



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

September 2026



Welcome to Spring in Damper Creek Conservation Reserve.

Walking in Damper Creek at this time of year is a sensory delight. Enjoy the scent of tree violet (*Melicytus dentatus* left photo), the beautiful colour of the purple coral peas (*Hardenbergia violacea* - centre), and close your eyes to hear the hum of the pollinators on the snowy daisy bush (*Olearia lirata* - right) and the shrieks of the lorikeets and rosellas in the upper canopy of the flowering gums. We are so lucky to experience this beautiful urban bushland. Please help us care for the reserve and join us at the next weeding working bee.



www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au



Misunderstood Mistletoe

Many people think of mistletoe as a parasitic plant that attach themselves via their roots to other plants and steal water and nutrients from their host trees. Whilst they do use water and nutrients from the host, Mistletoe are actually hemiparasites, meaning that they also support themselves through photosynthesis. Research shows that Australian species of Mistletoe have complex relationships with their hosts and their habitats and play a vital role in the health and resilience of the host plants through their contribution to nutrient cycling.

Many mistletoes are excellent mimics and are well camouflaged on their hosts, producing leaves that look very similar to those of the host plants. However Mistletoe leaves are rich in nitrogen and phosphorus. As they fall and decompose, they create nutrient-rich litter that boosts microbial activity and understorey growth. Studies in Victoria show that mistletoe-bearing trees have more diverse and active soil invertebrate communities beneath them. Their litter breaks down faster, their host trees often retain more insects and bird activity, and the whole system becomes more productive and biodiverse.

Research also reveals that mistletoes are utilised by a wide range of species of insects, birds and arboreal mammals. They fill an important niche, providing nectar-rich flowers and then sweet berries, and it has been shown that, during drought conditions, mistletoes are proven to be crucial to the survival of birds when both nectar and insects are otherwise scarce.

Mistletoes are co-dependent on birds such as Mistletoe birds, Honeyeaters, and Currawongs to spread their sticky seeds. As these birds feed and perch, they drop both seeds and faeces, creating nutrient hotspots below host trees, further concentrating nutrient inputs that benefit soil biodiversity and plants.

Article Acknowledgement: Melissa Herpich
<https://natureglenelg.org.au/marvelous-mistletoes-do-more-than-you-may-think/>

Image – One of the two known occurrences of Mistletoe in Damper Creek Conservation Reserve.



Committee News



Annual General Meeting –

Congratulations on the re-election of our current committee:

President – Dianne Carra

Vice President – Doug Scott

Secretary – Tracey Lewis

Treasurer – Campbell Miles

Committee member – Ray Paterson

Contact our secretary if you would like more information on nominating to be a general committee member or on other ways to contribute.

secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

Thank you to Claire O’Sullivan and Clare Brace from the Sustainable Monash team for their presentation on the **Monash Council Climate Resilience Plan**. You can find out more information on the plan and sustainability on the Monash Council website -

<https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Corporate-Strategies-Plans/Plans-and-Strategies/Climate-Resilience-Plan>



Grants

- The Friends have been successful in applying for a Melbourne Water Grant of \$6050. This grant will assist with group administration as well as continued biodiversity planting along the west bank from the middle bridge downstream towards the main pond.
- We have also been advised by the Friends of Scotchmans Creek & Valley Reserve that our joint project called “Bringing nature to the people” has received funding from the Suburban Rail Loop community grant program. Both Friends Groups will be working together with Monash Sustainability team on creating new community environmental information and signage.

Swayfield Road Entrance - One Year on





Sewerage leak near Stephensons Road entrance on 30 August



Recent paint / chemical pollution event from Stephensons Road drainage discharge point.

Thank you to the members of the community and Friends Group who reported these pollution events.

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

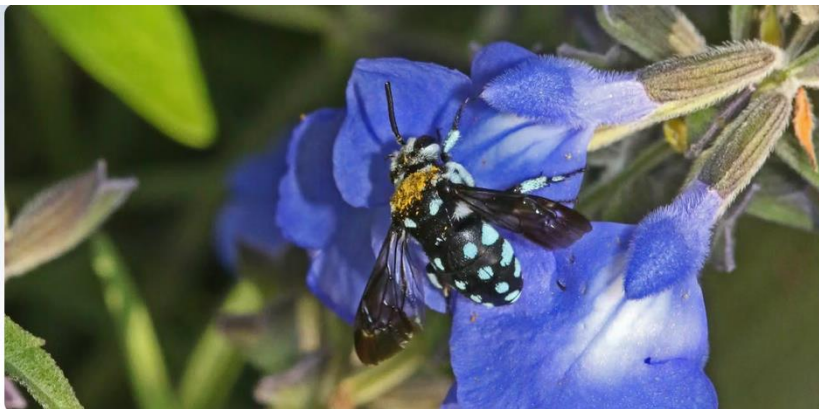
Or Phone (03) 9518 3555

If it is a Yarra Valley Water Faults (Water or Sewerage Leak) – Call 132762

Please protect our waterway and our wildlife.



Monash Community Environmental Events



The secret world of native pollinators



Get tickets



Mon, 21 Sep, 6:30pm - 8pm AEST
[Add to calendar](#)



Mount Waverley Community Centre
Mount Waverley VIC, Australia



City of Monash
560 followers · [Contact host](#)

Description

Discover the fascinating world of Australia's native bees and learn why these important pollinators play such a vital role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, productive gardens and thriving local biodiversity.

This engaging workshop delivered by Clancy Lester "The Bee Man" will explore the diversity of native bees, their unique behaviours and the essential role they play in supporting native plants and food production. Participants will learn practical ways to create bee-friendly spaces at home and gain valuable tips for attracting native pollinators to their gardens.

Photo credit: Ian Moodie

<https://events.humanitix.com/the-secret-world-of-native-pollinators/tickets>



Upcoming Events



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

Next Working Bee – Sunday 20th September

(Note: Change of date due to the long weekend)

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)

Billy morning tea at 11am

Remember to wear sunscreen and a hat.

Save the Dates

Monthly Mid-Week Nature Walk – “Enjoy Spring in Damper Creek”

Thursday 8th October

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

October Weeding Working Bee

Sunday 25th October

10am to 12.30pm

Meeting place – to be confirmed

Next Guestspeaker Meeting

Wednesday 25th November

Meet at Alvie Hall at 7.30pm

Speaker – Brooke Henderson

Friends of Bats and Bushcare Inc.

Topic – Grey headed flying foxes

(supper to follow)

*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*