

# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

*May 2015*



The Newsletter of  
FRIENDS OF  
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE  
INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

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

PO Box 2063 Mount Waverley 3149

## **A new format to the newsletter**

After many years publishing the newsletter in the “triple fold” format we are going to try changing to a more conventional A4 format. There are many reasons for this but much has to do with the rigidity of the old format which required considerable editing time to fit it exactly into the space. Also, as the majority of readers are now accessing the newsletter on computers there is little advantage in publishing a newsletter which is designed to be folded and mailed out. The newsletter will now be more “noticeboard friendly” and more flexible as content can now extend beyond the limitation of the old format. Your comments regarding this new format would be welcomed.

## **Guest Speakers**

Our Wednesday 27 May guest speakers will be Libby Anthony and Colin Goodwin on Straw bale housing and sustainable living.

Mr Andrew Kelly as guest speaker for FoDC's Wednesday 26 August 2015 meeting at Alvie Hall.

Andrew is the new Yarra River keeper (as you are probably already aware) and he is keen to speak to both our Friends' groups & to make contact with us.

## **Track Closure**

Monash council has advised that the “goat track” at the rear of 38 Tarella Drive will be fenced at both ends and the wider formed section to the north be reduced in width as it is no longer required for vehicles. Gates will be placed at either end for maintenance access and signs displayed advising that the area is now closed. The area will be mulched in sections and some of the fallen timber will be placed next to the track so we can revegetate this area.

## **Working Bees**

Working bee for Sunday 31 May will be again at the rear of the Tarella Drive houses- meet on the lower track at the foot of the Tarella bridge from 10am.

Sunday 28 June working bee is a Community Planting Day (tube stock funded by a Melbourne Water Grant) - registration at the Reserve entrance at Park Road from 10am - 12.30 followed by a sausage sizzle. All welcome.

**Extra working bee** - plantings will take place at the newly mulched areas at the rear of the Park Road houses on Sunday 19 July



### **Tree of the month: Eucalyptus viminalis**

Known as the “Ribbony Gum” *E. viminalis* is one of the iconic Australian gum trees. The common name comes from the tree's habit of shedding bark in long ribbons, a characteristic which is unfortunate in a bushfire situation as burning streamers of bark have been known to travel many kilometres to create spot fires. The species is one of the principal food sources of the koala. It is attractive for its smooth white bark though there is usually a rough area near the base.

Growing to 35m, *E. viminalis* is not the tree for suburban gardens. However, there is a smaller coastal variety and great variation exists depending on genetics and environment. *E. viminalis* is indigenous to Damper creek and there are many examples in the reserve. The photographed example is close to the playground.

### **Birds in Backyards**

Most information regarding attracting native birds to your garden will concentrate on native plants. Strangely, birds are not so selective. Honeyeaters such as the Eastern Spinebill will happily feed on fuscias and any other nectar rich flower. I recently observed a family of Eastern Spinebills feasting on a *Wygelia* bush, every bit as effective as a bird attractor as a *Banksia* or *Grevillea*. A search on the internet is not particularly helpful but I did turn up the Red Hot Poker (*Kniphofia*), *Sasanqua* and *Japonica* Camelias and bromeliads as effective bird attractors. Non native plants may be important for purely structural reasons like providing shelter, nesting opportunities or perches.

So, when working on an established garden don't immediately remove every exotic plant. It may just be providing habitat or a food source for your favourite birds. The important proviso is that the exotics you keep should not be weedy or have any tendency to swamp native vegetation. Removal of broom, English Ivy, *Agapanthus*, *Cotoneaster*, Mirror Bush and Privet should be considered a sacred duty. Some natives are also serious weeds. For the Damper Creek environs, *Pittosporum undulatum* is one native not indigenous to the area which should be removed as soon as seen. Remember, plants can become weeds because they are popular with native birds.

Enjoy your exotic plants, the birds may enjoy them as well, but ensure they do not become weedy and, by all means, mix them with our native and indigenous flora.

### **Subscription database: Renewal of financial membership – due August 2015**

Following on from our annual subscription reminder towards the end of last year, thank you to all who have replied. We appreciate your ongoing support very much. The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. could not keep going without its important and dedicated volunteer members.

As the annual single subscription (\$5) and the annual family subscription (\$10) will be due in August 2015, any new subscriptions from now on will be carried over and current until August 2016. The Enduring (life-long) membership of \$50 is a once only payment. (A subscription form is on the FoDC website <http://www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au>)

A significant current financial membership is vital to the effectiveness of FoDC as an incorporated group, for example with applications for Melbourne Water yearly grants (tube stock and administrative grants) to enable FoDC to hold Community Planting days in the Reserve (June/August).

*If we have lost touch with you (and to assist with the management of the current FoDC subscription database, which is used for the distribution of Damper Creek Doings monthly newsletter), from the end of June 2015 the database will only include –*

*All financial members (single/family), Officials (Local and Federal Government, and expert environmental advisers). Enduring memberships and Honorary Life Memberships.*

Please be in touch by email : [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com) or PO Box 2063 Mt Waverley 3149 if you have any queries and/or FoDC has not recorded your details correctly.

## Dates to remember:

	<b>May</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Meeting:</b>	Wed 27th- 7:30 pm	<b>Alvie Hall</b>
<b>Working Bee</b>	Sun May 31st 10-00 am to 12-30pm	<b>Tarella bridge</b>
	<b>June</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Meeting:</b>	Wed 24th- 7:30 pm	<b>Alvie Hall</b>
<b>Working Bee</b>	Sun June 28th 10-00 to 12-30	<b>Meet at Park Road entrance to the reserve</b>

**Community planting days will be in June and August**

### ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<b>President:</b>	<b>Helen Clements</b>	<b>0401813502</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>John Clements</b>	<b>0401813502</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Ian Nicholls</b>	
<b>Editor:</b>	<b>Doug Scott</b>	<b>0417300866</b>

Please email material for  
the newsletter to  
[dougscott3@bigpond.com](mailto: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

[secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)