



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – July 2017

## ***Reminder – New Weekday for Evening Meetings – Wednesday***

Starting in July all our evening meetings at Alvie Hall will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

## ***Alterations to the litter Trap at Blackburn Road and the Mount Waverley Wetlands***



Work on the replacement of the litter trap just upstream of Blackburn Road has been completed. The new litter trap is not working as expected due to large numbers of deciduous leaves getting caught in the vanes. Melbourne Water has planted several plants on the banks adjacent to the trap. We hope to find out more about their plans for revegetation at our August meeting.

Work within the wetlands has been completed. We are yet to get an update from Melbourne Water about what has been done and what has been learnt during the works.

Upgrade works are also being carried out on the dam at the end of the retarding basin:

These involve maintenance works to the spillway on the downstream embankment and the removal of some trees located next to the spillway on the embankment wall. The tree removal is complete.



## *A Plea for Our Creeks*

Have you noticed how quickly the water in Scotchmans Creek rises after heavy rain? There are a number of reasons for this, including climate change, but the main one lies in the changing nature of our suburbs. Over the last 30 years, Monash has become much more closely developed. Where once there was one house in a block, now there are often two or more units, and the houses we are building are much larger, and cover more of their block. Added to this, where once we often had gravel driveways, now most are concreted.

Monash is getting concreted in! The proportion of each suburb covered by impermeable surfaces has grown dramatically. Where once, rain water soaked into lawns and open spaces, and trickled away slowly over a period of many hours, now it runs into stormwater drains immediately, and rushes off to the creek.

Scotchmans Creek and its smaller tributaries are under increasing stress. Very fast water flow such as we experience with such rapid runoff causes increased erosion, local floods when stormwater drains can't cope, and loss of in-stream vegetation that supports aquatic life. Our creeks need help!

Monash Council is aware of this issue, and some of the recent proposals for planning changes are aimed at helping to mitigate the problem.

But there are a few things we can all do:

- don't cover too much of the garden with concrete, tiling and other hard surfaces
- when the time comes, consider replacing a concrete driveway with a permeable one (for example, using hollow blocks)
- plant native shrubs and trees to take up rainwater, and slow surface water flow in open areas
- install rainwater catchment tanks
- terrace steep slopes to avoid rapid runoff and erosion.



When you are planning or remodelling your garden, try to include consideration of how you can reduce or slow water runoff.

If you are extending or remodelling your house, try to be rainwater sensitive!

*The photo is of Scotchmans Creek at Blackburn Road after heavy rain.*

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – May – June 2017

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	21/05/17	18/06/17	21/05/17	18/06/17	21/05/17	18/06/17	21/05/17	18/06/17
Date	21/05/17	18/06/17	21/05/17	18/06/17	21/05/17	18/06/17	21/05/17	18/06/17
Air temperature °C	17	11	17	11	17	13	17	13
Water temperature °C	14	10	14.5	10.5	12	10.5	12	10
pH	7.4 G	7.4 G	7.1 G	7.0 E	6.9 E	6.7 E	7.1 G	7.0 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l		9.4 E		9.0 E	7.7 G		6.9 G	
Conductivity E.C.	670 P	580 P	290 F	280 F	440 F	480 F	500 P	350 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	13 E	10 E	3 E	6 E	14 E	15 G	14 E	14 E
Phosphorus, soluble ppm		0.055 P		0.137 D	0.039 F		0.020 G	
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.09 G	0.03 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.07 G	0.09 G	0.05 G	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	2.9	11.7	4.9	17.5	11.4	18.1	0.1	0.4
Habitat assessment/50	25 F		22 F		27 F	24 F	30 G	28 F

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

### May

- The litter trap construction fence at sites 1a and 1b (upstream) has been removed and we can resume testing at those sites.
- Scotchmans Ck at site 2 had been very muddy for the previous 2 days, but at the time of our testing it was visually clear and the turbidity meter readings were rated Excellent. The in-stream vegetation at this site has a lot of sediment clinging to it, which results in very muddy invertebrates samples.
- Conductivity was high (rated Poor) at sites 1a (Scotchmans Ck, upstream) and 3 (Valley Ck), but they were flowing very slowly and high readings are typical at such times.
- All other water physical/chemistry results were Fair to Excellent.
- The waterbug samples were small, as expected in late autumn, but we found some interesting bugs, including several dragonfly larvae at each site, and a relatively large yabby (7.5 cm) in Valley Ck.

### June

- Habitat assessment:
  - Site 2 (Scotchmans Creek at Regent St): Willows all removed (stags left in place), reducing overhead cover. Banks appear to be unstable. No revegetation as yet under the willows. Some regeneration occurring. In-stream vegetation increased. Rated Fair.
  - Site 3 (Valley Creek at Regent St). More weeds along south bank. Good vegetation on north side, mainly native, unchanged. Rated Fair (downgraded from 2016).
- Comments:
  - The chemical indicators are Fair to Good except for Poor conductivity in the Fiander arm, and (as usual) Poor or Degraded phosphorus in the Fiander and Crosby arms.
  - The habitats at Regent St are downgraded from 2016, due to the temporary damage following the removal of the willows, and increased weediness on the south verge of Valley Creek.

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

## ***Friends Planting on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July***

Don't forget our own planting morning when we will plant 800 plants purchased with Friends funds.

## ***National Tree Day on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July***

Please join us for a great morning's planting and a super sausage sizzle to follow. Details are in the flyer.

## ***Guest Speaker for our August meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August***

Andrew Downing from Melbourne Water will give us a presentation updating us on the various projects that Melbourne Water has undertaken over the last nine months both around Scotchmans Creek and in the Mount Waverley Wetlands. Come and find out just what has been done and what has been achieved. Details are in the flyer.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Friends planting in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 9:20 am
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> July	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	National Tree Day, Fairway Reserve	10 am—1 pm Fairway Reserve, Mount Waverley – Mel. Ref. 70:E5
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Guest Speaker – Andrew Downing, Melbourne Water	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm

### **FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC**

55 Waimarie Drive  
Mount Waverley  
Victoria 3149

Phone: 03 9807 5576  
Mobile: 0477 006 774  
Email: [secretary@scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au](mailto:secretary@scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au)

Incorporation No. A0037872K  
Website: [scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au](http://scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au)

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



Production of this newsletter is funded through Melbourne Water's River Health Incentives Program