

DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

May 2020

The newsletter of
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC
Reg no. A0029531G
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Editorial:

The excellent rains we have been getting recently have been a boon to Damper Creek and plant life generally. In particular, fungi have benefited enormously from the consistent moisture and many have displayed spectacularly. Many of us have grown up collecting field mushrooms and it is tempting to harvest these from our Reserve, an activity not without some risk. A recent press report tells of the death of a Melbourne man and the hospitalisation of several others from mushroom poisoning. The collection of mushrooms for the dinner table is not something to be undertaken without adequate knowledge.

Note that the removal of any plants or materials whatsoever from Damper Creek Conservation Reserve is prohibited.



This fairytale fungus was photographed by Philip Johnstone. Also known as the Fly agaric, this mushroom is potentially fatal if eaten.



The ground was literally covered with a carpet of these a week ago. As far as I can gather it is a member of the Cortinarius genus. Just to illustrate the difficulty in identification, there are around 2000 species in this genus.

Help wanted in the future! Weeding in Damper Creek

Once restrictions associated with COVID-19 have passed we will restore the additional weeding sessions and organise a training session with the Bushcrew to ensure only undesirable weeds are removed. If you would like to learn about the identification of weeds and help with extra weeding in the future, this would be most welcomed. It is important that the Bushcrew is aware of, and approves all activities within the Reserve. One important aspect is to make the Council aware of the level of support members FoDCR give to caring for the Reserve therefore extra weeding needs to be recorded and submitted to the Council's Bushcrew.

It is a delightful experience to care for a small patch of Damper Creek Reserve. Keep it clear of weeds, encourage the plants that belong, prepare to be surprised. It doesn't matter how small the patch is, be it one square metre or a hundred, you will be performing a valuable service.

Once your patch is clear of weeds you will notice how healthy the indigenous plants look. Soon they will be so vigorous there won't be any room for weeds. When this happens, you can sit back and be proud of your work or, maybe, you will be encouraged to take on another patch under the guidance of the Bushcrew.

Once back to our normal schedule again, FoDCR will advise when extra weeding sessions are expected to be held (separate to monthly working bees), and you are encouraged to participate when this time arrives.

Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Activities during COVID-19

Members have been notified that all meetings, guest speakers, working bees and community events have been cancelled until restrictions have been lifted. For non-members, please be aware that we often communicate by email. By becoming a member you will be automatically added to our email list. Please direct membership enquiries to the secretary c/o P.O.Box 2063 Mount Waverley 3149 or via email:

secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com General information including past newsletters is available on our website www.friendsofdampercreek.org.

Damper Creek Reserve remains a popular walking destination and this use is permitted for exercise purposes provided users observe appropriate "social distancing" of 1.5 metres most especially on the narrow pathways.

Diary Notes

Unfortunately, we cannot predict when our normal programmes will resume. The FoDCR committee will continue to liaise with the City of Monash regarding all issues that affect the Reserve. We will also continue to seek out guest speakers for future meetings and would appreciate any suggestions from members for future guest speakers. Please be assured that FoDCR continues to be active behind the scenes.

The content of this newsletter reflects the opinions of the editor and the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve. Content is welcome and should be emailed to dougscott@bigpond.com or to the secretary at secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com.

***If you see something in Damper Creek that you think needs attention, please contact Monash Council on their website and leave a report:
www.monash.vic.gov.au/contact/request-a-service***

Damper Creek is part of the Yarra catchment and is financially supported by Melbourne Water and Monash City Council