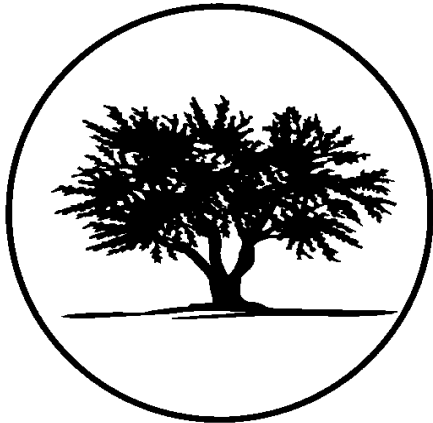


DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



The Newsletter of
FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

February 2017

Editorial:

We start a new year in the heat of summer. So far the weather has been kind to Damper Creek, with moderate rain and no extremes of temperatures. The grasses are shedding their seeds. Bend down and look at the seeds of the Wallaby grasses, like miniature shuttlecocks waiting to be carried by the wind on their feathery tails. Wallaby grasses are plentiful and able to survive the incursion of weeds. There are many varieties ranging in size from a few centimetres high to over a metre. Next time you are walking in the reserve, stop to look at the seeds on the grasses and see if you can pick those with “shuttlecock” seeds.

There is little in flower at the moment, though the Sweet Bursaria is flowering wonderfully. The bursaria is one of those “background” plants. A large bush or small tree, it is not often noticed unless it’s in flower. It is also prickly and, as such, it is not popular in private gardens, though it provides excellent habitat for small birds.

Also in flower is the “Lightwood” wattle *Acacia implexa*. This is another of those plants that often goes unnoticed, though there are plenty of examples in Damper Creek Reserve. A small tree to about 10 metres, it is a bit like an untidy version of its larger cousin, the Blackwood. The flowers are cream coloured and, once you notice them, are plentiful.

Damper Creek is thriving, the tortoises are back, the new garden beds are maturing and, in spite of a plague of the aggressive Noisy Miners, the reserve hosts a rich variety of bird life.



Acacia implexa (Lightwood)



Bursaria spinosa (Sweet Bursaria)

City of Monash's proposed New Residential Zones

The long running saga of the new residential zones is progressing to a new phase. Our group was pleased when the new zones were proposed as they included two special zones "Creek Environs" and "Creek Abuttal" which gave voice to our long-held belief that properties surrounding reserves had a responsibility to provide reasonable vegetation cover to effectively provide a wildlife buffer between the reserve and the rear of buildings.

In December, an independent planning panel published its assessment of the City of Monash's proposed planning changes. Critical to the interests of FODCR, the proposal to introduce a setback of seven metres for properties that directly abut Damper, Gardiners and Scotchmans creeks was supported. However, the panel recommends that the Council's objectives would be better achieved by classifying these areas as "General Residential" with overlays to protect vegetation and limit building size. The effectiveness of an overlay has to be questioned as the previous experience with the Vegetation Protection Overlay has shown.

Monash Council will consider the planning panel's report at its meeting on February 28th. It is important to note that there is considerable opposition from those intending to redevelop their properties out of fear that any restriction on building is a violation of their freedom of choice and may reduce the value of their properties.

You can support the council's position by attending the council meeting on February 28th (7 pm at the Glen Waverley main offices) or by writing to your council immediately to indicate that development at all costs is inconsistent with maintaining the character of Monash and, in particular, is inconsistent with maintaining the recreational and environmental value of reserves such as Damper Creek.

The Council will consider the findings at the February 28 meeting and its final position will then be submitted to the State Planning Minister for approval.

Working Bee Special Arrangements

Our first working bee for 2017 will be held in conjunction with Clean up Australia Day on March 5th. Meeting point will be the Alvie Hall carpark.

We'll meet at Alvie Hall carpark at 10 am. Billy will boil at 11am.

We will join the clean up, and if there's time, will do some weeding behind Golf Ave.

(Please note - All participants must register with Clean Up Australia Day on the day at Alvie Hall carpark. Children under 14 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please wear solid shoes, suitable clothing, sunhat, sunscreen, byo solid gloves (some available) and rubbish grippers (some available).)

Guest Speaker February meeting

Tony Walker, of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve will be presenting a talk on the history of Valley Reserve and Scotchmans Creek. Several members of FODCR have heard the talk previously and were most enthusiastic about hearing it again at the FODCR meeting.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday February 22nd	General Meeting Guest Speaker	From 7-30 pm
Sunday March 5th	Clean Up Australia Day	10:00 to 12: 30 Alvie Hall Carpark
Wednesday March 22nd	Meeting	7-30 pm
Sunday March 5th	Working Bee	From 10-00 am

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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.