



September 2014

Valley Reserve "Playspace"

Inside this issue:

Valley Reserve "Playspace"	1
Sustainable Cities Award	2
Waterwatch Results	3
Waterwatch Reports	3
Planting program for 2014 completed	4
Do you share our passion?	4
For the diary - 2014	4



Valley Reserve, Mount Waverley

"SPARC in the park"

The Monash Council has allocated \$600,000 in its 2014/2015 budget to create a major "playspace" in Valley Reserve. This funding will provide for stage 1 of the project with further stages planned in coming years. The "playspace" will be for people of all ages, catering for younger children and their parents but also for older people, teenagers and young adults.

The project is called 'SPARC in the park' to reflect its five key principles: **S**ocially Inclusive, **P**layful, **A**ctive, **R**elevant and **C**onnect-ed.

Our public meeting on 21 August gave the community an opportunity to make comments about this project. The project consultant, Aaron Wallis from Place Pty. Ltd., presented a summary of the results of the public consultations already undertaken.

Our committee member, Tony Walker, presented our comments and "vision" for Valley

Reserve before opening the meeting for public discussion.

Nearly all the comments were in line with our view that Valley Reserve is a very important native bushland reserve and that any development must not have a negative effect on the environmental values.

Although planning is at an early stage, the "playspace" design outlined by Aaron was for the area adjacent to the existing picnic area with play equipment of a "natural" appearance.

The committee has endorsed a "Vision for Valley Reserve" document which details some history, the environmental values, key characteristics and attributes that make the reserve unusual in Monash and urban Melbourne.

It includes our "Vision Statement" which reads:

(continued on Page 2)

"Nearly all the comments were in line with our view that Valley Reserve is a very important native bushland reserve and that any development must not have a negative effect on the environmental values."

Valley Reserve "Playspace".....continued



Artibropodium cirratum
Renga Renga Lily

"Valley Reserve exists primarily as a conservation-oriented bushland reserve. It provides a most valuable resource for conservation education and for schools and the community to experience natural bushland within the city of Monash. All proposed developments for the reserve must be respectful of, and consistent with, this primary purpose."

The document also includes commentary on serious reservations we have about a number of possible proposals and measures we suggest to protect some particularly sensitive values.

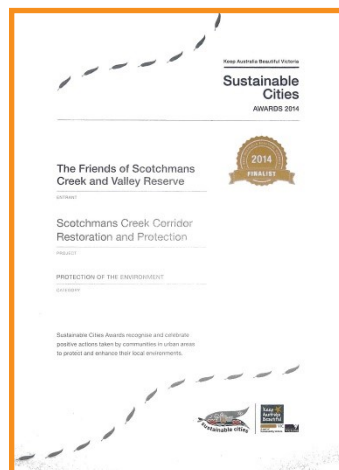
We have also included a number of proposals for what we consider to be appropriate development for Valley Reserve.

These include the suggestion that the new playground be themed around conservation and that tactile materials be used with bush colour tones.

Other proposals are a low impact building constructed in the current playground site for a friends group/community education facility; upgraded conservation signage throughout the reserve; indigenous wild-flower garden beds incorporated into revegetation around the current picnic area; recycled "green" boardwalk along some sections of tracks and fencing to protect endangered and high conservation-value remnant areas.

The Monash Council's Strategic Leisure Planner, Carly Goodrich, has advised us that we will be given further updates as the planning process continues.

Sustainable Cities Award



"We didn't win in our category but we were delighted to receive a fine certificate in recognition of our achievement as a 2014 Finalist."

Earlier this year, the Environmental section of the Monash council suggested that we enter a project in the Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Sustainable Cities Awards competition. Our project was entitled "Scotchmans Creek Corridor Restoration and Protection".

The submission outlined the revegetation projects we have undertaken over our 15 year existence, with information about ob-

jectives and results. The submission was made in conjunction with the Council.

It is interesting to note that, including this year's plantings, we have now added around 134,000 indigenous plants along the various sections of Scotchmans Creek. This has, of course, only been possible with the great cooperation of the Council Horticultural section, our members, community volunteers and with financial support from Melbourne Water.

We were excited to learn that our project had reached the finals and we had received a kind invitation through the council to attend the awards dinner. We didn't win in our category but we were delighted to receive a fine certificate in recognition of our achievement as a 2014 Finalist.

The Monash Council entered projects in a number of other categories and reached Finalist status in 8 categories. The Council won the Community Government Partnerships category for Creating Claytons Lane-ways.

Waterwatch Results - July–August 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	20/07/14	24/08/14	20/07/14	24/08/14	20/07/14	24/08/14	20/07/14	24/08/14	20/07/14	24/08/14	20/07/14	24/08/14
Air temperature °C	10.0	14.0	10.0	14.0	9.0	15.0	10.0	14.0	10.0	14.0	10.0	14.0
Water temperature °C	10.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	9.5	12.0	10.0	12.0	9.5	13.0
pH	7.4 G	7.1 G	7.3 G	6.8 E	6.9 E	6.7 E	7.0 E	6.9 E	6.9 E	7.0 E	6.5 E	6.8 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	N/M	9.0 E	N/M	9.2 E	7.9 G	N/M	9.2 E	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Conductivity E.C.	630 P	170 G	310 F	140 G	390 F	300 F	320 F	760 D	26 E	270 F	180 G	230 G
Turbidity F.T.U	13 E	47 D	9 E	20 F	20 P	47 D	11 E	28 F	17 G	83 D	21 P	93 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	N/M	0.072 P	N/M	0.075 F	0.046 F	N/M	0.033 F	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.02 E	0.15 F	0.02 E	0.50 D	0.08 G	0.50 D	0.01 E	0.07 G	0.06 G	0.50 D	0.10 F	0.01 E
Stream flow L/s	7.4	21.0	3.2	11.4	21.0	44.8	0.2	7.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Habitat assessment/50	26 F	26 F	27 F	27 F	24 F	24 F	28 F	28 F	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

Habitat Assessment

	Site 1A Fiander arm YSC010	Site 1B Crosby arm YSC012	Site 4 Wetland upper YSC099
Bank Vegetation (max 10)	6	6	4
Verge Vegetation (max 10)	6	8	4
In-stream Cover (max10)	6	6	6
Erosion and Stability (max 5)	4	3	4
Pools/riffles/bends (max 5)	4	4	3
Total	26	27	21
New Rating 2014	Fair	Fair	Fair
Rating in 2013	24, Fair	26, Fair	21, Fair

July

Water quality results were Fair to Excellent except Poor conductivity in the Fiander arm and Poor turbidity at Regent Street and in the wetlands lowest pond.

There was a large quantity and variety of litter caught on the banks at the Crosby arm (site 1b).

August

All the streams were flowing faster than usual, after 2mm rainfall overnight. Flow into the wetlands ponds had occurred overnight but had stopped at the time of our visit. A large number of the water chemistry results were rated Poor or Degraded.

- pH (all sites) and oxygen levels (tested only at sites 1a, 1b) were mostly Excellent.

- Conductivity rated Fair or Good at most sites but rated Degraded in Valley Creek.

- All sites except Valley Creek (site 3) and Glen Waverley Drain (site 1b) appeared particularly cloudy. All the turbidity measurements rated Poor or Degraded.

- Phosphate (tested only at sites 1a, 1b) rated Poor.

Ammonium levels rated Degraded in the Glen Waverley Drain (site 1b) and at sites 4 and 2 downstream from there. Good to Excellent levels were found in the Fiander Arm (site 1a), Valley Creek (site 3) and the last wetlands pond (site 5).

Our habitat assessments for the creek sites (1a, 1b) were slightly better than in 2013, and the same as 2013 for the wetlands (site 4). The most noticeable change was the in-stream vegetation in the Fiander arm, which had taken hold in the loose sandy material that washes down the creek bed.

315 Lawrence Road
Mount Waverley
Victoria 3149

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 Winner - 2008
Sustainable Cities Award Finalist - 2014



Planting program for 2014 completed

We finished up our planting program for 2014 with another successful National Tree Day planting in Fairway Reserve. We had 115 volunteers, with a high number of families and a good number of representatives from the Scouts and Monash University students. The majority were from Monash and nearby suburbs but some came from quite far afield. We were particularly pleased to welcome some of our Friends from Damper Creek Reserve.

The weather was kind and, although the ground was hard in spots, we still planted 8500 plants. The Monash Council "bush crew" did the usual fantastic job with laying out all the plants and the Scouts wound up the day with a yummy sausage sizzle.

Our two other planting days involved local companies; United Energy/Multinet Gas and Novotel. Both of these companies arranged for staff to give up some of their time to assist us with our revegetation projects.

We must also acknowledge that the funding for all our plants comes from Melbourne Water through their River Health Incentives Program.

A big "thank you" goes to everyone who has helped us this year in our quest to make Monash greener.

Do you share our passion?

It's so important that we are going to repeat the message asking if you would be interested in joining our committee. Some members are retiring this year and we need new members to take their place.

If you do share our passion and would like to get your ideas considered for future projects to improve Scotchmans Creek how about joining the committee? We could certainly do with your help. Perhaps you've thought about it before but never taken the next step. It's not a great commitment in time, you would get to work with friendly people and have the pleasure and satisfaction of making a real difference to the environment, particularly around our Scotchmans Creek reserves.

Printed by courtesy of
the City of Monash as
a community service.
Responsibility for editorial
content is solely
that of the editor.



*Production of this
newsletter is funded
through Melbourne
Water's River Health
Incentives Program*

For the diary - 2014

Annual General Meeting
Thursday 16 October 2014 - Alvie Hall
314 High Street Road, Mount Waverley –
Mel. Ref. 61:D11 – 7:30pm

There will be a summing-up of the year's achievements with reports from the Committee at our AGM, and the appointment of the new Committee.

We will also have an interesting speaker, Brian Pell from Greenlink, Box Hill. Brian is a former Principal of Burnley Horticultural College specialising in agriculture. He is an agricultural scientist. He received an OAM for his work with Whitehorse Council in council parks over 30 years and for service to

agricultural organisations. Brian's talk is entitled "Greenlink and Indigenous Plants".

Council PALS Events

We are assisting with two Monash Council PALS Seniors Festival events in October. The first is in cooperation with the Friends of Damper Creek— a **Family Fun Day at Damper Creek** on Friday, October 3.

The other is the **Active Monash Launch** at the Oakleigh Recreation Centre on Friday, October 31. We will be conducting a guided walk along Scotchmans Creek.

Check out all the details on the Council website or pick up a PALS booklet from the Council.