



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – December 2021

President's Report

This is my first report as your new President, following our Zoom AGM in October. Let us hope that with Covid restrictions now easing, we can once again meet face-to-face in 2022.

I'd like to acknowledge the hard work done by the outgoing committee, and especially by my predecessor as President, Kallista Sears who has done so much for FSCVR in her time in that role.

I guess you have all noticed what a cool, wet spring it has been, and the plants (native and weeds), seem to have appreciated the opportunity. Our weeding parties, which have been well attended since we were able to restart, have had a lot to do.

One development that is occupying our thoughts at present concerns 244-254 Waverley Road. As you may be aware, this land was owned by Blue Cross. They decided to sell the portion lying East of Scotchmans Creek, and following representations by FSCVR Monash Council purchased a corridor adjacent to the creek to relocate the bicycle and walking track along the creek. We have now learned that the remaining land is to be developed as a child care centre.

We are in the process of evaluating the plans and putting together a response on behalf of our members. We want to ensure that the development is appropriate to the environment, and preserves as much native vegetation (particularly trees) as possible. We'll also be looking at the planting proposed in and around the development, to try and ensure that it uses as many indigenous native plants as possible.

If any of you would like to have your say on the development, you can find a link to the documentation on the City of Monash web site under 'Building and Planning > Major Developments'. Your feedback needs to be received by 20 December 2021.

Looking ahead, we are looking forward to seeing you all at an afternoon get-together in Valley Reserve, on Saturday 19th March 2022. Mark it in your diary! We'll provide more details in our February newsletter, but its likely that cheesecakes will feature prominently, as they were such a success last time.

We're all looking forward to a more 'normal' 2022 and resuming all our usual activities.

In the meantime, best wishes to everyone for the festive season, and see you all in the new year.

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

Annual General Meeting – 20th October 2021

This year due to COVID-19 restrictions we held our AGM by zoom. Members received copies of the AGM documents in advance. Using zoom allowed us to present our usual reports to members. We postponed our usual presentation by a speaker to our November meeting.

Nominations for the committee were received prior to the meeting, including nominations from three new members. No additional nominations for the committee were received at the meeting and the following members were duly elected:

President	Tony Walker
Vice-President	Rex Dusting
Secretary	Sally Walker
Treasurer	Fred Bullock
Committee members:	Danielle Cini
	Asher Judah
	May Lee
	Alan Moore
	Kallista Sears

Planting Program for 2022

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions our planting program for 2021 was mostly 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 have prepared and submitted grant applications for more plants to be planted in 2022 near Crosby Drive and in Fairway Reserve. We have been successful with our grant applications over many years and are grateful to Melbourne Water for their continued support.

Guest Speaker for our meeting on Wednesday 17th November

Finally, we were able to hold a face to face meeting and were delighted to welcome Dr Andrew Sharpe to give us a presentation - *My ~~Brilliant~~ Wet Career in Water: Urban streams, interesting water bugs and environmental flows.*

Andrew's presentation was a history of his encounters with the creatures in Urban streams with many illustrations and interesting anecdotes.

We had an excellent turn out in our temporary location which allowed just over 20 members to attend. It was wonderful to see so many faces again.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – October – November 2021

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	24/10/21	14/11/21	24/10/21	14/11/21	24/10/21	14/11/21	24/10/21	14/11/21
Date	24/10/21	14/11/21	24/10/21	14/11/21	24/10/21	14/11/21	24/10/21	14/11/21
Air temperature °C	13	11	13	11	13	11	13	11
Water temperature °C	14.5	13	14	12	13	12.5	13	11.5
pH	7.5 G	7.5 G	7.4 G	7.5 G	6.9 E	7.2 G	7.1 G	7.2 G
Oxygen concentration mg/l		9.6 E		9.7 E	8.4 E		9.0 E	
Conductivity E.C.	240 G	410 F	330 F	520 P	220 G	380 F	450 F	570 P
Turbidity F.T.U.	31 D	152 D	17 G	28 P	48 D	39 D	25 P	35 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm								
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm								
Stream Flow L/s	56.0	56.0	88.0	46.6	147.0	269.3	13.1	18.4

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

October

Comments:

The 1 mm overnight rain had fallen at about dawn, resulting in fast flows, and very muddy water from the Fiander Arm (Scotchmans Ck at our upstream site). This cleared significantly by the afternoon, which helps explain why our morning test result for the Fiander branch was better than the test result downstream.

- pH and oxygen concentrations were Good or Excellent.
- Conductivity results were Fair or Good.
- Turbidity was very high, rated from Good to Degraded.
- The muddy water made waterbug sampling difficult, as the in-stream vegetation was hidden. The samples were clean but with not enough variety or abundance to rate better than Poor.

November

Comments:

- Creek flows were high, following good rain in the previous week and overnight.
- Scotchmans Creek at our upstream site (1a, ME_YSC010) was exceptionally muddy, with a yellow-brown clay colour.
 - The turbidity reading was the highest we can recall occurring at any of our monthly scheduled site visits, and appeared similar to the occasional very muddy flows seen at other times. The turbidity event had not arrived downstream during our visit, and it cleared in a day.
 - We could not see into the water at this site and could not see the vegetation, snags, or the creek bottom. We did not get into the creek and did not sample it for waterbugs.
- Across all the sites, pH was Good, conductivity was Fair to Poor, turbidity Poor to Degraded. Oxygen levels (measured only at the upstream sites) were Excellent, typical after rain.
- Our waterbug sample from the Crosby Arm (site 1b, Glen Waverley Drain) had very low bug counts, and all were tolerant or very tolerant, resulting in a Poor rating.

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

Joey Scouts at Scotchmans Creek

This year we have not been able to assist the local schools much with their conservation programs due to Covid-19. But in early December with restrictions easing we were able to introduce a small groups of joey scouts to the macroinvertebrates in Scotchmans Creek close to Regent Street. We also 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.

We hope to return to our more usual program with the local schools in 2022 as they are very popular in helping the schools complete their programs

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 6th March 2022

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 23rd January 2022	Waterwatch resumes	
Saturday 26 th February 2022	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 6 th March	Clean Up Australia Day	From 9.30 am at the Regent Street playground
Wednesday 16 th March	Meeting with a speaker	
Saturday 19 th March 2022	Friends Afternoon Tea in Valley Conservation Reserve	

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