & a general meeting.	From 7-30pm. General meeting to commence at approx. 8.45pm.
Sunday 30 October	Working bee (clean up and weeding)	Meeting place TBA BYO cup/mug
Wednesday 23 November	General meeting	Commences at 7.30pm. Alvie Hall
Sunday 27 November	Christmas bbq - no working bee	Meet at the end of Richard Road Mt Waverley in DC from 12 noon. All welcome

Addresses and Telephone Numbers

President	Doug Scott	0417 300 866
Secretary	Campbell Miles	9 803 7707
Treasurer	Jenny Scholes	
Editor	Doug Scott	0417 300 866
Please email material for the newsletter to the Editor	Dougscott3@bigpond.com	

Printed by courtesy of the office of Michael Gidley, MLA, Mt Waverley, as a community service. Responsibility for Editorial content is solely that of the Editor. The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. is supported by the City of Monash and Melbourne Water.

Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. is a member of 'Landcare' and 'Land for Wildlife' Volunteer Nature Conservation.

Damper Creek Bushland Reserve: part of the Yarra Catchment.

Please address all mail to: The Secretary, PO Box 2063, Mount Waverley 3149
email:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com