

The Newsletter of

FRIENDS OF

DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

FEBRUARY 2015



Damper Creek and Good Neighbours

As a member of FODCR I would hope that you spend some time walking through the reserve and enjoying the surrounds and sounds that our very special place offers. Many walking groups and environmental groups put Damper creek on their programme and it is heartening to hear feedback from such groups. We know it is a special place and visitors are surprised to find such an oasis in the middle of suburbia.

My guess is that you walk along the central path or one of several paths that branch from or run parallel to the main path. An alternative is to walk the boundary of the reserve. This is not so pleasant as there is often no made path, gradients can be steep, there is not the attraction of water and the whole of the boundary cannot be accessed on foot. Additionally, the vast majority of the effort in revegetation has been directed along the creek alignment, so you see an entirely different vegetation pattern along the boundary.

Looking into the reserve from the boundary, half of your attention is taken up by the neighbouring properties. The variation between properties is remarkable. Some properties have done away with fences altogether, allowing a clear view into backyards which blend seamlessly with the vegetation of the reserve. Others have built see-through fences which allow enjoyment of the reserve without compromising security.

Backyards are private space and landowners have rights to use the land as they wish, but there must be limits. For instance, new Local Laws introduced by the City of Monash prohibit blackberries on properties, that is all

properties, not just ones adjoining Damper Creek. It may be possible to eliminate blackberries from the reserve by the use of this Local Law but the application of this Law and it's implementation will determine it's effectiveness. Members of FODCR can help by reporting infestations so owners can be notified.

Members who attend our working bees will be well aware that blackberries are not the only weed which infests the reserve. Hopefully, similar controls can be placed on Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), English Ivy, Sweet Pittosporum and Cape Broom.

A walk around the boundary will also show the rate of development of properties adjoining the reserve. For good reasons properties adjoining the reserve are highly desirable but the original houses dating back to the '60's and '70's do not always suit modern needs. FODCR campaigned against the redevelopment of 28 Park road and achieved a pleasant outcome with mandated revegetation with native plants, a decent setback resulting in a well vegetated backyard and buildings which were not overbearing. This was only possible because the block was redeveloped for dual occupancy, a process which opens up the application to public scrutiny. This is not usually the case when a single dwelling replaces the original house. FODCR is recognised as a "Third Neighbour" by the City of Monash. It remains to be seen whether this recognition can be translated into effective action to prevent developments which are unsympathetic to the reserve.

Biodiversity, Birds in Backyards and Gardens for Wildlife



Photo courtesy Michael Adler

The expression of interest form and other information is available on the Friends of Damper Creek website. To find it select "Projects" then "Current Projects" then click on "attached form". Along with the form you will also print out the "Recipe for a Wildlife Garden". Speak to your neighbours about this and don't forget that in April we will be potting up one of the Eastern Spinebill's favourite plants, the *Correa reflexa*.

The forms and other information will be available at the February meeting.

Guest Speakers

At our February meeting your newsletter editor will (hopefully) entertain you with stories of his month long hike along the John Muir Trail in California's Sierra Nevada.

We also hope to engage the new Yarra Riverkeeper as guest speaker.

At our April meeting we will be potting up *Correa reflexa* plants (free for you to take home).

For the May meeting Libby Anthony will talk about an energy efficient strawbale house and an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

Good news!

Melbourne Water has approved grants of: \$5016 for plants \$1078 for Administration (including Community Working Bee bbq expenses x 2, modest gifts for guest speakers, morning tea at working bees, promotion, office supplies, and suppers, etc.)

Council Representation

Cr Brian Little, Cr Rebecca Paterson (both Mt Waverley Ward) and Cr Bill Pontikis (Oakleigh Ward) have been nominated as the Council liaison representatives for FoDC. The MCC link to their contact numbers and emails is: <http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/council/councillors.htm>

Exciting Proposal

Tony Brindley, one of the original landscapers responsible for the rock work in Damper Creek has submitted a proposal to the City of Monash to turn 100m of Damper Creek, downstream of the Alice St Bridge, into a densely vegetated fern and reed wetland.

Tony, dubbed the "Artist with a Shovel" has offered his services gratis with input from FODCR, and the City of Monash.

Dates to remember:

	February	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 25th- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall

Working Bee	Sun Mar 1st 10-00 am to 12-30pm	Rear of Yatama Court
	March	
Meeting:	Wed 25th- 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun March 29th 10-00 to 12-30	Rear of Tarellla Dve

Community planting days will be in June and August

ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Printed by courtesy of the City of Monash 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.

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.

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