



## **Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc.**

### **History of Valley Reserve**

#### **Pre European**

The land upon which we stand (including Valley Reserve) is part of the traditional lands of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, and I wish to acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners. I would also like to pay my respects to their Elders, past, present, and future.

By their presence, over more than 50 000 years, aboriginal groups had a profound effect on the flora and fauna of the region. When Europeans first arrived, they found an environment already strongly influenced by human habitation and activities – we should not forget this.

The land we know today still bears the traces of those who came before, which we should acknowledge and respect.

# History of Valley Reserve

## Early Settlement

1853 Parish of Oakleigh, Bourke County surveyed and first land sales

1857 Oakleigh Road District

1871 Shire of Oakleigh

1897 Shire of Mulgrave

1961 City of Waverley

1994 City of Monash

Valley Reserve sits on part of Crown land portion 61 (Shire of Mulgrave) 160 acres (0.25 sq. MI), abutting on what were to become Stevensons Rd and Waverley Rd (NE corner).

1853 - Bought in the first land sales in the Parish of Oakleigh for £720 (\$1400) by a Mr Lovidge.

1874 - purchased by a Mr Jeanes and his new bride, on arriving from Adelaide. He was much older than his wife, and left her a widow with 6 children at the age of 33. Five of the children survived and the land was shared between them.

The three daughters each received long narrow portions of the land with frontages on Waverley Rd between Mt Pleasant Rd and Regent Street, and extending back to and including, the land now comprising Valley Reserve.

On marriage, the three daughters became:

- Anne Scammell, who had the eastern section
- Ellen Flynn who had the central section
- Mary Clohesy who had the western section.

Many of their descendants still live in the Waverley area to this day.

Subdivision began in 1886 and subdivision into 10 lots approved in 1899.

Land supported farmers, gardeners, poultry farmers, carters and a blacksmith

1920's – orchards established on 33 acres in the western part, and along the eastern boundary. Between the two, and along the creeks bushland remained.

# History of Valley Reserve

## Urbanisation Arrives

After 1948, the landscape began to change as houses invaded the paddocks. Council began to buy land for public open space, and from 1955 land was purchased for Valley Reserve. Council acquired the rear part of the Scammell property first, then extended its holding as opportunity arose, to make up the present day Valley Reserve.

1960s - NPPS (Native Plant Preservation Society), supported by some Waverley residents negotiated with council to preserve samples of indigenous flora – focussed on Valley Reserve. Fencing was agreed, but was not carried out (late 50's). Access tracks were put in and more vegetation cleared leaving only strips along the creeks by early 60s.

60s and 70s - slow deterioration of bushland occurred – invasion of weeds – blackberry, pittosporum etc. – some fencing of key areas occurred.

1981 - Friends of Valley Reserve founded by Alf Salkin and others, supported by NPPS and its successor the Society for Growing Native Plants (SGAP), then Australian Plant Society – Waverley.

The group did much work to document the Valley Reserve, and conserve native plant areas, also selective planting, but most of reserve was still basically grassy paddocks for play.

Friends group began work parties in the 80's, to clear weeds and protect the creek environs

1986-7 - population pressure and changing attitudes made it possible for Waverley council to contemplate a change of management at Valley. Alf Salkin wrote to council in 1987, and Michael Grant came up to review the reserve with Alf and other FVR members.

1990 - New management plan was evolved, (copy on display) and approved, and serious work began to rehabilitate the Valley Reserve).

1991-93 Major work done including rehabilitation and regeneration along the creek, replanting a number of adjacent areas, creation of a new bridge, and weir across Valley Creek, replanting the water feature and other work aimed at the establishment of Valley as a bushland conservation reserve.

1999 Friends of Valley Reserve and Friends of Scotchmans Creek joined together as FSCVR, to focus on the Scotchmans Creek corridor above Stanley Street, and Valley Reserve.

2000 – 16 Working with Monash council (resident ranger) to preserve Valley Reserve as conservation focussed bushland reserve.

# History of Valley Reserve

## What's Happening Now?

SPARC Socially Inclusive, Playful, Active, Relevant and Connected - a project aimed at connecting the community with the reserve.

### 2013-15 SPARC I

Old playground established in 1980's was getting old, its style and colours were jarring and garish - not in keeping with bushland setting

2015 New playspace opened after much consultation (2013-2015). Very popular! Has won 2016 award for **best new major playspace in Victoria**. The play area includes interpretive and tactile elements, active and passive features and merges into bushland surrounds.

### 2015 Conserving the Scarred Tree

The scarred tree originally stood in Springvale Rd. It was removed to Valley Reserve in 1965, but was slowly deteriorating. Following representations from FSCVR, Monash Council had the tree conserved, and erected near the water feature, with interpretive material. In 2016 the tree was ceremonially 'smoked' by Chris West of the Bunurong Aboriginal Land Council.

### 2016 SPARC II

New interpretive and directional signage for Valley Reserve – navigation aids, information and 'rules'. Unobtrusive, but visible. New brochure/guide planned.

Establishment of an education hub, for community and schools – information about plants, animals, environment, conservation etc. It includes a work centre, surrounded by a new native plant area, planted by Avila College year 9 students, working with Monash Council and FSCVR.

(Planned) Plant display area – plantings of key small and medium plants found in the reserve with information about them.

## Acknowledgements

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Tony Walker

Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve