



May 2016

Scotchmans Creek happenings

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The President surveys the Clean Up Australia Day collection

A New Year, but some things stay the same

Our January BBQ was a great success in the open air corner of the new playground in Valley Reserve. The weather was kind and it was great to see the good number of Friends who attended, but we would like to know how well you liked the new location.

The Annual Clean up Australia Day in early March attracted 13 volunteers who picked up 15 bags of rubbish. As the level of water in the wetland ponds was low, we were able to get among the pond-side reeds and melaleucas and clean out the rubbish that had collected there. There were very few drink containers out in the open, so we suspect that a school group had been through earlier. There was the usual continuing problem of plastic bags in various states of breaking up.

Scout, School and University groups

We have been in demand by the local scout

groups with two sessions with joey and cub scouts explaining about how our local creeks function and what small macro invertebrates live in them. We have assisted in a field trip with Avila Secondary College and will be visiting Oakleigh Primary School late in May to talk about the creeks and have a mini Waterwatch session. Also, we took a group of Melbourne University masters students for a tour of Scotchmans Creek and the Mt. Werley wetlands.

C125 Monash proposed planning rule changes

Your committee had made two verbal and one written submission to Council in support of the proposed new zones, Creek Abuttal and Creek Environs. We have been supported by our local councillors in keeping the initial proposal for these two new zones despite changes to the other proposed zones.

"The Annual Clean up Australia Day in early March attracted 13 volunteers who picked up 15 bags of rubbish. As the level of water in the wetland ponds was low, we were able to get among the pond-side reeds and melaleucas and clean out the rubbish that had collected there."

Scotchmans Creek happenings (contd.)

SPARC 1 and 2 in Valley Reserve

After a few set-backs the upgrades to the amenities block are complete and the upgrades to the car parking area are just in need of the final top coat of asphalt in the same colour as the drive-way. This should be laid later this month.

Your committee has had several meetings with council staff to discuss proposed new signage for Valley Reserve, with our last meeting in February. We have also been in consultation about a new Education Hub which will be situated close to the site of the previous playground. The installation of the Education Hub and nature pod structures (shelter, seats, landscaping) is a four-week process with installation to start in mid May. The educational and interpretation signs are currently being fabricated and are on track for installation in June. There will be a bollard at each track junction with directions on

how to navigate within Valley Reserve.

Engaging with the community with the PALS program

In March we led a group of active seniors along Scotchmans Creek and through Valley Reserve. It was a small group but with many familiar faces. The weather was perfect and a pleasant morning was had by all.

Yarra River Keeper and the Proposed Yarra River Trust.

We have been working with the Friends of Damper Creek to assist Andrew Kelly to engage support for the proposed Yarra River Trust. Andrew and Chris Chesterfield gave an excellent presentation to the Friends of Damper Creek and some members of FSCVR about the proposed trust, the history of the Yarra River and the way that man has changed it over the years.

"After a few set-backs the upgrades to the amenities block are complete and the upgrades to the car parking area are just in need of the final top coat of asphalt in the same colour as the drive-way. This should be laid later this month."

Support through grant funds

Plantings in 2016

We have been successful with our grant requests from Melbourne Water.

We have been granted funds to purchase 8,000 plants for our major planting in Fairway Reserve on National Tree Day. This year the date is Sunday 31 July. We also have funds to provide a BBQ for the volunteers. Bring all the family along and help us with this big public planting.

We have been granted funds to purchase 2,000 plants for a planting near Regent Street and funds for 2,000 plants for a planting near Crosby Drive. These plantings will be made in conjunction with Staff from United Energy and the Novotel Group. These companies have supported us for several years and we are very grateful for their assistance.

Your committee has decided to repeat last year's successful planting and fund a Friends planting in Valley Reserve on Sunday 12th June at 9:30 am. We will use Friends funds to purchase about 800 plants that we will put in near the main east west track to the west of the amenities block. Come along and help us with this planting. More details in the flyer.

Monash Community Grants Program 2016-2017

We are very pleased that we have been successful in our request for an in-kind grant to pay for our hire of Alvie Hall. Our grant of \$458.10 will pay for the hire and also for the required insurance cover. We would like to thank the City of Monash for giving us this grant.



Dianella tasmanica
Blue Flax Lily

Waterwatch Results - March—April 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 | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Date | 20/3/16 | 24/4/16 | 20/3/16 | 24/4/16 | 20/3/16 | 24/4/16 | 20/3/16 | 24/4/16 | 20/3/16 | 24/4/16 | 20/3/16 | 24/4/16 |
| Air temperature °C | 15.0 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 14.0 | 12.5 | 15.0 | 13.0 | 15.0 | N/M | N/M | N/M | N/M |
| Water temperature °C | 15.0 | 13.0 | 16.0 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 14.5 | 15.0 | N/M | N/M | N/M | N/M |
| pH | 7.0 E | 7.1 G | 6.9 E | 6.9 E | 6.6 E | 6.8 E | 6.7 E | 6.8 E | N/M | N/M | N/M | N/M |
| Oxygen concentration mg/l | N/M | 6.8 G | N/M | 7.1 G | 6.9 G | N/M | 5.5 F | N/M | N/M | N/M | N/M | N/M |
| Conductivity E.C. | 280 F | 320 F | 530 P | 220 G | 160 G | 210 G | 220 G | 260 F | N/M | N/M | N/M | N/M |
| Turbidity F.T.U | 24 P | 14 E | 10 E | 13 E | 24 P | 23 P | 23 P | 27 P | N/M | N/M | N/M | N/M |
| Phosphorus, soluble ppm | N/M | 0.023 G | N/M | 0.033 F | 0.007 E | N/M | 0.023 G | N/M | N/M | N/M | N/M | N/M |
| Ammonium NH ₄ ppm | 0.03 E | 0.02 E | 0.07 G | 0.00 E | 0.00 E | 0.02 E | 0.00 E | 0.00 E | N/M | N/M | N/M | N/M |
| Stream flow L/s | 12.6 | 8.8 | 7.0 | 30.1 | 71.4 | 32.8 | 1.0 | 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

| Macro Invertebrates - April 2016 | Site 1A Fiander arm YSC010 | Site 1B Crosby arm YSC012 |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Very Sensitive | | |
| <i>Caddisfly larvae</i> | | 4 |
| Sensitive | | |
| <i>Damselfly larvae</i> | 14 | 100 |
| <i>Dragonfly larvae</i> | | 7 |
| <i>Freshwater mussels</i> | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Freshwater Yabbies/Crayfish</i> | | 2 |
| Tolerant | | |
| <i>True bugs (Backswimmers, Water Scorpions, Water Boatmen, Lesser Water Striders, Water Striders/Treaders)</i> | 1 | |
| <i>Leeches</i> | 6 | 5 |
| <i>Snails (freshwater)</i> | 4 | 9 |
| <i>Flatworms</i> | 30 | 5 |
| Very Tolerant | | |
| <i>Mosquito larvae</i> | 1 | |
| <i>Midge larvae</i> | | 1 |
| <i>Freshwater segmented worms</i> | 30 | 5 |
| <i>Blood worms</i> | 30 | 1 |
| Abundance Category | 3 | 3 |
| Total Bug Score | 28 | 42 |
| Stream Condition | Poor | Good |

Waterwatch Reports

March

Upstream degradations were limited to high conductivity in the Crosby arm (Glen Waverley Drain), and a trickle of muddy water entering the Fiander arm (Scotchmans Creek) from the large drain on the east bank.

We have sampled the invertebrates at the downstream sites twice recently, once just before the recent cold change and rain, then at this site visit. On both occasions, we found a cleaner sample, more invertebrates and greater variety in Valley Creek than in Scotchmans Creek. At this visit we found a lot of "mosquito fish" (gambusia) in Scotchmans Creek, but none in Valley Creek only 50 metres away. In all cases, the overall invertebrates quality rating was Poor.

April

This month we obtained unusually good results. The phys./chem. indicators at the upstream sites (1A, 1B) were all in the Fair to Excellent range. Even the phosphate results were better than usual at these sites.

The downstream basic phys./chem. indicators (at sites 2, 3) were in the same range except for Poor turbidity. Valley Creek (site 3) was flowing at a trickle, despite 25mm rain a few days previously, suggesting that ground conditions are still dry.

There was good in-stream vegetation at site 1B (Glen Waverley Drain), and the waterbugs we collected there were unusually good for variety and for the abundance of damselfly larvae, resulting in a Good rating.

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK
AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

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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



The Yarra Riverkeeper Association



We were pleased to welcome the Yarra Riverkeeper, Andrew Kelly, to our BBQ in January. The Yarra Riverkeeper Association, for which Andrew is the spokesperson, is a volunteer organisation which "speaks for the Yarra, Melbourne's own beautiful, resilient, iconic River."

Because Scotchmans Creek is within the Yarra catchment, our group has

been a member of the Yarra Riverkeepers from its initial formation and we support its work. The aim is "to protect and restore the Yarra River and its tributaries, from source to mouth, for current and future generations."

The organisation has been lobbying the state government for many years about the need for unified control of development along the banks of the Yarra River and the "Let's Act for the Yarra" report released by Yarra Riverkeepers and Environmental Justice Australia in 2015 called on the State Government to enact the Yarra River Protection Act it promised pre-election.

The Labor Party promised to introduce the Yarra River Protection Act to protect the river corridor from inappropriate development. It also promised to establish a trust that would develop standardised planning controls for the Yarra and work with agencies to promote the river's amenity.

Andrew and Chris Chesterfield, the Chair of the new Yarra River Protection Ministerial Advisory Committee, are working with the committee which will drive consultation and provide advice on the Yarra River Protection Act, legislating for long-term protection.

For the diary - 2016

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**Melbourne
Water**

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Friends Planting Day - Sunday, 12 June 2016
- from 9:30 am
Valley Reserve, Wills Ave., Mt. Waverley
Mel. Ref. 70:G2

A special planting day to plant about 800 plants that we will put in near the main east west track to the west of the amenities block. Please come along and help us with this planting. Meet at the amenities block.

"Vision for the Yarra" Meeting - with
Friends of Damper Creek - Wednesday, 27
July 2016 - 7:30 pm
Alvie Hall, 314 High Street Road, Mount
Waverley - Mel. Ref. 61:D11

Bruce Lindsay from Environmental Justice Australia will be discussing the "Vision for the Yarra River" to be included in the draft proposal to the Minister's Advisory Com-

mittee to formulate a Yarra River Act and Trust. FSCVR Members and Friends are invited to participate in discussion of the final draft.

National Tree Day - Sunday, 31 July 2016 -
10 am—1 pm
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.