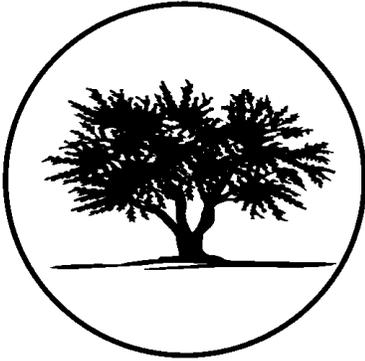


DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



The Newsletter of
FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

March 2016

Editorial:

February Trivia Night

A fine night was had by all as Campbell presented a challenging, amusing and informative night. Campbell's selection of questions was a celebration of all that is great about our friends group. Questions ranged over history, botany, wildlife and personalities of our group. The wonderful collection of questions was supported by carefully chosen photographs, some of which had not seen the light of day for many years.

Robert Yates and Ian Nicholls formed the winning team with a not quite perfect score (it seems as though there was uncertainty regarding a photo of a Chocolate lily, or was it a Fringe lily?). Simple spelling also seemed to cause problems as participants tried to cope with the correct way of spelling "Philip Johnstone".

We were all fortified with an excellent supper prior to efficiently dispatching the routine of general business.

Canopy Trees The subject of canopy trees is a large and controversial one. I received some helpful feedback on my comments last month. A glaring omission from my article was a lack of mention of neighbours. Consideration must be given to the impact on neighboring properties. Be aware of overshadowing adjacent properties, particularly those to the South. Blocked gutters are also an issue. If you plan to plant a potentially large canopy tree, keep it away from the property boundary by a couple of metres. This will avoid interference with fences and allow the tree to be shaped to minimize interference with the neighbours.

When is a Gum tree not a Eucalypt? There are over 700 species of Eucalypts, but not



all of these are correctly referred to as Gum trees. Strictly speaking, the term Gum tree refers to a smooth barked tree, many of which are Eucalypts. The genus Eucalyptus also includes rough barked trees, the Stringybarks, Peppermints, Boxes and others. Just to confuse the issue, there are close relatives of the Eucalypt which are also referred to as Gum trees. These are the Angophora and Corymbia as well as trees that look a lot like Gum trees, *Tristania laurina* and *Tristania conferta*.

If all these Latin names are doing your head in, then you are in good company. Only the most pedantic of botanists would denounce the misidentification of these as Gum trees. So, let us look at some common "Gum" trees that are not Eucalypts.

1. Angophoras. These beautiful trees have orange bark which sheds annually in typical Gum tree fashion. Branches can be convoluted and, in my opinion, the best examples are in the Sydney sandstone country where these trees seem to wrap their roots around the rock outcrops. There are many superb examples in Mount Waverley, some of the best are in The Highway (pictured). The seed capsules are heavily ribbed and the buds lack the caps of Eucalyptus buds.

2. Corymbias. This genus was separated from Eucalyptus in the mid 1990's. The term Corymbia includes some of our best known and most loved "gums", including the Ghost gum, Lemon-scented gum, Spotted gum, and Red flowering gum, the last of which is a member of a group called "Bloodwoods", characterized by large globular fruits made famous by the children's author May Gibbs in the "Gumnut Babies". Although you will not find Ghost gums in Mount Waverley, there are many examples of Corymbias in our streets and private gardens.

3. Tristanias. *Tristania laurina* and *Tristania conferta* have been reclassified into separate genera but I will try to simplify matters by sticking with the old name. *Tristania conferta* is a commonly planted street tree around Melbourne. Attractive, disease free, it looks like a Gum tree but close examination of leaves, buds and fruits will show the difference. It is also known as Brush box, Queensland box or Brisbane box. Its natural home is coastal northern NSW and Queensland.

Tristania laurina, on the other hand, is native to eastern Gippsland and southern NSW. Otherwise known as Kanooka or Water gum, it is an attractive spreading tree with typical smooth gum tree bark, often found in Melbourne's parks. I would be interested to hear of any examples in Mount Waverley.

Re 41-43 Alvie Rd

VCAT hearing confirmed as Thursday 19/5 from 10am at 55 King Street Melbourne, please attend if this is a concern to you your presence is important to the outcome.

Contact Leanne Boucher via email: Email: alviecommunity@gmail.com

Wetland Maintenance by Monash city Council

In the next few weeks the "Frog Pond" will be excavated to remove accumulated silt and debris. Care will be taken to minimize disturbance to the ecology and wildlife during this operation. It will be necessary to close the lower path by the Frog pond to allow access for machinery and to contain excavated material prior to removal.

Sustainable Gardening Australia Seminars

SGA run a series of seminars to promote sustainable gardening. Here are some of them:

March 17th "Water Smart Gardening" 6-30 pm – 8-30 pm Forest Hill

April 16th "Low Environmental Impact solutions to Garden Pests"

10-30 am – 12-00 pm Forest Hill

April 16th " Sustainable Home Grown Garlic" 2-00 pm – 3-30pm Forest Hill

April 17th "Sustainable Building Materials" 1-00pm – 4-00pm Templestowe

May 30th "Habitat Gardening" - 6:30pm to 8:30pm Blackburn Lake

For further details refer to Sustainable Gardening Australia's website

Guest speaker program -

The March meeting will be addressed by Doug Scott who will share photographs of his walking trips in the Cascades region of Washington state.

Dates to remember

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
20 th March	Working bee	10:00 to 12:30 meet at Bengal Cres reserve entrance Note revised date due to conflict with Easter
23 rd March	General meeting Guest speaker: Doug Scott "Walking in the Cascades"	From 7-30pm followed by a General meeting.
27 th April	General Meeting	From 7-30pm
May 1st	Working bee	10:00 to 12:30

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Volunteer Nature Conservation.

Damper Creek Bushland Reserve: part of the Yarra Catchment.

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