



Damper Creek Doings

Newsletter of the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve inc.

September 2025



Damper Creek comes alive in Spring with amazing bird life and their songs.

The Great Australian Bird Count is on from **20–26**

October. The Bird Count is a great excuse to get out in the Reserve and to record your sightings. Details on how to register are on page 6.



The Monash bush crew and the Friends have been busy over the last month tackling the weeds that also emerge as the days get longer and warmer. The focus area for August and upcoming September working bee is the restoration area on the west side between the duck pond and the upper path.



A Perfect Pair



A breeding pair of spotted pardalotes (*Pardalotus punctatus*) have been seen flitting about the trees and scrubs along Damper Creek walking track of late. These charming creatures are known residents of the neighbourhood but are an uncommon sight on account of their small size and skittish demeanour. Their numbers are, however, thought to be decreasing in urban areas country-wide, so their persistence here is a good sign for the health of the reserve.

It's currently nesting season for the pardalotes, and this particular pair was hard at work constructing theirs – a small burrow in the bank of the creek. The two of them worked in shifts: one would dig, flicking dirt frantically out of the entrance, while the other fetched plant material with which to line the walls. With the location of the burrow now known, it is vital to the wellbeing of these birds and their future chicks that it goes undisturbed in the months to come. If you are in the area, please refrain from deforming the mud of the banks, as you never know who might be trying to build a life underneath.

The male (images on page 1) can be differentiated from the female (images on page 3) by more extreme colouration, with striking white eyebrows and a bright yellow throat. The female herself is by no means plain, however, and they altogether make for quite a handsome couple.

This was my first visit to the neighbourhood in quite some time, so it is a blessing to have encountered such wonderful birds so quickly – and for them to co-operate so thoughtfully for the camera, no less. As a guest to Damper Creek, I appreciate their hospitality and wish them well in the redecorating of their new home.

Nathaniel Nguyen, Zoologist





Annual General Meeting held on 27th August 2025

Many thanks to our ward Councilor, Anjalee DeSilva and Sean McNamee, Acting Director of City Development, who provided a sobering update on the State Government Planning Controls and the impact on waterways, tree canopy, neighbourhood character around our bushland reserves and impact on the biodiversity corridors. It seems that the community and Monash Council will now have very little power to input into the planning or design outcomes of our local area.

Chris Carra then gave an enlightening presentation “The winds of Change” on the design of off-shore wind turbines, their use overseas and the advantages of their future use in our energy mix in Australia.

The re-elected committee members for the new year are:

President: Dianne Carra

Vice President: Douglas Scott

Secretary: Tracey Lewis

Treasurer: Campbell Miles

General Members: Helen Clements and Ray Paterson

The Presidents Report will be available to read under the membership tab on the website.

Key focuses outlined for 2025/26 will be:

- Applying for the next Melbourne Water grant for Stage 2 of the Middle Bridge to Fern Gully riparian and mid storey small bird habitat planting.
- Working with the bush crew on the identified priority planting area at end of Alice St & Sunhill Rd.
- Seeking new volunteers and members to help the committee and all programs, especially to support the waterwatch program and weeding working bees
- Continue promotion through various avenues including local Universities and Tafe, Enviro Volunteers Network & Monash Volunteers.





Monash staff nature walk and learning lunch



On Thursday September 11th FDCCR hosted Monash Council staff and the Friends of Scotchmans Creek Valley Reserve to show case the work of the Friends Group and how we work to support the Monash bush crew and Sustainability team. It was a great opportunity for staff from different teams to meet and reflect on how they can work together to protect Monash's Conservation Areas and to connect residents with nature.

Other Doings in Damper Creek

Left – Nature Walk that FDCCR hosted for the U3A in August

Below – Weeding undertaken by the Mount Waverley Secondary College students in August as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award community service.





Water Watch Program

Thank you to Frank Carder for leading our water watch testing for the past 10+ years. Frank is hanging up his bucket at the end of year and passing the test tubes over to Wayne Blick. Testing requires two to three people, so we are looking for new volunteers to assist Wayne and Campbell on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Alvie Hall between 9.30am and 11am.

October Nature Walk

FDCCR is hosting a Positive Ageing Lifestyle Program (PALS) Event as part of the Monash Seniors Festival.

A Gentle Stroll Through Nature: Discover Damper Creek Reserve

Thursday, 09 October 2025

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Meet at Alvie Hall

Bookings -

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1429170>



The Aussie Bird Count (20-26 October) is a fun, easy way for all of us to take a national snapshot of the birds we see and start noticing the nature around us. With just 20 minutes, you can help build a picture of how our feathered friends are faring and contribute to something that really counts.

Register now at: <https://aussiebirdcount.org.au>



Friends of Scotchmans Creek & Valley Reserve Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 15th October Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm



Upcoming Events

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

Please note due to the Grand Final Long Weekend, the September working bee is scheduled a week earlier.

Next Working bee - Sunday 21st September

10am – 12.30pm

**Meet at upper track / grassy dog off leash area
(above duck pond / behind Park Rd houses)**

Billy tea at 11am

Future Working bee - Sunday 26th October

10am – 12.30pm

Location - TBC

General Meeting - Wednesday 26th November

7-30 pm at Alvie Hall

Guest speaker – Zoologist Nathaniel Nguyen

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

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 secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com