



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve
inc.

April 2024



Our big project in the Fern Gully

A major effort for 2024 for both the Friends of Damper Creek and the Bush crew will be concentrated in the Fern Gully. Our last working bee directed our effort in the “overflow” area on the East side of the footbridge. This area contains a dense stand of Australian Gypsywort (*Lycopus australus*) which is doing an excellent job of suppressing weeds and protecting the area from erosion. Where this plant has not taken hold there is the usual range of weeds which need to be managed by manual removal. We will work on this area and up the hill towards Swayfield Road.



Some sections of the fern gully appear lush and picturesque. This project will expand the boundaries of the gully towards Swayfield Road by removing weeds and revegetating barren areas.



Park Road Playground Latest

The fence has been removed and the playground is available for use. The area around the affected vegetation will be managed in accordance with technical advice. This will include mulching in the area to prevent transmission of any pathogens to other parts of the reserve,

City Nature Challenge

You are also invited to participate in the City Nature Challenge. Councils across metropolitan Melbourne are collaborating to compete with cities from around the world by taking pictures of wild plants and animals between Friday 26th of April to Monday 29th of April 2024 using iNaturalist. You can find out more and how to participate here.

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/city-nature-challenge-2024-greater-melbourne?tab=about>

The City of Monash will be conducting an activity in Damper Creek on April 28th which is also the day of our working bee. Monash will provide a morning tea for participants of the City Nature Challenge as well as participants of the Friends of Damper Creek working bee.

Tiny Forest project

Around the world there is great interest in improving the environment by planting small plots (typically the size of a tennis court) very densely. This practice was pioneered in Japan and is referred to as the Miyawaki Method.

If you want to get involved the City of Monash and Earthwatch are building a Tiny Forest at Fraser Street Reserve Glen Waverley. Planting will take place on May 15th from 9-30 to 12-00. Come along and make a difference!

Hazardous Chemicals Collection

The Monash Recycling and Waste centre will be accepting chemicals such as weed killers, cleaning products and cosmetics for free on Saturday April 27th. This is your chance to “Detox your Home”.



Plants with split personalities:

Damper Creek Reserve is a “Conservation Reserve”. A by-product of this status is that many plants which are encouraged in the reserve appear to have characteristics which, to the untrained eye, seem undesirable and may be mistaken for weeds. For this reason plants should not be removed except under the direction of the Bush crew. You can learn to identify weeds by attending our working bees. A Bush crew member is always there and willing to help.

Over the years well-meaning individuals have removed some plants under the impression that they must be weeds. A couple of species have been targeted in this way and valuable habitat has been lost.



This plant is often seen growing on fences or over trees and shrubs. It may appear to be invasive and seems to swamp small shrubs. It has been pulled out, being mistaken for a weed.

It is a valuable plant!!!!

Clematis microphylla. In spring it is covered with delightful white starry flowers, followed by spectacular fluffy seeds in Summer.

It provides shelter for small birds and food for birds, insects and reptiles.

Waterwatch: Our Waterwatch team is seeking new members to assist with Waterwatch activities. Waterwatch takes place once per month and requires a commitment of 2 hours. If you wish to participate please contact the secretary at: secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com





Upcoming Events

Working Bees are held on the last Sunday each month unless otherwise notified

Next Working bee: Sunday April 28th

10-00am to 12-30pm

Preparation for Fern Gully planting.

Meet at Mushroom Rock (near Alice Street Bridge)

Note that the "City Nature Challenge" will be conducting an activity in Damper Creek and will be joining us for morning tea

Next Meeting

Wednesday 22nd May

Alvie Hall from 7-30pm-9pm.

Guest speaker TBA

Sunday May 26th Working bee

Community Planting Day

Meet at Swayfield Road entrance

Sunday June 30 Working Bee

Planting Day

Meeting point to be confirmed

Report it!

Have you seen something along Damper Creek that you think needs attention?

Please contact Monash Council and leave a report. You can contact them the

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

Phone(03) 9518 3555 or download the App – Snap, Send, Solve

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Damper-Creek-133557736847306/>

The content of this newsletter reflects the opinions of the editor for the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve. Content is welcome and should be emailed to dougscott3149@hotmail.com or to the secretary at secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com

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