



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve
inc.

September 2024



Blink and you miss it!

(or what's in flower in Damper Creek right now)

Catching the delightful flowers in the Australian bush can be a frustrating activity as the flowering season can be fleeting. Unfortunately the indigenous vegetation does not have the background of hundreds of years of selective breeding to produce long lived blooms. Evolution of indigenous plants optimizes flowering and seed production to avoid weather extremes of the Australian climate. The solution for anyone wishing to experience the glories of the bush is to visit frequently, especially during the Spring. This is hardly a burden when Damper Creek Conservation Reserve is close by.



“Native Sarsparilla”



“Billy Buttons”



Above: Native Hemp
Right: Snowy Daisy Bush
Below: Grey Parrot Pea





Take Part in the Great Aussie Bird Count!

When: 14-20 October

What do I have to do?

Just spend 20 minutes in your favourite outdoor space and tell us about the birds you see during that period.

You can count as many times as you want. Every count helps.

How do I report the results?

Go to <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au/>

Here you will find a wealth of information, resources and fun activities. Go to the bottom of the page and download the Aussie Bird Count App.



The value of fallen timber

Recent storms have taken a devastating toll on local trees. The City of Monash has taken advantage of this misfortune by retaining much of the timber for incorporation into local reserves such as Damper Creek. You will find some of this timber at the end of Swayfield Road and behind Norman Court.

This timber will help create an environment which enriches the environment by creating homes for insects and reptiles as well as protecting vegetation and encouraging fungi and other soil microorganisms. Ultimately the timber will decay and return its carbon to the soil.



Confirming the Friends' tax free status

Due to regulatory changes it was necessary for the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve to apply to *the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission* to retain our tax-free status. The hurdles to achieve this result were considerable and great credit is due to the committee members who assembled such a professional submission that our application was accepted without delay.

Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve Commended

The Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve received a

High Commendation for Sustainable Leadership

at the City of Monash Sir John Monash Awards. Our group is honoured to be in the company of the amazing individuals and groups showing leadership across all volunteering categories within Monash.

2024 Great Southern BioBlitz

Join the largest citizen science biodiversity event in the southern hemisphere from Friday 20 September to Monday 23 September by taking photos of wild plants, animals, insects, and fungi in your local area.

Find and photograph the native flora and fauna that lives and grows in your neighbourhood, then upload it to the [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org) platform.

For more information visit [2024 Great Southern BioBlitz](https://www.inaturalist.org)

Illegal Mountain Bike Trails

Early this month a number of mountain bike paths were carved through revegetation areas near the waterfalls. The damage was considerable as jumps and berms were constructed, vegetation was removed and trampled and tree roots damaged. Due to the vigilance of members the damage was quickly detected. The Bush Crew responded promptly by restoring soil levels and replanting vegetation.





Upcoming Events

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

September Working Bee

Sunday September 29th 10-00 to 12-30

Sign in and meeting point is at the Bengal Crescent entrance to the reserve. Billy tea will be provided at 11am. Please wear sturdy shoes, sun protection and weather appropriate clothing. BYO gardening gloves and mug.

Next meeting –General Meeting – Wednesday November 27th 2024

Alvie Hall from 7.30pm – 9pm.

Guest Speaker:TBA

*****Invitation to join in City of Monash events**

*****Nature in Focus “Monash Wildlife Photo Exhibition”**

If you missed this wonderful exhibition the entries can be viewed on the Monash website.

Go to www.monash.vic.gov.au/photo-exhibition

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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