

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

**Minutes of 22nd Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 7:30 pm
(Virtual allowed by Section 45 of the Rules of Association October 2013).**

DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS FOR THE MEETING:

All documents and reports were circulated to members prior to the meeting and are also given as appendices at the end of this document.

PRESENT:

Fred Bullock, Rex Dusting, Josh Fergeus, Kelvin Ferguson, Helen Haysom, Des & Joe Henry, Tony Houlihan, Ross Ingram, Margery Kennett, Alan Moore, Bill & Shirley Ramsay, Kallista Sears, Tony and Sally Walker.

APOLOGIES:

Virginia Barnett.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes for last year's AGM can be found at appendix A, page 4 of this document.

The Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting held on 16 October 2019 were accepted as a true record – moved by Kallista Sears and seconded by Kelvin Ferguson.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Kallista Sears):

The President's Report for 2019/20 can be found at appendix B, page 11 of this document.

The President's Report was confirmed as a true and correct record of the club's activities for the year 2019/20.

Moved by: Sally Walker

Seconded: Tony Walker

TREASURER'S REPORT 2019/20 (Fred Bullock):

The Treasurer's Report can be found at Appendix C, page 16 of this document.

The Treasurer's Report was 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.

Moved by: Fred Bullock (Treasurer)

Seconded: Rex Dusting

WATERWATCH REPORT 2019/2020 (Fred Bullock):

The Waterwatch Report can be found at Appendix D, page 18 of this document.

The Waterwatch Report was accepted.

Moved by: Tony Walker

Seconded: Alan Moore

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 2020/21:

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 | Kallista Sears |
| Vice-President | Rex Dusting |
| Treasurer | Fred Bullock |
| Secretary and Public Officer | Sally Walker |
| Committee Members | Kelvin Ferguson |
| | Alan Moore |
| | Tony Walker |

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

The President gave the following remarks:

I give my sincere thanks to the outgoing committee for their dedication over this past year and our many achievements. Also, congratulations to all the newly elected Committee members. Thank you for for stepping up and volunteering your time to ensure the ongoing success of our Friends group and the preservation of our local reserves. I know that you will continue to do an amazing job.

It has been an unusual first year as President. In the coming year I hope to continue to build on our strengths and I'm ever hopeful that we can recommence many of our work parties and other activities as it becomes safe to do so.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

None

MEETING CLOSURE:

PRESIDENT

Kallista Sears
Ph. 0418 634 116

SECRETARY

Sally Walker
Ph. 0477 006 774

TREASURER

Fred Bullock
Ph.0437 206 351

Appendix A – Minutes of the AGM 2019

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FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

**Minutes of 21st Annual General Meeting held at Alvie Hall,
314 High Street Road, Mount Waverley on Wednesday 16 October 2019 at 7:30 pm.**

PRESENT:

Virginia Barnett, Fred Bullock, Carlie Dann, Rex Dusting, Kelvin Ferguson, Ross Ingram, Alfred Kruijshoop, Alan Moore, Kallista Sears, Tony and Sally Walker,.

PRESENTATION:

The meeting commenced with a presentation by Michael Brasher titled "Unusual Fauna and Flora of Australia".

APOLOGIES:

Cr. Josh Fergeus, Des and Joe Henry, Helen and John Clements (FoDC).

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting held on 17 October 2018 were accepted as a true record – moved by Rex Dusting and seconded by Tony Walker.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Tony Walker):

The President presented his report:

This was one of the busiest years we have had:

The 65 events for the year were as follows:

- 11 Water Watch
- 11 Committee Meetings incl. BBQ.
- 15 school and university events
- 10 weed/planting in Valley Reserve.
- 4 PALS (2 active and 2 planning)
- 3 Public Plantings
- 9 meetings with Monash Council/Melbourne Water.

4 grants were received from Melbourne Water

- \$13,200 for National Tree Day
- \$ 3,300 for Crosby Drive planting.
- \$ 3,300 for Regent Street planting.
- \$ 1,100 for administration.
- * \$20,900 in total

In-kind grant under Monash Community Grants Program covering the costs of our meetings at Alvie Hall.

River Health Activities - Water Watch

- 11 Water Watch sessions covering 4 sites along the creek
 - * Habitat (yearly)
 - * Water chemistry
 - * Macroinvertebrate life.
 - * Water flow, litter, etc.
 - 4 Water watch sessions with schools and tertiary.
- See the Water Watch Coordinator's report for full details.

River Health Activities River officer

- Our River Health Officer has been monitoring and assessing the overall state of Scotchmans Creek.

- Produced 'State of the River' report in March which was sent to Melbourne Water, Monash Council and FriendsNet and has been very well received.
- Regular river walks and reports build a picture of how Scotchmans Creek is faring.

Plantings 2018-2019

- National Tree Day – almost 250 volunteers planted 8000 plants along Fairway Reserve in record time.
- Crosby Drive – Novotel worked with us again to plant 2000 plants along the south side of Scotchmans Creek between Crosby Drive and Waverley Road.
- Regent Street – AGIG worked with us to plant 2000 plants on the west side of the creek between the pedestrian bridge and Waverley Road.
- Friends Group members planted 1000 plants in Valley Reserve in three plantings.

Since 1998 we have planted 200,000 plants in Valley Reserve and along Scotchmans Creek

- Fairway Reserve 133,200
- Regent Street 19,850
- Crosby Drive 23,000
- Other localities 21,750 approx. (incl. Valley Reserve).

Total 197,800 approx.

Working Sessions 2018-2019 (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, Cleaver, Bobble grass, etc.
- 7-12 volunteers at each weeding all work very hard with 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 2018-2019

- Avila year 10 environmental studies.
- Avila year 7 environmental and habitat.
- Avila year 11/12 environmental studies.
- Monash University
- Holmesglen TAFE
- Melbourne University journalism students
- Contacts with Huntingtower and Salesian Colleges.

Positive Aging Life Styles (PALS)

Run 2 events each year (with Monash Council)

- March – walk along Scotchmans Creek followed by morning tea
- October – focus on Valley Reserve plus quiz with prizes (and refreshment).
- Both well attended events.

Relationships with Monash Council.

- Bush Crew" very supportive and helpful.
- Councillors very approachable and helpful.
- Represented on Environment Advisory Committee (Kallista)
- Representations to Council on
 - Valley Reserve as a conservation Reserve.

- Climate Emergency
- Biodiversity Strategy.
- Biodiversity Engagement Officer.
- Reserve Display Garden.
- Urban Planning and zoning issues.

Relationship with Melbourne Water and others

- Melbourne Water
 - River Health Officer a regular visitor – discuss issues, plantings, report on progress
 - Staff working on Mt.Waverley Wetland consult with us.
- State and Federal Government
 - support and involvement from Matt Fregon – an FSCVR member (MLC Victoria)
- Friends of Damper Creek
 - work very closely on many matters of mutual interest and concern.
- FriendsNet and YarraKeepers
 - we are active members.

2019-2020

- Grant applications for 12,000 plants in 3 plantings.
- School and Tertiary programs.
- PALS program.
- Water Watch.
- Weeding and planting in Valley Reserve.
- Key projects (ongoing)
 - Valley Reserve Display Garden.
 - Valley Reserve designation as a conservation reserve with appropriate management plan.
 - Removal of remaining exotic trees along Scotchmans Creek.

WATERWATCH REPORT (Fred Bullock):

A map showing our monitoring sites was displayed

The crew

7 on the team, young, professionals & retired.
3 regular visitors, secondary student to senior professional.

The work

11 water monitoring sessions (x4 sites)
Annual QA/QC check.
Assist creek environment excursions by
- Avila College year 7 (2 visits) and year 12
- Monash University Science students (2 visits)

Observations 2018-2019

Chemical and Physical measurement results
Chemistry was usually Fair to Good, sometimes degraded.
Litter – bottles, plastic, polystyrene, corrugated iron, muddiness, silt, sand
Valley Creek litter is increasing – including a deposit of old litter
GWMD flowed steadily all summer

Aquatic macroinvertebrates (Waterbugs) found

Total numbers found are down by 50% from 2017-2018
Caddisfly, Damselfly and Dragonfly larvae, Yabbies, Backswimmers, Water Boatmen,
Beetles, Leeches, Snails, Flatworms, Segmented and Blood Worms, Midge
and Mosquito larvae

Habitat assessments

Most sight ratings remain Fair, Regent St. was raised from Fair to Good.
We noted ongoing bank erosion at 3 of our 4 sites.
Mt. Waverley Wetlands – nothing in particular

Table of Observations at Regent St.

Photo of green creek at Crosby Drive.

February and March 2019 pranks

- people rang EPA Vic.
- the fine was \$6000

Table of river level readings measured at the dam on 6 Nov. 2018.

Three photos of very high flows at the peak of the rain event.

RIVER OFFICER'S REPORT

Date of the River Report March 2019

- * 26 page report prepared by Carlie Dann and Tony Walker
- * Copies sent to Melbourne Water, Council, Local Member, Other Friends Groups.
- * Enthusiastic Response
- * Copy posted on the web.

Overview of River Officer Activity

- * Quarterly walk.
- * Record changes - photographic and notes
 - Physical condition of banks
 - Visual of water condition and litter
 - Vegetation in creek corridor
 - Bird life and general activity
- * Notify Melbourne Water, Council of issues
- * Information for planning activities – plantings, weeding, litter, etc
- * Supplements the monthly water quality sampling & reporting
- * Reference map of Scotchmans Creek

Photo Point Observations

Site 1A Fiander Arm - May and August 2019

Site Scotchmans Creek Wetlands - May and August 2019

Downstream view from Regent St. Pedestrian Bridge - May and August 2019

Vegetation West of Forster Road. - May and August 2019

Condition Monitoring

Continuing Challenges - weeds, litter and neighbours

Overview of Creek Condition

- * little deterioration in stream banks over twelve months
- * Vegetation recovery over winter
- * Litter (particularly building materials) and weeds a continuing problem
- * Occasional water quality challenges
- * Birdlife species and numbers vary – wetland planned re-vegetation should bring significant improvement

Personal Observation: Positive comparison with many other similar creeks in Suburban Melbourne.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Sally Walker):

The Treasurer presented her report.

She stated that at 30/8/2017 total assets were \$5,538.39 consisting of cash in the bank plus a cheque in hand for \$5.

Income from 31/8/2018 to 30/8/2019 was \$22,173.45 consisting of subscriptions of \$210.00, grant funds of \$20,900.00, donations of \$805.40 and interest of \$258.05.

Expenses for 31/8/2018 to 30/8/2019 were \$22,078.82 consisting of project costs of \$21,120.00, BBQ (January, National Tree Day, PALS) costs of \$540.68, Subscriptions to similar associations of \$64.00, Consumer Affairs fee of \$57.80, guest speakers \$30.00, Web site fees of \$89.00 and Stationery, bank fee of \$177.39

Assets at 30/8/2019 were \$5,638.02

Reconciliation of accounts:

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Bank Australia account | \$6,125.52 |
| Cheques not presented | \$487.50 |
| | \$5,638.02 |

Liabilities at 30/8/2019

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Contribution to education garden | \$600.00 |
|----------------------------------|----------|

Assets, less liabilities, at 30/8/2019 of \$5,038.02

It was moved by Tony Walker and seconded by Alan Moore that the report be accepted – 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 | Kallista Sears |
| Vice-President | Tony Walker |
| Treasurer | Fred Bullock |
| Secretary and Public Officer | Alan Moore |
| Committee Members | Sally Walker Rex Dusting Kelvin Ferguson |

There was only one nomination for each executive position so these members were declared elected. As the rules allow for more than four 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:

•

MEETING CLOSURE:

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

PRESIDENT
Kallista Sears
Ph. 0418634116

SECRETARY
Alan Moore
Ph. 0419373725

TREASURER
Fred Bullock
Ph.0437206351

Appendix B – President's report

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*FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK
AND VALLEY RESERVE
Inc. A0037872K*

President's Report - October 2020

I'd like to thank all of our members for their continued and invaluable support. It has also been wonderful working and learning from our dedicated committee this past year and I'd like to express my great appreciation for the work they do. We would also like to recognize the support of Monash Council, especially their bush-crew, as well as Melbourne Water who fund many of our plantings.

It has been an unprecedented and anxious year with the devastating summer bushfires and now COVID-19. On behalf of the committee we sincerely hope that our members and their families are keeping safe and healthy.

As a result of the restrictions, all our activities and events have been cancelled since mid-March. However, our reserves have never been busier!! It highlights the importance of adequate green spaces for both our physical and mental health. With restrictions easing over the next few months we are optimistic that we will eventually meet again in our reserves.

Despite these challenges we have had some significant achievements:

Valley CONSERVATION Reserve

We were delighted that both Valley Reserve and Damper Creek Reserve were formally recognised as conservation reserves at Council's February meeting. This will help protect their conservation values and use for passive recreational activities into the future. We would like to formally thank Crs Rebecca Patterson and Josh Fergeus and recognise their hard work in making this possible.



Figure 1 A bustling Scotchmans Creek trail during lockdown

School groups and outreach activities

A particularly rewarding aspect is working with local schools. Between November and March, we had a burst of school groups from the local area with Tony, Sally, Alan, Rosemary, Alan and Fred running sessions on sessions on river health, water-bugs, ecosystems and habitat.

We once again hosted our Clean Up Australia Day site on March 1st and had 25 volunteers help collect 11 bags of rubbish! Prior to restrictions we also ran our regular Water Watch sessions and working parties in Valley Reserves and also ran one Positive Aging Lifestyles (PALs) walk through Valley Reserve.



Figure 2 Clean Up Australia Day 1st March 2020

Pesticide monitoring

We have participated in a RMIT program aimed at monitoring pesticide levels in our creeks. Thank you to Fred and Tony who braved the creeks to collect sediments for this project. We are still awaiting the final results.

Plantings



COVID restrictions have prevented our usual winter planting sessions. Instead we were fortunate that Council agreed that their staff could plant all the plants that we have purchased with Melbourne Water Grant funds. To date it seems that all the planting at Crosby Drive and Regent St (photo on left) have taken place and are looking great.

Figure 3 Plantings next to Scotchmans creek along Regent St undertaken by the Monash bush-crew and funded through Melbourne Water grants.

Awards

Sally and Tony Walker have been recognized for their service to our group with a “Best Friends Award” from the Victorian Environmental Friends Network. The award ceremony will take place in October, likely virtually.

It is well-deserved! Sally and Tony joined our Friends group in 2004 and have been active committee members since. They have been cornerstones to the smooth running of the Friends group for many years and at the same time have driven a number of new activities critical to the preservation of our reserves and engagement with the community.



Figure 4 Sally and Tony Walker after a weeding party in Valley Reserve 28/9/2019

Submissions and Reports

Our “*State of Valley Reserve*” report was distributed in February and summarises the social, conservation and cultural values of Valley Reserve, its history and some of the current threats/issues to its ongoing protection. Our reports and submissions can be found on our webpage: <http://scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au/publications.htm>

As relevant, we advocate to our Councillors and make submissions to inquiries to promote protection of our linear creeks, urban bushlands and green spaces. Recently, we made a submission to the Inquiry into Environmental Infrastructure for Growing Populations.

We are also closely following developments regarding the land for sale adjacent to the Blue Cross Aged Care Facility on the corner of Anthony Drive and Waverley Road. We strongly advocate that sufficient space be set aside for both a shared pathway and wildlife corridor. The compulsory acquirement of a ~10m strip adjacent to the creek by council appears to be a positive step towards this goal.

We also continue to keep an active Facebook profile with over 250 followers which you can find at <https://www.facebook.com/fscvr/>. We try to regularly post information about the local flora and fauna, environmental issues and interesting events.

Thank you,
Kallista Sears

Appendix C – Treasurer's report

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Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc (No A0037872K)
Assets, income and expenses for the Financial Year 31/8/2019 to 30/8/2020

Summary of assets at 30/8/2019

| | | |
|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Bank Australia account | \$6,125.52 | |
| Cheques not presented | -\$487.50 | |
| | | \$5,638.02 |

Income 31/8/2019 to 30/8/2020

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| subscriptions | \$145.00 | |
| grants | \$21,100.00 | |
| donations | \$357.00 | |
| interest | \$89.17 | |
| Total income | | \$21,691.17 |

Expenses 31/8/2019 to 30/8/2020

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| plant tube stock | \$6,611.85 | |
| BBQ (December, National Tree Day) | \$236.30 | |
| Subscriptions to similar associations | \$60.00 | |
| Consumer Affairs fee | \$59.20 | |
| Guest speakers | \$26.00 | |
| Website | \$108.90 | |
| Stationery, Office expenses | \$99.27 | |
| Total expenses | | \$7,201.52 |

Assets at 30/8/2020 \$20,127.67

Summary of assets at 30/8/2020

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Bank Australia account | \$20,127.67 |
|------------------------|-------------|

Liabilities at 30/8/2020

| | | |
|---|-------------|-------------------|
| Contribution to education garden | \$600.00 | |
| Plants for National Tree Day | \$13,200.00 | |
| Assets, less liabilities, at 30/8/2020 | | \$6,327.67 |

At 30/8/20, National Tree Day planting is on hold due to Covid19 restrictions, consequently the grant funds for the plants remain in our bank account and the expected invoice amount for the plants is shown as a liability.

Prepared by F G Bullock, Treasurer

F. G. Bullock. 9/9/20.

Reviewed by A S Walker, Committee

SAF Walker.

Appendix D – Waterwatch report

Starts on next page



Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc



Inc No A0037872K

Waterwatch Report for AGM 2020

In 2019-20 we conducted our usual program of Waterwatch site surveys and an unusually busy program of waterbug surveys as part of schools visits. We also contributed to a national Pesticide Detectives survey. Since early April, COVID19 precautions have put all Waterwatch field work on hold - the first interruption to our monthly sampling (apart from the annual December break) since mid 2012.

We do Waterwatch surveys monthly at 2 upstream sites east of Blackburn Road (between Turner Court and Crosby Drive), and 2 downstream sites at Regent Street (north of Waverley Road). Between 6 and 8 people regularly participate, which enables the tasks to be shared effectively and safely. We do physico-chemical tests, waterbug surveys, general observations, and habitat surveys (put on hold this year).

We publish our results in our FSCVR newsletters, on the notice boards along the creeks and in Valley Reserve, and on our website here scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au.

We add our data to the Victorian Waterwatch database where it can be found from these web pages...

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|--|
| Site 1a, Fiander Arm | ME_YSC010 | www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/site/180033 |
| Site 1b, Crosby Arm | ME_YSC012 | www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/site/170590 |
| Site 2, Regent St | ME_YSC020 | www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/site/2000794 |
| Site 3, Valley Creek | ME_YVA100 | www.vic.waterwatch.org.au/site/212163 |

Here is a summary of several years results. The grades run **Excellent** > **Good** > **Fair** > **Poor** > **Degraded**.

| | Fiander Arm | Crosby Arm | Regent St | Valley Ck |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| pH | Good to Excellent | Good to Excellent | Good to Excellent | Good to Excellent |
| Oxygen | Good to Excellent, sometimes Poor to Degraded in summer | Good to Excellent, sometimes Poor to Degraded in summer | Good to Excellent, sometimes Poor to Degraded in summer | Good to Excellent, sometimes Poor to Degraded in summer |
| Salinity | Poor to Good, sometimes Degraded | Fair to Good | Fair | Fair to Good, sometimes Degraded if not flowing |
| Turbidity | Poor to Good, sometimes Degraded | Fair to Excellent, rarely Poor to Degraded | Poor to Excellent, rarely Degraded | Poor to Good, rarely Degraded |
| Phosphorus | Poor to Good | Degraded to Good | Poor to Good | Fair to Good, rarely Poor |
| Ammonium | Good to Excellent, sometimes Poor | Good to Excellent, sometimes Poor to Degraded | Poor to Excellent, sometimes Degraded | Good to Excellent, rarely Degraded |
| Litter caught on the banks | lots of bottles and soft plastics | lots of bottles, soft plastics, polystyrene foam | not much litter | not much litter |

Comments on the degradations...

- Oxygen concentration is sometimes very low, in summer. (Possibly the oxygen in these creeks is from fresh rainfall, rather than from photosynthesis by the sparse in-stream vegetation.)
- Site 1a has higher salinity but lower ammonium degradations than the other sites.
- High phosphorus is more noticeable at site 1b than at the others.
- Turbidity is sometimes very high. (Possible causes are water mains bursts (see <https://faults.yvw.com.au>), construction sites, and road dust.)
- Litter is a major problem to the appearance of the upstream branches, requiring considerable cleanup efforts by Melbourne Water and by Cleanup-Day volunteers. The Crosby Arm (site 1b) accumulates much more polystyrene foam than the other sites.



Waterbug surveys are part of our Waterwatch schedule, except in the winter months. While the bugs we find are often interesting, they are not widely varied enough or plentiful enough to score better than Poor most of the time, occasionally with a better rating in the summer. Inhibiting factors are probably the sparsity of in-stream vegetation and the turbidity (which prevents sunlight penetrating to sustain aquatic life).

This tiny yabby helped Site 1b score a Fair rating in March.

Pesticide Detectives is a national Citizen Science project investigating the occurrence and concentrations of pesticides in Australia's waterways (See <https://pesticidedetectives.com.au/>). The current round (round 4) is for testing at 100 sites Australia wide. We nominated 2 sites which were accepted, somewhat to our surprise. Our task then was to collect sediment samples to be analysed by a specialist laboratory. We found suitable sites in the Huntingdale Rd Wetlands ponds, and at the join of Valley Ck and Scotchmans Ck, and obtained the samples just before lockdown. The laboratory results are not yet available.

We assisted with five Schools Visits, with a total of about 250 students, before lockdown. Waterbug surveys are part of these visits, enjoyed by all. We sample the creeks – usually at Regent St – and set up sorting trays nearby, for students to try their hand at capturing and classifying the waterbugs before we return them to the creek.

Report prepared by Fred Bullock, FSCVR Waterwatch team leader, 14/9/20.