



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter – October 2017

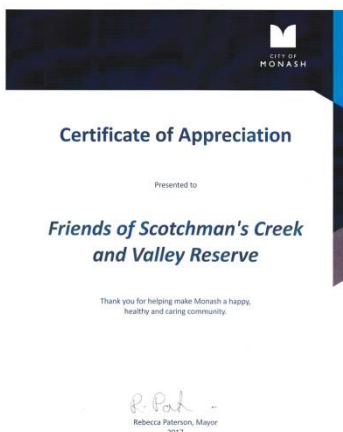
### **Reminder – Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Come to our Annual General Meeting and hear about the work that your Friends Group has been involved in over the last year.

Consider joining the committee so that you can help to plan and organise these activities.

### **Vale Michael Marmach**

Michael joined FSCVR when the amalgamated group started in 1998. Prior to that time he was a member of the Friends of Valley Reserve. He was a fount of knowledge on local plants, and a regular at our work parties, planting days and meetings. We will all sorely miss him.



### **Our efforts have been recognised**

We are very pleased that the City of Monash has acknowledged the work that your Friends Group has completed this year and has sent us this Certificate of Appreciation. With four planting sessions, seven schools/scouts/uni visits and our regular work party and waterwatch activities we have been well occupied this year.

### **Report from Melbourne Water**

At our meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August Andrew Downing and Nathan Mattinson gave us an informative presentation on the key projects that Melbourne Water has undertaken over the last year in our area.

#### **Litter trap upstream of Blackburn Road:**

The previous litter trap has been replaced by a modified Baramy Dual Vane litter trap. However, the vanes are very quickly getting clogged with leaves so that any moderate to high flow overtops

the vanes and the litter bypasses the litter trap and is carried downstream to the Blackburn Road culvert (“dam”).

More time is needed (i.e. rain events) to allow the Melbourne Water maintenance team to record data and observations.

Potential future modifications:

- Increase vane spacing
- Increase vane height (but it is necessary to ensure that upstream flood levels are not increased)

#### **Issues at Blackburn Road: Blackburn Road flooding**

Blackburn Road “dam” is largely caused by backwatering from the wetland (inlet structure; and flows across the site)

- It floods during storm events
- Litter builds up in the creek (due to “dam” at Blackburn Rd)
- Road culvert isn’t designed to sit wet (long-term issue)

#### **Mount Waverley Wetlands / Retarding Basin rectification:**

Investigations are continuing related to the outcomes of the litter trap and wetland projects.

In addition to outcomes of the above project Melbourne Water could consider modifying the wetland inlet (free flows VS sediment/litter capture)

#### **Improvements have been made but there are many challenges:**

For example:

- Site constraints (sewers, water mains & other assets) impacted the design, and subsequent flow of flood waters (too slow)
- Site constraints also limit the options for enhancing the site
- Many stakeholders involved (internal & external): *E.g. Blackburn Road & culvert – lots of assets here, managed by Melbourne Water, VicRoads and Council*
- Heavily urbanised catchment (high flows, littering) = more challenges
- Given all of this, the next steps are for the broader MW wetland rectification program to determine the next steps (e.g. may require reconfiguration, relocation, or other works – or just focus on fixing the Blackburn Rd and litter trap issue)

#### **Ongoing maintenance**

- Monthly (often more) litter trap clean-up
- Monthly vegetation management at Waverley Road RB / Wetlands

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – August – September 2017

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	20/08/17	24/09/17	20/08/17	24/09/17	20/08/17	24/09/17	20/08/17	24/09/17
Date	20/08/17	24/09/17	20/08/17	24/09/17	20/08/17	24/09/17	20/08/17	24/09/17
Air temperature °C	10	15	10	15	10	15	10	15
Water temperature °C	11	14	10	13	9.5	14	8.5	13
pH	6.9 E	7.0 E	6.9 E	6.7 E	7.0 E	7.0 E	6.9 E	6.7 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	11.5 E	8.0 E	11.5 E	9.0 E				
Conductivity E.C.	160 G	180 G	240 G	160 G	300 F	290 F	280 F	460 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	116 D	43 D	13 E	41 D	31 D	37 D	25 P	30 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.026 F	0.114 D	0.055 P	0.176 D				
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.02 E	0.50 D	0.04 E	0.50 D	0.01 E	0.25 P	0.00 E	0.10 F
Stream Flow L/s	56.1	35.3	38.5	31.5	78.8	109.6	1.7	12.6
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

### August

- The creeks were flowing more strongly than usual, and the Fiander arm (site 1a, Scotchmans Creek at Crosby Drive) was quite muddy (and of course so was the creek downstream at site 2).
- Most physical and chemical indicators were Fair to Excellent, except for the high turbidity at sites 1a and 2 (Degraded rating) and a Poor rating for phosphorus at site 1b (Crosby arm, Glen Waverley Main Drain).
- The oxygen levels at the upstream sites (1a, 1b) were Excellent, which is not unusual. On this visit, the titration results were both 11.5 mg/L which is extraordinarily high, corresponding to 102~104% saturation at the measured water temperature (10~11 deg C).

### September

- The previous week had several days over 20 deg. and no rain until a cold change brought 1 mm of rain 1 hour before our site visit, causing fast flows during our visit.
- All the creeks appeared cloudy and several of the quality measurements gave Degraded results:
  - The turbidity measurements all rated Degraded.
  - The ammonium levels were unusually high, rated Degraded at the upstream sites, Poor at site 2 (Scotchmans Creek downstream at Regent St), and Fair in Valley Ck (site 3).
  - The phosphorus ratings were Degraded (only the upstream sites were measured).
- Conductivity was Good at the upstream sites, but only Fair downstream.
- All the oxygen and pH ratings were Excellent.
- We resumed waterbug sampling after the winter break, but the catches were small and lacking variety, resulting in Poor ratings. Contributing causes would be the previous cold weather, and sparsity of the aquatic vegetation (especially at site 1a).

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

## ***Guest Speaker for our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October***

Rob Mineo, the arboricultural coordinator from the City of Monash, will give us a presentation on Street trees and other trees in the City of Monash. Come and find out just what plans are in hand. Details are in the flyer.

Rob's presentation will be followed by refreshments and then our Annual General Meeting

## ***PALS / Seniors Week – Friday 27th October:***

### ***Learn about the flowers and animals of Valley Reserve with the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve***

We will be hosting this event in Valley Reserve as part of the Seniors Week program.

Details are in the PALS booklet and booking is with the Council on 9518 3555.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Annual General Meeting Guest Speaker – Rob Mineo	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	PALS/Seniors in Valley Reserve	Meet at the Education Hub at 10 am. Bookings with Council.
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm

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