



May 2015

FSCVR happenings

Inside this issue:

FSCVR happenings	1
Aboriginal "scar tree"	2
Waterwatch Results	3
Waterwatch Reports	3
SPARC stage 2	4
For the diary - 2015	4

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SPARC underway in Valley Reserve

SPARC in Valley Reserve

Work has started in Valley Reserve on the new SPARC PlaySpace. Signs are up showing what the PlaySpace will look like. The old picnic tables have been removed, the seating under the shelter has been removed and the old BBQs are gone. There has been much levelling of earth and removal of soil to one of the grassed areas just south of the existing playground. The whole area has been fenced off so the site is not accessible. No more barbeques until the work is complete in a couple of months time! Recently we did see some workmen with plants in pots so they may have started some planting. We hope to have a Speaker's Forum meeting later this year to discuss the project and Council's ideas for stage 2.

The Scar Tree in Valley Reserve

After many years of neglect, the scar tree near the north of Valley Reserve is getting the attention it deserves. A great deal of

work has been done to clear the vegetation and soil round the scar tree and to allow it to dry out under its canopy. The tree trunk is beginning to look like a tree trunk again rather than a mound of vegetation. The work to preserve the wood has begun and we believe that time is needed before the tree trunk can be lifted into its

cradle. This project will also include an information sign beside the scar tree.

April Speakers Forum with Aware

Jackie Brown from Australian Wildlife Assistance Rescue and Education Inc. gave a rather small group of members an interesting talk and information session about how to rescue injured animals. Those present were each given a rescue kit to use.

Council Environment Sustainability Strategy

The June Speakers Forum will be with Karen Jones, about Monash Council's new Environment Sustainability Strategy

We are delighted that Karen will be able to come to speak to our group about the developments towards a new Environment Sustainability Strategy. She will explain how well Monash has met its targets for the previous Sustainability Road Map and will speak about the proposed new strategy. This new document will influence how Council deter-

FSCVR happenings....continued



Dianella tasmanica
Blue Flax Lily

mines its program for the next few years. This is our opportunity to give her our ideas for the future and influence the new strategy. So please come along and let Karen know what you would like to see happen in Monash over the next few years. One item which will be of great interest is street trees and what species should be used. We have invited the Friends of Damper Creek to this meeting so please come along and represent our group on June 18 at Alvie Hall.

Topics for Speaker's Forums

What would you like to hear about at a Speaker's Forum? Please let us know if you have any topic that you think would be interesting for our group. Do you know any interesting speakers?

Planting Program

Following our success again with our grant applications from Melbourne Water, we are organising July planting sessions with our

business partners Novotel and United Energy. We look forward to our major planting in Fairway Reserve on National Tree Day, Sunday, 26 July, when we will have our usual BBQ provided by the scouts. Please come and join us on our big planting day in Fairway Reserve.

We have also arranged a Friends planting in Valley Reserve on Sunday, 14th June. We will be purchasing some plants with the Friends Group funds to add more flowering plants to the area to the west of the amenities block. This planting is just for our Friends Group so please make an effort to come along and help us make a difference in Valley Reserve.

Invitation

Lastly, we have been invited to attend the meeting of our friends the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve on Wednesday, 26 August when the new Yarra River Keeper, Mr. Andrew Kelly, will be giving a talk on his vision for the Yarra River; 7:30 pm in Alvie Hall.

Aboriginal "scar tree"

"This tree was registered as a significant historic tree (AAV 7922/614) in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the Victorian Archaeological Survey."



The "scar tree" gets a clean-up

As noted in our lead article, work is proceeding on the conservation of the "scar tree" in Valley Reserve.

This tree originally grew on the east side of Springvale Road near Fairhills Parade. In

1965 it was cut down for widening of Springvale Road. The middle section, with the large scar, was cut out and taken to Valley Reserve.

This tree was registered as a significant historic tree (AAV 7922/614) in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the Victorian Archaeological Survey. Initially in 1965 there was some uncertainty over the origin of the scar (mentioned on page 255-257 in the book by Wyn Hattwell) but after subsequent investigation it was concluded that the scar was made before European settlement.

Thanks to the Waverley Historical Society for this information.

Waterwatch Results - March–April 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	22/3/15	24/4/15	22/3/15	24/4/15	22/3/15	24/4/15	22/3/15	24/4/15	25/1/15	24/4/15	22/3/15	24/4/15
Air temperature °C	15.0	16.0	15.0	16.0	13.0	15.0	13.0	15.0	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Water temperature °C	16.0	15.0	16.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	14.0	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
pH	6.8 E	6.8 E	6.5 E	6.5 E	6.3 E	6.4 E	6.1 E	6.5 E	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Oxygen concentration mg/l	N/M	4.0 P	N/M	6.7 G	4.8 P	N/M	1.3 D	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Conductivity E.C.	440 F	380 F	230 G	320 F	300 F	330 F	220 G	330 F	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Turbidity F.T.U	17 G	26 P	9 E	9 E	15 G	17 G	25 P	13 E	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	N/M	0.075 P	N/M	0.134 D	0.062 P	N/M	0.039 F	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.02 E	0.40 D	0.06 G	0.01 E	0.08 G	0.50 D	0.00 E	0.00 E	N/M	N/M	N/M	N/M
Stream flow L/s	4.9	4.6	2.5	2.5	8.6	30.8	Trickle	0.1	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 - March	Site 2 Regent Street YSC020	Site 3 Valley Creek YVA100
Very Sensitive		
<i>Caddisfly larvae</i>	0	2
Sensitive		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	1	5
<i>Dragonfly larvae</i>	0	7
Tolerant		
<i>True Bugs (Backswimmers, Water Scorpions, Water Boatmen, Lesser Water Striders, Water Striders/Treaders)</i>	0	3
<i>Leeches</i>	5	7
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	15	25
<i>Flatworms</i>	25	50
Very Tolerant		
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	2	50
<i>Blood worms</i>	0	50
Abundance Category	2	3
Total Bug Score	16	34
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor

March

Scotchmans Creek (at Regent Street) and Valley Creek, although joining next to the sampling sites, yielded markedly different aquatic invertebrate samples.

Both sites rated Poor for the invertebrate survey because of the limited number of invertebrates found (Valley Creek missed the Fair rating by 2 invertebrates!).

April

There was a pollution event in Scotchmans Creek, evident at the Fiander Arm and at Regent Street.

An unsightly white surface scum had accumulated below the bridge between Turner Court and Crosby Drive (site 1a). It appeared to have come through the large drainpipe from the East, possibly from Kingsway via Bo-

gong Reserve. (There was a fine white residual line on the inside of the pipe, 3 cm above the present level, some 15 cm reflective patches could be seen in the pool just below the drain, and there was a scummy area in the Bo-gong Reserve pond). Scotchmans Creek upstream of that drainpipe (and at Fiander Ave.) appeared to be entirely free of this scum.

- Ammonium levels in Scotchmans Creek were Degraded at the bridge off Turner Court (site 1a) and at Regent Street (site 2).
- The oxygen concentration, turbidity and phosphorus levels were Poor at the bridge off Turner Court (site 1a).
- The phosphorus level was Degraded in the Crosby Arm (Glen Waverley Drain, site 1b).
- Other indicators were normal for these creeks.

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

"Greening Monash"

Monash World Environment Day Winner - 2008
Sustainable Cities Award Finalist - 2014



SPARC Stage 2

As we reported on page 1, work is underway on the new SPARC Play-Space where the previous picnic area was located. The Council has indicated that the existing playground equipment, on the east side of the small creek, will be removed later and further work (SPARC stage 2) will be undertaken in this area. Our group has been considering what we would like to see in SPARC Stage 2.

Once the equipment is removed from the playground area, we would like to have installed an interpretive information notice board with a roof. Information could be displayed, for instance, about the history of the reserve, the important environmental features and flora and fauna present in the reserve. Possibly there could be a few simple tables and benches nearby for school groups to use.

Part of that area could be landscaped as an indigenous display garden with labelled plants keyed to interpretive material in the notice board. Some paths between the beds would allow visitors to learn more about the plants in the reserve.

With the installation of the new PlaySpace, the simple quiet area in the corner of the old barbecue area has been removed. We would like to replace old benches in the Salkin Lawn area with newer benches or seats. This could provide a quiet, restful area for a peaceful contemplation of nature.

If you have any ideas you could let us have them. As mentioned before, we hope to have a Speaker's Forum meeting later this year to discuss the project. We are always interested to get comments and suggestions from our members. These meetings are informal, friendly and informative. We'd love to have you come along and share your ideas with us. If there is anything about our activities that you think could be better or something else we should be doing, come along and let us know - or you can just come along to listen and have a bit of supper with us!

For the diary - 2015

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**Melbourne
Water**

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Planting Day

Sunday, 14 June 2015 – 9:30am–12:00pm
Valley Reserve, Wills Ave. – Mel. Ref. 70:G2

A special planting, just for our Friends Group, so please make an effort to come along and help us make a difference in the wonderful Valley Reserve. Meet in the car park.

Caring for our Environment

Thursday, 18 June 2015 – 7:30pm
Alvie Hall, 314 High Street Road, Mount Waverley – Mel. Ref. 61:D11

An open discussion about the proposed new Monash Environment Sustainability Strategy with Karen Jones, Senior Sustainability Officer for the City of Monash. This is your chance to influence Monash City's Sustainable Future.

National Tree Day

Sunday, 26 July 2015 – 9:00am–1:00pm

Fairway Reserve, Mount Waverley – Mel. Ref. 70:E5

Your chance to help make Monash greener 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. Register at the Scout Halls car park at the end of Fairway Avenue (Melways Ref. 70:E5). The planting will be along Scotchmans Creek to the west of Stephensons Road and there will be a free lunchtime sausage sizzle.

Yarra Riverkeeper

Wednesday, 26 August 2015 – 7:30pm
Alvie Hall, 314 High Street Road, Mount Waverley – Mel. Ref. 61:D11

An invitation to the meeting of the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve, when the new Yarra Riverkeeper, Andrew Kelly, will talk about the YRKA vision for the Yarra.