

Celebrate our Twenty-First Birthday

We always have a barbie to celebrate another year of Damper Creek achievement. This year is something special, we celebrate our 21st birthday in our own special way, with a Damper Creek barbecue. Come join us on November 30th at midday at our special spot at the end of Richard Road.

The BBQ commences at 12-00 and there will be a draw for a worm farm at 1-30. Meat and salads will be provided but please remember to bring your own seats (if you want to sit) and drinks.

This special time allows us to express our appreciation to all who have volunteered through the year and to our supporters, Melbourne Water and the City of Monash. Please come, you never know who might be there.

Biodiversity the key!

The committee is inspired by a programme initiated by the Knox Environmental Society (KES) called Gardens for Wildlife.

KES have been successful in getting selected neighbourhoods in Knox to assist the environment by planting bird attracting indigenous shrubs. The KES initiative has been supported by the City of Knox who have provided promotional material and plants for participating residents.

The environs of Damper creek are ripe for such a programme with many new residents establishing gardens adjoining the reserve.

Knox have adopted the Eastern Spinebill as a mascot for their programme, a prettier ambassador would be hard to find, with its beautiful orange, white and black markings it flits amongst the honey producing flora and

acrobatically captures insects mid air. Watch for this bird, it's not rare but can be hard to spot as it moves quickly and loves dense, prickly shrubbery.



The FoDCare also keen to encourage residents nearby to plant out honey providing plants to attract (first of all) more Eastern Spinebills. There are many beautiful native birds in our creek environs but of course with the constant clearing of sites for redevelopment many gardens are being lost. Damper Creek is a narrow linear reserve and it depends on the trees and vegetation in the backyards of the houses abutting the Reserve. We hope to commence this idea as soon as possible. As a part of this initiative we will include a night on propagating *Correas* in our guest speaker programme. The *Correa reflexa* is one of the prime food plants of the Eastern Spinebill.

This will be a "hands on" night and each participant will take home a number of plants.

Guest Speakers

November meeting - Dr Caragh Threlfall, Melbourne University, Topic: "Biodiversity in Urban Areas"

Dr. Threlfall is a postdoctoral research fellow at Melbourne University, working on an ARC Linkage Grant. She recently completed her PhD in urban ecology at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, which investigated changes in micro-bat diversity in relation to urbanisation, landscape structure, and critical resources including insect prey and tree hollows. Research interests include urban ecology, urban planning and landscape design, and the maintenance of ecosystem services and biodiversity in urban areas.

February Meeting: your newsletter editor will (hopefully) entertain you with stories of his month long hike along the John Muir Trail in California's Sierra Nevada

Habitat Creations

As a follow-on from the talk by Andrew McKernan a number of trees have been assessed for modification to create nesting hollows. To date the Monash council is not offering to assist but two residents are offering to fund the creation of nesting hollows in a dead tree at the rear of 26 Park Rd. We look forward to this development with interest and hopefully Monash will see its benefit and fund creation of habitat hollows in trees in Damper Creek.

Monash Housing Strategy

You will have noted from the May newsletter that the proposed Monash Housing Strategy included parts of Damper Creek, Valley Reserve and Scotchmans Creek in the "Category 2" development zone, allowing for moderate increase in housing density. The same document afforded a huge area to the west of Dandenong Creek a higher level of protection from high density development. Following submissions to the City of Monash a

category 7 "Creek Environs" has been created to cater for such special areas.

At this stage the process to achieve effective implementation of the new category including the establishment of boundaries & the timeframe is uncertain.

The following statement was provided by the City of Monash:

'It is anticipated that a report will be presented to Council in early 2015 to prepare an amendment to the Monash Planning Scheme that introduces the Monash Housing Strategy and planning provisions that amongst other matters recognise and protect the character of the Creek Environs. Key community groups, such as the Friends groups, will be consulted as part of the exhibition of the Planning Scheme Amendment.'

Our new Riverkeeper

Did you know that Damper Creek is part of the Yarra catchment? The FODCR is closely associated with the Yarra catchment and Melbourne Water and is a member of "Yarra Riverkeepers". For nine years Ian Penrose has been the figurehead of the Yarra Riverkeepers and has carried the title of "Yarra Riverkeeper". A tireless advocate of the river, Ian has plied the river in his tinnie, explaining the importance of river health to all and sundry. Ian has also been a most entertaining guest speaker for FODCR.

Andrew Kelly, previously Vice President, has been appointed the new Riverkeeper. Andrew has had a life-long association with the Yarra and interest in the natural environment. After studying history and geography, he has worked for many years in communications and is a publisher of children's books.

Important Dates to remember:

	November	Notes
Meeting:	Wed 26th - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Annual BBQ	Sun Nov 30th 12-00 to 3-00pm	Richard Rd
February		
Meeting:	Wed 25 th - 7:30 pm	Alvie Hall
Working Bee	Sun Mar 1 10-00 to 12-30	TBA

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The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc is supported by the City of Monash and Melbourne Water.

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:

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The Newsletter of

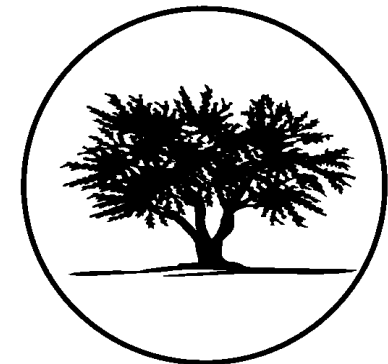
***FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.***

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

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DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



November 2014