



September 2013

The President Reports...

Inside this issue:

<i>The President Reports...</i>	1
<i>Birds in Backyards</i>	2
<i>Waterwatch Results</i>	3
<i>Waterwatch Reports</i>	3
<i>Vegetation protection - Amendment C115</i>	4

From Sally Walker

Planting Time

Winter is our planting season and 2013 has been a busy time for our group. We started off with a Friends planting near Crosby Drive on Sunday 7th July when we planted 1300 tube-stock plants on a good sunny morning.

This was followed up with a planting with volunteers from the Novotel Group the following Thursday 11th July when a further 1400 tube-stock plants were planted in the same area. We planted out what had been a very weedy area near Crosby Drive and it now looks much more attractive.

National Tree Day on Sunday 28th July was our big planting event of the year. We had cloudy but dry weather for the 75 volunteers who planted 7530 tube-stock plants in Fairway Reserve downstream from our NTD site for last year. The scouts put on the usual tasty BBQ for the hungry volunteers.

This was followed up with 18 volunteers from United Energy the following Friday 2nd August when a further 1500 tube-stock plants were planted in the same area by Scotchmans Creek.

Our Melbourne Water grants paid for 10,000 plants this year. This makes a real difference to the vegetation beside our creek. We have been fortunate with rain after nearly every planting session which should help to ensure that a high percentage of plants survive.

I want to thank all the Monash "bush crew" for their work in preparing the ground before hand and in helping to distribute the plants on the day.



Remembering Tom Morrissey

As part of our National Tree Day event we took part in a tree planting ceremony when Mrs. Morrissey planted a yellow box sapling in memory of Cr. Tom Morrissey. A plaque and a seat will be installed near the tree. Monash Mayor, Cr. Driberg and other members of the Morrissey family attended the ceremony.

Speakers Forum

At our Thursday 15th August meeting, Caitlin Moore, who is a PhD student at Monash University, gave us an excellent talk about her field and laboratory research into tree-grass savanna productivity and how it affects the carbon cycle in tropical northern Australia. She has been a regular attendee at our Waterwatch sessions for a few years so we were delighted that she could share her research work on the savannas in the Top End with us.

Future Events - AGM

We will hold our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 17th October. Apart from our speaker we will also have a special item on

"National Tree Day on Sunday 28th July was our big planting event of the year. We had cloudy but dry weather for the 75 volunteers who planted 7530 tube-stock plants in Fairway Reserve downstream from our NTD site for last year. "

The President Reports.....continued



Eucalyptus macrorhyncha
Red Stringybark

our agenda where we will ask members to vote on accepting a new set of rules for our group. These rules have been developed in response to new legislation covering incorporated groups like ours. The proposed set of rules, while different in layout, is very similar in content to our existing rules. Financial members will receive a separate letter from us with a copy of the proposed new rules. Please have a look at the new rules and attend our AGM.

Committee members will be giving a roundup of our activities and a glimpse of what is coming up for next year. There will also be a “cuppa” available and a chance to have a chat with other members and friends.

Monash Seniors Festival

We will be hosting a “Caring for the Environment” event in Seniors month on Friday 18th October starting at 10:30 am. The venue is

Valley Reserve and activities will include a worm farming workshop, sustainable gardening advice and a guided walk. There will be a worm farm to be won and a free BBQ lunch. All ages are welcome so bring your family and friends. More details are available on the Monash Council web site - go to the “Senior’s Festival 2013” link. Bookings are necessary - ring 9518 3585.

Year’s end

Please do not forget our monthly work party in the Valley Reserve on the last Saturday of each month – still three more months this year. We meet at the amenities block about 1:20 pm. When we finish about 3:30 pm 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.

Birds in Backyards

Speaker’s Forum at the AGM

There is a great variety of birds living around the Scotchmans Creek area and Bill Ramsay, President of BirdLife Melbourne, knows all about them.

Bill 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.

We probably all enjoy seeing different birds flitting around our backyard, and listening to

their tuneful calls. Bill will be drawing on his vast experience and knowledge to tell us about what birds can be found in our local area and how we can get them to visit our gardens. Apart from the pleasure of seeing and hearing birds in your garden, they can be good for your plants as well. You can also help to reduce the decline in population of some species by making your garden more “bird friendly”.

Bill will be giving you all the information you need, during his presentation at our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 17 October at 7:30 pm in Alvie Hall.

Don’t miss this opportunity to learn from an expert.

‘Apart from the pleasure of seeing and hearing birds in your garden, they can be good for your plants as well. You can also help to reduce the decline in population of some species by making your garden more “bird friendly”’.

Waterwatch Results - July-August 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	21/7/13	25/8/13	21/7/13	25/8/13	21/7/13	25/8/13	21/7/13	25/8/13	21/7/13	25/8/13	21/7/13	25/8/13
Air temperature °C	8.0	12.0	8.0	N/M	6.0	N/M	6.0	N/M	8.0	N/M	6.0	N/M
Water temperature °C	9.5	12.0	9.0	11.0	8.5	12.0	8.5	12.0	10.0	12.0	8.5	12.0
pH	8.3 F	7.8 G	7.8 G	7.3 G	7.5 G	7.1 G	7.5 G	7.0 G	8.1 F	6.8 E	7.1 G	6.9 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	N/M	9.0 E	N/M	9.1 E	10.0 E	N/M	10.3 E	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Conductivity E.C.	490 F	590 P	420 F	360 F	240 G	330 F	450 F	350 F	420 F	230 G	150 G	160 G
Turbidity F.T.U	43 D	19 F	25 P	7 E	38 D	24 P	38 D	16 G	47 D	31 D	36 D	17 G
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	N/M	0.065 P	N/M	0.059 P	0.137 D	N/M	0.033 F	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.01 E	0.01 E	0.01 E	0.01 E	0.04 E	0.02 E	0.01 E	0.00 E	0.01 E	0.07 G	0.01 E	0.01 E
Stream flow L/s	28.0	4.9	33.4	1.6	80.7	8.5	9.8	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Habitat assessment/50	24 F	24 F	26 F	26 F	26 F	26 F	29 G	29 G	21 F	21 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

July

Monthly Water Quality tests

Creek flows were higher than usual, following the overnight rain. Water was flowing through the wetlands by over-flowing the first weir and the blocked inlet control pit.

Most indicators were Fair to Excellent, except for high turbidity at all sites (Degraded rating) and a Degraded phosphorus rating at the Regent St. site.

Annual Habitat Assessment

All the upstream sites retained their overall Fair ratings from 2012, but some details were rated lower.

Bank vegetation has been thinned at Site 1a (Fiander arm) possibly by weed removal, but this exposes some ongoing spot erosion.

Also at site 1a, sand washing into the stream bed is inhibiting the in-stream

vegetation and clogging the riffles.

In the upstream wetlands pond (site 4) the banks are thickly covered with reeds which get forced aside by flood events, resulting in unsightly banks and difficult access to the pond.

August

The chemical results were as usual – most indicators fair or better, but conductivity poor in the Fiander arm and phosphorus level poor in both the Fiander and Crosby arms.

The wetlands showed signs of recent flows in and out, but there was no flow at the time of this site visit.

Sand and stones washed into the creeks was getting worse. At the upstream sites it was smothering the stream bed vegetation and forming large mounds which may impede the water flow. This material remains mobile and may move

and cause similar problems downstream (in addition to the existing blockage of the wetlands inlet pit).

There was a lot of litter in the stream bed, on the banks and in the vegetation at the upstream sites, and in the upper parts of the wetlands. There was a lot of litter floating on the pool just downstream of the litter trap at the join of the Crosby and Fiander arms. (A litter patrol by Holmesglen TAFE students, the day following this site visit, cleared about 15 kg of litter from the creek banks of the Crosby arm upstream of site 1b).

There was a large area (50 sq m) of a milky / waxy scum on the pool in Scotchmans Creek at Regent St (YSC020, Site 2). A similar scum was seen in the Crosby arm (Glen Waverley Drain) where it emerges from the underground drainpipes at Waverley Road.

315 Lawrence Road
Mount Waverley
Victoria 3149

Phone: 03 9802 3481
Email: tedmason@bigpond.net.au

We're on the Web!
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/scotchmans>

Greening Monash

Monash World Environment Day Winners - 2008



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.

Vegetation Protection - Amendment C115

(Quote from Monash City Council website)

"In early 2013, Council sought community feedback on proposed changes to Monash's Vegetation Protection Overlay. The proposed changes were aimed at making it easier for landowners to remove significant trees. The changes were put forward as Amendment C115 to the Monash Planning Scheme.

Council received 391 submissions from the community about the proposed changes. At its April 2013 meeting, Council decided to refer the submissions to an independent Review Panel for consideration. The Panel considered all written submissions and also considered verbal submissions made at hearings held at the Monash Civic Centre in June.

In mid-August, Council received the Panel's report.

*In summary, the Panel recommends that the **Amendment be abandoned and that the existing VPO be retained**. The Panel also recommends Council undertake additional work to "better determine vegetation values (with expert and community input) and to review planning policies as part of an integrated approach towards vegetation protection and management".*

Council will consider the Panel report and decide on its response at its September Council meeting. Council has three options:

- *to abandon the Amendment*
- *to proceed with the Amendment (which would require final approval by the State Planning Minister) or*
- *to investigate possible changes to the Amendment."*

In the Overall Conclusions section of its report, the Planning Panel stated:

"The Amendment is fatally flawed in the view of the Panel because it is not supported by any strategic investigation of the vegetation and what its values and purpose for Monash is or what role the planning scheme should have in managing vegetation in a strategic sense.

The drafting of the Amendment with the permit exemptions is viewed by the Panel as creating a vacuum whereby removal of canopy trees can occur for a range of reasons without any opportunity for Council to consider the broader landscape context of any removal or cumulative effects of multiple or consecutive removals.

The Panel found that the proposed Amendment was poorly and inconsistently drafted, provided no effective protection for any vegetation in Monash or adequate recognition of its intrinsic values to the community, and was criticised by government agencies and many members of the community...

...In this report, the Panel has made reference to Council reviewing the VPO1, in conjunction with the planning scheme generally, with regards to vegetation management and considers the Council should take into consideration not only landscape and neighbourhood character issues but other environmental values that many submitters highlighted during the Panel Hearing.

It is for these reasons that the Panel concludes that Amendment C115 is not appropriate and should be abandoned."

The Council will consider the Panel Report at the meeting on 24 September 2013. All members are urged to attend to give Council an indication of community interest and the value placed on the Vegetation Protection Overlay.