



February 2015

Getting going in 2015

Inside this issue:

<i>Getting going in 2015</i>	1
<i>Mount Waverley Wetlands remediation</i>	2
<i>Aboriginal heritage preservation</i>	2
<i>Waterwatch Results</i>	3
<i>Waterwatch Reports</i>	3
<i>A "birdy" message</i>	4
<i>For the diary - 2015</i>	4

"Get Together" BBQ

The weather was kind on the 31st. January, not too hot or too cold, and dry. Over 30 people attended our annual January barbeque to socialise over our expertly cooked sausages and patties. We were very pleased to have our Council liaison representatives, Cr. Rebecca Paterson and Cr. Bill Pontikis, and our local State member of Parliament, Michael Gidley MP, attending the BBQ. This is a great opportunity to speak to the people of influence in our area. From the amount of conversation overheard, it seems that everyone had a good time. Our vice-president, Sally Walker, spoke about our achievements last year and looked forward to more planting using Melbourne Water funds and more weeding work parties in the Valley Reserve in the year ahead.

Changes to the Committee

Following the resignation of our president, Ted Mason, due to family commitments, the committee has made the following changes to the executive:

President: Nira Jayasuriya
Vice-president: Sally Walker
Treasurer: Fred Bullock

Alan Moore will remain as Secretary and Ted Mason will remain on the committee as an ordinary member.

The year ahead

We have been successful again with our grant applications from Melbourne Water. We look forward to our major planting on National Tree Day and two smaller plantings with Novotel and United Energy later in the



Valley Reserve

year. We also hope to arrange a Friends planting in Valley Reserve, probably in June. Watch this space!

Already we have arranged to look after a stall at Holmesglen Tafe; assist with an excursion with year 10 students from Avila College to the Huntingdale wetlands to investigate the water quality; and lead a group of Melbourne University students through the Mount Waverley Wetlands to discuss water transportation and the effects of the wetlands.

Our first collaboration for this year with the Monash Council's PALS program will be a "Twilight Tour of Valley Reserve" on Friday 20th March from 6:30 pm. We will be assisting with a walk through the reserve after a BBQ. Details and bookings with PALS on 9518 3555.

Clean Up Australia Day

We'll be doing a clean-up along Scotchmans Creek on Sunday 1st March. Please come along and help us keep our reserves clean.

Registration at the Regent Street playground from 9 am. (Melway Ref. 70:G3)

"We were very pleased to have our Council liaison representatives, Cr. Rebecca Paterson and Cr. Bill Pontikis, and our local State member of Parliament, Michael Gidley MP, attending the BBQ."

Mount Waverley Wetlands remediation



Dianella tasmanica
Blue Flax Lily

As many FSCVR members will be aware, we have been discussing with Melbourne Water over a period of several years, the problems of the Mount Waverley Wetlands. We all agree that the wetlands are not working as they should, and that erosion, water flow and litter issues need to be addressed.

Early in February, Melbourne Water's Erin Carpenter and Heather Graham (our local River Health Officers) and Alison Rickard (Wetland Capital Rectification Coordinator) met with us on site at the wetlands, to discuss their conceptual design to address the problems.

In outline, Melbourne Water hopes to complete the design in time to schedule construction for 2015-2016 (depending on funding).

They propose to:

- Lower the water level at Blackburn Road

- Increase the water storage capacity by creating larger, deeper ponds at the lower (Western) end of the wetlands
- Improve water flow between the ponds by replacing the inverted syphons in the current system (which constantly clog up) with a simpler direct pipe connection

We have asked them to examine the possibility of returning the creek to surface flow between the ponds in the lower part of the wetlands. We do not yet know if this will be feasible.

We have invited Melbourne Water to present the final design to us at a public meeting later in 2015, and we'll keep you informed about this as the design progresses.

Once the reconstruction work has been completed, we will discuss with Melbourne Water the final revegetation plan for the wetlands, which has been put on hold until the design issues are dealt with.

Aboriginal heritage preservation



Aboriginal "scar tree"

For many years an item of aboriginal heritage has laid on the ground in Valley Reserve. This is the "scar tree" near the entrance from Wills Avenue. Our group and the Waverley Historical Society have long advocated

that this tree remnant should be preserved and given protection.

The Monash City Council has now started this conservation work. It is to be undertaken in four stages:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Drying & stabilisation | 10—20 Feb |
| 2. Lifting & consolidation | 23 Feb—6 Mar |
| 3. Shelter/cradle fabrication | 6 Mar—24 Apr |
| 4. Lifting & installation | 11—5 May |

The first stage of works involves drying and stabilisation within a temporary-fenced area.

The council is intending to install the conserved trunk in a vertical position, however, the final orientation - and shelter design - will be subject to the outcome of the first stage of work.

"...should be preserved and given protection. The Monash City Council has now started this conservation work. It is to be undertaken in four stages:"

Waterwatch Results - January–February 2015

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	25/1/15	22/2/15	25/1/15	22/2/15	25/1/15	22/2/15	25/1/15	22/2/15	25/1/15	22/2/15	25/1/15	22/2/15
Air temperature °C	18.0	27.0	18.0	27.0	17.0	27.0	18.0	27.0	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Water temperature °C	18.0	21.0	17.5	22.0	17.5	22.0	13.5	21.0	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
pH	6.9 E	6.9 E	6.8 E	6.2 E	6.7 E	6.4 E	6.6 E	6.5 E	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Oxygen concentration mg/l	N/M	4.0 P	N/M	5.3 P	3.7 D	N/M	3.5 D	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Conductivity E.C.	820 D	640 P	290 F	230 G	520 P	430 F	320 F	350 F	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Turbidity F.T.U	16 G	10 E	0 E	14 E	17 G	12 E	37 G	25 P	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	N/M	0.000 E	N/M	0.117 D	0.078 P	N/M	0.072 P	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.40 D	0.20 P	0.02 E	0.00 E	0.07 G	0.10 F	0.02 E	0.00 E	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Stream flow L/s	7.6	2.4	4.2	5.0	7.8	12.6	Minimal	0.0	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

Macro Invertebrates - February	Site 1A Fiander Arm YSC010	Site 1B Crosby Arm YSC012
Sensitive		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	1	5
<i>Dragonfly larvae</i>	0	1
Tolerant		
<i>Beetle larvae</i>	6	0
<i>Leeches</i>	2	10
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	50	15
<i>Flatworms</i>	30	10
Very Tolerant		
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	3	3
<i>Blood worms</i>	50	50
Abundance Category	3	2
Total Bug Score	21	23
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor

January

The warm dry conditions had reduced Valley Creek to a trickle. The other branches were flowing slowly and looking clear. However there was an occurrence of excessive conductivity and ammonium in the Fiander arm, and signs of those also downstream at Regent Street. Phosphate was excessive, which is usual for these creeks. Oxygen levels were low.

In the invertebrate samples, there was an unusually large number of damselfly larvae in the samples from both Scotchmans Creek and Valley Creek. There was an unusually large number of backswimmers from Valley Creek (possibly because it was scarcely flow-

ing) and this gave Valley Creek a Fair rating, while Scotchmans Creek was rated Poor.

There was an unsightly four square metre patch of brown scum upstream of our Regent Street site. These occur occasionally, possibly due to stale fatty substances whose sources are untraceable, and they usually vanish after rain.

There was the usual large amount of litter caught in the bank vegetation of the Crosby and Fiander arms. This time it was predominantly sheets of plastic film.

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



A "birdy" message (via the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve)



Eastern Spinebill

Hi, I'm an Eastern Spinebill. I'm a beautiful little bird with lovely grey and gold markings, approximately the same size as a budgerigar. I dart from flower to flower retrieving pollen and I can catch insects in mid-air!

The problem is that

I'm in a spot of bother. I can't seem to find enough to eat or enough places to hide. I'd love to visit your garden. Can you help me? All I need is a little support from my fellow Australians. I'd love you to provide food and habitat for me (as outlined below) by creating a wildlife corridor around Damper Creek Reserve.

The Friends of Damper Creek Reserve Inc. together with the Monash City Council Sustainability team aim to set up a "Biodiversity, Birds in Backyards, Gardens for Wildlife" program and are working towards establishing this in 2015. The program will possibly take the form of information sessions and/or workshops, (including a free Friends' propagation workshop in April 2015), together with the distribution of a Monash City Council biodiversity booklet which is being prepared at the present moment.

If you are interested and live around or near Damper Creek Reserve you could register your interest by sending your name, address, email and phone/mobile number to secretary.dampercreek@gmail.com or phoning Helen on 0401 813 502.

I do hope you'll help me!

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 - 2015

Twilight Tour of Valley Reserve
Friday, 20 March 2015 — 6:30—9:00 pm
Valley Reserve — Mel. Ref. 70:G2

Bring your chair or picnic rug and join us for a barbecue hosted by the Mulgrave Lions Club. Following this will be the option of two guided tours of the beautiful Valley Reserve where you will have the opportunity to spot nocturnal animals.

The event is free but you must book with Monash Council PALS on 9518 3555.

Safety and Rescue of Local Native Wildlife
Thursday, 16 April 2015 — 7:30 pm
Alvie Hall, 314 High Street Road, Mount Waverley - Mel. Ref. 61:D11

A "Speaker's Forum" presentation by Jackie Brown from AWARE (Australian Wildlife Assistance Rescue and Education Inc.). AWARE is a not-for-profit, 100% volunteer wildlife rescue and rehabilitation group which operates in Frankston and surrounding suburbs.

They are devoted to assisting sick, injured or orphaned wildlife that may otherwise be left to suffer or die by providing a 24 hour emergency rescue hotline service manned by volunteers knowledgeable in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation techniques.

Jackie will be giving us all the information we need to know about helping our native wildlife—don't miss it!