



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – March 2017

Willows at Regent Street

For some time your committee has been requesting the removal of the dead and dying willows on the banks of Scotchmans Creek adjacent to Regent Street. Recently one tree had two partially split branches that were overhanging the creek and then another willow split at the base so that the three trunks were lying on the ground.



Now Melbourne Water has removed all but one of the willows next to the creek at Regent Street. The remaining willow will be removed soon but by a different crew as it is close to the path and local houses. They have left several of the trunks as stags which will provide nest sites for local birds and animals. The trunks have all been poisoned so that there will be no regrowth. The ground underneath is still needing a lot of tidying up but the bush

crew will be working hard to rehabilitate the area and make part of it suitable for our planting in July. We are delighted that now, with Council, we can plan for a proper revegetation of this area in the knowledge that the plants will have a chance to grow and will not be swept by the hanging fronds of the willows.

Melbourne Water Grants

We have been successful again in 2017!

Melbourne Water has given us funds for 2000 plants for our Crosby Drive revegetation project (stage 9); funds for 2000 plants for our Regent Street revegetation project (stage 8); and funds for 8000 plants for our National Tree Day planting at Fairway Reserve (stage 17).

Over the years we have planted 157,810 plants purchased with grant funds.

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

Finally work has started on the replacement of the litter trap just upstream of Blackburn Road. The old litter trap has been mostly dismantled and we are waiting for the installation of the new litter trap to take place.

The works in the top pond of the wetlands resulted in a much lower water level in the creek and under Blackburn Road. The top pond has been de-silted and now has been allowed to fill up again, thus returning the water levels to the previous levels. There have been earth works next to the top pond and one of the rock weirs is undergoing repairs. Hopefully a better water transportation system is being installed.

There will also be work carried out on the dam at the end of the retarding basin. The upgrade works will involve:

- Maintenance works to the spillway on the downstream embankment
- Removal of some trees located next to the spillway on the embankment wall

We will keep you informed as works progress.

Annual barbecue in January

About 35 members and friends attended our annual barbecue at the end of January. This year the date coincided with the start of the Chinese New Year and the playground was much less crowded than it was last year. We had a lovely mild day and were able to set ourselves up in the main picnic area with good shade. We had great interest from four of our Monash councillors and Michael Gidley who all came along to see what our group does and to find out our concerns. It was encouraging to see such a great turnout and to talk to so many of our members and friends.

Monash Planning Scheme Amendment C125

The Independent Planning Panel has reported and the Monash Council will consider the Panel's recommendations at their Council Meeting on Tuesday 28th February.

Your committee has made several submissions to both Council and the Panel aimed at ensuring that property developments that abut or are close to the Valley Reserve and the Scotchmans Creek corridor do not affect public enjoyment of those areas or local environmental values.

Proposed Development of Aged Care Facility at 35-39 Regent Street

Your committee has sent an objection to VCAT regarding the Japara Healthcare proposal to build a very large aged care facility on the property. We have based our objections on the detrimental effect the development would have on Valley Reserve.

Waterwatch Reports – January – February 2017

January

- Creek flows were low, despite a 26 mm rain event 2~3 days previously.
 - Two chemistry results reflect the low flow, conductivity rated Poor in the Fiander Arm (typical for this site at low flow), and oxygen rated Degraded in Valley Ck (which was only trickling between pools).
 - Phosphate was rated Poor to Fair, as usual at any time.
- There was much more in-stream vegetation than usual at site 2. The bug sample included an abundance of tadpoles and gambusia, also some very sensitive waterbugs and a 9 cm yabby, and the quality rating was Good (usually it is Poor).
- Valley Ck (site 3) did not yield such a variety of waterbugs and was rated Poor.
- Some Scotchmans Ck Trail users reported a sewage flow and large puddle across the trail in the wetlands. We saw this and reported it via the Melbourne Water number (131 722) which is on the signpost near Scammel Close. This spill was not obvious in the downstream ammonium test. A Yarra Water crew was on site later in the day.

February

- Dredging and rockwork repairs have commenced in the wetlands, but this has not affected our measurements (at site 2) because the flow is bypassing the work areas.
- The willows have been mostly removed from the Regent St area (sites 2, 3) but this work has not affected our measurements.
- Streamflows were minimal, with typical summertime water quality results.
 - All but Valley Ck appeared very clear, with Fair to Excellent water quality results except for Degraded conductivity at site 1a and Degraded phosphorus at site 1b.
 - Flow in Valley Ck (site 3) was a trickle, with a faint brown stain and a Degraded turbidity result, but otherwise Fair to Excellent ratings.
- The waterbug samples (from the upstream sites) showed a good variety of creatures (ranging from sensitive to tolerant of water quality) but were rated Poor because the quantities were small.

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



Water Boatman



Yabby

Clean up Australia Day

Sunday 5th March is Clean Up Australia Day and we will be hoping for a good turnout at our registration site at the playground at the foot of Regent Street.

We will be there from 9:30 to 12 noon. So please come and help us clean up the Scotchmans Creek corridor.

Guest Speaker for our March meeting on Thursday 16th



We are pleased that Jacque Quaine from the Monash State Emergency Services will give us a presentation on the work that the SES does and on how we can all prepare for wild, wet and windy weather.

See the attached flyer for more information.

How many of you remember the floods of February 2005?

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 25 th February	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 5 th March	Clean Up Australia Day	Register at the Regent Street Playground from 9:30 am
Thursday 16 th March	Guest speaker - SES	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Saturday 25 th March	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm

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