



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter - July 2016



Vale Ted Mason

After spending the evening of Monday 4th July at Council with the Environment Advisory Committee, Ted died in his sleep that night. Ted will be sorely missed by all the Friends.

Ted was a foundation member of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek which formed in March 1998. Over the following years, Ted played a vital role in developing the group, through its amalgamation with the Friends of Valley Reserve to its increasing role in representing the interests of Valley Reserve and the Scotchmans Creek corridor both to the City of Monash and the wider community. Ted was a committee member for many years and played a significant role in all the activities of the group.

Winter is planting time

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With the welcome rain that we have had the planting is easy. In June we had a very successful Friends planting in Valley Reserve. Eight volunteers planted 800 plants by the side of the main track to the west from the amenities block. We have used Friends' funds to pay for these plants as we did last year. We would like to repeat this venture next year.

We had our first planting using Melbourne Water grant funds on Thursday 7th July. United Energy sent 20 employees to Regent Street to plant 2000 plants beside Scotchmans Creek. The group started early at 8 am and all the work was completed by 9:30 am. There was a great variety of plants from tough lomandras and dianellas to larger understorey plants.

This is an area that is difficult for the native plants as the remaining willows still shade out the area and brush the ground with their drooping branches.

On Wednesday 20th July our second planting using Melbourne Water grant funds will take place at Crosby Drive with staff from the Novotel Group coming along to provide most of the labour. Novotel also provide us all with a sausage sizzle after the work is done. We appreciate the support of these local businesses with our planting programs. Often the staff give up time on their days off to come and help us.

Finally do not forget National Tree Day on Sunday 31st July when we will be planting 8,000 plants in Fairway Reserve.

Sparc 1 and 2 in Valley Reserve

New signs have been installed at all the entrances to the reserve and bollards with directional information have been positioned at all the path intersections within the reserve.

The major signs all have a map of the reserve with the paths clearly marked – they all now have names.

Three Nature Sense stations have been created at the edges of the new playground. These are aimed at educating children about the environment in Valley Reserve.



The Education Hub near the site of the old playground is nearly completed. We encourage you to come and see these new features in the Valley Reserve.



Dianella tasmanica
Blue Flax Lily

Planning Issues

C125

Proposed planning rule changes

Council has move to the next stage which is a referral to Planning Panels Victoria. Your committee will have the opportunity to make a presentation again on behalf of the proposed new planning zones of Creek Abuttal and Creek Environs.

Changes to the Bike/Walking path through the Blue Cross retirement village on Waverley Road

We have presented some objections to the latest proposal and will work to ensure a safe and continued Bike/Walking path next to the creek through this expanded retirement complex.

Waterwatch Results - May—June 2016

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	
	22/5/16	19/6/16	22/5/16	19/6/16	22/5/16	19/6/16	22/5/16	19/6/16	25/1/15	19/6/16	22/3/15	24/4/15
Date	22/5/16	19/6/16	22/5/16	19/6/16	22/5/16	19/6/16	22/5/16	19/6/16	25/1/15	19/6/16	22/3/15	24/4/15
Air temperature °C	19.5	10	19	10	16	10	19	10	NM	NM	NM	NM
Water temperature °C	16	11.5	15	11	14	11	13	10	NM	NM	NM	NM
pH	6.7 E	7.6 G	7.0 E	7.3 G	7.1 G	7.1 G	6.7 E	7.2 G	NM	NM	NM	NM
Oxygen concentration mg/l		8.7 E		10.0 E	8.4 E		5.4 F		NM	NM	NM	NM
Conductivity E.C.	90 E	530 P	210 G	290 F	140 G	320 F	220 G	250 F	NM	NM	NM	NM
Turbidity F.T.U	18 F	29 P	29 P	14 E	9 E	25 P	23 P	26 P	NM	NM	NM	NM
Phosphorus, soluble ppm		0.055 P		0.065 P	0.098 P		0.042 F		NM	NM	NM	NM
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.12 F	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.01 E	0.25 P	0.04 E	0.02 E	0.00 E	NM	NM	NM	NM
Stream flow L/s	42.0	11.0	5.7	38.5	61.4	42.0	0.1	4.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Habitat assessment/50	26 F	25 F	27 F	22 F	24 F	24 F	28 F	28 F	21 F	27 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 – May 2016	YSC020 Site 2 Regent St	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
Sensitive		
Damselfly Larvae	0	1
Dragonfly Larvae	2	2
Aquatic caterpillars (Lepidoptera)	0	1
Tolerant		
True Bugs (Backswimmers, Water scorpions, Water Boatman, Lesser Water Striders)	0	6
Freshwater Sandhoppers (Amphipods)	0	1
Leeches	4	4
Snails (freshwater)	0	15
Flatworms	25	40
Very Tolerant		
Freshwater segmented worms	0	10
Blood worms	0	1
Abundance Category	2	2
Total Bug Score	12	36
Stream Condition	Poor	Good

May

The creeks were flowing clear and more strongly than usual, except Valley Ck (site 3) was flowing very slowly and slightly cloudy. However Valley Ck produced much the better invertebrates sample, obtaining a Good rating, and frogs were heard calling (probably common froglet or southern brown tree frog (both common in SE suburbs)).

Most of the water quality indicators were Fair to Excellent, except for: Poor turbidity in the Crosby Arm (site 1b, Glen Waverley Main Drain) and in Valley Ck (but note the invertebrates result). Poor ammonium and phosphorus results at site 2 (Scotchmans Ck at Regent St).

June

The water chemistry was typical of these sites, with Fair to Excellent ratings except for Poor conductivity and turbidity at site 1a (Scotchmans Ck, upstream) Poor turbidity downstream (sites 2 and 3, Scotchmans Ck and Valley Ck) Poor phosphorus rating at the sites measured (1a, 1b, the upstream sites))

Habitat has changed slightly in the last few years.

At site 1a, sand dredging for flood safety also removed the instream vegetation. The banks are weedy, the verge vegetation is improving. At site 1b we have lowered the scores for Verge Vegetation, In-stream Cover, and Erosion & Stability.

At site 4 (in the wetlands) we have increased our scores for in-stream and bank vegetation.

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"Greening Monash"

Monash World Environment Day Winner – 2008

Sustainable Cities Award Finalist - 2014



Over the years this Friends Group has weeded in the Valley Reserve, organised plantings both in Valley Reserve and in the Scotchmans Creek corridor. We have lobbied on behalf of the environment and in particular for the on-going health of the creek corridors. This health depends on the plants that grow there and the animals and birds that make them their home. We lobby for the many children and adults who enjoy walking and playing in this great part of Mount Waverley.

You too play your part in this wonderful work and can get much satisfaction when you see the plants you planted growing up and the amenities that you worked hard to obtain and preserve are still there for all to enjoy.

Our committee has just lost a very long term contributor with the death of Ted Mason. Our committee members get a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction with the work that we do. We would love you to consider joining the committee to help with this vital work. Please contact any of the committee and speak to us about the part you can play in our work.

For the diary - 2016

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National Tree Day
Sunday, 31 July 2016 – 10:00am—1:00pm
Fairway Reserve, Mount Waverley
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 Stephenson's Road and there will be a free lunchtime sausage sizzle.

Progress Report on the Mount Waverley Wetlands
Thursday, 18th August 2016 at 7:30 pm in Alvie Hall.
See the attached flyer for more details

Yarra River Act and Trust
Join the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve on Wednesday, 27th July 2016 at 7:30 pm in Alvie Hall.
Bruce Lindsay will present the final draft submission to the Ministerial Advisory Committee re the proposed Yarra River Act and Trust.