



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter – August 2019

### *President's Report*

As I write, the planting season has just ended, and I am delighted to report that we have had a very successful two months. The rain has finally returned, giving us fairly gentle but persistent wet weather, which is just what we wanted for planting!

Working with staff from the Novotel group, on July 11<sup>th</sup> we planted 2000 plants near Crosby Drive, on the South side of Scotchmans Creek. The previous evening had been quite stormy, but the weather cleared just long enough to get the plants in. Less than 15 minutes after we finished, the rain came down again!



Working with AGIG, on July 16<sup>th</sup> we planted 2000 plants along the West side of the creek, at Regent Street. Again, we were lucky with the rain, which stopped about 30 minutes before we started work, and stayed off long enough for us to finish.

On National Tree Day (Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July) we had a public planting along the South side of the creek in Fairway Reserve adjacent to the Freeway. We had a record response from the community on a beautiful morning - almost 250 people helped plant 8000 plants in less than 2 hours! The scouts provided a barbeque 'brunch' which was very welcome. I think everyone enjoyed their morning very much, and I have never seen us finish so quickly before.

In addition, the Friends group itself has done 2 plantings totalling 900 plants, in Valley Reserve. We must be doing something right – we have had enquiries already from organisations interested in taking part in possible plantings next year.

For those interested in statistics, since the year 2000 we have organised the planting of a total of almost 200 000 plants along the Scotchmans Creek corridor, of which:

- Fairway Reserve      133 200
- Regent Street:      19 850
- Crosby Drive:      23 000
- Other localities:      21 750 approx.  
(including Valley Reserve)
- Total:      197 800 approx.

For a volunteer group like ours, I think it's a record we can all be proud of.

Our thanks to Melbourne Water for their support through their grants, and to Monash Council for the work of the Horticulture Department without which we couldn't make it happen.

Tony Walker  
President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

## ***State of Valley Reserve***

Kallista, our Vice President, has begun work on a companion report to the 'State of the River', focussing on Valley Reserve. She has a large amount of material assembled already, and is gathering more from Monash Council and other local sources.

She intends that the report will be used to support our efforts aimed at getting Valley Reserve formally recognised as a conservation reserve consistent with Monash Council's Environmental Sustainability and Urban Biodiversity strategies, and managed as such in the long term.

## ***Winter into Spring in Valley Reserve***

We may still be having cool or cold days but some of the plants are coming into flower already.

The Bushy Needlewood (*Hakea decurrens*) is one of the first with its clusters of pink and white flowers which are very visible with the sparse foliage.



The Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) is starting to flower with its lemon yellow ball shaped flower heads.

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – June – July 2019

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
Date	23/06/19	21/07/19	23/06/19	21/07/19	23/06/19	21/07/19	23/06/19	21/07/19
Air temperature °C	6	10.5	6	10.5	6	10.5	6	10.5
Water temperature °C	9	10	9.5	10	8.5	9.5	8	9.5
pH	7.7 G	7.5 G	7.3 G	7.0 E	7.0 E	7.0 E	7.1 G	7.0 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	10.0 E		10.0 E			8.2 E		9.1 E
Conductivity E.C.	470 F	600 P	300 F	170 G	280 F	310 F	240 G	290 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	25 P	13 E	14 E	10 E	26 P	19 F	21 P	22 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.075 P		0.078 P			0.036 F		0.026 F
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.00 E	0.04 E	0.02 E	0.05 G	0.02 E	0.02 E	0.00 E	0.01 E
Stream Flow L/s	14.0	12.6	44.8	45.4	106.2	30.9	9.3	2.9
Habitat assessment/50	22 F	22 F	28 F	28 F	26 F	29 G	28 F	28 F

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

### June

#### Comments on Water Quality Results

- The creeks were all flowing well, after the week's rain.
- These are generally good results, except for the usual light muddiness (turbidity) and high phosphate levels.

#### Comments on Habitat Assessments

Site ratings are derived from observations of Bank Vegetation, Verge Vegetation, In-stream Cover, Erosion & Stability, and Pools/ Riffles/ Bends.

- Site 1a, 23 June 2019. Very little in-stream vegetation, and continued deposition of sand and gravel along the site-area stream bed. Erosion appears more extensive than last year. Site rating unchanged, Fair.
- Site 1b, 23 June 2019. In stream vegetation patchy but reasonably extensive. Active erosion and deposition occurring along the site area. Verge and bank vegetation still extensive and of reasonably good quality. Site rating unchanged, Fair.

### July

#### Comments on Water Quality Results

- All indicators are Fair to Excellent, except for
  - High conductivity in Scotchmans Creek, upstream at site 1a (YSC010).
  - High turbidity in Valley Creek at site 3 (YVA100). There was also an unusually large amount of litter trapped in the snags and in the bank vegetation – most of it appeared to have been in creek water for some time.

#### Comments on Habitat Assessments

- Site 2 (Scotchmans Creek downstream, YSC020). Native plantings on the east verge are growing well (after removal of the willows). New native plantings have just been done on the west bank, and older plantings are growing well. We upgraded the habitat rating from Fair to Good.

- Site 3 (Valley Creek, YVA100). Increased active erosion along the south bank may be associated with weed removal along the bank. Verge vegetation is growing well. We left the habitat rating at Fair.

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 on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August***

We have invited Hu Stephens from Melbourne Water to talk to us about future plans for the Mount Waverley Wetlands. We have met with members of Melbourne Water in the wetlands and are discussing possible plans for re-vegetation. We have had plantings there in the past but with the many changes since then more needs to be done.

Please come along and support us in encouraging Melbourne Water to re-vegetate the wetlands.

See the attached flyer for more information.

## ***Membership renewals – reminder***

Membership renewals become due on 30<sup>th</sup> August. The Application/Renewal form is on the back page of the June newsletter and on our 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.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> August	Presentation by Hu Stephens from Melbourne Water on the Mount Waverley Wetlands	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm

## **FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC**

55 Waimarie Drive  
Mount Waverley  
Victoria 3149

Mobile: 0477 006 774  
Email: [treasurer@scotchmanskreefriends.org.au](mailto:treasurer@scotchmanskreefriends.org.au)

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

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