



Newsletter

February 2013

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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

Annual "Get Together" Barbecue

We had an excellent turn-out for our annual barbecue in the Valley Reserve. About 40 Friends, neighbours, two councillors and our local state member of parliament, Michael Gidley, got together in our beautiful Valley Reserve on Saturday, 2 February 2013. We were very lucky to have excellent weather. I think that everyone enjoyed the good food and good company with lots of conversation. It is very encouraging to see so much interest in our group.

I was delighted to congratulate Michael Marmach on the naming of a new species of crustacean after him, as recognition of all the wonderful photographs of marine fauna he has taken over many years. *Marmachius fortunae* was discovered in 1988 and accepted as a new species in 2012.

Dry weather affects the Reserve

After about three years of good rains, we

have had nearly three months of very dry weather. The Notting Hill rain gauge received 32.2 mm of rain in December, 4.6 mm in January and 37.4 mm in February to date (16 February 2013). The Reserve is showing the signs of the drought with many of the smaller plants drying out. Valley Creek has stopped flowing and, below the Salkin landing, has been reduced to a few stagnant pools a few times. I am sure that our gardens are feeling the lack of rain as well. Our Waterwatch results for January showed the effects of our dry spell. I hope that we will get some good rain before our planting season begins in June.

Future events

Our first event, Clean up Australia Day, will be on Sunday, 3 March 2013. The registration point will be the playground on Regent Street next to the creek (Melways Ref. 70:G3). Be a good sport and come along to give us a hand to clean up the litter that accumulates near the creek.

"I was delighted to congratulate Michael Marmach on the naming of a new species of crustacean after him, as recognition of all the wonderful photographs of marine fauna he has taken over many years."

The President Reports.....continued



Eucalyptus macrorhyncha
Red Stringybark

On Thursday, 21 March 2013, we will have our first meeting for this year with a speaker, from the Victorian National Parks Association. There are more details elsewhere in this Newsletter and on the included flyer. Please note that this event will be at Alvie Hall, where all our future meetings will be held.

On Monday, 25 March 2013, we will be hosting a free guided walk and light lunch in co-operation with the Monash Council PALS program. See the PALS booklet or the Council web site for the details. You will need to book for this event on 9518 3585.

Valley Reserve Work Party

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 on this issue has now started. If you live in the VPO area you will have been sent information about making a submission to Council. I ask

you to consider this matter carefully and make your views known at this community consultation. Your committee will be putting in a submission on behalf of the Friends Group, but that can only do so much. We need all our members to express their views. Submissions must be received before 15 March 2013. The Council web site has full details.

Melbourne Water Grants

Your committee again applied for grants from Melbourne Water for funding for 8000 plants for our major planting on National Tree Day 2013 and for 2000 plants for a Friends planting, probably in June, next to the creek upstream of Crosby Drive.

We are delighted that again we have been successful. This will be our 13th grant for revegetation of Fairway Reserve and our 5th grant for revegetation in the Crosby Drive corridor of the creek. Our planting date for Crosby Drive will depend on the rains we get, but once the date is determined we will let you know.

"What 150 years has done to our habitat"

"This promises to be a really engaging and thought-provoking look at Victoria from European settlement through to today and reveals what 150 years has done to our natural habitats."

On Thursday, 21 March 2013, we will have a special presentation by Matt Ruchell from the Victorian National Parks Association. Matt's talk is entitled "What 150 years has done to our habitat".

He will be discussing the future of native conservation in Victoria and will be concentrating on Melbourne's Urban Fringes and Waterways.

Matt Ruchel has been Executive Director of the VNPA since 2007 and has a strong background in environmental policy. He has worked in the non-government environmental policy areas in the state, national and

international arena for over 20 years. Matt has held senior positions in leading international and national conservation organisations and in local government.

This promises to be a really engaging and thought-provoking look at Victoria from European settlement through to today and will reveal what 150 years has done to our natural habitats.

The presentation will be at Alvie Hall, on the corner of Alvie and High Street Roads, Mount Waverley - Melways Ref 61:D11. The meeting will start at 7:30 pm.

Waterwatch Results - November 2012 - January 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	18/11/12	27/01/13	18/11/12	27/01/13	18/11/12	27/01/13	18/11/12	27/01/13	18/11/12	27/01/13	18/11/12	27/01/13
Air temperature °C	16.0	18.5	18.0	18.5	18.0	18.5	18.0	18.5	18.0	18.5	18.0	18.5
Water temperature °C	14.5	17.5	14.0	18.5	15.0	18.0	16.0	17.0	16.0	18.0	16.5	19.0
pH	7.5 G	7.1 G	7.4 G	7.3 G	7.5 G	7.1 G	7.6 G	7.0 E	7.4 G	6.9 E	7.2 G	7.3 G
Oxygen concentration mg/l	7.0 G	N/M	9.6 E	N/M	N/M	4.9 P	N/M	3.7 D	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Conductivity E.C.	690 P	580 P	430 F	230 G	910 D	580 P	340 F	>1999 D	690 P	430 F	220 G	330 F
Turbidity F.T.U	79 D	31 D	15 G	12 E	27 P	15 G	47 D	37 D	22 P	25 P	35 D	74 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.196 D	N/M	0.130 D	N/M	N/M	0.068 P	N/M	0.020 G	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.50 D	0.10 F	0.10 F	0.01 E	0.40 D	0.30 P	0.00 E	0.50 D	0.03 E	0.00 E	0.04 E	0.00 E
Stream flow L/s	100.4	4.9	11.9	13.6	102.1	8.9	0.3	0.0	N/A	0.0	N/A	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 - January	Site 2 Regent Street YSC020
Sensitive	
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	20
<i>Dragonfly larvae</i>	3
Tolerant	
<i>Beetle larvae</i>	2
<i>True Bugs (Backswimmers, Water Scorpions, Water Boatmen, Lesser Water Striders, Water Striders/Treaders)</i>	40
<i>Leeches</i>	3
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	10
<i>Flatworms</i>	1
Very Tolerant	
<i>Mosquito larvae</i>	0
<i>Fly larvae</i>	0
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	0
<i>Blood worms</i>	2
Abundance Category	2
Total Bug Score	30
Stream Condition	Poor

January

There was very little rain this month and stream flows were very low. Valley Creek was dried out to disconnected pools with no flow. No water was flowing into the wetlands treatment ponds and they were drying out. The last pond (Site 5) was about 75 cm below treatment level and had formed separate pools surrounded by drying mud.

As expected, most of the physical and chemical measurements were Poor or Degraded, however, pH at all sites was Good or Excellent.

The results at the two "dried-out" sites, Valley Creek (Site 3) and the downstream wetlands pond (Site 5) were unexpectedly different. Valley Creek conductivity and ammonium results were at or beyond the upper limits of our measuring equipment, but the wet-

lands pond measured zero ammonium and Fair conductivity.

The invertebrates sample from Scotchmans Creek had low abundance and variety and was rated Poor.

Although scheduled, it was not possible to sample Valley Creek for invertebrates with our standard method (edge sampling from overhanging vegetation).



Indigofera australis
Australian indigo

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

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Greening Monash

Monash World Environment Day Winners - 2008



"WIIFM"

WIIFM is an acronym for "what's in it for me". At an information session I went to a couple of month's ago, about increasing membership of groups like ours, this was stated to be the what most people think of first when they read about the activities of a group. This is what you need to focus on when creating flyers or putting out information aimed at getting people to come to events or join up.

I got to think about why I am a member of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve and did I get something out of it. Why do I continue to be actively involved? I first got interested when I discovered Scotchmans Creek soon after moving into Lawrence Road. I found this lovely green reserve along the creek and the walking track where I could have a peaceful walk away from all the traffic. The Friends group was just getting going and I thought I wouldn't mind having an interest in what get done in the reserve, so I went along to one of the meetings and joined up.

I soon discovered what any volunteer will tell you. I thought I was going to put something into this work but what I really found was that it was very interesting and satisfying to participate and I got far more out of it than what I put in. So this is "what's in it for me". For anyone who has some interest in gardening, environmental protection, enjoying outdoor bushland settings or having a hand in maintaining Monash's green public places, I can thoroughly recommend joining in our activities. You'll get more out of it than you might think!

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Water**

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For the Diary - 2013

Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday, 3 March 2013 - 9:00 am-12:00 pm.
Registration at the Regent Street Play-ground, Melways Ref. 70:G3. Be a good sport and join the team to clean up Scotchmans Creek.

Special "Speaker's Forum" Meeting

Thursday, 21 March 2013 - 7:30 pm at Alvie Hall. Matt Ruchel from VNPA will give us a thought-provoking look at Victoria from European settlement through to today - "What 150 years has done to our habitat".

Free Guided Walk and Light Lunch

Monday, 25 March 2013 - 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Explore the habitat and vegetation

along the Scotchmans Creek Corridor during this "walk and talk". In co-operation with the Monash Council PALS program - see more on the PALS web page. Includes light lunch after the walk. Booking is essential on 9518 3585. Starting location details will be provided upon booking.

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. Free BBQ lunch. Get a party together with your family and friends. More details in our next Newsletter.