



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – February 2018

President's Report

First of all, let me say that it was unfortunate that we were obliged to cancel the annual BBQ on 27th January. The weather forecast was truly appalling – 39 degrees with high humidity, and although the temperature didn't get quite that high, I think we'd all agree that it wasn't a good day to be outside!

Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve have had another successful year. As you will probably know, we have continued our planting program, with another 12 000 plants put in along the creek, and 800 in Valley Reserve. We have planted over 160 000 plants along the creek over the last 20 years!

We have lobbied Monash Council for Valley Reserve to be designated formally as a 'conservation reserve' consistent with Monash Council's environmental strategy. Council has endorsed our proposal in principle. If successful, this should provide additional protection for the high conservation value bushland in the reserve, and protect against inappropriate facilities being installed.

Our waterwatch program is still going strong. We have an experienced waterwatch 'crew' and a number of students – undergraduate and post-graduate, have worked with us over the years. We produce a report every month (except December), which you can read in full on the web site.

A continuing problem along the creek is the volume of litter. Litter is both unsightly and degrading to the environment, and after every rain event, we see huge volumes of plastic bags, bottles, cans etc. An increasing problem is also caused by builders' waste material.

Pollution in the creek is still an intermittent problem – we still need to get the message across that whatever gets into the stormwater system will wind up in the creek.

On a more cheerful note, our latest waterwatch session provided near record numbers and variety of waterbugs from the Regent Street reach of Scotchmans Creek. Waterbugs are a good indicator of the overall stream environment quality, and that stretch of the creek habitat seems to be improving. East of Blackburn Road though, the creek is still poor in water vegetation, which is affecting habitat quality.

I'd like to thank our hard working committee, our councillor supporters, Rebecca Patterson and Josh Fergeus who have been most supportive and helpful, all the Monash council staff we work with especially (but not only) the 'bush crew', and you – our members and supporters. Without all of you, we could not continue.

There is much more I could say, but let me just wish everyone a happy 2018, and keep up the good work!.....Tony Walker



Scotchmans Creek Initial Assessment for 2018

Carlie Dann, our newest committee member, has assessed the state of Scotchmans Creek from Stanley Avenue to Holmesglen Tafe Waverley Campus.

Major issues:

Dogs off lead, barking at and chasing ducks out of the creek.

Pollution hanging in trees (soft plastics, plastic tapes), on ground/creek bank and in water (plastics, polystyrene, confectionary wrappers, coffee cups, dog poo bags and dog poo, glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminium cans).

Certain parts of creek bed are quite bare, with minimal mid-storey shrubs, or covered with weeds. Large sections of the right creek bank (from downstream to upstream) are bare and lacking mid-storey shrubs. Canopy cover in some areas is either lacking or dead.

Dragonflies, butterflies and other insects were present near the creek. Lots of frogs could be heard at the wetlands where there were also dragonflies and white butterflies.

Most common issues along entire creek include:

- pollution/litter (the litter trap had more organic matter (leaves) than actual rubbish)
- weeds
- most people do the right thing and have their dogs on lead however there were a couple of people who had dogs off lead



Waterwatch Results & Reports – January 2018

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm	YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
Date	21/01/2018	21/01/2018	21/01/2018	21/01/2018
Air temperature °C	27	27	26	26
Water temperature °C	23	22	22	21
pH	6.9 E	6.5 E	6.6 E	6.7 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l			2.8 D	2.1 D
Conductivity E.C.	490 F	150 G	330 F	1000 D
Turbidity F.T.U.	16 G	9 E	11 E	35 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm			0.108 D	0.085 P
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.03 E	1.50 D	0.35 P	0.90 D
Stream Flow L/s	1.1	14.7	9.5	0.0
Habitat assessment/50	24 F	24 F	24 F	28 F

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

Macro Invertebrates Results

	YSC020 Site 2 Regent St	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
Very Sensitive		
<i>Caddisfly larvae</i>	0	1
Sensitive		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	50	8
<i>Dragonfly larvae</i>	3	2
<i>Freshwater mussel</i>	10	0
<i>Aquatic caterpillars (Lepidoptera)</i>	1	0
<i>Freshwater Yabbies/Crayfish</i>	1	8
Tolerant		
<i>True Bugs</i>	4	2
<i>Leeches</i>	50	0
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	50	25
<i>Flatworms</i>	100	10
Very Tolerant		
<i>Mosquito larvae</i>	0	2
<i>Midge larvae</i>	1	0
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	10	10
<i>Blood worms</i>	10	50
Abundance Category	4	3
Total Bug Score	44	38
Stream Condition	Very Good	Good

Water Quality Results

The water chemistry and flows of these creeks are often only fair in summer.

- However the Glen Waverley Main Drain (site 1b) was flowing much more than the adjacent Scotchmans Ck (site 1a), more than expected after the preceding dry week, and clear-looking.
- ❖ The chemistry revealed ammonium at 4 times the Degraded level.
- The ammonium level at the downstream site (site 2 at Regent St) was also high, rated Poor.
- Valley Ck was a tiny trickle between pools. All the chemical indicators (except pH) were Poor or Degraded.
- Both downstream sites had low oxygen levels.

Despite the poor water chemistry ratings, the invertebrates samples at both sites at Regent St have achieved spectacularly good ratings.

- There was plenty of vegetation in Scotchmans Ck (site 2), especially in the wide shallow areas, and the sample contained an abundance of creatures, also with a good variety covering the entire range of tolerances to water quality. The rating was Very Good, possibly for the first time ever.
- Valley Ck (site 3) was scarcely flowing but the pools had enough edge vegetation for sampling. The sample had good variety but low abundance of creatures, resulting in a Good rating.

Clean up Australia Day

Sunday 4th 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.

The new litter trap upstream of Blackburn Road is catching some litter but each significant rain event pushes the floating plastic litter downstream to get caught in vegetation on the banks of the creek or the reeds in the wetlands.

Guest Speaker for our March meeting on Wednesday 21st March

Peter Uhlherr joined our Friends Group recently but he is no stranger to Valley Reserve as he has been photographing the fungi in the reserve for many years. He will give us an illustrated talk on the amazing variety of large and small fungi that can be found in the reserve.

See the attached flyer for more information.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 24 th February	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 4 th March	Clean Up Australia Day	Register at the Regent Street Playground from 9:30 am
Wednesday 21 st March	"The Fungi of Valley Reserve" – a presentation by our member Peter Uhlherr	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Saturday 31 st March	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm

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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