

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Minutes of 25th Annual General Meeting held in Alvie Hall, on Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 7:30 pm.

PRESENT:

Virginia Barnett, Kylie Burgin, Di Carra, Danielle Cini, Rex Dusting, Ross Ingram, Alan Moore, Bharathy Shanmugam, Kayla Sibly, Marilyn Thompson, Tony & Sally Walker.

APOLOGIES:

Fred Bullock, May Lee, Helen Clements, Bill and Shirley Ramsay, Monash Mayor Samardzija, Des Henry, Imogen Burgin Uhlherr.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting held on 19th October 2022 were accepted as a true record – moved by Tony Walker, Seconded by Alan Moore.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Tony Walker):

The President presented his report:

FSCVR Committee 2022-2023

Office Bearers

- Tony – President
 - Schools and Scouts
- Kallista - Vice President
 - Valley Reserve, Planning
- Sally – Secretary
 - Plantings and Grants, PALS, Newsletter, Web Site
- Bharathy – Treasurer
 - Melbourne Water Liaison (infrastructure)

Committee Members

- May
 - Waterwatch Coordinator, River Officer
- Danielle
 - Safety Officer, Social Media
- Alan
 - Clean Up Australia, PALS
- Rex
 - River Officer, KKA
- Fred
 - Waterwatch Coordinator

Thank you to all committee members for their hard work and commitment during the year

2022 – 2023 - Busy, Productive Year!

- 63 Events for the year
 - 11 Waterwatch
 - 11 Committee Meetings
 - 4 Public Meetings with speakers
 - 6 Schools, Scouts and University events
 - 11 Weeding/planting in Valley Reserve
 - 4 PALS (2 activities and 2 planning)
 - 4 Public Plantings

- 15 Meetings with Monash Council/Melbourne Water, KKA etc.
- Friends Afternoon Tea

Funding and Grants 2022-2023

3 Grants received from Melbourne Water

- \$13 200 for National Tree Day
- \$4 950 for Crosby Drive Plantings
- \$1 100 for administration etc.
- \$19 250 in total
- Grant from Monash City Council \$5000 spent in full
 - Safety equipment, planting equipment, first-aid training, scientific equipment, plants for Valley Conservation Reserve
 - In-kind grant under Monash Community Grants Program covers the costs of our meetings at Alvie hall

Valley Conservation Reserve

- Met with City of Monash to discuss
 - water management issues in the reserve - medium term plan to manage stormwater from Wills Avenue, past Scout hut, to Valley Creek
 - Statement of Purpose for Valley Conservation Reserve
 - Sits above Site Management Plan
 - Activities must be consistent with Statement of Purpose

River Health Activities – Waterwatch

- 11 Waterwatch sessions covering 4 sites along the creek
 - Habitat (yearly)
 - Water Chemistry
 - Macroinvertebrate life
 - Water flow, litter, etc.
 - 3 Waterwatch sessions with schools and Tertiary
- Waterwatch Coordinator will present the full Waterwatch Report

River Health Activities - River Officer

- Our River Officers monitor and assesses the overall state of Scotchmans Creek
 - Role now split in two, to give better coverage
 - Regular river walks and reports build a picture of how Scotchmans Creek is faring
 - Established photopoints along the creek to monitor erosion etc.
- River Officers will report on recent developments

River Health Activities – KKA and Statement of Purpose

- Involvement with Kooyong Koot Alliance (KKA)
 - Entire Gardiners Creek Catchment
 - 5 Councils – Booroondara, Whitehorse, Monash, Stonnington, Glen Eira
 - Melbourne Water, Yarra Riverkeepers
 - Local Community groups etc
 - Working on Statement of Purpose for Scotchmans Creek Corridor (Kallista)
- Rex will report on recent KKA developments

Plantings 2022-2023

- National Tree Day – 291 volunteers (a new record) planted 8000 plants along Fairway Reserve
- Crosby Drive – AGIG worked with us to plant 1500 plants along the North side of Scotchmans Creek between Crosby Drive and Waverley Road

- Crosby Drive– Brentwood School 'Green Team' worked with us again to plant 1500 plants on the North side of the creek East of Crosby Drive
- Friends Group members planted c. 1500 plants in Valley Reserve in two plantings – funded by Monash Council Grant

Since 1998

We have planted almost 250 000 plants in Valley Reserve and along Scotchmans Creek

- Fairway Reserve: 165 260
- Regent Street: 23 850
- Crosby Drive: 33 000
- Other localities: 27 100 approx.
(including Valley Reserve)
- Total: 249 210 approx.

Working Sessions 2022-2023

(Last Saturday each month except December and January)

Meet 1:20pm at Valley Reserve Utilities Block)

- 10 working sessions in Valley Reserve – we removed Veldt grass, thistles, Fumitory, cleavers, etc.
- 7-12 volunteers at each weeding – all work very hard, tea and biscuits afterwards!
- A number of new faces have joined in the working sessions this year – but we always welcome more

Schools, Scouts and Tertiary 2022-2023

- Active program of working with schools and tertiary
 - Avila year 10 environmental studies
 - 2 sessions with year 10 students
 - Monash University
 - Brentwood School
 - Green Team plantings and waterwatch
 - Mount Waverley Heights PS

Positive Aging Life Styles (PALS)

- Ran 2 events (with Monash Council)
 - October 2022 – Spring Flowers in Valley Conservation Reserve
 - June 2023 – World Environment Day – beat plastic pollution
 - Well attended and popular events

Safety

- Safety Manual Completed and Reviewed
 - Incident Management and Review Procedures
 - Hi-Vis Vests purchased and 2 First-Aid courses completed

Relationships - Monash Council

- 'Bush Crew' very supportive and helpful
- Councillors very approachable and helpful
- Representations to Council on
 - Statement of Purpose for Valley Reserve
 - Valley Reserve Site Management Plan
 - Dog Management
 - Urban Planning and Zoning issues
 - Reconciliation Action Plan

Relationships - Melbourne Water & Others

- Melbourne Water
 - River Health Officer regular visitor – discuss issues, plan plantings, report on progress
 - Staff working on Mt Waverley Wetlands consult with us
- Friends of Damper Creek
 - Work very closely on many matters of mutual interest and concern
- FriendsNet and Yarra Keepers – we are active members
- KKA – established relationship – long term focus on the whole catchment

And Finally

Thank you to Alan Moore

Founder member of Friends of Scotchmans Creek

Committee Member since 2002

President, Vice President, Secretary, PALS, Melbourne Water Grants, Clean Up Australia Day

Major contributor to our work over many years

The President presented Alan Moore with a framed certificate of appreciation.

Thank you to all our Members and Supporters!

WATERWATCH REPORT (May Lee and Fred Bullock):

The Waterwatch report was presented by Kayla Sibly.

What do we do ?

We monitor this area's water quality and habitats and collect data.

6 WW-qualified enthusiasts (free training run by Melbourne Water)

11 monitoring events and 2+ related school/uni events.

FSCVR Waterwatch group – data going back to 2001 uploaded to MW Waterwatch portal.

Data helps MW identify local actions to improve waterway health.

10 Catchment Management Authorities

The CMA for Port Phillip and Westernport is now renamed as Melbourne Water.

All fall under the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (formerly the DELWP).

A map of our waterwatch sites was displayed.

Once a month, except for December :

- Water Chemistry
- Aquatic macroinvertebrate life (except for winter)
- Habitat assessment (yearly)
- Water flow, litter, etc.

Test results (for the 4 sites)

Water temperature 9° to 21°C

Stream Flow 0 – 250 L/s

(normally 30 L/sec , Flood Flows > 5,000 L/sec)

pH "Good" (not available for Feb-Aug*)

Dissolved Oxygen Good in winter (from rainfall), poorer in summer

Conductivity Usually Good (higher at Fiander arm)

Turbidity "50 / 50" Good / Poor

Phosphorus Variable (not available for June-Aug*)

Ammonium Usually Good (zero)

*test reagents in short supply (replenished for September tests)

Habitat Surveys (June / July)

Fiander arm	Crosby arm	Regent St	Valley Creek
Fair	Fair	Fair	Good

Invertebrates survey results

Usually Poor

Ongoing concerns

Some photos were displayed showing:

Litter, extreme flow variations, erosion and sedimentation, meagre in-stream vegetation in the Fiander arm and elsewhere.

Thank you to City of Monash for providing a grant to update our equipment !

RIVER KEEPER REPORT (Rex Dusting)

Regular quarterly creek walks similar to past 5 years.

May Lee – who assists with formal reviews - has introduced an initiative where we are strengthening condition recording using GPS records of photo spots. In future years we can hopefully show the results of these records.

General observations on this year:

- No significant spill events but regular discolouration from building works and other activities continue
- Litter is always an issue. Polystyrene and plastic bags from clean-up Australia days
- Water bank erosion in spots we are monitoring but no spots of rapid deterioration
- Bankside growth prolific and weed management a struggle in places
- Recent plantings are growing but perhaps if we have a dry summer may be challenges
- Major desilting works in wetland undertaken more clear water but water birds not as abundant – naturally disturbed and maybe some time for recovery needed??

Other:

- Committee is to develop a strategic vision for the Creek – similar to that for the Valley Reserve. This will fit in with the development of a strategy being prepared by Monash Council and that being done on the wider Gardiners Creek Catchment.
- Future Planting program – Council has priority focus on area between Stanley Avenue and the freeway crossing because of the success of plantings over the years upstream.
- Bike Path upstream of Crosby Drive path doesn't meet current safety standards. A new path to be constructed along the back of properties on the northern side of creek which should minimise impact on creek and vegetation & enables separation of foot traffic from bikes.
- Covid related damage from off road biking in Fairway Reserve area mostly recovering after Council installed substantial fencing along uphill section of vegetation to restrict access.
- Dam on wetland-safety works coming up have been delayed but likely to proceed next year
- Vicinity Centres proposals for improving bike access to Chadstone Shopping centre includes lighting – met with Vicinity Centres late last year re our concerns about lighting. No feedback since then.
- Oakleigh golf course – Monash has gone to community consultation about establishing a parkland including restoration and protection of natural vegetation. Also, playgrounds etc. would take pressure of Valley Reserve.

Kooyong Koot Alliance Report (Rex Dusting)

- KKA – 21 different friends Group in the Gardiners creek catchment.
- KooyongKoot is a Wurrungeri name - place of the waterfowl which was the name of the swamp where the Gardiners Creek met the Yarra River
- We're members & FSCVR one of 8 reps on their committee
- Idea to support each other on to help develop the individual groups and to get benefits for the whole catchment. Similar to other major streams in the Melbourne area – Moonee ponds, Darebin and Merri Creek - which have been operating for many years.
- One of Main activities is to get coordination of 5 councils and MW for creek catchment, for catchment improvement. The Gardiners Creek Collaboration has been formed – formally launched in April this year includes these organisations, KKA and other interested parties like the various sporting clubs active in the area, Field Naturalists, Deakin University
- Rex is taking part in working groups with councils and MW and other Stakeholders in the Collaboration
 - Strategy Plan for the whole catchment. Objective is improving water quality, natural vegetation and ecological links, consistent planning policies, prioritising investment etc.
 - Shared database development
 - Systematic pollution and litter abatement program for the catchment
 - Engagement and education – first target is sporting clubs
 - Indigenous involvement
 - Beyond the scope of individual councils and authorities to fund and so further objective is to get reciprocal agreements to fund commitment from these organisations and to seek Government Grants

TREASURER'S REPORT (Bharathy Shanmugam):

The Treasurer presented her report.

She noted that the group now had a financial membership of 56.

She noted that for many years we had banked with Bank Australia. In 2022 the Committee decided to move our account to the Westpac Bank in Mount Waverley. The Bank Australia account was closed in November 2022.

She stated that at 30/8/2022 total assets were \$7,702.94 consisting of cash in the bank accounts.

Income from 31/8/2022 to 30/8/2023 was \$24,675.00 consisting of subscriptions of \$325.00, grant funds of \$24,250.00, donations of \$100.00 and interest of \$0.00.

Expenses for 31/8/2022 to 30/8/2023 were \$25,016.44 consisting of plant tube stock of \$20,625.00, annual 'Get Together' catering costs and National Tree Day BBQ of \$1,099.37, Subscriptions to similar associations of \$80.00, Consumer Affairs fee of \$61.20, Web site fees of \$111.00, Printing Office & Sundry expenses of \$2,144.08, Hall Insurance of \$149.60, Safety equipment and training of \$94.00 and Waterwatch equipment of \$372.19. Return of membership fee of \$10.00.

Assets at 30/8/2023 were \$7,361.50

Future major allowance at 30/8/2023

Contribution to education garden	\$600.00
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Residual Balance , at 30/8/2023 of	\$6,761.50
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The president moved that the statement be confirmed as a true and correct record of the financial position of our incorporated Association during and at the end of the last financial year, and that the secretary submit the audited statement to Consumer Affairs Victoria within one month of this meeting. It was seconded by Alan Moore – carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The Public Officer noted that due to the rules, all positions needed to be declared vacant.

Nominations were received, duly nominated and seconded for:

President	Sally Walker
Vice-President	Kallista Sears
Treasurer	Fred Bullock
Secretary and Public Officer	May Lee
Committee Members	Kylie Burgin
	Danielle Cini
	Rex Dusting
	Kayla Sibly
	Bharathy Shanmugam
	Marilyn Thompson
	Tony Walker

There was only one nomination for each executive position so these members were declared elected. As the rules allow for more than seven Ordinary Committee Members the nominated Committee Members were declared elected

ASSOCIATION STATEMENT:

It was noted that the Association Statement is entered on-line. This will be completed by the Public Officer.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business.

The President gave thanks:

To our members for your support
To our dedicated committee for their considerable time and efforts
She welcomed the incoming committee members

MEETING CLOSURE:

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

PRESIDENT
Sally Walker
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SECRETARY
May lee
Ph. 0438 542 218

TREASURER
Fred Bullock
Ph. 9803 4589

Sally Walker
Alan S Walker