

Damper Creek Doings

October 2018



DOUG'S DELIBERATIONS

Our Jubilee Celebration - What a wonderful day it was! Old friends and current ones exchanging stories of the earlier years, plus recognition from the City of Monash, Melbourne Water and the State Government.

Thanks to everyone who came, I'm sure "we did ourselves proud" and provided an event that mixed official ceremony with conviviality. Many helped but special thanks must be given to Helen Clements for her wonderful catering effort, Kevin Ryland for his historical insights, Rebecca Patterson and Tony Brindley for their great speeches and Campbell Miles for MC'ing the occasion with an injection of humour. Most of all, the City of Monash and Melbourne Water must be recognised for their continuous support of a project which attracts attention from diverse sectors of the community. The special nature of the occasion was recognised by major works conducted by the Council including the creation of a commemorative plaque to recognise 50 years of continuous effort. The planting in the Park Road nature strips and in the vicinity of the plaque and plinth represents a courageous effort by the Council in creating an area of indigenous vegetation in locations that would normally be sown with exotic grasses and maintained by mowing. The project demonstrates a commitment to extending indigenous vegetation, improving Damper Creek Reserve and continuing a long- term relationship with the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve.

Thanks to the many people who provided historical material, including newspaper cuttings and photographs that allowed us to paint a picture of the tremendous progress that has been made in restoring the creek. In reading through the various reports from the early days, one realises that community concerns have not changed much. Fifty years ago there was controversy around loss of vegetation, lack of public open space, excessive development, water runoff, erosion, weeds, etc. etc.. What has changed is the conversion of a weed infested, eroded drain with development potential into a priceless haven for wildlife and a valued recreation area for the inhabitants of the City of Monash and beyond.

I thank Isabella Blick and Cr. Brian Little for their photos of the day.

Upcoming events:

October meeting, Guest Speaker Ben Crisfield-Smith. "Landscaping with Indigenous Plants"

Ben is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable proponent of growing indigenous plants as part of landscaping

The newsletter of

FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC.

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The commemorative plaque in Damper Creek with from L to R: James Paterson, Cr Brian Little, Cr Rebecca Paterson and Doug Scott.



Kevin Ryland cuts the Jubilee cake.

For Your Diary

- **Wednesday 7.30 pm, 24 October at Alvie Hall:** guest speakers - see information, page 3
- **Working bee 10 am, 28 October.** The billy boils at 11.00 am. **Check our website for the site.**
- **End-of-year, thank you barbecue - 11.30 am, Sunday 2 December** in Damper Creek Reserve.

projects. He will be supported by Scott Tunbridge from the indigenous nursery at Latrobe University. Further details are included in this newsletter.

Annual BBQ:

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve will be holding their usual thank-you BBQ for all our members and friends at the end of Richard Road on Sunday 2 December starting at 11.30. Please bring your own plates, cutlery, cups and glasses to reduce plastic waste going to landfill.

City of Monash Biodiversity Strategy:

We wish to remind members that the deadline to complete the Council's survey on the Biodiversity Strategy is this Wednesday 17 October. The simplest way to do this is to log on to the Monash website at monash.vic.gov.au and type "biodiversity" into the search panel. This will lead you straight to the draft strategy and the survey. This is a numbers game, the more responses received, the more impact it has on council's decisions. Written submissions may also be made to the council if you feel the survey is not sufficient to express your feelings on this subject.

Environmental Advisory Committee of the City of Monash

Our long-standing member, Meg Ralph has joined the Environmental Advisory Committee of the City of Monash as a community representative. The committee consists of three councillors, (Josh Fergeus, Brian Little and Lynette Saloumi) and 13 community members. Meg has attended two meetings at which the major issues presented were the draft Monash Urban Land Vegetation Strategy and the draft Urban Biodiversity Strategy, in both of which Damper Creek plays a pivotal role.

Some of the other issues covered to date were:

Purchase of a proportion of the energy for the Council from renewable sources via a power purchase agreement with the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse action.

The emissions profiles of Monash as a corporate entity and of the municipality.

A new recycling station for batteries, phones, light globes, X-rays and CDs and videos set up in the Civic Centre foyer.

The Sustainability Hub at Mackie Road Neighbourhood House, located at Wellington Reserve Community Centre, showcasing solar, a community and indigenous garden and market and sustainability workshops.

Meg added that her role is to represent the views of the Friends of Damper Creek, as well as general community members. Meg can be contacted on megralph50@gmail.com.

Tarella Street Bridge Steps

Council has notified us that the steps to the Tarella Road bridge are unsafe and replacements are being planned. Temporary repairs will be made to ensure safety while the design is being finalised and the steps will be temporarily closed while repairs are made. The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve have been asked for





FREE WORKSHOP: **Designing with Indigenous** **Plants**

By Ben Crisfield-Smith & Scott Tunbridge

The Indigenous plants of Eastern Melbourne are beautiful and offer the home gardener a wonderful opportunity to connect with their local context. Learn to understand the Indigenous plants available and how they can be used in the home garden. You will leave better equipped to transform your home garden into the beautiful, Indigenous landscape you imagine it could be.

Ben Crisfield-Smith (*Crisfield Landscape*) will guide you through a range of topics, assisted by **Scott Tunbridge** (Plant Production Assistant, Latrobe Wildlife Sanctuary) presenting on the benefits of Indigenous plants, leaving you with information on:

How to

- Understand your gardens characteristics
- Design with Indigenous plants
- Regenerate a damaged site and restore soil structure through time
- Accommodate local birds and insects
- Maintain an Indigenous garden through time
- Work with provenance and choose the best suited plants for your garden
- Germinate your own Indigenous seeds and cuttings
- Plant under existing mature trees and tailor floral resources
- Create Indigenous lawns, meadows and habitats

Where & When:

Date: 24th October 2018

Time: 7:30-9pm

Location: Alvie Hall, High St rd & Alvie rd, Mount Waverley.

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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