



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – August 2021

President's Report

It has been a busy time of the year. We were lucky to get a few planting sessions in before Lock-down #5. Working with 10 Green Team students from Brentwood college, about 2000 plants went in along Scotchmans Creek near Crosby Drive.

You may also have noticed new plantings near the Lawrence Rd entrance to the Melbourne Water Retarding basin. These were supported by Melbourne Water as an offset for some unavoidable vegetation losses when they upgraded the litter traps near Blackburn Rd. We will be eagerly monitoring the site to see how they take. If successful we may look to do further revegetation works in this area.

Some 800 plants went into the ground in Valley Conservation Reserve during our Friends planting session and the following work party. We are grateful to an extremely generously donation from a member, which funded these plants.

Sadly, Covid got in the way for a second year, and we were unable to go ahead with National Tree Day and the Regent Street plantings. However, we are once again thankful to the Monash bush crew, who will be working hard to get the combined 10 000 plants into the ground! Our thanks to Melbourne Water who supported the majority of these plantings through grants, without which we couldn't make it happen.

We have noticed damage by off-road riding to our 2019 National Tree Day planting area in Fairway reserve. We've notified council and they are looking to restore the area and prevent further damage.

Finally, COVID permitting, we hope to go ahead with a guest speaker at our August meeting in Alvie Hall. We are excited to have Andrew Sharpe speak about his *Brilliant Wet Career in Water: Urban streams, interesting water bugs and environmental flows*. Please read below to find out more. We hope to see you along.

All the best,
Kallista
President,
Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Guest Speaker for our August meeting on Wednesday 18th August

We have invited Dr Andrew Sharpe to give us a presentation - *My Brilliant Wet Career in Water: Urban streams, interesting water bugs and environmental flows.*

Andrew is a freshwater ecologist who has spent nearly thirty years studying or managing Victoria's waterways. He now works for the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH).

For his talk Andrew will:

- Discuss some of the main factors affecting the plants and animals that live in urban streams and some of the actions that are being taken to manage those impacts.
- Introduce you to some of his favourite waterbugs
- Talk about the work he now does with environmental water.

Please join us at 7.30 pm in Alvie Hall for what should be a very interesting presentation.

See the attached flyer for more information.

Membership renewals – reminder

Membership renewals become due on 31st 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. But please also notify the treasurer that you have made the transfer.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – June – July (1st August) 2021

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	27/06/21	1/08/21	27/06/21	1/08/21	27/06/21	1/08/21	27/06/21	1/08/21
Date	27/06/21	1/08/21	27/06/21	1/08/21	27/06/21	1/08/21	27/06/21	1/08/21
Air temperature °C	12.5	10	12.5	10	10	10.5	10	10.5
Water temperature °C	11	11.5	11	11	10.5	10	10.5	10
pH	7.5 G	7.6 G	7.2 G	7.3 G	7.0 E	7.0 E	7.1 G	7.0 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	10.0 E		9.8 E			10.0 E		9.6 E
Conductivity E.C.	520 P	450 F	350 F	350 F	230 G	190 G	250 F	280 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	24 P	60 D	13 E	31 D	23 P	43 D	26 P	40 D
Stream Flow L/s	10.5	23.6	10.5	46.8	70.4	121.3	0.4	1.2
Habitat assessment/40	22 F		27 F			29 G		28 F

E=Excellent ■ G=Good ■ F=Fair ■ P=Poor ■ D=Degraded ■ N/M= Not measured N/A= Not applicable

June

Comments on water quality results

- As often happens soon after a rain event, most of our sites have poor turbidity, and site 1a (Scotchmans Ck upstream) has poor conductivity. Other ratings were Fair to Excellent.
- Habitat ratings over the last 6 years have fallen at site 1a (Scotchmans Ck) and improved at site 1b (Glen Waverley Drain).

Comments on Habitat Assessments

Site 1a (Scotchmans Ck between Turner Crt and Crosby Drive): Little to no instream vegetation, streambed is mainly sand and angular gravel. Bank vegetation is now established native species from active revegetation program. Moderate bank erosion in areas not protected by large boulders. A large flow event within the last week increased water depth by ~1.5m and flushed leaf litter etc from banks. Water level back to low flow at time of assessment.

The Habitat Rating was 22/40, Fair.

Site 1b (Glen Waverley Drain at confluence with Scotchmans Ck): Overstorey predominantly native (revegetated) provides extensive cover and shading across channel but understorey is very weedy. Frequent large clumps of instream vegetation. Sand and gravel substrate with introduced large boulders creating riffles and controlling erosion. Banks largely protected but some erosion on northern bank. High flow event within last week increased depth to ~0.5m which has flushed leaf litter from low banks.

The Habitat Rating was 27/40, Fair.

July (1st August)

Comments

- Stream flows had settled back to normal after the overnight rain, except the flow out of the wetlands (ie passing site 2) was still higher than normal.
- Turbidity was high (rated Degraded) at all sites.
- Reagents for phosphate and ammonium tests are still unavailable.
- All the measured chemical indicators were in the range Fair to Excellent.
- Habitat assessments at sites 2 and 3 were very similar to previous years, with Good and Fair ratings respectively. At site 2 (Scotchmans Creek near the Regent St footbridge) the major concerns are the bank vegetation and stability. At site 3 (Valley Creek) the concerns are bank and verge vegetation.

Habitat Assessments

Site 2, Scotchmans Creek at Regent St. Weedy ground cover. One area cleared, likely sprayed prior to replanting. Good native overstorey. The scoring was 29/40, rated as Good.

Site 3, Valley Creek. Very weedy groundcover, good native overstorey. The scoring was 28/40, rated as Fair.

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

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

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 Australia account:

Account name: Friends of Scotchmans Creek 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.,
49 Bunker Crescent,
Glen Waverley Vic. 3150**

email treasurer@scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au Ph. 9803 4589



Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday 18 th August	Presentation by Andrew Sharpe	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Saturday 28 th August	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 25 th September	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Wednesday 20 th October	Presentation and Annual General Meeting	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

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