



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter - December 2016

October Annual General Meeting



Alf Salkin

“Valley Reserve – A Brief History”

The meeting began with an entertaining and informative presentation by Tony Walker.

Tony mentioned the original inhabitants of the land who were Bunurong and Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. Early European settlement started in 1853 when the Parish of Oakleigh, Bourke County, was surveyed and the first land sales took place.

Valley Reserve sits on 160 acres of Crown land abutting on what were to become Stevensons Rd and Waverley Rd (NE corner).

This land was bought in the first land sales in the Parish of Oakleigh for £720 (\$1400) by a Mr Lovidge. Subsequently it was purchased by a Mr Jeanes and his new bride, on arriving from Adelaide. Their three daughters each received long narrow portions of the land with frontages on Waverley Rd between Mt Pleasant Rd and Regent Street, and extending back to and including, the land now comprising Valley Reserve.

In the 1920's orchards were established on 33 acres in the western part, and along the eastern boundary. Between the two, and along the creeks bushland remained.

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After 1948 urbanisation arrived and the landscape began to change as houses invaded the paddocks. Council began to buy land for public open space, and from 1955 land was purchased for Valley Reserve. Council acquired land as opportunity arose, to make up the present day Valley Reserve.

In the 1960s NPPS (Native Plant Preservation Society), supported by some Waverley residents negotiated with council to preserve samples of indigenous flora mainly in Valley Reserve.

In 1981 the Friends of Valley Reserve was founded by Alf Salkin and others. The group did much work to document the Valley Reserve, and conserve native plant areas, also selective planting. The Friends group began work parties in the 80's, to clear weeds and protect the creek environs – work that continues today.

In 1990 a new management plan was evolved, and approved, and serious work began to rehabilitate the Valley Reserve.

In 1991-93 major work was done including rehabilitation and regeneration along the creek, replanting a number of adjacent areas, creation of a new bridge, and weir across Valley Creek and other work aimed at the establishment of Valley Reserve as a bushland conservation reserve.

In 1999 Friends of Valley Reserve and Friends of Scotchmans Creek joined together as FSCVR, to focus on the Scotchmans Creek corridor above Stanley Street, and Valley Reserve.

The powerpoint presentation and the full text of Tony's talk are available for download from our web site on the events page.

AGM Continued



Bulbine bulbosa
Bulbine Lily

AGM

Following the presentation the meeting continued with the retiring President, Alan Moore, giving us an overview of the year's activities. The Waterwatch coordinator, Fred Bullock, reviewed the group's efforts for the year, noting the scout, school and uni groups that we have assisted. The Treasurer, Fred Bullock, presented his financial report which was accepted.

The committee stood down and the incoming committee was elected.

President	Alan Moore
Vice President	Tony Walker
Secretary	Sally Walker
Treasurer	Fred Bullock
Ordinary Committee	Nira Jayasuriya

Progress Report on the Mount Waverley Wetlands

And the litter trap upstream of Blackburn Road

Our contact at Melbourne Water, Andrew Downing, has provided some updates for us:

- Final design of the litter trap is nearing completion
- Materials will be ordered once design is complete (before Christmas)
- Initial site works around the litter trap (ensuring safe access, clearing and preparing the site, etc) are expected to commence in February
- The actual litter trap works are expected to be undertaken in March.

The wetland will be drained in sections in late February or early March to clean and inspect the wetland inlet, and at the same time some of the rockwork will be repaired.

Melbourne Water anticipates that the main work is likely to occur in February and March.

At present the litter trap has been dismantled and Melbourne Water is clearing litter out of the pool just upstream of Blackburn Road.

Waterwatch Results - October–November 2016

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent St		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	23/10/16	20/11/16	23/10/16	20/11/16	23/10/16	20/11/16	23/10/16	20/11/16
Date	23/10/16	20/11/16	23/10/16	20/11/16	23/10/16	20/11/16	23/10/16	20/11/16
Air temperature °C	11	18.5	11	20	11	25	11	25
Water temperature °C	12	15	12	16	12	19	11	17
pH	7.5 G	7.2 G	7.3 G	6.7 E	7.3 G	6.8 E	7.1 G	6.8 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l		6.7 G		6.4 G	9.8 E		9.8 E	
Conductivity E.C.	430 F	1150 D	390 F	550 P	420 F	510 P	560 P	450 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	35 D	14 E	25 P	9 E	38 D	16 G	40 D	18 F
Phosphorus, soluble ppm		0.036 F		0.183 D	0.036 F		0.003 E	
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.20 P	0.00 E	0.07 G	0.01 E	0.10 F	0.01 E	0.04 E
Stream Flow L/s	210.0	2.8	56.0	3.5	294.0	11.7	33.6	trickle
Habitat assessment/50	25 F	25 F	22 F	22 F	27 F	27 F	30 G	30 G

E=Excellent G=Good F=Fair P=Poor D=Degraded N/M= Not measured N/A= Not applicable

Waterwatch Reports

October

- We did not sample invertebrates in Scotchmans creek, because it was flowing too strongly for safe sampling access.
- Valley creek was also flowing faster than usual, but was safe for invertebrate sampling. However, as usual in high flow situations, the sample was small and was rated Poor.
- The water quality measurement results were mostly Good to Excellent, except for turbidity and conductivity (the water appeared quite cloudy), also as expected after the previous week's high rainfall.

November

- The creek flows were low, after a few rainless days and warming weather.
- The clarity of the creeks at the upstream sites was the best we remember, as shown by Excellent turbidity ratings. However some other chemistry ratings were exceptionally bad.
- At site 1a (Scotchmans Ck, the Fiander Arm) conductivity rated Degraded and ammonium rated Poor.
- At site 1b (Glen Waverley Drain, the Crosby Arm) conductivity rated Poor and phosphorus rated Degraded.
- Oxygen was lower than usual (but rated Good).
- Downstream at site 2 the conductivity was still poor and clarity normal for these sites.

- Valley Ck (site 3) was only trickling between pools, with a slight brown stain, but otherwise Fair or Good ratings (we did not measure oxygen or phosphorus).
- The weedy vegetation on the banks at site 1a has been cleared away, leaving no vegetation overhanging or in the stream for aquatic invertebrate habitat. We sampled by disturbing the sandy bottom then sweeping the net in the water column. This yielded 2 very small damselfly larvae and a larger number of the more tolerant creatures – overall rated Poor.
- Bug sampling in the Crosby Arm (site 1b) was easier, from the in-stream vegetation. However the result was similar, rated Poor.

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"Greening Monash"

Monash World Environment Day Winner – 2008

Sustainable Cities Award Finalist - 2014



New Education Hub in Valley Reserve

We are very pleased that Council has agreed to name the new Education Hub as the "Ted Mason Educational Hub in recognition of Mr Ted Mason's extraordinary contributions to environmental preservation and protection of this important natural environment."

We expect that the official naming and opening ceremony will take place in February or March of 2017.

Planning Proposals for properties in Regent Street that back onto Valley Reserve.

Japara Healthcare has a development proposal before Council to build a 126 bed aged care accommodation complex at 35-39 Regent Street. We have sent an objection to the proposed development to VCAT and to Council on the grounds of:

- Loss of vegetation
- Visual intrusion into Valley Reserve
- Increased traffic flows
- Overdevelopment and loss of permeable land surface
- Light pollution

For the diary - 2017

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Annual Barbecue in Valley Reserve:

Saturday, 28th January, 2017 at 12 noon.

For more details see the flyer.

Clean Up Australia Day:

Sunday, 5th March, 2017:
Register at the Regent Street Playground from 9 am.

PALS Program – Exploring Scotchmans Creek with the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve:

Monday, 20th March, 2017
9:30 am to 11:30 am.

For more details including meeting place and booking telephone number see the PALS booklet for Jan to April, 2017