



December 2013

## AGM Business

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### Presentation and Special Resolution

We had a very good turn-up for the AGM on 17 October 2013. This was probably because of the interest in the presentation by Bill Ramsay, President of Birdlife Melbourne, his theme being "Birds in Backyards". There is a full report of Bill's talk elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The other business of the AGM was dealt with as normal except for a Special Resolution about our Rules of Association. As a result of the new *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)* the committee had determined that the Association should adopt a revised set of Rules of Association. All financial members of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc. were sent a copy of the proposed revised Rules of Association.

A vote was called for on the motion "That the members of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc. adopt the revised Rules of Association which are contained in the document 'Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc. - Rules of Association – October 2013 (Proposed)'". The motion was carried unanimously.

The new rules are practically the same as the old ones with minor changes in line with the requirements of the new Act. The most significant change is probably the one to allow communications and voting by electronic means.

### President's Report

Outgoing President, Sally Walker, gave her usual comprehensive report reviewing our activities for the past year under the following headings:



- Valley Reserve Work Parties
- Melbourne Water Grants
- Plantings with Business Groups
- Friends Events
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Schools Events
- Community Events with Monash Council
- Vegetation Protection Overlay

### Waterwatch Report

Waterwatch co-ordinator, Fred Bullock, presented his review of the Waterwatch team activities, noting:

- Major activities for the year
- Our sites
- The team
- Reports and data distribution
- Chemical and Physical results
- Macro-invertebrates found
- Condition Rating
- Habitat Assessment
- Ratings

Under General Observations he noted

- The Scotchmans Creek corridor is only in Fair condition
- Litter is persistent. A lot of litter escapes the trap at Blackburn Road, to be trapped in the wetlands vegetation. We need bet-

"the members of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc. adopt the revised Rules of Association which are contained in the document 'Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc. - Rules of Association – October 2013 (Proposed)'".

## AGM Business.....continued



*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*  
Red Stringybark

- ter litter control at the source
- Sandy sediment (eroded from crushed granite pathways) inhibits in-stream vegetation and clogs stream-bed habitat, especially near the join of the Fiander and Crosby arms east of Blackburn Road
- The wetlands inlet regulator remains blocked by sandy sediment, preventing treatment of low flows. Melbourne Water advise that redesign is more difficult than expected
- Occasional greasy/fatty contamination occurs in the Glen Waverley Drain.

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that total assets were \$4,969.17 consisting of cash in the bank, credit union shares and petty cash. There were liabilities of \$941.43 being grant funds committed to certain projects. Income for the year was \$15,461.28 consisting of fund raising receipts of \$22.86, grant funds of \$14,740.00, interest of \$388.82,

reimbursement of \$39.60 and subscriptions/donations of \$270.00. Expenses totalled \$14,795.10, being \$14,740.00 grant costs, bank charges of \$7.50 and \$47.60 office costs. The equity was \$4,027.74.

### Election of Committee

Election of the Committee resulted in the following

President:	Ted Mason
Vice-President	Nira Jayasuriya
Treasurer	Anne McPhee
Secretary	Alan Moore
Committee Members	Fred Bullock
	Keith McPhee
	Tony Walker
	Sally Walker

Under the new Rules, the Secretary automatically becomes the Public Officer.

## New web site - again

We only just got set up with our new web site and hosting and we've had to change it again!

The State Library of Victoria was our host through the Community Web Hosting Service (FriendsNet) but has, rather inconsiderately, decided to close this (free) service.

After carefully checking around, our Webmaster, the multi-talented Sally Walker, proposed moving to Digital Pacific.

Although this service is not free, it is moderately priced at \$58.80 p.a. We've also taken the opportunity to register a domain name, at \$ 19.90 for two years, which we can keep even if we decide on another move sometime in the future. We believe that this is

the more professional way to go about it anyway.

Our new web site is now alive and kicking. You can find us at:

<http://www.scotchmancreekfriends.org.au/>

Be sure to set a "bookmark" so you can find us easily.

The new website is essentially the same as before although some of the internal workings are a little different.

If you have any suggestions or comments there is a "contact us" link

([info@scotchmancreekfriends.org.au](mailto:info@scotchmancreekfriends.org.au))

on the site. We'd be pleased to hear from you.

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## Waterwatch Results - October-November 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	20/10/13	24/11/13	20/10/13	24/11/13	20/10/13	24/11/13	20/10/13	24/11/13	20/10/13	24/11/13	20/10/13	24/11/13
Air temperature °C	22.0	12.0	22.0	12.0	21.5	20.0	21.5	20.0	25.0	16.0	25.0	20.0
Water temperature °C	18.0	15.0	18.0	15.0	15.0	16.5	16.0	16.0	19.0	16.0	19.0	18.5
pH	7.6 G	7.2 G	7.4 G	7.2 G	7.2 G	7.2 G	7.1 G	7.3 G	7.1 G	6.9 E	7.4 G	6.8 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	N/M	9.2 E	N/M	8.8 E	6.0 G	N/M	3.8 D	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Conductivity E.C.	790 D	190 G	340 F	230 G	510 P	240 G	400 F	510 P	360 F	280 F	240 G	200 G
Turbidity F.T.U	18 F	12 E	11 E	9 E	19 F	15 G	17 G	15 G	26 P	25 P	26 P	29 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	N/M	0.082 P	N/M	0.033 F	0.065 P	N/M	0.039 F	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.05 G	0.03 E	0.03 E	0.00 E	0.15 F	0.02 E	0.02 E	0.00 E	0.10 F	0.08 G	0.00 E	0.01 E
Stream flow L/s	2.8	106.4	2.5	27.0	11.3	80.9	0.1	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Habitat assessment/50	24 F	24 F	26 F	26 F	24 F	24 F	29 G	29 G	21 F	21 F	21 F	21 F

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

## Waterwatch Reports

Macro Invertebrates - November	Site 1A Fiander arm YSC010	Site 1B Crosby arm YSC012
<b>Sensitive</b>		
<i>Caddisfly larvae</i>	1	0
<i>Dragonfly larvae</i>	0	0
<b>Tolerant</b>		
<i>Beetle larvae</i>	0	0
<i>True Bugs (Backswimmers, Water Scorpions, Water Boatmen, Lesser Water Striders, Water Striders/Treaders)</i>	0	0
<i>Nematodes</i>	0	0
<i>Leeches</i>	2	0
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	30	100
<i>Flatworms</i>	2	2
<b>Very Tolerant</b>		
<i>Mosquito larvae</i>	0	0
<i>Fly larvae</i>	1	0
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	6	30
<i>Blood worms</i>	30	10
<b>Abundance Category</b>	2	3
<b>Total Bug Score</b>	20	8
<b>Stream Condition</b>	Poor	Poor

### October

The conductivity rating at the Fiander Arm (site YSC010) was Degraded. There have been several similar outstanding results at this site recently.

Phosphorus results are Fair/Poor, which is typical of all sites in past measurements.

There continues to be very little in-stream or overhanging vegetation at either site 2 (Regent Street) or site 3 (Valley Creek), resulting in small invertebrate samples and Poor ratings.

### November

Overnight rain caused higher water levels and flows than usual, and had been sufficient to flow through the wetlands ponds (despite the clogged inlet pit).

The water quality was generally Good or Excellent, as expected with the good flow, except for Poor and Fair phosphate results at the two sites where we measured it, and Poor turbidity results in the wetlands ponds.

We obtained only small numbers of invertebrates, mostly varieties tolerant or very tolerant of poor water quality, with the exception of one caddisfly larva (very sensitive to water quality). Consequently the water quality ratings were poor. However the unusually high water levels and flows may have caused many invertebrates to move to sheltered locations and so escape our sampling.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

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**We're on the Web!**  
[scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au](http://scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au)

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### **Greening Monash** Monash World Environment Day Winners - 2008



#### **Birds in Backyards**

*Bill Ramsay has been gazing at birds through his binoculars for 40 years or so, making numerous trips to coastal and inland Australia as well as offshore territories, adding species to his bird list. His passion has taken him to places such as Thursday Island, Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island, Macquarie Island, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Ashmore Reef.*

*He gave us the benefit of this experience during his presentation at our Annual General Meeting in October.*

*Bill structured his talk by explaining first the things you need in your garden to attract a range of birds. The basics are water, somewhere to perch, shelter for small birds, good nest sites and plenty of food.*

*He went on to explain the key points in identifying birds, because it's much more satisfying if you know what birds are actually paying you a visit. You need to look carefully at size, shape, plumage, bill and legs and then listen out for the call.*

*You'll also need your binoculars and a field guide. In these digital days there is even an 'app' for your electronic device which will play the bird call for you!*

*Bill then discussed birds grouped by the food they eat, although most birds have a varied diet so there is considerable overlap. He illustrated this with glorious photos of the food groups and the birds in each group (modestly acknowledging that the images were provided by BirdLife Melbourne Members including Janet Hand, Sonja Ross and himself).*

*He concluded by giving us some information about BirdLife Melbourne. Anyone with an interest in joining this organisation can get all the details at [www.birdlife.org.au](http://www.birdlife.org.au) and then going to Birdlife Melbourne.*

*This was a presentation full of interest and we are grateful to Bill for taking the time and effort to come to our meeting. Look out for our "Speaker's Forum" program next year so you don't miss coming to one of these great presentations.*

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**Melbourne  
Water**

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## **For the diary - 2014**

### **'Get Together' Barbeque 2014**

#### **Everyone is invited!**

It's on again - the date is Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014. This is the event for everyone, when we can catch up with friends and have a relaxing hour or two.

You don't need to be a member - everyone is welcome. If you have a friend or a neighbour who is interested in our group, please let them know about the event. We'd love to see some new faces.

The BBQ will start around 12:30 pm but if you come a little early you could take a walk around the reserve and marvel at how great it is looking.

The Friends group will be providing salads, meat, bread and drinks - and the electric BBQs are there all ready. Just bring along any special food or drinks you may desire and a chair would also be a good idea. Using your own plates and cutlery would reduce waste going to landfill.

If you are coming, please let Anne McPhee know by phoning 9803 7140 sometime before 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014, so we can work out the catering requirements. This has been a popular event each year and it is a great way to get to meet other people who share an interest in the beautiful surroundings of Valley Reserve and Scotchmans Creek.