



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – December 2017

October Annual General Meeting



The meeting began with a very interesting presentation by Robert Mineo, the Arboricultural Coordinator for the City of Monash, on the Monash Street Tree Strategy and other programs that affect trees in Monash. Rob explained many of the issues relating to trees, such as root systems and canopy size.

Following the presentation and refreshments, 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 many 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	Tony Walker
Vice President	Alan Moore
Secretary	Sally Walker
Treasurer	Fred Bullock
Ordinary Committee	Carlie Dann Nira Jayasuriya

We are very pleased to welcome Carlie to the committee. Carlie has been a regular member of our work parties in Valley Reserve and has become part of our Waterwatch team.

There are still vacant places for more ordinary committee members which can be filled during the year. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact any committee member to talk about what we do and how you could help our group.

Grants from Melbourne Water

Each year in October your committee applies for grants from Melbourne Water to fund our planting program for the following year.

I am delighted to report that we have been successful again this year with our grant applications.

We have received a support grant of \$1,100 to assist with expenses and to finance the sausage sizzle that the Scouts provide at National Tree Day.

We have also received project grants to enable us to purchase plants for our planting program:

1. \$3,300 for Regent Street Reserve
2. \$13,200 for National Tree Day at Fairway Reserve
3. \$3,300 for Crosby Drive Reserve

School Class Events

Each year we get many requests from local schools to help run visits to Valley Reserve or to provide sessions by the creek to investigate the macroinvertebrates that live in the water.

With the younger students we usually go for a ramble through Valley Reserve. We ask the students about the animals and birds they might see on the walk while we talk about habitat and the importance of providing places for the creatures to live. We hosted events for Holy Family, Mt Waverley North and Clayton North primary schools this year.

With the older students we go into more detail about the environment and assist with waterwatch sessions with identifying macroinvertebrates in samples we have collected from the creek. These sessions usually take place in the wetlands and also involve the students taking other measurements of the water quality and the general habitat. We hosted events for year 7 (seven classes) and year 10 students from Avila College this year.

In all cases we help the teachers to complete parts of the syllabus for their students. This is real community engagement and we promote the beauty of Valley Reserve and encourage the students to ask their parents to bring them along out of school hours.

Dogs in Valley Reserve

Valley Reserve is a dog on lead area and the inner Woodland track is off limits for all dogs. Increasingly we are seeing dogs off lead in Valley Reserve and more owners not picking up their dog droppings.

The signs prohibiting dogs from the Woodland track have been defaced.

Your committee has sent a letter to Monash Council drawing their attention to this issue and asking for action to be taken to educate dog owners and prevent dogs off lead in Valley Reserve.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – October – November 2017

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	22/10/17	19/11/17	22/10/17	19/11/17	22/10/17	19/11/17	22/10/17	19/11/17
Date	22/10/17	19/11/17	22/10/17	19/11/17	22/10/17	19/11/17	22/10/17	19/11/17
Air temperature °C	12	22	12	22	12	22	12	22
Water temperature °C	15	18	14	18	14	21	14	19
pH	7.1 G	7.2 G	6.6 E	6.7 E	6.7 E	6.6 E	6.8 E	6.8 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l		8.5 E		8.9 E	9.0 E		8.4 E	
Conductivity E.C.	90 E	320 F	160 G	190 G	260 F	130 G	260 F	180 G
Turbidity F.T.U.	24 P	38 D	6 E	13 E	13 E	29 P	19 F	40 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm		0.039 F		0.062 P				
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.20 P	0.04 E	0.25 P	0.06 G	0.07 G	0.02 E	0.08 G	0.02 E
Stream Flow L/s	26.1	12.6	27.8	23.4	70.0	95.6	10.5	2.5
Habitat assessment/50	24 F	24 F	24 F	24 F	24 F	24 F	28 F	28 F

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

October

- The water chemistry indicators were Fair to Excellent except for
 - Turbidity at site 1a (Scotchmans Ck at the upstream site).
 - Ammonium at both upstream sites – usually we get low ammonium measurements, but this is the second consecutive month with higher levels.
 - We could not measure phosphate because of a shortage of a test reagent.
- The invertebrate results were unusually good
 - Valley Creek (site 3) has well vegetated edges which yielded a few sensitive species and large numbers of more tolerant species – these large numbers raised the results rating to Fair.
 - Scotchmans Creek (downstream, site 2) has edge and in-stream vegetation which yielded more variety of the sensitive species and greater abundance generally (including very large numbers of aquatic snails and worms). The combined variety and abundance raised the results rating to Very Good.

November

- Recent thunderstorms brought the creeks up on the previous 2 afternoons, and left a lot of litter on the banks at site 1b (Crosby Arm, Glen Waverley Main Drain).
- The physical / chemical indicators were typical of these creeks,
 - Somewhat muddy except at site 1b,
 - Poor phosphate rating at site 1b.
- The unusually high ammonium results at sites 1a and 1b, measured in the previous 2 months, were not repeated. The ammonium levels were Good or Excellent at all the sites.
- The invertebrate samples were small and lacking variety, especially lacking the usual catch of varieties sensitive to water quality. There is very little mid-stream vegetation at site 1a, but we caught more waterbugs there than from the better vegetation at site 1b.

For access to the full reports, the data collected and the habitat photos, view the waterwatch page on our web site.

The Ted Mason Education Hub

Following the official opening of the Education Hub in late March, we have used this area each time we have hosted a school group in Valley Reserve. The students enjoy sitting on the seating round the hub and the information boards provide a wonderful source of information.

Annual Barbecue on Saturday 27th January, 2018

We will start the new year with our annual BBQ in Valley Reserve. This is a great opportunity to catch up with the other members of FSCVR and speak to your committee.

Details are in the flyer.

Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 4th March, 2018

Bring your children and grand-children along and help us tidy up the Scotchmans Creek corridor by removing the litter that accumulates during the year.

We are now on Facebook

Visit us at facebook.com/fscvr and please “like” us.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 25 th November	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 27 th January, 2018	Annual Barbecue	Valley Reserve from 12 noon
Saturday 24 th February, 2018	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 4 th March, 2018	Clean Up Australia Day	Playground at Regent Street from 9:30 am

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