



March 2014

Coming Up for 2014

Inside this issue:

Coming Up for 2014 1

A Virtual Tour of the
Australian Garden 2

Waterwatch Results 3

Waterwatch Reports 3

Celebration for path
completion 4

For the diary - 2014 4

An early start

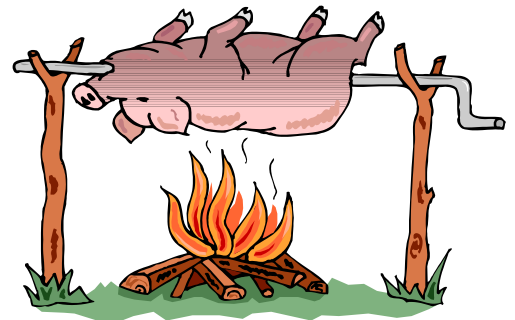
Your Committee has been on the job early, busily planning and arranging our program of activities for this year.

We have already started off the year with our Annual 'Get Together' barbecue in Valley Reserve on Saturday, 25 January 2014. Everyone enjoyed tucking into the very tasty sausages, veggie burgers and variety of salads. It was a nice sunny day, with a good roll-up of members and visitors and we signed up some new members.

The 'Waterwatchers' are off to a flying start - they have already had two monitoring sessions this year. Detailed results are given on page 3 of this Newsletter. Anyone with an interest in this activity is encouraged to contact Waterwatch co-ordinator, Fred Bullock, on 9803 4589.

The Valley Reserve Work Parties have also started - the first was on Saturday, 22 February 2014. Please remember that these are a very important part of our efforts to keep Monash 'green'. We have been helping Monash Council with maintenance of Valley Reserve since our inception and, in fact, the work parties actually started with Alf Salkins' Friends of Valley Reserve group around 1982. It's only a couple of hours once a month on the last Saturday - 1:20 - 3:30 pm, finishing up with a 'cuppa' and a chat. Sally or Tony Walker on 9807 5576 would be delighted to hear from you if you want some more information. Alternatively, if you can spare the time, just arrive at the amenities block in Valley Reserve at 1:20 pm.

We held our first committee meeting on Thursday, 20 February 2014 and were very pleased to welcome two Monash Councillors who attended - Cr. Rebecca Paterson and Cr. Bill Pontikis. We really value the interest and support of these two council members.



Next Year's 'Get Together' BBQ?

"Speaker's Forum" meetings

We are planning to have four "Speaker's Forum" meetings during the year.

The first of these, on Thursday, 20 March 2014, is one not to be missed. The presentation will be a 'virtual tour' of the Australian Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. More details follow on page 2.

The next "Speaker's Forum" meeting will be in May when Monash Council Officers will give us an 'Age-friendly Monash Ambassador Visit', and, at the AGM in October, we will have a speaker from Greenlink Box Hill Nursery. We are planning to have a speaker at our August meeting too, but this is yet to be arranged.

Planting Program

Our planting program for 2014 has also received attention. Our grant applications have been approved, we have received the grant funds from Melbourne Water and the plants are ordered. The major planting will be on National Tree Day (Sunday, 27 July 2014) again in Fairway Reserve. The other planting sites are Crosby Drive Reserve (planting with staff from Novotel) and Regent Street Reserve (planting with staff from United Energy). The dates for these have not been set yet because they depend on availability of plants and weather conditions. You will receive further advice about these

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Coming Up for 2014.....continued



Allocasuarina littoralis
Black she-oak

and we'd love to see you and your family/friends at these plantings.

Wait, there's more!

We've teamed up with Monash City Council Positive Ageing Lifestyles (PALS) section again and are hosting a 'Scotchmans Creek Walk' on Monday, 24 March 2014. This will be a guided 'loop' walk along sections of the creek starting at the Scout Halls car park at the end of Fairway Avenue, Mount Waverley at 9:00 am. We'll be talking about the habitat and vegetation and will finish up with light refreshments for morning tea. This is a free event but booking is required - ring 9518 3555. For other enquiries - 9561 0122.

There will probably be another PALS event during the October Seniors Festival.

Scouts, schools etc.!

Environmental education sessions and excursions are another important part of our program. Two sessions for Joey Scouts have

been arranged in March and we will be repeating our conducted tour of the Mount Waverley Wetlands for Melbourne University Urban and Environmental Design students also in March.

There could well be other excursions arranged with schools - we will be having discussions with the local school teachers about this shortly to see what they may be wishing to do.

If you want more information about any of these activities you could contact one of the following committee members.

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

A Virtual Tour of the Australian Garden



The Red Sand Desert - Australian Garden

Our first "Speaker's Forum" meeting for the year, on Thursday, 20 March 2014, is one not to be missed. The presentation will be a virtual tour of the Australian Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. The 'tour guide' will be Bernadette Swanson, who will give us an insight into the overall design intent of the Garden.

The virtual tour will start with an introduction and brief history of the site as a whole and an overview of how the Australian Garden came about.

It will then take us around each of the sections of the Australian Garden as if we were walking around it. The major theme is that the landscapes and plants of Australia are unique. The Australian Garden provides visitors with a snapshot of the diverse and colourful nature of Australian plants and landscapes. It also highlights the importance and ease of using native plants in the home garden.

The presentation will be at Alvie Hall, on the corner of Alvie and High Street Roads, Mount Waverley on Thursday 20 March 2014 at 7:30 pm

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Waterwatch Results - January-February 2014

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	19/01/14	16/02/14	19/01/14	16/02/14	19/01/14	16/02/14	19/01/14	16/02/14	19/01/14	16/02/14	19/01/14	16/02/14
Air temperature °C	20.0	22.0	20.0	22.0	19.0	22.0	18.0	22.0	20.0	22.0	20.0	22.0
Water temperature °C	18.0	19.5	18.5	19.5	18.0	18.5	17.5	19.0	20.0	19.0	20.5	20.0
pH	7.2 G	6.8 E	7.2 G	6.6 E	7.0 E	6.6 E	7.0 E	6.8 E	6.7 E	6.3 E	7.4 G	7.3 G
Oxygen concentration mg/l	N/M	4.5 P	N/M	5.8 F	2.7 D	N/M	1.2 D	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Conductivity E.C.	650 P	240 G	610 P	230 G	710 P	290 F	1490 D	220 G	650 P	360 F	210 G	270 F
Turbidity F.T.U	14 E	34 D	21 P	26 P	17 G	37 D	40 D	48 D	28 P	70 D	54 D	44 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	N/M	0.101 D	N/M	0.068 P	0.088 P	N/M	0.000 E	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.03 E	0.03 E	0.02 E	0.07 G	0.10 F	0.02 E	7.50 D	0.08 G	0.00 E	0.01 E	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream flow L/s	0.5	36.1	2.5	39.3	7.1	176.1	0.0	23.5	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
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 - January	Site 2 Regent St. YSC020	Site 3 Valley Ck. YVA100
Sensitive		
<i>Caddisfly larvae</i>	0	0
<i>Dragonfly larvae</i>	6	8
Tolerant		
<i>Beetle larvae</i>	2	2
<i>True Bugs (Backswimmers, Water Scorpions, Water Boatmen, Lesser Water Striders, Water Striders/Treaders)</i>	10	15
<i>Nematodes</i>	0	0
<i>Leeches</i>	6	3
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	25	20
<i>Flatworms</i>	40	2
Very Tolerant		
<i>Mosquito larvae</i>	0	2
<i>Fly larvae</i>	0	0
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	15	4
<i>Blood worms</i>	10	20
Abundance Category	3	2
Total Bug Score	25	27
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor

January

The last two weeks had been dry. Scotchmans Ck. was flowing very slowly in the upper branches, and a little more at Regent St. Valley Ck. was not flowing and there was no flow through the wetlands ponds.

Many chemical indicators were degraded or worse, as expected under these flow conditions. The stagnant pool in Valley Ck. had an extraordinarily high ammonium level; 7.5 ppm. Results were Fair at Scotchmans Ck. at Regent St., and Excellent at all other sites including the stagnant wetlands ponds.

The invertebrates samples were better than we had expected, including several damselfly larvae and tadpoles.

February

Overnight rain had ended a 3-weeks hot dry period. There was no flow into the wetlands and most of the pond levels had fallen dramatically.

The rain had swept a very large amount of litter into the upper branches of the creeks but there was little or no litter visible at the other sites.

Scotchmans Ck. at site 1a yielded a pleasing number and variety of invertebrates, including some caddisfly larvae (very sensitive to stream quality), and achieved a Good rating. The Glen Waverley Drain (site 1b) had less in-stream vegetation and achieved only a Poor invertebrates rating.

Despite the good flows, oxygen levels were only Poor or Fair. Turbidity ratings were Poor/Degraded, as expected after the overnight rain event. Phosphorus results were Poor/Degraded, which is worse than usual in these creeks.

For full details of these results, go to our website at:

www.scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

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Mount Waverley
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Phone: 03 9802 3481
Email: tedmason@bigpond.net.au
Incorporation No. A0037872K

We're on the Web!
scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au

Greening Monash Monash World Environment Day Winners - 2008



Celebration for path completion

The completion of the shared pathway between Waverley Road and Forster Road was celebrated at a barbecue by the side of the path on Wednesday, 19 February 2014. The City of Monash put on the event in recognition of those who worked to achieve the completion of this 'missing link' in the Scotchmans Creek pathway system. As the invitation read 'it has taken many years and the efforts of many people to bring about this path, so it is worth celebrating what has been achieved'.

The Council is to be congratulated in persevering to get the pathway completed. The process has taken many years and has had many 'twists and turns'. There have been many changes of plans, many discussions, VCAT hearings, objections and site visits. There have been times when it looked as if the pathway would be part of the entry road, or no path at all. There were many alternative proposals put forward and discussions with the Council and the owner of the land. We acknowledge that the Council has always been willing to meet with us and listen to our proposals.

Our group lobbied vigorously to try to achieve a path that would be in keeping with the rest of the Scotchmans Creek Trail. We put proposals to the Council, submitted objections when the Planning Permit was under consideration and attended VCAT hearings. Although the result is not quite what we wished, it is a good compromise and a very pleasant 'link'.

We want to make special mention of the role Mr. Peter Davies has had in this achievement. Peter is a person with expert knowledge in planning matters, a land surveyor, a past Councillor and Mayor of Monash and a resident with a particular passion for preservation of public open spaces. Peter spent many hours considering alternative proposals, drawing plans, arranging discussions, submitting ideas to Council and the owner and attending VCAT hearings. Our submissions relied very heavily on Peter's expertise and we thank him for all his efforts.

At the barbecue, Federal MP Anna Burke and Cr. Jieh-Yung Lo spoke about the history and financing of the project. It was financed jointly by the Commonwealth Government and the City of Monash.

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For the diary - 2014

Special "Speaker's Forum" Meeting - Virtual Tour of the Australian Garden at Cranbourne Botanic Gardens

Thursday, 20 March 2014 - 7:30pm. at Alvie Hall on the corner of Alvie and High St. Roads, Mount Waverley. (Melways Ref. 61:D11). The 'tour guide' will be Bernadette Swanson, who will give us an insight into the overall design intent of the Garden, a brief history of the site as a whole and an overview of how the Australian Garden came about. The virtual tour will then take us around each of the sections of the Australian Garden as if we were walking around it.

Free "Scotchmans Creek Walk" and Morn- ing Tea

Monday, 24 March 2014 - 9:00am. Meet at the Scout Halls car park at the end of Fairway Avenue, Mount Waverley. 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 morning tea after the walk. Booking is essential on 9518 3585. Enquiries: 9561 0122.