



June 2013

## *The President Reports...*

### Inside this issue:

<i>The President Reports...</i>	1
<i>On the web</i>	2
<i>Waterwatch Results</i>	3
<i>Waterwatch Reports</i>	3
<i>Vegetation protection/vegetation loss</i>	4
<i>For the Diary - 2013</i>	4

### From Sally Walker



Monash's longest-serving councillor Tom Morrissey  
Picture: Lawrence Pinder Source: Leader

### Vale Tom Morrissey

We were all saddened by the sudden passing of Tom Morrissey. Tom had been a good friend and supporter of our Group over many years. He was active in helping us overturn the Council decision to sell land near Sadie Street which has now been re-zoned as Public Park and Recreation and so now cannot be built on. He also supported us in our efforts to retain the Vegetation Protection Overlay without amendment. We send our thoughts and condolences to Lorraine. Tom will be sorely missed.

### School Excursions

This must be the time of year for all the local schools to want to get their students out and into the fresh air. We have taken some grade 1/2 student from St. Leonards Primary School on a walk along the Crosby Drive section of Scotchmans Creek; we hosted a walk in Valley Reserve for 17 gardening club students from Syndal South Primary School; and we have taken about 50 grade 3/4 students from Mt Waverley North Primary School on a walk with a talk on lifecycles, habitat and adaptation round the Valley Reserve.

It is really great to meet these young and eager students and to help show them the wonderful reserves that we have. While autumn is not the best time for flowers, there were still some to show the students while we pointed out the different native plants around us. The students were keen to hear about the animals that live in the reserve and were delighted when, on one walk, we saw a pair of rainbow lorikeets peering out of a hollow in a large tree. We told them about the micro-bats that live in the reserves and how they ate large numbers of insects. We also explained the importance of large and even dead trees in providing homes for so many of our bats, birds and animals. We always talk about litter and storm water and about what the students can do to help to keep our creeks clean.

### Speaker's Forum Meeting

In May, Nicholas Croggon, from the Environment Defenders Office, gave us an address on the work of the EDO. His group supports environmental groups and concerned citizens when they try to pressure the government to look after the environment and the creatures that live there. His interesting talk was followed by a lively discussion on many topics of interest.

### Future events

Winter is our major planting time. I hope to see many of you at our Friends planting on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July near Crosby Drive and our National Tree Day planting on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July at Fairway Reserve. These are plants that will be paid for by our grants from Melbourne Water. As usual, our friends in the Monash "bush crew" will be assisting us.

"The students were keen to hear about the animals that live in the reserve and were delighted when, on one walk, we saw a pair of rainbow lorikeets peering out of a hollow in a large tree. "

## *The President Reports.....continued*



*Pomaderris lanigera*  
Woolly Pomaderris

See the attached flyers for more details.

In June, staff from the Novotel Group will help us plant in the Crosby Drive area.

### **Special Presentation**

On 15<sup>th</sup> August we will have our third meeting with a speaker. Caitlin Moore, who is a PhD student at Monash University, will tell us all about her studies for her thesis. She has been a regular attendee at our Water-watch sessions for a few years and we are delighted that she will share her research work on the savannas in the Top End with us. Please come along to hear her talk and see her photos. See the attached flyer.

### **Valley Reserve**

Please do not forget our monthly work party

in the Valley Reserve on the last Saturday of each month. We meet at the amenities block about 1:20 pm. When we finish about 3:30 it is very satisfying to look at the area we have been working in and see what a difference some companionable work can make. After the weeding we have a chat together over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

### **Vegetation Protection Overlay**

At the Council meeting on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April Council agreed to ask Planning Panels Victoria to appoint a panel to consider the Amendment and the submissions made in response to it. I will be speaking at the public hearing on behalf of our group.

## *On the web*

### **Visit our new website**

Our nice new bright website is now open for you to view all the latest news, information and notices of upcoming events. We are now hosted by Vicnet instead of Melbourne Water and we've taken the opportunity for a completely new look.

The new address is:

**<http://home.vicnet.net.au/scotchmans>**

Take a look now and let us know what you think. We are happy to consider any suggestions you may have to make it even better. Don't forget to revise your browser bookmark so you can find us easily. The Melbourne Water website will redirect you for a short period but the link will eventually disappear. We have tested the new site on a number of web browsers but if you find any problem, please let us know.

### **Environment Defenders Office**

Lawyer Nicholas Croggon, gave us an insight into the work of the EDO at our recent "Speakers Forum" meeting. The EDO is an independent, non-profit, community legal service, specialising in public interest environmental law.

The EDO has been involved in a wide range of environmental issues. Notable recent ones include alpine grazing, a new boat ramp at Bastion Point Mallacoota and Melbourne's new urban growth boundary.

Their funding comes from a range of sources, including donations and membership fees, grants from trusts and foundations and funding through the Community Legal Services Program.

There is much of interest at:

**<http://www.edovic.org.au>**

**"Take a look now and let us know what you think.**

**We are happy to consider any suggestions you may have to make it even better. Don't forget to revise your browser bookmark so you can find us easily. "**

## Waterwatch Results - April-May 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	21/04/13	19/05/13	21/04/13	19/05/13	21/04/13	19/05/13	21/04/13	19/05/13	21/04/13	19/05/13	21/04/13	19/05/13
Air temperature °C	15.0	11.0	15.0	11.0	14.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	15.0	13.0	15.0	13.0
Water temperature °C	14.0	13.0	14.0	12.0	13.0	12.5	11.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	13.0	12.0
pH	7.5 G	7.5 G	7.4 G	7.3 G	7.3 G	7.1 G	7.0 E	7.1 G	7.1 G	7.0 E	7.3 G	6.8 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	N/M	8.1 E	N/M	7.8 G	6.0 G	N/M	3.0 G	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Conductivity E.C.	770 D	300 F	390 F	240 G	660 P	190 G	470 F	420 F	640 P	190 G	210 G	120 G
Turbidity F.T.U	13 E	17 G	11 E	15 G	22 P	23 P	25 P	23 P	17 G	25 P	75 D	20 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	N/M	0.029 F	N/M	0.042 F	0.055 P	N/M	0.023 G	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.05 G	0.00 E	0.03 E	0.02 E	0.08 G	0.06 G	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.20 P	0.04 E	0.00 E	0.02 E
Stream flow L/s	8.8	4.7	8.4	10.2	12.4	102.4	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Fast
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

acro Invertebrates - April	Site 2 Regent St. YSC020	Site 3 Valley Crk. YVA100
<b>Very Sensitive</b>		
<i>Caddisfly larvae</i>	0	1
<b>Sensitive</b>		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	6	2
<b>Tolerant</b>		
<i>Beetle larvae</i>	0	1
<i>True Bugs (Backswimmers, Water Scorpions, Water Boatmen, Lesser Water Striders, Water Striders/Treaders)</i>	0	1
<i>Leeches</i>	0	2
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	10	20
<i>Flatworms</i>	10	10
<b>Very Tolerant</b>		
<i>Mosquito larvae</i>	0	2
<i>Fly larvae</i>	30	0
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	10	20
<i>Blood worms</i>	1	5
<b>Abundance Category</b>	2	2
<b>Total Bug Score</b>	16	34
<b>Stream Condition</b>	Poor	Poor

### April

Rain earlier in the week had refreshed the system but flow had stopped in the ponds and in Valley Creek at the time of visit. Although not as bad as in the summer dry periods, a number of poor physical/chemical results were found.

- High conductivity at most sites
- High turbidity at the three downstream sites
- High phosphorus in Scotchmans Creek downstream (Regent St.)
- High ammonium at the upper pond of the wetlands.

A caddisfly larva was found in Valley Creek. Caddisfly larvae are very sensitive to poor water and finding one is a rare event for any of our sites.

However the samples lacked variety and numbers and so the overall result for both downstream creek sites was rated Poor.

### May

The warm autumn had ended with a cold and rainy week. All the creeks were flowing and the wetlands still draining fast after the Thursday's rain.

Most of the physical/chemical results were Good or Excellent, except Fair conductivity in the Fiander arm and Valley Creek, Fair phosphate levels in the Fiander and Crosby arms, and Poor turbidity in the wetlands and the downstream sites.

We were pleased to find some caddisfly larvae in the Fiander arm, as they are very sensitive to water quality and not often seen there. However the variety and abundance of the invertebrate samples were not as good as we expected after the warm autumn weather, and both the Fiander and Crosby arms achieved only a Poor invertebrate rating.

**FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK  
AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.**

315 Lawrence Road

Mount Waverley

Victoria 3149

Phone: 03 9802 3481

Email: [tedmason@bigpond.net.au](mailto:tedmason@bigpond.net.au)

---

**We're on the Web!**

**<http://home.vicnet.net.au/scotchmans>**

---

***Vegetation Protection/vegetation loss***

*Even with the current VPO in place, this is what is happening all over Monash. Can we afford to lose more vegetation? Pictures taken recently in Lawrence Road, Mount Waverley.*



351 Lawrence Road, November 2012

**Greening Monash**

**Monash World Environment Day Winners - 2008**



357 Lawrence Road, November 2012

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



**Melbourne  
Water**

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

***For the Diary - 2013***

**Planting Day - Crosby Drive  
Sunday, 7 July 2013, 9:30 am**

You could help us make Monash a bit greener with plants funded by Melbourne Water. The meeting point is where Crosby Drive crosses Scotchmans Creek - Melways Ref: 70:K3.

**National Tree Day - Fairway Reserve  
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.

**"Speaker's Forum" meeting - Alvie Hall  
Thursday, 15 August 2013, 7:30 pm**

PhD student, Caitlin Moore, will discuss her field and laboratory research into tree-grass savanna productivity and carbon cycle in tropical northern Australia. Alvie Hall is on the corner of Alvie and High Street Roads.