



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter - September 2016

### *We are all planted out !*

A total of 14,900 tube stock planted this year



Avila students at work

Our first planting was in June. With the welcome rain that we have had the planting has been easy. A group of Friends planted 800 plants in Valley Reserve.

July was the time for our planting with plants purchased with our grant funds. United Energy came along to plant 2,000 tube-stock plants next to Regent Street. Two weeks later Novotel provided a group of staff to plant another 2,000 tube-stock plants next to Crosby Drive.

At the end of July on National Tree Day we had our greatest number of volunteers ever, 264, who came to plant in Fairway Reserve just West of Stephenson's Road. Council brought

#### Inside this issue:

We are all planted out	1	along some extra plants which were needed as on the day over 9,000 tube-stock plants were put in the ground. This was an excellent effort.	Students Association came along to help.
Sparc 1 and 2 in Valley Reserve	2	A large group from Sewa International Australia came to help us with the planting. They also	As usual the Scouts cooked up a great sausage sizzle to feed to hungry planters. We had a dry mild day followed by rain the next day – so perfect planting conditions.
Progress Report on the Mt Waverley Wetlands	2	cooked up a great selection of curries which they shared with the hungry planters. The Level Crossing Removal Project team sent ten	For our last planting this year several year 9 students from Avila college spent a morning in early August planting about 1,100 tube-stock plants next to the new Education Hub in Valley Reserve.
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This year saw our 16<sup>th</sup> planting in Fairway Reserve, our 8<sup>th</sup> planting by Crosby Drive and out 7<sup>th</sup> near Regent Street. Over the years our group has obtained grants to purchase nearly 158,000 plants in the Scotchmans Creek corridor.

None of this could take place without the support and assistance of the bush crew from the City of Monash and all the volunteers who come to help us with our planting program.

We would like to thank Melbourne Water for their continuing support for our planting program.

## *Sparc 1 and 2 in Valley Reserve*



*Acacia paradoxa*  
*Hedge Wattle*

The Education Hub near the site of the old playground is now completed. We encourage you to come and see these new features in the Valley Reserve. The photo shows the new fixed information panels and part of the area planted by the Avila students.



We also have a new noticeboard next to the amenities block. This replaces the pin board on the side of the block.

We hope that this noticeboard will be very visible to the many people who come to the Valley Reserve by car.

## *Progress Report on the Mount Waverley Wetlands*

At our August meeting Andrew Downing from Melbourne Water gave an informative presentation about the issues with the wetlands and the litter trap upstream of Blackburn Road.

He is anticipating that work will start late this year to start to investigate the state of the interconnecting pipes in the wetlands. For each pipe this will require draining of the relevant pond followed by clearing out the pipe and completing any replacement or repair work on the pipe. The full extent of the work that is required will not be fully known until the pipes have been exposed and assessed.

One of the aims is to reduce the level of water flowing under Blackburn Road. Andrew remarked that some of the rock weirs needed repair and that a different type of boulder will be used to provide a more stable weir.

Andrew also showed a possible option for a replacement litter trap. The design of the existing trap has not proved to be satisfactory and a new type of trap will be installed. We hope to give you a more specific timetable of works in the next newsletter.

## Waterwatch Results - July–August 2016

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent St		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	24/07/16	21/08/16	24/07/16	21/08/16	24/07/16	21/08/16	24/07/16	21/08/16
Date	24/07/16	21/08/16	24/07/16	21/08/16	24/07/16	21/08/16	24/07/16	21/08/16
Air temperature °C	6	12	6	12	6	12	6	12
Water temperature °C	9.5	11.5	9	11	9	11	8	11
pH	7.6 G	7.4 G	7.3 G	7.0 E	6.9 E	6.9 E	7.0 E	7.2 G
Oxygen concentration mg/l	N/M	9.0 E	N/M	9.5 E	8.8 E	N/M	9.1 E	N/M
Conductivity E.C.	510 P	380 F	290 F	210 G	230 G	190 G	320 F	260 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	31 D	27 P	16 G	13 E	29 P	21 P	21 P	15 G
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	N/M	0.033 F	N/M	0.062 P	0.052 P	N/M	0.010 G	N/M
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.00 E	0.04 E	0.00 E	0.02 E	0.04 E	0.04 E	0.02 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	17.5	19.4	16.8	11.6	96.3	42.0	10.0	14.0
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

### July

The creeks were flowing more strongly than usual, because of the recent rain. This was accompanied by

- Excellent oxygen and ammonium levels.
- Some muddiness (turbidity rated Degraded the Fiander arm of Scotchmans Creek).
- Conductivity was also Poor in the Fiander Arm.
- The phosphate level (measured downstream at site 2) was Poor.

We assessed the habitat at the downstream sites as slightly better than in 2015.

### July – Habitat Assessment

- Site 2 (Scotchmans Creek at Regent St). Verge replanting is ongoing, resulting in good habitat. The willows are dropping old limbs over and into the creek. Rated Fair.
- Site 3 (Valley Creek at Regent St). 24 July 2016: The banks are rather weedy. Overhanging native vegetation is good. Verge vegetation replanting (north side) is good. Rated Good.
- Site 5 (Mt Waverley Wetlands, last pond). Little change to the bank and in-pond vegetation, verge vegetation adjacent to the pond is improving. Rated Fair.

### August

- The creeks are looking good, which is borne out by the test results, except for turbidity in Scotchmans Ck (sites 1a and 2) and phosphorus in Glen Waverley Drain (site 1b).
- There was more litter than usual (but still not a lot) in Valley Ck.
- The willows at Regent St are dropping deteriorated limbs into the creek. Melbourne Water has been notified of this problem and we are hopeful that the broken branches will be removed soon.

## FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

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We're on the Web at  
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"Greening Monash"

Monash World Environment Day Winner – 2008

Sustainable Cities Award Finalist - 2014



## Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. To confirm the minutes of the annual general meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015
2. President's Report
3. Waterwatch Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Committee for 2016/2017
6. Association Statement
7. Any Other Business

Please consider nominating for a position on the committee.

A nomination form is available on the website and on the notice of meeting document.

Please contact any member of the committee to talk about how you could become involved in the work of our group.

## For the diary - 2016

*Printed by courtesy of the City of Monash as a community service. Responsibility for editorial content is solely that of the editor.*



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**Annual General Meeting and presentation:  
Valley Reserve – A Brief History  
Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7:30 pm in Alvie Hall**

Tony Walker will tell the story of how Valley Reserve was preserved and restored as an iconic bushland reserve.

For more details see the flyer.

The presentation will be followed by light refreshments and then the AGM.

**Urban Stormwater Management and Projects**

**Join the Friends of Damper Creek Reserve on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7:30 pm in Alvie Hall.**

Prof. Tim Fletcher will update us on the latest projects

**Discover the New Valley Reserve**

This PALS/Seniors event will be hosted by the Friends and Monash Council.

**Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016** in Valley Reserve. Book through PALS at Monash Council