



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – August 2018

President's Report

Last month I went for a walk down Scotchmans Creek from Crosby Court to Regent Street with our FSCVR River Officer, Carlie Dann. We intend to complete the walk down to Stanley Avenue (just upstream from the Huntingdale Wetlands), next month.

We will be posting the full report on our web site once we have put all our findings together – later in the year. I'll let all our members know when that happens.

So what were our impressions.

Firstly, we must acknowledge the hard work done by Monash Council (and FSCVR) in rehabilitating the creek corridor. With some exceptions, there is a continuous corridor of good bushland along the creek. That said, there are still some problem areas. The stretch near the pedestrian bridge at the end of Crosby Court, on the North side of the creek, has suffered from repeated disturbance, and many native plants have been lost. The area is now very weedy and needs some TLC and replanting.

The Mount Waverley Wetlands are still not functioning as intended, and water flow is largely through the underground pipe rather than through the ponds. This makes the ponds vulnerable to drying out in any period without rain, rather than being replenished by the stream.

Erosion is a major and worsening problem in the catchment area East of Blackburn Road. Banks are being carved away, and slumping, and exposed plant roots are very apparent. The erosion seems to be driven by two factors:

- (i) The increased coverage of land by concrete (eg intensive housing development, driveways etc) means that rainfall is released immediately into the stormwater system rather than more gradually after being held in lawns and other green areas
- (ii) The increased incidence of major rain events – we are not getting more rain overall, but we seem to be getting it in heavy bursts more often than gentle showers

Litter is a major problem. I can tell exactly how far the water rose at the last rain by the tideline of litter left along the creek. Much of it is plastic – bottles and bags. Bags containing dog droppings are also common. Some dog owners appear to think their job is done as soon as they bag their dog droppings, and leave the bag wherever they wish.

On a happier note, there is a wide variety of birdlife along the creek, frogs seem to have made a recovery (although their numbers vary widely from year to year), and Rakali (native water rats) have been sighted along the creek.

The stretch of the creek along Regent Street, where the willow trees were removed last year, is starting to recover and regrow well. We have worked with the Holmesglen TAFE to plant a further 2000 plants in that area, and there are good prospects for the creation of an excellent bushland corridor. We are discussing with Monash Council, plans for the replanting and rehabilitation of the West side of the creek to match the East side.

On the West side of the creek near Regent Street, there has been illegal dumping of tree mulch – we have been in touch with council and hope for some action on that front.

I will give an update on the second part of our survey, later in the year.

Tony Walker

Planting Program for 2018

We started our program with a Friends planting in Valley Reserve on Sunday 17th June. Eight Friends turned up in wet weather gear despite the rain to start our planting. We put about 500 plants in and planted the remaining 300-400 plants at the June work party.



In July some staff from Novotel helped us plant 2000 tubestock plants next to the Glen Waverley Drain upstream of Crosby Drive. The following week students from Holmesglen TAFE helped us plant 2000 tubestock plants next to Regent Street. Both of these plantings were financed by Melbourne Water grant funds.

Finally our big planting was on National Tree Day on Sunday 29th July. Despite heavy rain overnight the weather turned sunny and nearly 160 members of the community came

along to plant 8 000 plants in Fairway Reserve. The scouts put on their usual great sausage sizzle for the workers and the plants were all in the ground by just after 1 pm.

We thank Melbourne Water for the grants that made the purchase of these plants possible. We also thank the Monash bush crew without whose help none of this would occur.

Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy

Your committee has made a submission to Council in support of this strategy. Please go on-line and take part in the Community Survey so that your voice can be heard.

www.monash.vic.gov.au/urban-landscape

Waterwatch Results & Reports – June – July 2018

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	24/06/18	22/07/18	24/06/18	22/07/18	24/06/18	22/07/18	24/06/18	22/07/18
Date	24/06/18	22/07/18	24/06/18	22/07/18	24/06/18	22/07/18	24/06/18	22/07/18
Air temperature °C	10	11.5	10	11.5	10	9	10	9
Water temperature °C	10	10.5	10	10	10	9	9	9
pH	6.9 E	7.1 G	6.8 E	6.8 E	6.7 E	6.7 E	6.8 E	6.7 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	8.4 E		8.6 E			8.0 E		8.6 E
Conductivity E.C.	300 F	430 F	250 F	210 G	340 F	280 F	260 F	170 G
Turbidity F.T.U.	28 P	21 P	18 F	20 P	40 D	24 P	12 E	17 G
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.049 F		0.098 P			0.088 P		0.046 F
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.08 G	0.40 D	0.13 F	0.00 E	0.30 P	0.30 P	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	14.8	4.5	7.4	8.7	14.7	21.6	1.3	0.5
Habitat assessment/50	21 F	21 F	27 F	27 F	24 F	26 F	28 F	28 F

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

June

- The habitat assessment at site 1a (Fiander arm) shows a worrying trend of sand and gravel deposition along the banks, due to upstream erosion, and surface transport of loose material from tracks and paths adjacent to the creek. This has caused degradation of the local indigenous vegetation. The overall habitat assessment reflected this.
- The habitat assessment of site 1b shows a gradually maturing native vegetation and some recovery of in-stream cover and vegetation.
- Turbidity at the downstream (Regent Street) site 2 was high – the water was visibly cloudy. Cause is unknown, but the high turbidity was not present at the upstream sites.
- Valley Creek (site 3) was very clear.
- Dissolved oxygen and pH readings were excellent but conductivity and phosphorus readings were fair to poor.

July

- Habitat assessments were made of sites 2 and 3 (Scotchmans Creek and Valley Creek at Regent St).
 - The native vegetation along Scotchmans Creek is recovering after removal of the willows. 2000 more native plants were put in during a recent working bee. Localised bank erosion is occurring. This resulted in a minor reduction of the score to 26.
 - The south bank of Valley Creek remains very weedy, while the verge behind it has improving native vegetation. The north side has good native vegetation. The resultant score was unchanged.
- The water chemistry test results were Fair to Excellent except for
 - Poor phosphorus level at site 2 (Scotchmans Creek).
 - Degraded ammonium level at site 1a (Scotchmans Creek upstream) and Poor at site 2 (Scotchmans Creek downstream).
 - Poor turbidity levels at all sites except Valley Ck.

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 August meeting – Floods and Drains

Hear how the City of Monash is updating its storm water drains to cope with flooding. For details see the flyer attached to the June newsletter.

Annual General Meeting – 17th October

The 20th Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc. will be held on Wednesday 17th October, 2018, at 7:30 pm at Alvie Hall.

The Notice and Agenda for this meeting is attached to this newsletter.

We have several vacant positions on the committee. Please consider if you would be interested in assisting your Friends Group by nominating for the committee. We would welcome your contacting any members of the current committee to discuss what being on the committee means. There is a nomination form below the agenda on the flyer.

Membership renewals

Membership renewals become due on 30th August. The Application/Renewal form is on the back page of the June newsletter and is on the web site. Please help to support our work by joining us or renewing your membership. Note that you can pay your subscription by bank transfer – details on the renewal form.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday 15 th August	Presentation on “Floods and Drains”	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Saturday 25 th August	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 29 th September	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Wednesday 17 th October	Annual General Meeting	Alvie Hall at 7:30 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@scotchmancreekfriends.org.au

Incorporation No. A0037872K
Website: scotchmancreekfriends.org.au
Visit us at [facebook.com/fscvr](https://www.facebook.com/fscvr) and please “like” us.

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