



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – February 2021

President's Report

Happy New Year! We are hopeful that 2021 will bring more normalcy than last year.

We are excited to be resuming some of our activities again within the new-COVID-19 normal. Our monthly working parties are going ahead, with the first one on the 26th of February (the last Saturday of the Month). The mild and wet summer has meant that the reserves are bursting with greenery but has also been good for the weeds! Our Waterwatch sessions have resumed with our first session taking place in January. You can see our results on page 3.

Clean up Australia day is back on March 7th and we will be hosting our usual site at the Regent Street playground.

While we're not sure of the format or details yet, we are hoping to have a BBQ or picnic on 20th March, so please save the date! We hope we can see some of you out and about at these events.

If you would like to get involved in our group in other ways, or you have ideas or suggestions on how we can continue to enhance our reserves or engage the community we'd love to hear from you.

Monash Council has produced a draft Tree management strategy which is now open for community feedback until the 14 March 2021. Trees are so important to the liveability of our city and urban biodiversity. We encourage you to follow the link below which takes you to the strategy and a short survey: <https://shape.monash.vic.gov.au/tree-policy> .

Finally, Council is also running some one-on-one sustainability sessions during the Clayton festival that may also be of interest to some members:

<https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Leisure/Council-Festivals-and-Events/Clayton-Festival-2021/Connect/Ask-Sustainability-Expert>

Kallista Sears

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

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 have 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.

Melbourne Water –

Scotchmans Creek Maintenance Access Upgrade



Melbourne Water are improving access for maintenance activities at the pipe culverts on either side of Blackburn Road.

They have consulted with the Friends Group about the removal of some trees and understorey shrubs to allow for widening of the maintenance access tracks.

The removal of vegetation has been completed and now they are working on the downside culvert.

Melbourne Water has agreed to provide the Friends group with some plants to plant in the wetlands close to the entrance at the end of Lawrence Road.

They will also be undertaking some re-vegetation in the banks above the new access tracks once all the construction phase is complete.

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, hat and sunscreen.

In this COVID time, please also bring your own hand sanitiser and a mask.

Please see the attached flyer for more details and a map.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – January 2021

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm	YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
Date	24/01/2019	24/01/2019	24/01/2019	24/01/2019
Air temperature °C	25	25	25	25
Water temperature °C	22.5	25	19.5	18.5
pH	7.1 G	6.5 E	6.8 E	6.7 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l			2.4 D	2.4 D
Conductivity E.C.	520 P	230 G	490 F	400 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	9 E	12 E	20 P	19 F
Phosphorus, soluble ppm				
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.02 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	6.4	15.1	23.7	0.0
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
Very Sensitive		
<i>Caddisfly larvae</i>	3	0
Sensitive		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	25	0
<i>Dragonfly larvae</i>	10	0
Tolerant		
<i>True Bugs</i>	0	2
<i>Leeches</i>	20	20
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	5	50
<i>Flatworms</i>	10	50
Very Tolerant		
<i>Midge larvae</i>	20	0
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	10	20
<i>Blood worms</i>	10	20
Total number found	113	162
Total Bug Score	32	15
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor

Comments

This is our first report since the Covid lockdown in 2020 forced the cancellation of site visits, the annual QA/QC checks, and the annual replacement of the chemical test reagents.

- The creeks were flowing well, except Valley Ck (site 3) which was a trickle we could not measure, however its pools were clear and unusually well vegetated.
- The dissolved oxygen levels were low, as usual for these creeks in summer.
- The invertebrates sample from Scotchmans Ck (site 2) included some creatures rated as Very Sensitive and Sensitive despite the low oxygen level, however Valley Ck (site 3) yielded nothing above the Tolerant classification. Both creeks rated Poor for the invertebrates.

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

Ivy – an Environmental Weed

Do you have any ivy in your garden?

Ivy grows well in shady spots in the garden and covers those difficult areas thus keeping out the other weeds.

But ivy is an environmental weed and likes to climb up fences and trees to reach the sunshine.

At this time of year ivy plants that have been allowed to climb up fences, trees and shrubs produce flowers. These flowers produce berries that are attractive to birds. The birds then transport the seeds around the neighbourhood thus spreading the ivy plant.



If you really want to have ivy in your garden, please keep it on the ground.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 27 th February 2021	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 7 th March	Clean Up Australia Day	Regent Street Playground from 9:30 am
Saturday 20 th March	BBQ or picnic	Details TBA
Saturday 27 th March	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm

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