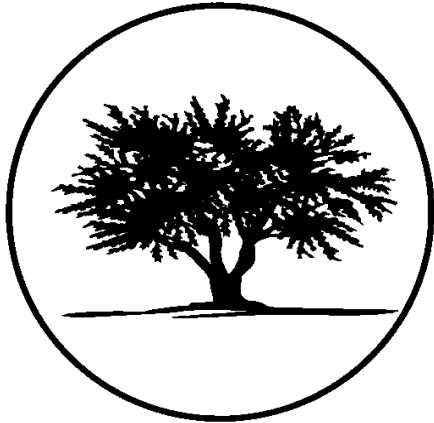


DAMPER CREEK DOINGS



The Newsletter of
FRIENDS OF
DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

Reg No. A0029531G

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

P.O. Box 2063 Mount Waverley

October 2016

Editorial:

Reflecting on my involvement with the Friends of Damper Creek over several years there is one aspect which outshines all others and that is a sense of community. Love of the environment offered by Damper Creek has brought together a remarkable group of people, not all of them like-minded but sharing the common interest of preserving the area for community recreation. Given that the council elections are upon us (you have probably already voted so I'm not getting political here), it is pertinent to remember that the preservation of Damper Creek would not have happened without the support of our councillors. From the initial reservation of the land, through to the lining of the creek bed and the ongoing maintenance, a remarkable reserve has been created which is visited by walking groups, dog walkers, bushwalkers, birdwatchers, botanists, cyclists, students, landscapers and revegetation enthusiasts.

The support given to the "friends" extends beyond the immediate boundaries of the reserve and I will mention the VCAT hearings regarding 28 Park Rd., the reservation of the Sadie Street remnant vegetation, Alvie Road, the Vegetation Protection Overlay and the proposed C125 zoning amendments. Throughout these campaigns we have been privileged to work with our local representatives, from Monash, State and Federal arms of government. It has been a pleasure to communicate our passion with them and we are fortunate to have their support.

As you walk through the reserve, greeting dog walkers, bird watchers, strollers or those simply enjoying the escape from the urban environment, consider the community which has cooperated to produce the fine result we have today.

What's in flower?



Left: Chocolate Lily: *Arthropodium strictum*

On a windless day, this really does smell like chocolate. Early settlers encountered drifts of this plant, which perfumed the air.

Right: Swamp paperbark: *Melaleuca ericifolia*. A shrubby plant that inhabits the stream bank.



Hop Bitter-pea: *Daviesia latifolia*
Latifolia = broad-leaved

Golden Tip or Clover Tree: *Goodia lotifolia*
Lotifolia = lotus-leaved

Both these plants come under the common name “Egg and Bacon”. As with many common names this is descriptive but not particularly useful as there are literally dozens of pea-flowered plants that can be described with this name. Anyway, common names can be fun and a great way of introducing children to the plant world.



Left: Bulbine lily: *Bulbine bulbosa*. This example was photographed behind 20 Park Road, an area that was planted out a little over a year ago. The whole area has grown magnificently and the Bulbines are some of the biggest I have seen, about 80cm high.

Right: Spear Grass: *Stipa elegantissima*. Grasses are an important part of the ecosystem, not just something to mow. The spear grasses in particular, put on a spectacular show, particularly when grown en masse. Once again, this lovely group is in the planting behind 20 Park Road.

Park management issues



The litter trap at the North end of the reserve is a massive construction which has been well hidden. There are

two hatches, the smaller one is pumped out every two months, the larger is pumped out every three months.

Guest speaker- Wednesday 26 October 2016

This month we welcome back Professor Tim Fletcher. Tim has spoken to our group before and on his talks are always relevant to Damper Creek. For his last talk, he described his proposal for computer controlled water tanks. He is an academic at Melbourne University specialising in Ecosystems and Forest Sciences (whose areas of expertise include water quality modelling and monitoring, urban stormwater, urban streams and green infrastructure). He will speak water quality management research in Australia and overseas.

His work on Little Stringybark Creek is particularly relevant to the Damper Creek environment.

Report on the September Working Bee:

A small but enthusiastic team planted out a patch of Nodding Greenhood orchids near the Bush crew compound. The Greenhoods will soon go into a period of dormancy so the success of this planting will not be determined until they re-emerge in August/September next year.

Annual BBQ: 12 noon, Sunday 27 November: Don't forget to mark the date of our annual BBQ on your calendars. You never know who is going to turn up, you can expect a random selection of pollies, councillors, members from way back and some good tucker. Once again, we will meet at the end of Richard Rd in Damper Creek Reserve, next to the bush crew's quarters, commencing 12 noon.

Working bee routines: 10 am - 12.30 pm. Billy boils at 11am. BYO cups/mugs Please wear all weather gear and solid shoes. Some equipment supplied by the bush crew.

On 30 October we will meet at the 'old site' – picnic rock next to the Alvie Street footbridge. With all the rain we, and the park, have enjoyed we will make a significant impact on the weed regrowth among the thriving plantings and give them a head start as we head into the drier months. This will allow the plants to thrive with less competition for scarce soil moisture over summer. Please bring small hand tools to aid the process.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday October 26th	General Meeting Guest Speaker: Professor Tim Fletcher <ul style="list-style-type: none">What we can learn from storm water management in France.Update on the Little Stringybark Creek project.	From 7:30 pm
Sunday October 30th	Working Bee	10:00 to 12: 30 Meet at Alice Street bridge

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday November 23rd	Monthly meeting	From 7:30pm
Sunday November 27th	Annual BBQ – Richard Street, near the bush crew sheds.	From 12 noon

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Friends of 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.

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