



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – June 2019

President's Report

Monash Council has prepared a draft 'Mount Waverley Activity Centre Structure Plan' which is on their web site, and which you can download. There is an online survey which I would encourage all FSCVR members to complete – have your say!

Our involvement will be led by our Vice-President, Kallista Sears, who will be attending a workshop next week representing FSCVR. She will be working to put together a formal response from FSCVR as a concerned community group.

We have noticed that there are proposals in the draft plan that could result in cycle paths running through Valley reserve. We believe that the focus of Valley Reserve is firmly as a bushland conservation resource, and we will be making the point that any increase in the volume of cyclists in the reserve is not compatible with that focus.

If you agree, then please take the time to respond to Monash Council's invitations to comment. We need to make our views clearly known.

Following up on the success of the 'State of the River' report, we have decided to create a companion 'State of Valley Reserve' report. Kallista will be working on this over the next few months, assisted by other committee members. We will be inviting your input and comments to help us compile the report, and I will ask Kallista to give us a progress summary in the next newsletter.

Hope to see you all at a planting, weeding or public event over the next few months.

Tony Walker
President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Report from our River Officer

Hello. I have recently replaced Carlie Dann as the Friends "River Officer". Carlie has done an excellent job over the past few years and we thank her for her excellent work in this – including introducing some valued initiatives she has carried out in this role.

The River Officer is responsible for undertaking, on a regular basis, visual inspection of the condition of the waterway and banks of Scotchmans Creek. Observations are reported to the Committee on a quarterly basis and this regular report, together with the results from the Waterwatch Program formed the basis of the State of the River Report prepared by Carlie, Tony Walker and Fred Bullock, distributed to Council and Melbourne Water in April this year and presented to the Friends membership at our May meeting.

Following on from the report the most recent inspection of the creek was undertaken in early May. Our summer has been dry but the inspection closely followed some moderate, but very welcome, rainfall.

Grasses (including weeds) on the banks have come to life. In some locations there is evidence through flattened grasses that water levels in the stream and wetlands were temporarily high and brought with them unfortunately a moderate level of debris including litter. However, bank conditions are relatively stable with little evidence of enhanced erosion or damage to vegetation.

Visually water quality looked fine in both wetlands and stream and re-vegetation planting looked undamaged. There is however evidence that the significant dry period over last year have left moderate sized trees and shrubs under stress. The wetland area continues to have a mixed quality



of vegetation and it is the Friends intention to seek improvements in this area. It is interesting to compare the quality of vegetation at Lawrence Road bridge with that downstream near Huntingdale Road Wetlands.

Nevertheless there are some really pleasing stretches of the stream that reflect well on past efforts for improvement as per this recent photograph.

On our walk we noted several different bird species (including water and land birds) and frogs were vocal. It was also pleasing to see many walkers and riders of different age and sizes. It was dis-appointing though to see some dogs on and off-lease in clearly inappropriate places.

Rex Dusting

Friends Planting on 16th June and National Tree Day on 28th July

Please come along for our Friends planting on Sunday 16th June. See the attached flyer for more information.

Our big planting for the year will again be on National Tree Day which will be on Sunday 28 July. This year we will be planting on the south side of the creek in Fairway Reserve. Access will be from Forster Road. More details will follow.

Please put these two dates in your diary so that you can come along and help us plant.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – April – May 2019

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	28/04/19	19/05/19	28/04/19	19/05/19	28/04/19	19/05/19	28/04/19	19/05/19
Date	28/04/19	19/05/19	28/04/19	19/05/19	28/04/19	19/05/19	28/04/19	19/05/19
Air temperature °C	13.5	12	14	12	14	12	14	12
Water temperature °C	13	13	13	13	14	11.5	14	10
pH	7.1 G	7.2 G	6.7 E	7.0 E	6.5 E	7.1 G	6.9 E	7.0 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	6.3 G		3.9 D			8.0 E		5.8 F
Conductivity E.C.	300 F	470 F	330 F	210 G	230 G	290 F	220 G	230 G
Turbidity F.T.U.	15 G	9 E	16 G	12 E	46 D	13 E	36 D	24 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.029 F		0.111 D			0.049 F		0.023 G
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.02 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.02 E	0.04 E	0.07 G	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	1.6	2.0	17.5	4.7	7.0	1.3	1.1	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

April

- Rainfall has been low and the creek flows are still low, resulting in some poor chemical ratings..
 - Degraded oxygen and phosphorus levels at site 1b.
 - Degraded turbidity levels at sites 2, 3.
 - Otherwise Fair to Excellent ratings.
- In-stream vegetation is improving at site 1b (Glen Waverley Drain). However the invertebrate samples at both upstream sites (1a, 1b) had low variety and rated Poor.
- We glimpsed a goldfish at site 1a – disturbed by our waterbug netting activity but quickly escaping.

May

- The physical and chemical results were Fair to Excellent, except that Valley Creek (at a trickle) was muddy (Poor turbidity measurement).
- There was only a small team available, so the scheduled waterbug sampling was not done. A waterbug sample taken from site 2, for a school excursion 3 days before, had low variety and abundance.

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

Membership renewals – early reminder

Membership renewals become due on 30th August. The Application/Renewal form is on the back page of this newsletter. 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.

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Membership Application / Renewal

Membership is renewable each year on 31 August

Name(s):

Address:

Phone: Email:

I'm happy to receive all notices by email: Yes No

Membership type: Individual (\$5.00) Family (\$10.00) Organisation/Corporate (\$20.00)

I enclose cash/cheque of \$ Tick if receipt required

OR

I have deposited \$ in the Association's bank account number 313-140 12025467
**** Please put your name in the banking details and also advise the treasurer ****

Date:.....

Please forward to: **The Treasurer,
Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc.,
55 Waimarie Drive,
Mount Waverley Vic. 3149**

email treasurer@scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au

Ph. 0477 006 774



Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Sunday 16 th June	Friends planting in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 9:30 am
Saturday 29 th June	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 20 th July	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 28 th July	National Tree Day in Fairway Reserve	Forster Road entry on Management road from 10 am

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

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