



Damper Creek Doings

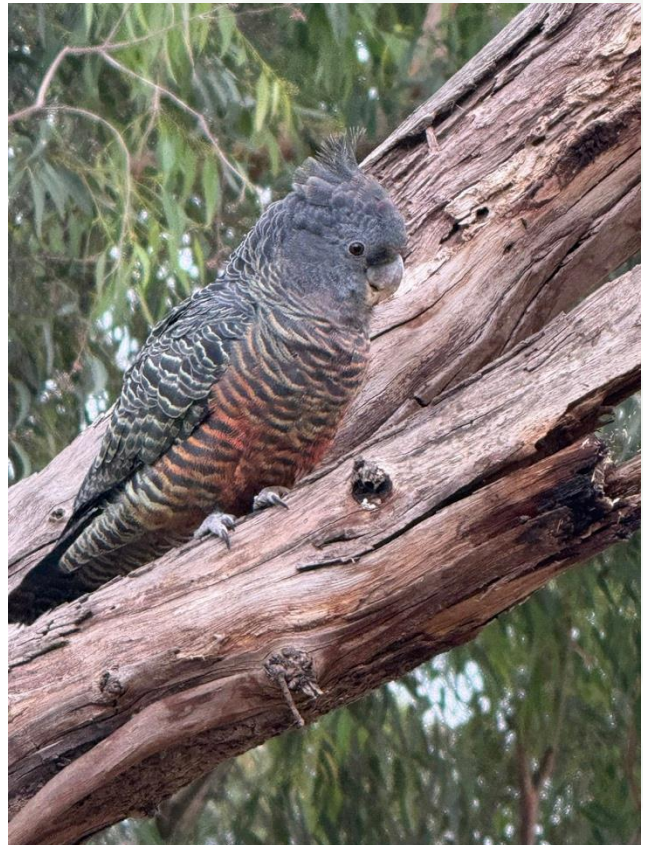
Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

February 2026



Welcome 2026 and a bright new year for Damper Creek.

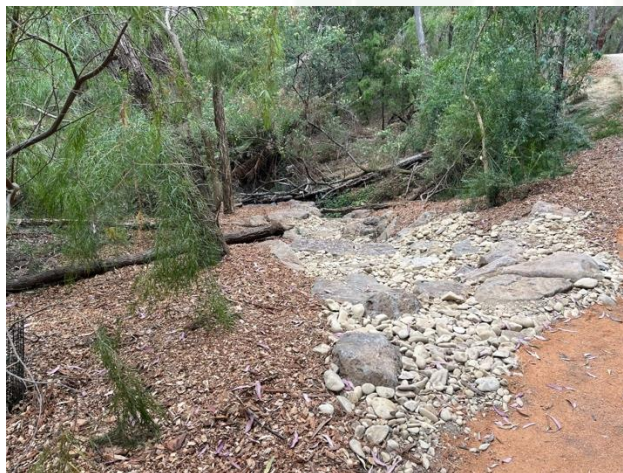
There have been many exciting fauna sightings over summer. Thanks to Jill for sharing these beautiful photos of a young Gang Gang who came to drink from her bird bath (*see more on page 7*). It is important over the summer months and on the extreme weather days to ensure there is water in your yards for wildlife. Other sightings include a Nankeen Night Heron, White headed Grey Heron, Grey Goshawk, Barn Owl, several Tawny Frogmouths, flocks of brown scrub wrens, a healthy colony of sugar gliders, and the stripe marsh frogs have been very happy in the evenings over the past couple of weeks. On the downside there has also been reports of foxes.



Monash Bushcrew Updates



- Fern Gully drainage improvements have been completed. We were lucky that Monash contracted Mark Palma to do this landscaping and stonework (*see before & after photos below*). Mark began his career working for the bush crew and grew up in the reserve (his dad, Frank, was our president in the 1990s).
- Bill and contractors have been busy undertaking fire prevention works, brush cutting and weeding.
- The annual works program will include mulching the base of mature trees at the end of Swayfield Rd to retain water and to prevent further compaction.
- Plants have been ordered for the mid year community and Mt Waverley Secondary College Duke of Education planting days at the end of Alice St & Sunhill Rd, as well as the Stage 2 Fern Gully planting.



Committee News



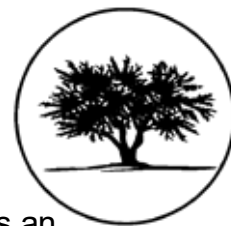
- Thank you to everyone who contributed to organizing the end of year Thank You BBQ and the awarding of the life membership to Frank Carder. Special thanks to Bill for once again letting use the depot facilities due to the inclement weather and the Lions Club, Helen and Jenny for catering. *(Please see photos from Maria and May on the next page.)*
- We are currently preparing applications for a Monash Community Small Grant and a three-year Hall Hire Grant.
- We are also preparing an application for a Melbourne Water Grant for Stage 2 of the Fern Gully revegetation works.
- There is no news yet on the SRL Grant for signage that we jointly submitted with Friends of Scotchmans Creek Valley Reserve.



Above: Mark Palma's handiwork – naturalising the path drains to prevent injury and further asset damage by maintenance vehicles.

End of Year Celebration & Presentation to Frank





Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration

The Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Regional Collaboration (GCRC) is an alliance of organisations and groups working together to protect and enhance the Gardiners Creek catchment. Monash Council is one of four represented Councils, and the Friends Groups are represented by the KooyongKoot Alliance (KKA).

The GCRC is currently working on a strategic plan for the catchment which will guide projects and programs that support the agreed vision:

- KooyongKoot and its catchment is protected, valued and loved, supporting diverse uses and thriving biodiversity.
- Community and all stakeholders are working together to heal, strengthen and ensure the resilience of KooyongKoot and its catchment.
- As custodians of our natural environment, Traditional Owners play a key role in its management.

The Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve hope that this Strategic Plan will recognise the importance of Damper Creek and its parkland and will support the work of environment volunteer groups.

Website: <https://www.gckcollab.org>





Waterway Planning Controls for Gardiners Creek

In December the Minister for Planning approved Amendment VC278 to Victorian Planning Schemes which strengthens state policy for waterways and applies Significant Landscape Overlays (SLOs) to 17 waterways within the Yarra (Birrarung) and Waterways of the West catchments, this included Gardiners Creek.

The waterways controls are designed to preserve the unique landscape character, cultural values, amenity and ecological health of each waterway.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/planning-for-our-waterways>

Unfortunately, the Gardiners Creek SLO doesn't extend to its tributaries and offers no protection for Damper Creek or Scotchmans Creek, which both have no planning protection due to the removal of the Creek Abuttal and Creek Environs residential zoning. This is an issue that both Friends Groups and the KKA are still advocating for. If you wish to take individual action, I suggest that you write to the Minister for Planning (Sonia Kilkeny), our local member Matt Fregon (and cc. Brian Little and Anjalee De Silva – Monash Councillors).



Nankeen Night Heron and Grey Heron
Photo Acknowledgement: Di Carra

Urban bushland reserves and creek corridors play a critical role in providing a reliable sanctuary for wildlife.



(Acknowledge: Extracted from the KKA December Newsletter)

Several endangered species, including the Gang-gang Cockatoo, live in and around our cities.

The Gang-gang species became endangered after bushfires (especially those in 2020) wiped out a significant amount of its “temperate forests” habitat in central/eastern Victoria, south-eastern NSW and the ACT.

Once described book as **Autumn-Winter** visitor to suburban parks in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne, we are now seeing them in our catchment even in **Summer** – including small flocks/family groups. Furthermore, the presence of **juveniles** suggests that the species could well be breeding locally.

Clearly, the level of fire-protection is far better in cities than remote forests – and both food and water can be more abundant and reliable in urban areas. *Change or die* – the species must adapt to the changed environment while its traditional habitat (hopefully) recovers. Interestingly, Pied Currawongs and Crested Pigeons came to Melbourne during the Millenium Drought – and they are still here.



Image Acknowledgements– Jill Anderson & The Australian Museum

Upcoming Environment or Citizen Science Events



Microbats Workshop Series

Did you know there are a few different types of microbats that live in the suburbs of Monash? They move about quietly at night so perhaps you haven't noticed them. They are amazing little creatures that are an important part of the ecosystem, especially as they eat heaps of flying insects including mozzies and those that can damage our gardens! Join us for a series of Microbat workshops.

Microbats where you live

Come along to hear from the Deakin University Bat research team on the types of microbats in our area, what they eat and need for shelter, and what you can do to support them. We will also find out about the latest research on how external lights affect microbats and other research coming up from the Deakin team.

When: Tuesday 24 February, 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Where: Mt Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller St, Mt Waverley

Book: FREE ticketed event, [register here](#)

<https://events.humanitix.com/microbats-where-you-live>

WANTED: Please send through any photos, articles, fauna or flora sightings for the newsletter; or suggestions of speakers or topics for our quarterly guest speaker meetings.
Email - secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com





GET YOUR

2026

GLOVES ON



GIVE BACK TO THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

EVENT: Clean Up Damper Creek Conservation Reserve

LOCATION: Reserve Car Park - Park Road, Mt Waverley

DATE: Sunday 22nd FEB **TIME:** 10am to 12.30pm

CONTACT: secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com



CLEANUP.ORG.AU

Upcoming Events



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

Next Working bee - Sunday 22nd February

10am – 12.30pm

Meet at Park Road Car Park

Morning tea at 11am

General Meeting - Wednesday 25th February

7.30-9.30 pm at Alvie Hall

“Night shift in Damper Creek”

Supper & Night-time Nature Walk

Save the Dates

Monthly Mid-Week Nature Walk

Thursday 12th March

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

Next Working Bee - Sunday 29th March (near the duck pond)

Community Planting Day & BBQ – Sunday 31st May

Next General Meeting – Wednesday 24th June

Hamish Beshara VFNC “Fungi” Group Co-ordinator

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