



Damper Creek Doings

November 2018

President's Address: John Clements

As we draw near to the end of the year I would like to thank all our members for your excellent support given throughout the year.

The Friends have had an year of exceptional achievements, the highlights being the Community Planting Day of the nature strips at the Park road entrance, and the Jubilee celebration of 50 years of work saving and restoring Damper Creek and the bushland Reserve. I want to thank all those who contributed to these wonderful events, and especially to our committee members who do so much for the on-going work of the Friends and who make our group such a success.

On behalf of the Committee of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve, we wish you and your families a safe and merry Festive Season and a Happy New Year 2019.

The Management Committee looks forward to seeing all our Friends, past, present and future at the End-of-Year barbeque on Sunday 2 December 2018 from 12 noon at the end of Richard Road, Mt Waverley.

November Meeting

Our meeting on 28 November is a business meeting. The principal order of business is to organise our Christmas BBQ. Most of the decisions have been already made, new ideas or offers of help will, of course, be accepted. Come along for a chin wag after the meeting and don't forget the BBQ on Sunday 2 December.

Melbourne Water Award

In recognition of the ongoing cooperation between the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve and Melbourne Water, Melbourne Water representative, Nathan Mattinson presented a *Certificate of Appreciation to our group together with a \$100 gift voucher* which we plan to put towards the purchase and planting of a significant tree or trees in the near future.

The Re-Development of 31 Bengal Crescent

The demolition of the house at 31 Bengal Crescent will provide the first test of the creek abuttal provision of C125. The City of Monash has been contacted for an assurance that the special provisions which apply to this block have been adhered to. To date we have not received a response that gives us confidence that the provision of a 7 metre setback, as required by C125, has been taken into consideration when the building permit was prepared. This uncertainty exists because the building plans are approved by a private building surveyor rather than by Council. In theory all special

The newsletter of

FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

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provisions are available to the private surveyor and whilst we have no reason to suspect they were overlooked, we look forward to the outcome and will continue to be vigilant for new work on properties adjoining the reserve.

Fire Safety

It seems likely that we will be facing a hot, dry summer. With these conditions comes a fear that Damper Creek Reserve could become a fire hazard. Officially, the MFB does not rate Damper Creek Reserve as a high risk as there is not a sufficient area for a significant fire to develop. However, the City of Monash manages vegetation within the reserve to minimise fire risk. Where accessible, a fire break is maintained at the rear of all properties adjoining the reserve.

Within your own property it is wise to minimise build-up of flammable material and to clear leaves from gutters. The following link will guide you to the official City of Monash recommendations on preparing your property.

<https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Contact/Emergency/Monash-Fire-Safety>

Monash Open Space Strategy and the Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy

We are very pleased to see that the Monash Open Space Strategy and the Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy were passed at the October Council meeting. The approval of these strategies is the culmination of much hard work by the staff and Councillors of the City of Monash. The expressions of support from organisations such as the Friends of Damper Creek and their individual members over an extended period of time have been critical to this result. These strategies will provide a framework which will improve the liveability of our city for present and future generations.

Guest Speakers

At our October meeting we were entertained and informed by two knowledgeable and inspiring speakers, Ben Crisfield-Smith and Scott Tunbridge, speaking on the topic of landscaping with indigenous plants. Garden design principles based on the use of small plants in a lightly forested setting, making use of local wildflowers and grasses were demonstrated. One of our members has already engaged Ben as a consultant on garden design and we look forward to seeing that garden develop over the coming years.

The committee is preparing a programme of guest speakers for 2019 and beyond. Suggestions or offers to recruit guest speakers would be welcome.

Protecting the Yarra River

Members of FODCR have been active in assisting with the development of the Yarra River Protection Act. As a result we, as an organisation, have a close association with the Yarra Riverkeeper Association. We now have a fine publication by the Association titled "Protecting the Yarra Corridor Through Better Planning". This is a comprehensive document, well worth studying. If you wish to view or borrow this publication please contact our secretary.



This year eagle-eyed members have spotted two nesting tawny frogmouths in our Reserve. The parent above raising two balls of fluff are resident in a eucalypt at the end of Swayfield Road.

(Thank you Eva)

Damper Creek Doings is printed by Michael Gidley MP, as a community service. Content is the responsibility of The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc.

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Contributions to *Damper Creek Doings* are welcomed by the Editor. Please submit content by email to the secretary: 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 message:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/contact/request-a-service

Invitation to thank all Volunteers & Members of Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. FREE - End of Year BBQ

When: Sunday 2 December
2018

Where: Meet at the end of
Richard Road Mt Waverley
in Damper Creek Reserve

Time: From 12 noon to
2.30pm approximately

BYO: Chairs, mats,
sunscreen, sunhats,
Aeroguard, special drinks,
cups, plates, cutlery

RSVP: For catering purposes
please reply by Wednesday
28 November 2018 to

secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com
or Kevin 98074933
(answering machine)



Usually kookaburras nest in a tree hollow and the raising of their young is out of sight. This year in Damper Creek Reserve they are nesting in a broken-off tree trunk. Look carefully and you can see the fledgling in front of a parent.