



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation
Reserve inc.

September 2022



From the President's Desk

What is important to you as a member of the Friends of Damper Creek? Over the years I have observed that we struggle to gain satisfactory attendances at our monthly meetings and yet we have consistently great turnouts for our working bees. As a great man once asked "Why is it so?" The answer is simply that we love the reserve, love to work towards its improvement and love to spend time with like minded people. The business of running our group, managing finances, applying for grants, handling membership and correspondence, can be tedious and need not be foisted on general membership. It is for this reason that, at the AGM on August 24th, we voted to wind back monthly meetings to once every quarter.

This decision does not diminish the enthusiasm of our group. The monthly newsletter will continue to inform members, monthly working bees will continue, but the business of keeping the group ticking over will take place in the absence of general monthly meetings. There is ample opportunity for members to air their concerns via emails to the president or secretary and I encourage frequent contact to ensure that all opinions are aired.

www.friends of dampercreek.org.au



Committee elections:

The Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve Inc. announces that the committee for 2022 to 2023 comprises:

President (acting) Doug Scott

Vice President: Dianne Carra

Secretary: Helen Clements

Treasurer (acting): Campbell Miles

Membership Secretary: Joan Wolf

General Committee members: Kevin Ryland,
Joan Wolf (Membership officer)
John Wolf

Non Committee positions

Newsletter editor: Doug Scott

Water watch: Frank Carder

Noticeboard: John and Joan Wolf

Webmaster: Philip Johnstone

Photography: Isabella Blick



Monash Bush Crew member Madison, assisting with our August working bee.

Toro is overloaded!



August Working Bee

The well attended working bee was blessed with a magnificent sunny winter's day. No-one noticed the cold as we toiled to remove an outbreak of Panic Veldt on the slope behind Park Road. At the tea break an impromptu summary of the AGM was presented, Di Carra spoke about the Suburban Rail Loop and Matt Fregon joined the conversation around tree protection.

The pile of weeds on the Toro is an indication of the dedication of our volunteers.



Suburban Rail Link Project: As a result of presentations by Doug Scott on behalf of the FoDCCR and presentations from other groups, the Project review committee has advised that ground water level monitoring will continue for five years [rather than the previously suggested two years] after the completion of construction and that the results will be published annually.



A brilliant Color Combination



This brilliant splash of color is the result of combining *Acacia myrtifolia* with *Hardenbergia violacea* (Native Sarsparilla).

Acacia myrtifolia is a small shrub, no more than 2m high with a spread of about 1.5m. It works well in combination with other shrubs and is inconspicuous when not in flower. It can be a bit tricky to establish, so if you want one in your garden best to put in a group of 3.

Hardenbergia violacea is a climber or it can grow as a scrambling shrub.

Midweek weeders:

The weeds are taking off with the good rains we have been having and they will explode once the weather warms up. If you are available during the week, please indicate when and we will organize extra working bees to keep weeds in check in the recently planted areas.

Send an email to me on dougscott3@bigpond.com and I will coordinate a midweek weeders group.





Trees

Our group has long been an advocate for the preservation of trees in the City of Monash. We regularly respond to proposals for changes in Council strategies or regulations. Within the City many areas are covered by a Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) which was formulated to protect mature trees. Certainly the VPO has had its problems but generally it has done a good job of protecting mature trees. The removal of certain trees recently has highlighted a shortcoming in the VPO in that it fails to protect two important categories of tree.

- (a) Immature trees under 10m which are in a rapidly growing phase with the potential to contribute to canopy cover.
- (b) Mature trees with a height of less than 10m.

There are two criteria which trigger the need for a Council permit:

- 1: The tree is higher than 10m and
- 2: The trunk circumference at 1.2m above ground level is greater than 50cm.

Note that both criteria must be met to trigger the need for a permit.

In effect, only the 10m requirement is relevant as it would be rare for a tree to reach 10m without exceeding 50cm trunk circumference.

The current regulations are clearly inadequate in preventing tree and canopy loss in Monash. This is acknowledged but any change is stymied by a State Government proposal which is currently with the State Planning Minister. The Friends of Damper Creek has submitted a query via our State representative, Matt Fregon seeking clarification on the status of this change.

Dates to remember:

September Working Bee September 25th

(Note: As we are no longer having a monthly meeting, this working bee is scheduled for the last Sunday in September. - General meetings from now on will be quarterly i.e. November 2022, February 2023, May 2023 and November 2023)



Working bee details:

When: September 25th 10-00 am to 12-30pm.

Morning tea at 11-00am

Where: Meet at the Main pond (along the path from Park Road entrance. Park in Park Road car park)

What: Maintenance and weeding of recently planted areas - BYO: gloves, mug for morning tea, weeder, warm clothing, wet weather gear may be needed.

Working bee: Sunday 23 October 2022 details tba

End of year bbq – Sunday 27 November 2022 - Meet in DCR at end of Richard Road from 12 noon – Current Covid rules apply

Alvie Hall meetings: The resumption of meetings in Alvie Hall is under constant review.

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 dougscott3@bigpond.com or to the secretary at secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

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