

Lilies as Indigenous Plants

To traditional gardeners the word Lily conjures up images of common garden plants such as the Aurum lily. Though not so obvious and flashy, many of our indigenous plants are also members of this family and they can be found in Damper Creek.

Most local lilies have a tuberous rootstock which was eaten by the Aborigines, either raw or after roasting. I would not recommend this to our members unless plants are propagated specifically for this reason. Please leave all park vegetation for park users to enjoy.

The most beloved of our indigenous lilies is the Chocolate Lily. With wonderful violet or deep pink flowers, examples can be found flowering in Damper Creek from September to December. Not only are the flowers delightful, but, as the name suggests, the flower emits a chocolate scent, simply delicious! Unfortunately good stands of the Chocolate Lily are easily overwhelmed by the seemingly ever present Panic Veldt, a common invader of domestic gardens and bushland alike.

Also common in Damper Creek is the Bulbine Lily. With its yellow star-like flowers, this plant can develop into dense stands due to easy germination of seeds. This plant has been extensively planted throughout the reserve and it is to be hoped that the original wildflower drifts will once again adorn Damper Creek surroundings. Aborigines ate the tubers steamed or raw.

Many other plants in Damper Creek can also be classified as lilies. The Dianellas can be classified as lilies. There are three species in the reserve, *D. admixta*, *D. longifolia* and *D. tasmanica*.

Another attractive member of the Lily family is *Burchardia umbellata* or "Milkmaids". In undisturbed bushland this can be quite common, but is rare in Damper Creek and has not, to my knowledge, been planted as part of revegetation.

Other common lilies you may find in Damper Creek are the *Lomandras*, *L. longifolia* and *L. filiformis*. Not so common (though examples definitely exist) is the Small Grass Tree *Xanthorrhoea minor* and the Yellow Rush-lily *Tricorine elatior*. Many others possibly (even probably) exist. You may like to look out for the Fringe Lily and the Early Nancy. Such plants and others may continue to exist in undisturbed parts of the reserve.

June Working Bee

June 29th was a challenging day with the weather, but it was our most successful planting day yet with 2000 tube stock being planted in record time.

Thirty adults and children registered - and given the possibility that they could have all stayed home by the fire - it was a great effort.

Whenever we plan to do something John and I bring the rain! Henceforth our president wishes to be known as Helen Inclement.

Model Rules

Note that the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. will vote to adopt the Model Rules for an Incorporated Association 2012 at its AGM on 27 August 2014. The Model Rules will replace the original FODCR constitution.

The Model Rules 2012 and our draft ByLaws and Mission statement are available on the FODC website, Click on "About Us" and then go to link "What's New"

Guest Speakers

July – Andrew McKernan of Knox Environment Society will talk about "Habitat Creation", a programme devised to create nesting boxes by carving nesting hollows directly into trees, mimicking natural tree hollows.

August AGM Don Bladier will talk about Lightning Ridge.

September- Janet Hand of Birds Australia will talk on the topic "Birds of Mount Waverley".

We also expect Prof Tim Fletcher to return when the results of his funding application for the "Talking Tanks" programme are known.

What to plant?

Continuing from last month, possible sources of indigenous plants include:

Knox Environment Society nursery located behind the Ferntree Gully Library.

(Thursdays 10 to 4; Saturdays 10 to 1; Sundays 10 to 2)

Bungalook Nursery located 63/107 Fulton Road Blackburn South (Wednesday and Friday mornings)

Greenlink; 41 Wimmera Street Box Hill North;

(9-00 to 12-00 Tuesday and Wednesday. Special sale August 23rd)

All three nurseries are staffed purely by volunteers, hence the limited opening times. If you want to gain experience with propagating indigenous plants, joining one of these groups is a very enjoyable way of doing this.

Family Fun Day Friday October 3rd

Each year the Monash City Council holds a community event as part of Seniors Month. In previous years this has been held in conjunction with the Friends of Scotchman's Creek and Valley Reserve. For 2014 it is proposed that this will be held at Damper Creek. Note that this date is the last Friday of the school holidays and it is expected that seniors will come with family members, mostly grandchildren. The format of the day will be similar to that of the playground opening with a variety of activities for children as well as seniors. This is a great opportunity to showcase the work of the friends group in the reserve and to recruit new members.

Working Bees

The July 27th working bee will be at Fairway Reserve in conjunction with FOSC&VR. Fairway Reserve is located at Melways 70E5 by the Scout halls. Note that starting time is 9-00am and a BBQ will follow. Car pooling may be advisable.

August 31st is a designated Community Planting Day and will be followed by a Sausage sizzle.

Successes:

Agapanthus plants which had been planted as part of a new development at 23 Park Rd. have now been removed. Note that Agapanthus is regarded as a weed and can cause problems in the reserve. If you must grow Agapanthus in the vicinity of the reserve, you must remove the seed heads following flowering.

Important dates to remember:

	July	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 23rd - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun July 27th 9-00 am to 12-30pm	Fairway Reserve (Scout Halls)
	August	
Meeting:	Wed 27 th - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
W-Bee	Sun August 31st 9-00am to 12-30 pm	

ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

President: Helen Clements	0401813502
Secretary: Maryann Hawthorn	0400877229
Treasurer: Kevin Ryland	
Editor: Doug Scott	0417300866
	Please email material for the newsletter to dougscott3@bigpond.com.

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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.

Please address all mail to: The Secretary
PO Box 2063
Mount Waverley 3149
email: secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

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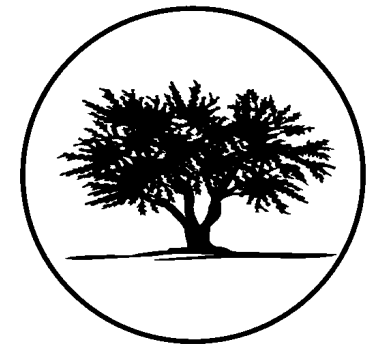
**FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.**

Reg No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



July 2014