



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter – October 2018

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

Winter is almost behind us now despite the recent cold weather, and the spring flowers are starting to appear all over Valley Reserve. The Friends group will be hosting an event as part of the City of Monash PALS program on 19<sup>th</sup> of October, focussed on the plants and flowers of the Valley Reserve. If you'd like to attend, please register with Monash Council.

I mentioned in my last report that I had walked down part of Scotchmans Creek with Carlie Dann, our River Officer. Since then, Carlie has completed the walk right down to Stanley Avenue (just above the Huntingdale Wetlands). Carlie and I will be working together to prepare a 'state of the river' report – the full report will appear on the web site, and we will provide a summary in an upcoming newsletter.

As I mentioned in the last report, illegal dumping of mulch has been occurring along the creek at Regent Street. We have spoken to council about this, and there are plans to remove excess mulch and to put in barriers to prevent future dumping. If you do see anyone dumping anywhere along the creek, please report the incident as soon as possible to Monash Council.



The impact willow trees have on river environments in Australia has been discussed in many forums over the years, and we have a perfect example along Regent Street, where a number of very large willows were removed 2 years ago.

We had completed a number of native plantings in the area, but the plants had struggled to survive – willows create a hostile environment under them and effectively suppress most plants in their vicinity. Since removal of the willows, many of the struggling plants are starting to grow vigorously, and we hope that over the next few years, with some additional plantings, that the river corridor between the pedestrian bridge below the Mount Waverley Wetlands dam, and Waverley Road will become a flourishing native plant environment.

We are discussing with council, plans for possible plantings on the West side of the creek along this stretch, in order to complete the native plant corridor.

Our planting program for 2018 has now been completed. Working with Monash Council and supported by Melbourne Water, we and the Monash community, along with Novotel and Holmesglen TAFE, have planted a total of 13 500 native plants in Valley Reserve and along Scotchmans Creek. Since our records began, the Friends Group and the community have planted over 175 000 plants along the creek and in the reserve – a record we can all be proud of!

We hope to continue our plantings into 2019 and beyond.

Tony Walker

## ***Guest Speaker for our October meeting – Birds in Cities:***

### ***Places of opportunity or displacement***

Hear Dr. Joab Wilson, from Holmesglen Tafe, entertaining and educating us on the birds in our environment.

Our cities provide both opportunities and challenges to bird life. As highly mobile creatures, birds are quick to take advantage of changes environments, but our cities can also be dangerous places for them.

The presentation will be followed by refreshments and then our Annual General Meeting. For details see the flyer attached to this newsletter.

## ***Annual Barbecue in Valley Reserve – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December***

Following our disappointment in January of this year in having to cancel our BBQ the committee has decided to try holding the BBQ at the very beginning of December. We are hopeful of cooler weather and more free space in the PlaySpace in Valley Reserve.

We are investigating our options but at present we hope to secure the area under the old shelter shed and at least one adjacent BBQ.

More information will come later.

## ***Monash wins Sustainability Awards***

The latest Monash Bulletin noted that “Council also received a High Commendation for the Valley Reserve Ted Mason Education Hub., created in partnership with the Friends of Valley Reserve Group”.

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – August – September 2018

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	20/08/18	23/09/18	20/08/18	23/09/18	20/08/18	23/09/18	20/08/18	23/09/18
Date	20/08/18	23/09/18	20/08/18	23/09/18	20/08/18	23/09/18	20/08/18	23/09/18
Air temperature °C	10	11	10	11	9	11	9	11
Water temperature °C	10	11	9.5	11	10	11	9	10
pH	7.5 G	7.4 G	6.9 E	6.8 E	6.7 E	7.1 G	6.9 E	6.9 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	12.0 E	6.2 G	10.5 E	7.7 G				
Conductivity E.C.	360 F	500 P	210 G	230 G	220 G	350 F	190 G	540 P
Turbidity F.T.U.	37 D	13 E	14 E	9 E	25 P	17 G	25 P	20 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.062 P	0.026 F	0.068 P	0.215 D				
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.03 E	0.10 F	0.02 E	0.07 G	0.02 E	0.08 G	0.02 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	21.0	1.3	11.7	27.0	73.5	15.3	7.2	0.03
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

### August

- Testing was deferred 1 day from our schedule to avoid testing very high flows and in rain and light hail showers.
- Previous rain events had filled the wetlands ponds which were still draining and contributing extra flows downstream (at site 2).
- All arms had high flows, well within the banks, and all except the Glen Waverley Drain (site 1b) were muddy.
- Oxygen and ammonium results were excellent, conductivity Fair to Good, and phosphate results were Poor.

### September

The two upstream branches (sites 1a, 1b) had unusually different results:

- Scotchmans Ck (the Fiander arm) was flowing slowly and had high conductivity (rated Poor) and higher ammonium than usual (rated Fair).
- The Glen Waverley Drain (the Crosby arm) was flowing well, but a black 'slime' had streaked the rocks and the in-stream vegetation was very dirty. The phosphorus result was very high (rated Degraded).
- The waterbug samples were both sparse, but distinctly different.
  - The Fiander arm had very little in-stream vegetation, and the sample had good numbers of snails, flatworms, segmented worms and blood worms. But as these are 'tolerant' and 'very tolerant' creatures, the stream rated Poor.
  - The Crosby arm had dirty vegetation, and the sample was not abundant but did contain 3 Damselfly larvae ('sensitive' creatures). The stream rated Poor.

At the downstream sites:

- Scotchmans Ck had Fair to Good chemistry (but note that we did not measure the phosphorus level).
- Valley Ck was only a trickle, with Excellent pH and ammonium, but Poor conductivity and turbidity results.

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

## Annual General Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> October

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

The Notice and Agenda for this meeting was attached to the August newsletter.

We have recruited two new members to vacant positions on the committee, but we would welcome more members. 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 became due on 30<sup>th</sup> 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
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Annual General Meeting	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	PALS Seniors – Valley Reserve in Flower	Book with Council on 9518 3555
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Annual BBQ in Valley Reserve	

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