



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter – November 2018

### *October Annual General Meeting*



The meeting began with an excellent presentation by Dr Joab Wilson from Holmesglen Tafe. Joab talked about the changing place of birds within cities: how scavengers can do well around humans – especially introduced birds; but how small native birds can have difficulties with lack of suitable dense habitat for safety and nesting. He mentioned the place that bird baths and nest boxes can play in maintaining populations of birds in our gardens.

Following the presentation and refreshments, the meeting continued with the retiring President, Tony Walker, giving us an overview of the year's activities.

The Waterwatch coordinator, Fred Bullock, reviewed the group's efforts for the year, noting the many scout, school and uni groups that we have assisted.

The Treasurer, Fred Bullock, presented his financial report which was accepted.

The committee stood down and the incoming committee was elected:

President	Tony Walker
Vice President	Kallista Sears
Secretary	Alan Moore
Treasurer	Sally Walker
Ordinary Committee	Fred Bullock Carlie Dann Rex Dusting Kelvin Ferguson

We are very pleased to welcome Rex and Kelvin to the committee. They have both been regular members of our work parties in Valley Reserve. Kallista joined the committee earlier this year and we value her membership of the Monash Environment Advisory Committee.

There are still vacant places for more ordinary committee members which can be filled during the year. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact any committee member to talk about what we do and how you could help our group.

## ***President's Report***

Well summer is almost upon us, and 2018 is coming to an end.

At our AGM, I presented an overview of the things FSCVR has been doing this year. For a small organisation, we do cover a lot of ground, and I'd like to thank all of the committee for the hard work they've put in during the year. I'd also like to thank again all of our members and supporters who make our work possible.

At the AGM, I also reflected on the fact that Friends of Scotchmans Creek was founded 20 years ago. They joined with Friends of Valley Reserve in 2001. Together, we have achieved a lot over the last 17 years, and I believe that our part of Mount Waverley has benefitted from our work and influence.

You will have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, that we are welcoming two new members to the committee, Rex Dusting and Kelvin Ferguson. They join Kallista Sears who joined the committee in August 2018. It's great to have these enthusiastic new faces and they will provide valuable energy and expertise to FSCVR.

We have been in contact with Monash Council to encourage them to proceed with the removal of some exotic trees along the creek between Crosby Drive and Waverley Road. These trees, including an Oak, Cypress and Pine trees, suppress native plants around them and have adversely affected plantings near them. Hopefully, this work will be carried out in 2019, and we can restore natural bushland to the area, consistent with adjacent stretches of the creek.

As you will be aware, we will be holding our annual get-together and BBQ on 1st December this year. Hopefully this will suit all our members (and visitors). We had been experiencing increasing difficulty in getting space at the end of January – often on the Australia Day weekend when Valley Reserve is very busy. By going before school holidays start, we think we'll have more space.

After the Barbecue, we go into summer recess until our first waterwatch session of 2019 in late January.

I wish all FSCVR members and supporters a very happy holiday break, and best wishes for 2019.

Tony Walker  
President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

## ***Grants from Melbourne Water***

Each year in October your committee applies for grants from Melbourne Water to fund our planting program for the following year.

We hope to receive project grants to enable us to purchase plants for our planting program:

1. \$3,300 for Regent Street Reserve
2. \$13,200 for National Tree Day at Fairway Reserve
3. \$3,300 for Crosby Drive Reserve

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – October – November 2018

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	28/10/18	18/11/18	28/10/18	18/11/18	28/10/18	18/11/18	28/10/18	18/11/18
Date	28/10/18	18/11/18	28/10/18	18/11/18	28/10/18	18/11/18	28/10/18	18/11/18
Air temperature °C	13	18	13	18	13	16.5	13	17
Water temperature °C	13	15.5	13	15.5	13	16.5	11	15
pH	7.5 G	7.6 G	7.1 G	7.0 E	6.9 E	7.0 E	6.9 E	6.9 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l		8.7 E		8.5 E	7.4 G		6.1 G	
Conductivity E.C.	1020 D	670 P	240 G	240 G	470 F	380 F	300 F	340 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	9 E	14 E	8 E	11 E	14 E	20 P	23 P	43 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm		0.068 P		0.189 D	0.108 D		0.036 F	
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.00 E	0.02 E	0.00 E	0.08 G	0.15 F	0.20 P	0.02 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	0.8	0.8	5.0	4.6	5.8	9.8	0.0	0.1
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

### October

- Streamflows were low, after dry weather. Valley Creek was not flowing, but has shaded pools and the riffles were quite damp.
- Some water quality degradations were found.
  - Very low flow and high conductivity (rated Degraded) in Scotchmans Ck upstream of Blackburn Rd.
  - High turbidity in Valley Creek (rated Poor).
  - High phosphorus (rated Degraded) and noticeable ammonium (rated Fair) in Scotchmans Creek downstream of the wetlands.
- Invertebrate sampling.
  - The vegetation in Scotchmans Creek (sampled downstream of the Valley Creek junction) was very muddy which made it hard to find the invertebrates in the netted sample. However we did find a caddisfly larva (very sensitive to water quality), some sensitive creatures, and fair numbers of tolerant creatures – resulting in a Good stream quality rating.
    - The sample included 3 mosquito larvae, which we don't often find.
  - Valley Creek was so low that the net didn't fit into some of the pools. We found only 1 sensitive creature (a small yabby) and a lot of tolerant creatures - resulting in a Poor stream rating. There were 10 small tadpoles in the sample.
- Litter is increasing in Valley Creek, which has usually been clean. The litter includes polystyrene foam building material.

### November

- A 60 mm rain event 12 days before this site visit has deposited a lot of unsightly litter on the creek banks and verges.
- Streamflows were low at the time of this visit.
- The Fiander arm (1a) looked clear, and had excellent oxygen level, but had high conductivity and phosphorus (rated Poor).
- The Crosby arm measured Degraded phosphorus level.

- Scotchmans Ck downstream (site 2) measured worse ammonium (rated Poor) than upstream.
- Valley Ck (site 3) was flowing very slowly, however it's chemistry was Fair to Good except for Degraded turbidity.
- The waterbug samples (taken at the upstream sites 1a and 1b) were very small, especially from the Fiander arm which had very little in-stream vegetation for waterbug habitat. Both sites rate Poor.

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

## ***Annual Barbecue on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2018***

As already announced your committee has decided to hold the annual barbecue early on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December. We will look for feedback following the barbecue regarding the timing and exact location.

Details are in the flyer.

## ***Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 3rd March, 2019***

Bring your children and grand-children along and help us tidy up the Scotchmans Creek corridor by removing the litter that accumulates during the year.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November, 2018	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2018	Annual Barbecue	Valley Reserve from 12 noon
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February, 2019	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 3rd March, 2019	Clean Up Australia Day	Playground at Regent Street from 9:30 am

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