



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter – October 2019

### *President's Report*

We have had a damp August and September. Although there hasn't been a huge amount of rain overall, we have had a large number of relatively small rain events, which is just what we needed. Let's hope the rain continues into the next two months also.

We have been discussing with Melbourne Water a plan to begin replanting in the Mount Waverley Wetlands. We have agreed with them, where we can plant, and a list of suggested plants suitable and appropriate to the area. At present, this is just a concept plan, and there is quite a lot of work to do before we can begin to turn it into reality – we'll need to have council agreement and support, and probably to source some additional grant funds. We'll keep you posted on further developments.

We've just been working with two groups of journalism students from Melbourne University. They had heard of the work we have done, and wanted to interview members of the Friends Group about how a community can contribute to preserving and improving creek environs. They will be contributing to a larger project focussed on 'Creeks of Melbourne'. They have promised to send us a link to their work once it is published, and once we have this, we will share it with our members.

It is interesting and heartening to realise that the work we do as a Friends Group is recognised, and valued not only by the Monash community, but much more widely.

In a very welcome bit of news, Monash Council have assigned an additional full time Bushland Management Officer to Valley Reserve. She has just started work, and is keen to meet members of the Friends Group. Her name is Rowan, and she will be working with Andy in Valley Reserve.

I'm happy to report that membership of FSCVR has continued to grow steadily, and we now have 50 financial members – the highest it has been for as long as I can remember! Interest and awareness of the beauty and value of our local environment has grown over the last few years, but we still have much to do and challenges to face. In particular, the effects of climate change continue to intensify, and we need to face the challenge of making our local green spaces as resilient and sustainable as we can.

Next month (October) is our 2019 AGM, and I shall be stepping down as President of the Friends Group, having served for 2 years in that role. I have enjoyed being your President, meeting as

many of you as I can, and I have felt privileged and proud, to represent FSCVR to the many organisations we interact with.

Tony Walker  
President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

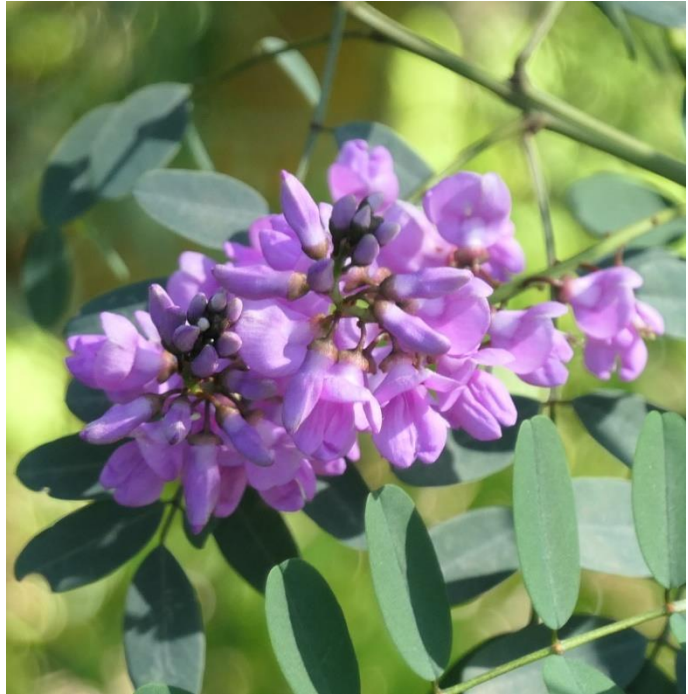
## ***Spring in Valley Reserve***

The first flush of early wattles is now over, but more are coming into flower.

The Austral Indigo plants are providing a splash of purple within the reserve.

Look for the creamy white flowers of the Snowy Daisy-bush and the flowering spikes with the many shades of pink flowers of the Trigger plants.

The Bulbine Lilies with their yellow flowers are starting to appear and yellow and orange flowers of the Grey Parrot-peas are adding to the display.



## ***Guest Speaker for our October meeting – Mick Brasher:***

### ***Unusual Flora and Fauna of Australia***

Mick Brasher will present an entertaining and educational illustrated talk.

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

## ***Annual General Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> October***

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc. will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019, at 7:30 pm at Alvie Hall.

The Notice and Agenda for this meeting is attached to this newsletter.

We still have vacant positions on the committee. 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.

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – August – September 2019

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	25/08/19	22/09/19	25/08/19	22/09/19	25/08/19	22/09/19	25/08/19	22/09/19
Date	25/08/19	22/09/19	25/08/19	22/09/19	25/08/19	22/09/19	25/08/19	22/09/19
Air temperature °C	11	12	11	12	11	12	11	12
Water temperature °C	10.5	12.5	10.5	12	10.5	12.5	10	12
pH	7.4 G	7.3 G	7.2 G	7.1 G	7.0 E	7.1 G	7.1 G	7.0 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	10.0 E	9.8 E	9.8 E	9.0 E				
Conductivity E.C.	410 F	380 F	200 G	180 G	240 G	390 F	270 F	260 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	18 F	16 G	11 E	11 E	19 F	21 P	19 F	18 F
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.033 F	0.026 F	0.020 G	0.068 P				
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.02 E	0.03 E	0.02 E	0.01 E	0.04 E	0.07 G	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	7.0	17.5	14.0	9.3	58.3	53.1	7.0	4.2
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

### August

#### Comments :

- The previous week's rain has filled the wetlands ponds, which were still draining fast (causing high flow than usual at site 2). A morning shower contributed to higher flow than usual in Valley Creek.
- The chemical results were all in the upper half of the quality range.
- There was less litter than seen recently, at all the sites.

### September

#### Comments:

- Creek flows were slightly higher than normal, following 4 mm overnight rain.
- Most of the water quality physical and chemical indicators were Good or Excellent, with exceptions.
  - Fair conductivity at 3 sites (Good in Valley Creek)
  - High turbidity (rated Poor) in Scotchmans Creek below the wetlands
  - High phosphorus in Scotchmans Creek at site 1a (upstream), rated Poor.
- The waterbug samples were small, with very few sensitive creatures found, more or less as expected at this time of year. Scotchmans Creek (site 1a) still has very little in-stream vegetation to provide waterbug habitat. Both upstream sites rate Poor.
- Litter in the upstream branches is continually confronting, consisting mainly of pieces of plastic sheet and bags, and (in the GW Drain, site 1b) persistent presence of polystyrene foam. Bottles are evident just downstream in the litter trap, at the Blackburn Rd culverts, and in the wetlands.

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

## **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.

## **Annual Barbecue in Valley Reserve – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

Put the date in your diary now but more details will follow.

## **Guest Speaker for our August meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August**

Hu Stephens from Melbourne Water gave us an interesting history of the Mt Waverley Wetlands and the problems with wetlands in general

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Annual General Meeting. Presentation by Mick Brasher on “Unusual Flora and Fauna of Australia”	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	PALS – Spring in Valley Reserve Bookings - 9518 3555	Valley Reserve Education Hub 10 am
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Annual Barbecue	Valley Reserve from 12 noon

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

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