



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – December 2019

President's Report

I have taken on the role of President from Tony and hope that I can fill his shoes and those before him. A little bit about myself. My family and I have been lucky to live in the area for the past ~10 years and regularly walk along Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve. I'm a scientist and am currently undertaking a Masters of Environment at Melbourne University, and am also on the Environmental Advisory Committee for Monash Council. I hope that this will help in our FSCVR endeavours. It's extremely rewarding to work with such a dedicated committee to protect and enhance our beautiful reserves.

As Tony summarized at our AGM, we have had a busy year between working parties, water watch sessions, guest speakers, Clean Up Australia Day, planting days and school activities amongst others. We have now planted close to 200 000 plants over the years! At this year's National Tree Day some 8000 natives were planted in record time. A particularly rewarding aspect is working with local schools. Over the past couple of weeks, Tony, Sally, Alan, Rosemary and Fred have dedicated significant time running water bugs and ecology sessions with several high schools.

I can't believe December is almost upon us. We will be having our annual BBQ on Saturday 7th December at Valley Reserve and hope that you can join us. We'd like to thank all of our members for their support and help over the year, and are very welcoming of new members at any time.

Kallista Sears

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Annual General Meeting – 16th October

The 21st Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc. was held on Wednesday 16th October, 2019.

Our president, Tony Walker, detailed the many activities that we have engaged in during the year. Our River Health Officer, Rex Dusting, gave us an update on the health of the Scotchmans Creek corridor. Our Waterwatch Coordinator, Fred Bullock, spoke about our year's activities and some of the problems that we see with the water quality of the creek. Our Treasurer, Sally Walker, briefly outlined the finances of the group.

Nominations for the committee were then read out and there being no duplicate nominations the following people were duly elected:

President	Kallista Sears
Vice-President	Tony Walker
Secretary	Alan Moore
Treasurer	Fred Bullock
Committee members:	Rex Dusting
	Kelvin Ferguson
	Sally Walker

There are still vacancies on the committee which can be filled at any time during the year. If you are interested in joining the committee, please speak to any of the members of the committee.

Summer in Valley Reserve

We are coming into the hard time of the year when there are fewer flowers and more windy weather resulting in stressed trees losing branches. After many months with a steady but moderate amount of rain we are experiencing hotter drier weather.

There are still flowers to be seen. The Hop Goodenia with its yellow flowers is on display. The Bulbine Lilies are beginning to show more seeds than yellow flowers on their tall stalks. The yellow and orange flowers of the Grey Parrot-peas are adding to the display. The mauve flowers of the Kangaroo Apple are beginning to be seen. The Clematis seed heads are opening out into fluffy balls. The Flax Lilies are now showing their delicate mauve flowers.



Planning issues with the Japara development in Regent Street

Your committee is working with Council to ensure that the Japara development keeps to its approved plans for both planting suitable plants next to Valley Reserve and having lighting that will not affect the wildlife in Valley Reserve.

As a third neighbour for Valley Reserve and the Scotchmans Creek corridor we are able to speak on their behalf to Council about developments that are adjacent to the Reserve.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – October – November 2019

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	20/10/19	24/11/19	20/10/19	24/11/19	20/10/19	24/11/19	20/10/19	24/11/19
Date	20/10/19	24/11/19	20/10/19	24/11/19	20/10/19	24/11/19	20/10/19	24/11/19
Air temperature °C	11.5	17	11.5	17	11.5	17	11.5	17
Water temperature °C	12	14	12	15	12	16	11.5	14
pH	7.2 G	7.2 G	7.0 E	6.7 E	6.7 E	7.2 G	7.0 E	6.7 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l		5.1 F		4.2 P	6.8 G		8.7 E	
Conductivity E.C.	270 F	690 P	200 G	210 G	270 F	540 P	240 G	560 P
Turbidity F.T.U.	18 F	18 F	21 P	16 G	20 P	15 G	19 F	23 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm		0.059 P		0.179 D	0.062 P		0.029 F	
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.10 F	0.00 E	0.04 E	0.08 G	0.10 F	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	6.1	3.0	4.2	20.4	12.0	15.3	0.2	N/M
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

October

Comments :

- All the water chemistry results were Good or Excellent, except for Poor and Fair phosphorus results at sites 2 and 3 and Poor turbidity at sites 1B and 2.
- The waterbug samples from both sites 2 and 3 contained some creatures we don't see often (water slaters and a yabby in Valley Creek) but lacked sufficient overall variety or abundance to rate higher than Poor.

November

Comments:

We saw typical summer season degradations in the chemistry, but not many waterbugs.

- Oxygen levels (measured at the upstream sites) were low, as often happens at low flows in these creeks, despite an increase in the aquatic vegetation in the Crosby arm (site 1b).
- Conductivity was high (rated Poor) in Scotchmans Creek (sites 1a and 2) despite moderate water flows, and also Poor in Valley Creek which was flowing very slowly.
- Phosphorus was high (rated Poor or Degraded) in both the upstream branches.
- pH and ammonium levels were good.
- The waterbug samples contained very few sensitive creatures but an abundance of bloodworms (very tolerant of poor water), a few fish (probably gambusia) and several small tadpoles, and we heard a few pobblebonk frogs in the Crosby arm (site 1b). The ratings were Poor.

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 October meeting – Mick Brasher:

Mick gave us an interesting illustrated talk on the more unusual flora and fauna of Australia.

Membership renewals – reminder

Membership renewals became due on 30th 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.

Annual Barbecue in Valley Reserve – Saturday 7th December

Last year we held our annual barbecue at the start of December and this proved to be a success. We did have the hoped for cooler weather and free space near the BBQs.

Again we hope to secure the area under the old shelter shed and at least one adjacent BBQ.

As usual we will provide the food and soft drinks. For more details see the attached flyer.

Seasons Greetings

The BBQ will be our last event for 2019. We wish you all the very best for the festive season and we look forward to engaging with you in 2020.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 30 th November	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 7 th December	Annual Barbecue	Valley Reserve from 12 noon

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

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