



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – December 2020

President's Report

Wow. I can't believe that December is already upon us. What a year it's been. A big thank you to all of our members for their continued support during this unusual and stressful time.

I would also like to thank everyone who stood up to be part of the new committee, many of them familiar faces. We are lucky to have such an enthusiastic and dedicated committee.

Things are picking up again as we settle into a new-COVID-19 normal. We were delighted to have our first work party last weekend since lock-down and hope to continue these and our other usual activities next year.

While we usually have an annual BBQ around this time, we have decided to postpone it until next year. We have lots to belatedly celebrate including the conservation status of Valley Reserve and the new *Valley Conservation Reserve* signage in the reserve.



We hope we can see some of you out and about at our work parties and other events next year. In the meantime, we wish everyone a wonderful festive season and hope you can enjoy treasured time with friends and family.

Kallista Sears

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Annual General Meeting – 21st October 2020

This year due to COVID-19 restrictions we held our AGM by electronic means. Members received copies of the AGM documents in advance.

No additional nominations for the committee were received and the following members were duly elected:

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

Planting Program for 2020 and 2021

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions our planting program for 2020 was carried out by the Monash bush crew. We thank them for their assistance with this. So far the plants are growing well, especially the ones next to Regent Street.

We are starting to put in grant applications for more plants to be planted in 2021. We have been successful with our grant applications over many years and are grateful to Melbourne Water for their continued support.

Pesticide Detectives

This was a national Citizen Science project run by AQUEST and RMIT University, investigating the occurrence and concentrations of pesticides (insecticides, herbicides and fungicides) in Australia's waterways, mostly in rural areas. Our 2 urban site nominations, at Huntingdale Rd Wetlands and at the join of Valley Creek and Scotchmans Creek, were accepted in the last round (round 4) and in early April we collected sediment samples to be analysed by a specialist laboratory.

Results were published recently - see <https://pesticidedetectives.com.au/>. Pesticides were detected at 16 of the 87 national sites in round 4. Of those, 8 were in urban areas, and 2 were on Scotchmans Creek, where the insecticides Bifenthrin and Fenvalerate and fungicide Propiconazole were detected. The project scientists note that the Bifenthrin concentrations may pose a risk to freshwater crustaceans and suggest that further testing is required. Note that some other sites had much higher concentrations and have greater economic importance, so they presumably will take priority.

Cub Scouts at Scotchmans Creek

This year we have not been able to assist the local schools with their conservation programs due to Covid-19. But in November with restrictions easing we were able to introduce some small

groups of cub scouts to Scotchmans Creek in Fairway Reserve. We talked about the creek and its importance to the environment and the local birds and animals. We explained about the issues with storm water and litter and helped the scouts pick up litter near the scout huts.

We hope to return to our usual program with the local schools in 2021 as they are very popular in helping the schools complete their programs

Parrots Feather – an aquatic weed.

From time to time we get an infestation of Parrots Feather in the wetlands. When we see it we let Melbourne Water know and they remove it as soon as they are able.

Recently I noticed Parrots Feather in a small lake in Templestowe in a photo I was sent. Melbourne Water are arranging for Manningham Council to remove it.

If you see what looks like this plant in the wetlands, please let us know.



Summer in Valley Conservation Reserve

Our weather does not seem to be able to make up its mind what season this is. We have had some warm days and some really cold days but there are still flowers to be seen in the Reserve.



Yarra Burgan (*Kunzea leptospermoides*)

FriendsNET – Best Friends Award

For the first time the Best Friends Awards ceremony was held by zoom in early October.

Sally and Tony Walker, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve



Sally and Tony Walker joined the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve in 2004 and have been active committee members in a number of roles since 2005. For a period of 19 years they have actively complemented each other in these roles as President, Secretary and Treasurer. This reflects their “passion for Melbourne’s flora” and the preservation of the Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.



Advance notice –

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 7th March 2021

Alan Moore, our regular CUAD co-ordinator, has registered our group for Clean Up Australia Day next year as usual. Please remember to bring your own gloves, water and sunscreen.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Sunday 24 th January 2021	Waterwatch resumes	
Saturday 27 th February 2021	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: secretary@scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au

Incorporation No. A0037872K
Website: scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au
Visit us at facebook.com/fscvr and please “like” us.

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