

# DAMPER CREEK DOINGS

September 2020

The newsletter of  
FRIENDS OF DAMPER CREEK RESERVE INC  
Reg no. A0029531G  
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## Botanical delights in Damper Creek

August is heralded by the golden blooms of many wattles. Though many wattles are still in flower it is the pea flowered plants that are now brightening the bush. Those who have grown up in the country will, no doubt, have heard the term “egg and bacon” applied to wildflowers. If we dig deeper, we soon find out that the term applies to a wide variety of plants that have the distinctive yellow and red flowers. A quick flick through Flora of Melbourne reveals 10 genera (most with a number of species) which could be described as “egg and bacon”. In addition, there are several closely related plants which have purple flowers. As a group, the pea flowered plants are spectacular with many fine examples in Damper Creek Reserve. Exploration further afield will reveal spectacular stands in drier areas of the state such as the “Bendigo Whipstick” and the Brisbane ranges. They range from prostrate plants through to rush-like sedges and small to moderately sized shrubs. As a group they deserve appreciation and study. Here are some of the plants in flower at the moment.

### Dillwynia cinerascens



#### Grey Parrot pea

A small, fine leaved shrub. Examples scattered throughout Damper Creek

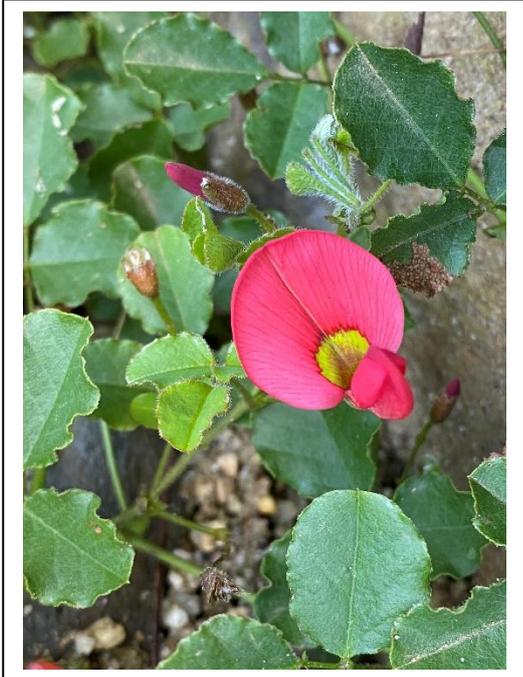
### Indigofera australis



#### Austral Indigo

Shrub to 2 metres, many fine examples throughout Damper Creek. Aborigines obtained a blue dye from the flowers.

## **Kennedia prostrata**



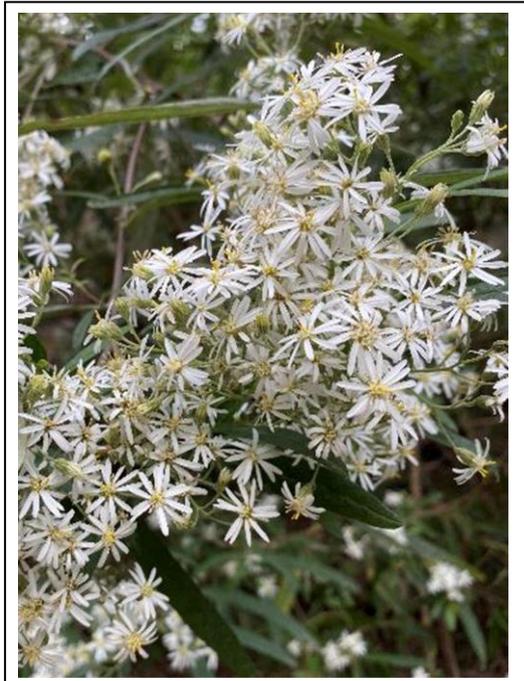
**Running Postman, Scarlet Runner**  
growing flat to the ground. You will find good examples in the Park Road nature strip plantings.

## **Goodia lotifolia**



**Clover Tree, Golden Tip**  
A scraggy shrub to 3 metres which bursts into flower with a wattle-like intensity.

## **Olearia lirata**



**Snowy Daisy Bush**  
A shrub to 4 metres which recedes into the background until it erupts in dense flowers in Spring. Frequent in Damper Creek

## **Brachyscome multifida**



**Cut-leaf Daisy**  
A low growing perennial that can sucker to form a dense mat. A hardy garden plant with several color variations, white mauve, pink.

## Keeping Fit at Home

Visitors to Damper Creek Reserve have a wonderful opportunity to exercise by walking through the reserve. However, the weather and other issues may make this impractical. The City of Monash, through the Monash Aquatic Recreation Centre has a wide range of resources to help you stay fit at home. Just go to the website :

<http://www.monshaquaticrecreationcentre.com.au> and click on

“Active at Home” and you will be introduced to a wide range of options that have been put together by the staff at the Centre.

## Bike path - Waverley Road

Many of you may have seen the “For Sale” notice at the start of the bike path through the Blue Cross Nursing home land at Waverley Road.

The good news is that Monash Council has arranged to compulsorily acquire a section of that land adjacent to the creek. This will enable the relocation of the shared bike/walking path away from the eastern boundary to place it next to the creek. This will also allow for planting next to the creek to provide a continuous corridor along the creek itself. To view full details of the media release dated 11 September 2020, search the Council's website: [www.monash.vic.gov.au](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au), click on Agenda/Decisions.

## Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Activities during COVID-19

Ongoing activities by Committee members and others continue within the bounds of the current restrictions.

FoDCR has made submissions to -

1. **Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee, Parliament House, “Parliamentary Environmental Infrastructure Committee for Growing Populations”.**

Briefly, the Friends' submission outlined

\*the environmental and community benefits of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve;

\*the benefits to the community of the preservation of flora, fauna and biodiversity habitats, community pride, personal, psychological benefits from physical activities via this unique bushland amenity and the enjoyment of natural surrounds;

\*the economic benefits from the value of trees and vegetation as assets in their own right plus their contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change and the heat island effect

\*the detrimental effects from increased building density, greater storm water run-off, increased flooding, pollution and the ever-increasing loss of tree cover.

## **2. Cat night-time curfew**

Submission to the City of Monash on Community feedback in regard to the need for a cat night-time curfew. A pleasing result has been announced that a cat curfew will be introduced on 10 April 2021. Information will be issued to cat owners when animal registrations are due again at that time.

## **3. Two issues**

### **(a) Safety concerns – speeding bikes**

As the pedestrian and bike traffic within Damper Creek Reserve has increased considerably over the past months, Monash Council have been advised of FoDCR's concern regarding speeding bikes and associated safety issues.

### **(b) Dogs off leash**

Monash Council will resume their Animal Management team patrols in Damper Creek in the near future after concerns have been raised over the inadequate control of dogs off-leash within the Reserve, particularly in regard to non-compliance in picking up dog droppings, dogs entering the ponds, and dogs not being under adequate voice control, bothering other dogs, etc.

Council patrols in the Reserve are dependent on the availability of Council officers from the relevant areas. Given the current COVID19 restrictions, both these issues will need to wait until restrictions are eased, at which point FoDCR will refresh these concerns with Monash Council.

### ***Doggies of Damper Creek stories – FoDCR website link***

Four more special stories have been added to the *Doggies of Damper Creek* link on [www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au](http://www.friendsofdampercreek.org.au)

Go to “Links” left button bar, then go to the end of the links page to *Doggies of Damper Creek* and read about - Gypsy, Sammy and Sassy, and Shandy, making 37 stories so far. If you would like to write a human interest story about how your dog loves walking in Damper Creek Reserve etc., please contact the Secretary at [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)

We would love to hear from you.

### **Membership**

Please note that annual membership fees have been waived from 31 August 2020 until 31 August 2021 as all our activities have been cancelled this year due to COVID19 restrictions. If you wish to join to receive our monthly newsletters free of charge at the moment, please send your details to [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com)

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](mailto:secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com) General information including past newsletters is available on our website [www.friendsofdampercreek.org](http://www.friendsofdampercreek.org).

Damper Creek Reserve remains a popular walking destination and this use is permitted for exercise purposes provided users observe appropriate “physical distancing”.

## Apology

Last month's photo of the "Nodding Greenhood" was incorrectly captioned. This delightful plant is actually the "Blunt Greenhood" *Pterostylis curta*. As implied in the name, the flowers of the Nodding Greenhood droop whereas the Blunt Greenhood has erect flowers.

Thanks to Helen Jenkins for the correction.

## 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 and feedback is welcomed and should be emailed to [dougscott@bigpond.com](mailto:dougscott@bigpond.com) or to the secretary at [secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/contact/request-a-service)**

**[or download the App – Snap, Send, Solve to quickly report an issue.](#)**

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