



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – May 2017

Opening of the Ted Mason Education Hub in Valley Reserve

We had a sunny afternoon on Wednesday 22nd March for the official opening ceremony of the Ted Mason Education Hub.

Mayor Rebecca Paterson spoke about Ted's considerable contribution to the City of Monash in so many ways and declared her pleasure in opening this memorial to Ted. It was great to see so many

members of Ted's family present. The Friends Group was well represented along with the Monash bush crew and Council officers.



This education hub will continue to be a wonderful resource for all visitors to the Valley Reserve as well as a great focal point for school groups when they visit the reserve.

Mayor Rebecca Paterson and Ted Mason's son at the unveiling ceremony.

PALS Event on Monday 20th March

Exploring Scotchmans Creek with the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.

Ten Monash senior citizens joined four members of the Friends Group to explore the section of Scotchmans Creek from the Huntingdale wetlands to Park Road. We then walked into Brickmakers Park for morning tea and then back through Scotchmans Run Reserve to our cars. Despite the light drizzle, an enjoyable morning was had by all. For many of the participants this was the first time that they had visited this section of Scotchmans Creek despite living near by.

The Planting Season Approaches

We will start our planting season with a planting for Friends only in Valley Reserve on Sunday 2nd July. We will be planting 800 tubestock plants close to the main path west of the Amenities Block. These plants will be purchased with Friends funds. So please come and join us for a great morning's work with the promise of more flowers in Spring.

National Tree Day will be on Sunday 30th July. Please put these dates in your calendar now.

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 the installation of the new litter trap is taking place.

Initially works in the top pond of the wetlands resulted in a much lower water level in the creek and under Blackburn Road. We believe that the top pond has been de-silted. There has been much activity in the rock weirs with rearranging the rocks and setting them back to where they were when the wetlands were constructed.

Work is also being carried out on the dam at the end of the retarding basin. At present this is concerned with sealing in asbestos that has been found in the spillway.

The upgrade works involve:

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

Clean up Australia Day

Sunday 5th March was Clean Up Australia Day. Our registration point was at Regent Street and we were very pleased to have 32 volunteers come to lend a hand. We had an excellent day with 16 bags of rubbish collected. We owe a big thank you to the group of scouts and their leaders who tackled Valley Reserve.

Willows at Regent Street – All Gone!

The final willow has been removed and the stags have been poisoned and left as habitat.

We will keep you informed as plans progress for rehabilitating the area. This will include a planting in July of 2000 plants funded by one of our Melbourne Water grants. This planting will be carried out by staff from United Energy who have helped us with a number of plantings over the past few years.

Monash Council staff will be working hard to plan and prepare for additional planting.

Waterwatch Reports – March – April 2017

March

- Recent and ongoing creek improvement works may have influenced these results:
 - The litter trap just downstream of sites 1a, 1b is being reconstructed. Access to these sites is temporarily fenced off, so samples for site 1a (Scotchmans Creek east of Blackburn Road) were obtained 20 metres upstream of the usual location and for 1b (Glen Waverley Drain) were obtained 200 metres upstream of the usual location.
 - The wetlands upstream pond has been dredged and low streamflow through the ponds has been re-established after some years when low flows went directly into the bypass pipe. The re-exposed pond banks smelled rancid for about a week afterwards.
 - The willows beside Scotchmans Creek at Regent Street (site 2) have been removed or cut back to “stags”. Stream damage is limited to a short section of bank where machines were moved across the creek. The pool where we take waterbug samples now receives more sunshine.
- An unusually large number of the water quality results were poor (more than expected for summer conditions).

April

- Work to construct a litter trap prevented our access to sites 1a and 1b, so samples for site 1a were obtained 20 metres upstream of the usual location and for 1b were obtained 200 metres upstream of the usual location. We did not sample invertebrates at sites 1a and 1b as scheduled.
- All the creeks were flowing, following moderate rainfall. Scotchmans Ck was flowing noticeably more strongly downstream at site 2 (Regent St) than the total flow upstream at sites 1a and 1b (Fiander and Crosby arms). This is probably the wetlands delaying the flow from the 15 mm rainfall in the previous 3 days.
- All the water analysis results were Fair to Excellent, except
 - A Poor phosphorus result in the Crosby Arm (site 1b, Glen Waverley Drain). Note that phosphorus results in these creeks are usually mid-range.
 - A Poor ammonium result in Scotchmans Ck, downstream at site 2 (Regent St). This is unusual and may be a result of dredging and other earthmoving work in the wetlands just upstream.

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



Mosquito larva



Non biting midge larva

Guest Speaker for our May meeting on Thursday18th

We are pleased that Trish McGee the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Monash will give us a presentation on Monash Council's strategy for a Sustainable Monash and how we can all work towards that goal. Please come along for what should be a most informative evening.

Monash Community Grants Program 2017/2018

We are very pleased to report that we have been successful again in our application for an in-kind grant to cover the cost of our hall hire for the next financial year. We thank the City of Monash for this very useful grant.

In the hope that we will be able to attract more members to our evening meeting, we have changed our day of the week for our meetings. Starting with our July meeting we will hold our meetings on the **third Wednesday of each month** except December and January.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 29 th April	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Thursday 18 th May	Guest speaker – Trish McGee – “How Can We Reach a Sustainable Monash”	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Saturday 27 th May	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 24 th June	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 2 nd July	Friends planting in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 9:20 am
Sunday 30 th July	National Tree Day, Fairway Reserve	10 am—1 pm Fairway Reserve, Mount Waverley – Mel. Ref. 70:E5

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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