



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – February 2020

President's Report

Welcome to 2020! We hope you have been keeping safe and healthy, especially with the unusual start to the year. It has been distressing to watch the unprecedented devastation wrought by the Victorian and NSW fires on our communities, the natural environment and its flora and fauna. If you wish to help, there are a number of amazing environmental organizations doing good work. Please contact us if you would like some suggestions or Monash Council has some listed on their website:

<https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/About-Us/News/Where-to-donate-for-bushfire-relief>

Our monthly working parties start up again in February and run on the last Saturday of the Month. We meet at the Amenity block in Valley Reserve near the playground at 1:20pm. We'd love to have your company if you can make it. If you find weeding and planting too strenuous there are also lots of other ways to get involved. If you're interested please get in touch. Clean up Australia day is also back again on March 1st. We will be hosting our usual site at the Regent Street playground.

Our "State of Valley Reserve" report has taken longer than expected to compile but it is almost there. We will hopefully be able to distribute it in the next couple of weeks and would love to hear your feedback and comments.

Kallista Sears

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Summer in Valley Reserve

We are coming into the hard time of the year, you could be forgiven for thinking that we are already there, 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 have experienced hotter drier weather and more recently some much needed rain.

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. The spiny bursaria are in flower and attracting the bees and other insects with their sweet smelling white flowers.

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

Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 1st March

This year's theme is Step Up to Clean Up. See the attached poster for the details.

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 single use plastic shopping bags from supermarkets will help the environment. I notice that Victoria is finally to get a deposit scheme for cans and bottles but not until 2023!

Please do not forget your personal water bottle and sun hat on the day.

PALS – Exploring Scotchmans Creek on Tuesday 17th March

In conjunction with Monash Council and their Positive Aging Lifestyle program your Friends Group is hosting a morning exploring the Scotchmans Creek corridor.

Details are in the PALS booklet and bookings need to be made with Alan Moore.

This is the first of the two events that FSCVR hosts each year as part of PALS. They are always very popular.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – January 2020

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm	YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
Date	19/01/2019	19/01/2019	19/01/2019	19/01/2019
Air temperature °C	23	23	23	23
Water temperature °C	21	21	19.5	19.5
pH	7.1 G	7.0 E	6.7 E	6.5 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l			3.4 D	2.1 D
Conductivity E.C.	550 P	240 G	270 F	270 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	12 E	16 G	22 P	20 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm			0.082 P	0.023 G
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.50 D	0.15 F	0.09 G	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	7.1	10.3	57.1	0.1
Habitat assessment/50	22 F	28 F	29 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
	Number found	Number found
Sensitive		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	3	1
<i>Freshwater mussel</i>	15	0
Tolerant		
<i>True Bugs</i>	2	6
<i>Leeches</i>	30	1
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	0	30
<i>Flatworms</i>	5	30
Very Tolerant		
<i>Mosquito larvae</i>	30	0
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	2	8
<i>Blood worms</i>	20	2
Total number found	107	78
Total Bug Score	25	21
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor

Comments

On this occasion one third of the phys/chem ratings were Poor or Degraded, and the waterbug ratings were Poor.

- Upstream, Scotchmans Ck (Site 1a, Fiander arm) had Degraded conductivity and ammonium. The ammonium sample measured 0.5 ppm, which is the limit of the test kit's range, but confirmed by remeasurement with a diluted sample.
- Also upstream, the Glen Waverley drain (site 1b, Crosby arm) was alright.
- Downstream, Scotchmans Ck (Site 2, Regent St) was flowing more strongly than upstream, presumably still draining the wetlands after the locally moderate mid week rain event. Oxygen was low (Degraded), turbidity and phosphorus were Poor, but ammonium was Good.
 - The waterbugs found here included many more mosquito larvae than usual.
- Valley Ck (Site 3) was trickling. Oxygen was very low (Degraded) and turbidity was Poor.
 - About 20 tadpoles were found in the waterbug sample, but the invertebrates were mostly Tolerant and Very Tolerant varieties.

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 March meeting – Stephanie Bubnich:

Stephanie is a Recycling Education Officer in the City of Monash. She will help us to discover the impacts of waste on our environment and how recycling minimises this impact. Follow the journey of our recycling efforts, from the kerbside bin to the recycling factory, and back to the shop. Included is a virtual tour of the machines operating inside a Material Operating Facility. Debunk recycling myths and have the opportunity to ask questions we all have about recycling in Australia.

Bring along your questions and items that you are unsure about regarding their recycling possibilities. See the attached flyer for more information.

Annual Barbecue in Valley Reserve – Saturday 7th December 2019

In 2018 we held our annual barbecue at the very start of December and this proved to be a success. We did have the hoped for cooler weather and free space near the BBQs. In 2019 it was nearly a week later and the weather was warmer and there were more people enjoying Valley Reserve and the playground. However, we found a quiet area where we could sit and talk and catch up on the year's events.

We would appreciate your comments on the timing and exact location of our BBQ as our proposed date would be Saturday 5th December in 2020.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 29 th February 2020	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 1 st March 2020	Clean up Australia Day	Regent Street Playground 9:30 am
Tuesday 17 th March	Explore Scotchmans Creek with FSCVR	PALS event - book with Alan on 0419 373 725
Wednesday 18 th March	Presentation by Stephanie Bubnich on Recycling	Alvie Hall 7:30 pm
Saturday 28 th March 2020	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

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