

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

June 2019

The newsletter of
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC
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Photos from May working bee

Urban Forest Strategy

Passing of Peter Davies

May Meeting / Gardens for Wildlife

Anna Mezzetti and Daniel from the City of Monash gave the meeting a rundown on the current status of Gardens for Wildlife in Monash. Following a false start in 2017, additional resources and staff have been assigned and it is certain that the programme will now be successful. Following the excellent results achieved in Knox and Whitehorse, we now have a great model to follow and urge FODCR members to involve themselves and their neighbours and friends in the programme.

Gardens for Wildlife is a programme which encourages householders to allocate a portion of their land to plants which are attractive to wildlife. Wildlife to be encouraged includes not only the obvious ones, birds, lizards, frogs, possums etc. but also insects, butterflies, fungi and indigenous plants. Participants are encouraged with a supply of free indigenous plants and advice from “mentors”. The intent of this programme is to reverse the trend of the loss of vegetation from private land and to replace the lost vegetation with indigenous plants which are attractive to wildlife.

By these means the effective size of reserves such as Damper Creek, Federal Reserve, and Valley Reserve will be increased and, hopefully, wildlife corridors established between these reserves.

Participation may be limited to planting on your own land or nature strip or you may become part of the mentoring team, giving advice to those keen to take part in the programme. Updates will be given in this newsletter.

Can Melbourne be an “Urban Forest”?

One of the latest efforts to improve the vegetation cover across metropolitan Melbourne, and to help stem the effects of climate change, is a collaborative approach between 32 councils in metropolitan Melbourne. The new strategy “Living Melbourne: our metropolitan urban forest” – released this month by The Nature Conservancy and Resilient Melbourne has mapped vegetation across public and private land in the metropolitan area and is paving the way for a pooled effort to improve biodiversity across different parts of the city.

Link to: resilientmelbourne.com.au/living-melbourne (direct copy from “The Age 15/06/2019)

May working Bee

This was a major public planting day for us and we letterboxed the area in the weeks prior. Our efforts were rewarded with a fantastic turnout of over 50 members of the local community over all age ranges. They, in turn, were rewarded with a free BBQ.

The area uphill from the “duck pond” had been prepared the previous month with a thick layer of mulch and holes for the plants had been prepared by the bushcrew. This preparation was particularly important as the area had previously had only moderate success in past years due to soil compaction. Nature kindly cooperated with good rains prior to and following the planting. Thankfully rain held off on the day of the planting. We look forward to seeing this area develop in coming years.



Enjoying the BBQ and a congratulatory speech



Congratulations on a job well done! Matt Fregon MLA and Doug Scott (FODCR Vice President) congratulate each other as the last of the plants go in while John Clements (FODCR President) looks on.

Photos courtesy Matt Fregon

Peter Davies: the passing of a crusader for the environment in Monash

Sadly, we report the passing of Peter Davies, a longtime friend and campaigner for the retention and restoration of Damper Creek. Peter filled many roles: Surveyor, Town Planner, Councillor, Mayor and Planning Ministry Advisor. Peter leaves an enduring legacy in Monash with a number of open spaces within the municipality preserved due to his efforts.

Peter helped the environment of the City of Monash and willingly assisted all of us with advice and guidance in our continuing fight to save the trees, spaces and vegetation.

For Your diary

Wednesday June 26th, 7-30pm General meeting

Sunday June 30th 10-00am to 12-30, **Working Bee (planting)**
Meet at Park Road car park.

Wednesday July 24th 7-30pm **Guest Speaker:**

Dr Lindy Lumsden from the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research. Her topic will be *"Bats, Fascinating Creatures of the Night"*.

Sunday July 28th Working Bee 10-00am to 12-30, location tbd

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