



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – February 2019

President's Report

A long, hot summer is wearing on! Everything is looking very dry at present – let's all hope for good Autumn rains – we need them!

We had our annual barbecue at the beginning of December this year – a change from the Australia day weekend which was becoming increasingly difficult with the popularity of Valley Reserve. Please let us know your thoughts on how it all went, and whether we should stick to the late November/early December timeframe.

At the 2018 AGM, I spoke about the work that FSCVR has done since the two 'parent' Friends groups merged in 2001. I think it is worth reflecting a little on the debt we owe to both Melbourne Water and Monash Council, for the support that makes our work possible.

Over the last 17 years, we have received over \$250 000 in grants from Melbourne Water. This represents a big investment by them, and an ongoing commitment to support and assist our work. We work with the local Melbourne Water River Health Officer on an annual cycle. It all starts in Spring, when the notice for application for next year's grants comes out. We then have to work quickly with Monash Council to plan what we'd like to do next year (to tell the truth, we normally have been informally discussing possibilities with them for most of the year!).



Planting at Crosby Drive with staff from Novotel

Sally Walker and Alan Moore have been the key players on our side for a number of years now, working with Michael Grant, Chris Gittins and other members of the Horticulture group. Once we have worked out where we are going to plant next year, we draw up sketch maps and descriptions

of the key areas, and fill out the grant applications. The Melbourne Water River Health Officer, then comes along to view the proposed areas, and inspect what we did last year. Then the applications disappear into the internal workings of Melbourne Water!

As soon as the grants are received, Monash Council begin site preparation planning and of course need to confirm orders for the plants with their nursery suppliers. It takes time to prepare and grow upwards of 12 thousand plants on our behalf.

The planting season is quite short – basically from the middle of June to early August, so we are all very busy during that period.

So behind all our plantings, there are three organisations which need to work closely together – FSCVR, Melbourne Water and Monash Council. Without all three, we would not be able to continue the work of greening the Scotchmans Creek corridor.

Finally – just a word about the ‘State of the Creek’ Report on Scotchmans Creek. Our River Officer, Carlie Dann, has been unwell over part of the summer, so its completion has been delayed, but it is now well advanced, and I’ll let all our members know when it is ready.

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 are delighted to report that we have been successful again with our request for project grants to enable us to purchase plants for our planting program:

1. \$3,300 for Regent Street Reserve – 2 000 plants
2. \$13,200 for National Tree Day at Fairway Reserve – 8 000 plants
3. \$3,300 for Crosby Drive Reserve – 2 000 plants

Working with local Schools

Each year members of the committee assist local schools with their environmental programs. We are always keen to help the young students learn about the local environment and how they can help to care for it. Our programs range from short walks along the creek with the youngest students, through sessions exploring the macroinvertebrates that can be found in the creeks with older primary students to more organised sessions where we assist the more senior students to complete a set of exercises devised by their teachers. We also assist Monash University students with their project work associated with the local creek.

If you know of any school that would be interested in asking us to help them, please let us know.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – February 2019

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm	YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
Date	20/01/2019	20/01/2019	20/01/2019	20/01/2019
Air temperature °C	22	22	21	21
Water temperature °C	19.5	20	19	18.5
pH	7.1 G	6.9 E	6.9 E	6.8 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l			2.5 D	1.7 D
Conductivity E.C.	430 F	310 F	460 F	450 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	32 D	13 E	29 P	50 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm			0.104 D	0.000 E
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.04 E	0.08 G	0.80 D	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	2.1	6.9	10.5	1.2
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>	1	6
Sensitive		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	20	0
<i>Dragonfly larvae</i>	1	1
<i>Water mites</i>	1	0
Tolerant		
<i>True Bugs</i>	24	14
<i>Leeches</i>	20	0
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	20	50
<i>Flatworms</i>	50	50
Very Tolerant		
<i>Mosquito larvae</i>	0	50
<i>Fly larvae</i>	2	2
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	2	12
<i>Blood worms</i>	100	100
Total number found	241	285
Total Bug Score	41	29
Stream Condition	Very Good	Fair

Water Quality Results

- Scotchmans Ck was polluted at Regent St (site2, ME_YSC020), probably by effluent entering the wetlands bypass pipe from a direct connection under the wetlands. There is such a connecting pipe parallel to and East of Lawrence Rd.**
 - The upstream sites have clean water flow with some problems typical of the summer season,
 - Almost all stream flow is bypassing the wetlands ponds due to inlet pit blockage, hence the wetlands ponds are low or dry and almost no flow re-enters the creek from them,
 - Valley Ck is unpolluted and flowing only at a trickle,
 - Downstream, Scotchmans Ck at Regent St is flowing as expected is but polluted with some foam, turbidity (from a black suspension, rated Poor), smell of hydrogen sulphide, low oxygen (rated Degraded), high conductivity (rated Fair), high phosphorus (rated Degraded) and high ammonium (rated Degraded).**
- Invertebrates results were Very Good and Fair in Scotchmans Ck (downstream) and Valley Ck respectively, despite the pollution. The variety ranged from some small caddisfly larvae (hydroptilidae, with flat leaf-like cases, rated Very Sensitive to water quality) to abundant blood worms (Very Tolerant of water quality).

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

Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 3rd March

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.

Each year the mix of different types of litter is slightly different but the ever present plastic drink bottle is still a problem. I hope that the removal of plastic shopping bags from supermarkets will help the environment. Please do not forget your personal water bottle and sun hat on the day.

Guest Speaker for our March meeting on Wednesday 20th March

By popular demand, we have invited Peter Uhlherr back to continue his excellent presentation on fungi. He will give us an illustrated talk on the amazing variety of large and small fungi that can be found in the reserve. It is likely that we will also get an introduction to the strange world of slime-moulds as well.

See the attached flyer for more information.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 23 rd February	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 3 rd March	Clean Up Australia Day	Playground at Regent Street from 9:30 am
Monday 18 th March	Explore Scotchmans Creek with FSCVR	PALS event - book with Alan on 0419 373 725
Wednesday 20 th March	Presentation by Peter Uhlherr on Fungi and Slime-moulds	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Saturday 30 th March	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

Phone: 03 9807 5576
Mobile: 0477 006 774
Email: treasurer@scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au

Incorporation No. A0037872K
Website: scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au
Visit us at [facebook.com/fscvr](https://www.facebook.com/fscvr) and please "like" us.

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