



April 2013

Don't forget!

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Alvie Hall

Our new home for 2013

All meetings will be held at Alvie Hall, Mount Waverley – corner of Alvie and High Street Roads (Melway Ref. 61 D11)

All our meetings will be held at Alvie Hall this year. There is adequate parking in the

grounds. Entry is just in from High Street Road on the corner of Alvie Road.

The President Reports...

From Sally Walker

Since my last column in the February newsletter, our group has been busy with several activities in the community. Although it was too hot for us to weed in the Valley Reserve at the end of February, we had a productive session at the end of March, weeding near the BBQ area.

Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 3rd March 2013 was fine and sunny and good weather for picking up other people's rubbish. About 20 volunteers helped our group to collect about 12 bags of assorted rubbish and a collection of flower pots.

Visit by Melbourne University Students

On Friday 15th March 2013, four members of the committee hosted 12 Master of Urban Planning students and their lecturer on an excursion to Scotchmans Creek and the Mount Waverley Wetlands. The main objective of their site visit was for the students to

get an understanding of the impacts of urbanisation on the natural environment and what can be done to reduce these impacts. Their specific topical focus was stormwater management and the related impacts in terms of water quantity and water quality. We were able to provide them with our local knowledge of the creek, of the wetlands and their construction and of our Waterwatch activities monitoring the water quality both before and after the wetlands. The students were an enthusiastic group of young men and women and were keen to share our knowledge and find out more about what a Friends Group does.

Positive Ageing Lifestyle (PALS) walk

On Monday 25th March 2013 we led a group of 24 Monash residents in a conducted walk in the Scotchmans Creek corridor from the end of Fairway Avenue downstream through to Atkinson Street. We had another warm sunny day – excellent walking conditions. After our exertions, we were treated to a

"...a conducted walk in the Scotchmans Creek corridor from the end of Fairway Avenue downstream through to Atkinson Street. We had another warm sunny day – excellent walking conditions...."

The President Reports.....continued



Pomaderris lanigera
Woolly Pomaderris

splendid picnic lunch provided by the PALS group. We had quite a few familiar faces joining us – they must enjoy our activities as they keep coming back for more.

Future events

On 16th May 2013 we will have our second meeting with a speaker. Please come along and hear Nicholas Croggon, from the Environment Defenders Office, address us. See additional information elsewhere in this Newsletter and the attached flyer.

If any of you know of someone who you would like to come and speak to our group on a topic that would entice our members to attend, then please contact our secretary, Alan Moore.

Please do not forget our monthly weeding in the Valley Reserve on the last Saturday of each month. We meet at the amenities block about 1:20 pm.

Vegetation Protection Overlay

The community consultation process has now finished. Your committee has put in a submission on behalf of the Friends Group. Monash Council will consider the submissions at their next Council meeting on Tuesday 30th April 2013. Please consider attending this meeting to show your support for your Friends Group and your concern for the significant vegetation of Monash.

"It's time to deliver on the Guarantee (25 years late)"

Twenty-five years ago, a proposal for an ambitious new law was introduced into the Victorian Parliament. The law, the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, legislated to "guarantee" that all species of flora and fauna in Victoria would be allowed to "survive and retain their potential for evolutionary development in the wild".

Twenty-five years on we are still waiting for the guarantee to be delivered.

The law broke new ground. It introduced various tools and mechanisms based on the need for real action to protect flora and fauna. For example, the Act provided for "threatening processes" to be listed and designated for special attention, a reflection of the need to deal with causes and not just consequences.

Successive governments have failed to implement almost all of the key features of the legislation. An overarching Flora and Fauna Guarantee Strategy for all of Victoria? Hastily and belatedly cobbled together in 1996.

An updated version, prepared about five years ago, seems to have disappeared. Designating critical habitat for threatened species? A potentially powerful conservation tool that has been used only once for a short period in 1996.

The Auditor General, in reviewing the implementation of the Act in 2009, found serious failures in this obligation to prepare Action Statements, with no Action Statement in place for over half of the threatened species listed. In fact, the Auditor General reported, ignoring new listings, that the backlog in 2009 was such that, at the then rate of preparing Action Statements, the backlog would not be cleared for over twenty years.

Nicholas Croggon, a lawyer from the Environment Defenders Office, will discuss this sorry state of affairs at our "Speaker's Forum" meeting on Thursday 16 May 2013 at 7:30 pm in Alvie Hall, Mount Waverley.

"a proposal for an ambitious new law was introduced into the Victorian Parliament. The law... legislated to "guarantee" that all species of flora and fauna in Victoria would be allowed to "survive and retain their potential."

Waterwatch Results - February-March 2013

Parameter	Site 1A Fiander arm YSC010		Site 1B Crosby arm YSC012		Site 2 Regent Street YSC020		Site 3 Valley Creek YVA100		Site 4 Wetland upper YSC099		Site 5 Wetland lower YSC100	
Date	17/02/13	24/03/13	17/02/13	24/03/13	17/02/13	24/03/13	17/02/13	24/03/13	17/02/13	24/03/13	17/02/13	24/03/13
Air temperature °C	23.5	20.0	24.0	20.0	24.0	20.0	24.0	20.0	24.0	17.0	24.0	17.0
Water temperature °C	20.0	18.0	20.0	17.0	22.0	18.0	21.0	17.0	24.0	16.5	25.0	16.0
pH	7.4 G	7.3 G	7.1 G	7.3 G	7.6 G	6.9 E	6.9 E	6.9 E	6.8 E	6.8 E	7.2 G	6.7 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	5.0 F	N/M	1.7 D	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	2.2 D	N/M	2.2 D
Conductivity E.C.	460 F	69 E	430 F	310 F	520 P	410 F	1560 D	370 F	370 F	200 G	280 F	400 F
Turbidity F.T.U	14 E	16 G	13 E	12 E	15 G	20 P	26 P	26 P	18 F	27 P	69 D	27 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.072 P	N/M	0.300 D	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	0.055 P	N/M	0.049 F
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.04 E	0.00 E	0.05 G	0.00 E	0.02 E	0.00 E	0.50 D	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.02 E	0.00 E
Stream flow L/s	17.5	8.6	3.5	4.8	6.6	38.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Habitat assessment/50	27 F	27 F	26 F	26 F	26 F	26 F	29 G	29 G	22 F	22 F	25 G	25 G

E=Excellent ■ G=Good ■ F=Fair ■ P=Poor ■ D=Degraded ■ N/M= Not measured N/A= Not applicable

Waterwatch Reports

Macro Invertebrates - February	Site 1A Fiander arm YSC010	Site 1B Crosby arm YSC012
Sensitive		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	15	20
<i>Dragonfly larvae</i>	4	7
Tolerant		
<i>Beetle larvae</i>	1	0
<i>True Bugs (Backswimmers, Water Scorpions, Water Boatmen, Lesser Water Striders, Water Striders/Treaders)</i>	3	0
<i>Nematodes</i>	10	0
<i>Leeches</i>	6	1
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	15	30
<i>Flatworms</i>	10	5
Very Tolerant		
<i>Mosquito larvae</i>	0	0
<i>Fly larvae</i>	15	0
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	0	0
<i>Blood worms</i>	0	0
Abundance Category	2	2
Total Bug Score	34	21
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor

February

Stream flows were low; the wetlands ponds were below treatment level and drying out.

The invertebrate results were Poor however the vegetation in the stream was better than usual. Frogs were heard in the Fiander arm, and several large tadpoles were found in the samples.

There was a scattering of Poor and Degraded physical/chemical ratings across all the sites.

The last pond in the wetlands was drying out, with some red scum at the edges. Despite this, pH, conductivity and ammonium results were Good to Excellent. Turbidity was Degraded.

Valley Creek was not flowing. Sampling was done from a pool east of Regent Street. The conductivity and

ammonium results were extremely degraded - as in mid-January - despite the flushing from a 25 mm rain event on 31st January-1st February.

March

The wetlands ponds have not been flowing for most of the summer, but were filled by a 19 mm rain event 8 days before sampling.

The wetlands oxygen, turbidity and phosphate results were Poor but in-stream basic chemistry results were Good, except for downstream Turbidity.

Wetlands invertebrate samples were difficult to obtain and of poor quality because of dense reeds and muddy bottom conditions.

The invertebrate results were extremely low abundance, only 2 to 4 creatures at each site.

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK
AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

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We're on the Web!
<http://scotchmanskreek.friends.melbournewater.com.au>

Greening Monash

Monash World Environment Day Winners - 2008



Clean Up Australia Day



Melbourne University Students Tour



PALS Walk - Picnic Lunch

Printed by courtesy of
the City of Monash as
a community service.
Responsibility for edi-
torial content is solely
that of the editor.



Production of this
newsletter funded
through Melbourne
Water's Community
Grants Scheme.

For the Diary - 2013

Special "Speaker's Forum" Meeting

Thursday, 16 May 2013 - 7:30 pm at Alvie Hall. Nicholas Croggon, Lawyer from the Environment Defenders Office, will discuss the lack of action by successive Victorian Governments in implementing the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. The presentation is entitled **"It's time to deliver on the Guarantee (25 years late)"** More details inside.

National Tree Day Planting

Sunday, 28 July 2013 - 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Put this one in the diary now! Fairway Reserve. Make your mark in Monash by planting

some of the 8000 native plants we are buying with our Melbourne Water grant. Get a party together with your family and friends.

As in recent years, the registration point will be at the Scout Halls car park at the end of Fairway Avenue (Melways Ref. 70:E5). The planting will be along Scotchmans Creek towards the freeway tunnel.

The Scouts will be cooking up a free yummy lunchtime sausage sizzle for everyone to enjoy.

Help us make this one the big success story of 'Greening Monash' for 2013.