



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – June 2021

President's Report

It is a pity we find ourselves back in lock-down. We hope you are coping and that the lock-down is relatively short and sweet.

A recent highlight for us was returning to Alvie Hall to have our first speaker in over a year. We had Rex Dusting, our Vice President and River Officer, give an informative and engaging presentation on the State of Scotchmans Creek and how it has changed over the decades. It was wonderful seeing so many of you in person. If you were unable to make it, the presentation is also available on our website. Look for it in the Reports section of the publications page.

We are also excited that both a Conservation Management Plan and an Integrated Site Plan are underway for Valley Conservation Reserve. We met with the consultants and Council staff and provided input on a number of issues. We stressed our desire that a *Statement of Purpose* is included and that both plans remain consistent with this. We also expressed the community's strongly held desire for a long-term, holistic solution to the erosion and drainage issues throughout Valley Conservation Reserve, including the area near the scout-hall, the waterways and the lower weir near Regent St. We hope to have someone from Council speak about the Conservation Management Plan and biodiversity monitoring in Valley Reserve at our AGM in October, COVID dependent of course.

Finally, you may have noticed an individual living in Valley Reserve for some months now. We have reported this to our Monash Councilor Liaisons, and Monash Council is doing what it can to provide him assistance.

On this note, if you see anything needing attention or something you have really appreciated, please let Council know. You can contact them in the following ways:

- Email mail@monash.vic.gov.au
- Download the Mobile phone App – Snap, Send, Solve
- Call (03) 9518 3555
- <https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Contact/Request-a-Service>

Take care,

Kallista Sears, President

Planting Program for 2021

We have plans for a full program of planting for 2021 despite the current short lock down due to Covid-19. We sincerely hope that we will not need to ask the Monash bush crew to do our planting for us this year as they did last year.

We will start with a Friends planting in Valley Reserve on Sunday 20th June. We have arranged for 800 plants that we will fund from our reserves. We have been weeding the area to be planted at our recent work parties. Come along and help us as many hands make light work! For more details, see the attached flyer.

We have two plantings in July of 2,000 plants each using our Melbourne Water grants. Students from Brentwood Secondary College will help us plant near Crosby Drive and employees from Australian Gas Infrastructure Group will help us plant near Regent Street.

Finally, we will celebrate National Tree Day on Sunday 1st August when we hope to plant 8,000 plants in Fairway Reserve. We will return to planting on the north side of the creek with parking in the car park at the south end of Fairway Reserve. We hope to have a good turn out for this event as the scouts will help us provide a sausage sizzle as usual. We expect registration to start from 10 am. More details to come.

Scotchmans Creek – State of the River Presentation

Wednesday 19th May



At the May Friends Meeting Rex Dusting, our vice-president, entertained us with an illustrated presentation on the state of Scotchmans Creek.

There were many excellent photos showing how the creek area has changed over many years.

His Powerpoint presentation is now on the website and has been annotated so that this version contains much of his commentary at the meeting.

Finader arm of Scotchmans Creek in July 2013

Waterwatch Results & Reports – April – May 2021

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	18/04/21	23/05/21	18/04/21	23/05/21	18/04/21	23/05/21	18/04/21	23/05/21
Date	18/04/21	23/05/21	18/04/21	23/05/21	18/04/21	23/05/21	18/04/21	23/05/21
Air temperature °C	15	12.5	15	12.5	14	10.5	14	10.5
Water temperature °C	14	12	14	11.5	14	10	14	10
pH	7.1 G	7.2 G	6.8 E	6.8 E	6.6 E	6.8 E	7.0 E	6.7 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	7.2 G		6.2 G			6.0 G		5.4 F
Conductivity E.C.	460 F	510 P	220 G	210 G	400 F	580 P	310 F	220 G
Turbidity F.T.U.	10 E	5 E	15 G	9 E	11 E	12 E	15 G	18 F
Phosphorus, soluble ppm								
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm								
Stream Flow L/s	3.1	1.2	13.4	5.8	7.0	19.0	0.1	0.03

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

April

Comments:

- All the chemical measurements that we could do, were Fair to Excellent.
- The waterbug sample from site 1a (Scotchmans Ck upstream of the Blackburn Rd litter trap) had a variety of creatures ranging all the way from Very Sensitive to Very Tolerant, and was rated Good. The sample from site 1b (the nearby Glen Waverley Drain tributary) was lacking in Very Sensitive or Sensitive creatures and was rated Poor.

May

Comments:

Valley Ck was scarcely flowing, but has some small shaded pools. At the other sites the creeks were flowing well, and looking exceptionally clear. In-stream vegetation in Scotchmans Ck at Regent St (site 2) is becoming dense, filtering out fine sediment (which clings to it).

Our chemical tests were limited in scope by supply problems with some reagents. We did measure...

- Good to Fair oxygen at the tested sites (the downstream sites).
- Good to Excellent pH at all sites.
- High conductivity at sites 1a and 2 (Scotchmans Ck at our upstream and downstream sites).
- Fair turbidity in Valley Ck, Excellent at the other sites.

The waterbug survey ratings of both downstream sites were remarkably different:-.

- The sample from Scotchmans Ck was disappointing, with only 41 creatures. It rated Poor.
- The sample from Valley Ck was better, with an unusually high number of damselfly nymphs found. It rated Very Good.

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

Winter in Valley Conservation Reserve

It may be cold most days, but we can enjoy the fresh air and the greenery in the reserve. The rain this year has been less than we had last year but the grassed areas are very green. One or two of the wattles are starting to bloom and some of the pink hakeas are flowering. The brachyscome daisies flower throughout the year and can always provide a splash of colour. There will be more flowers out soon.

Wildlife Spotting and the City Nature Challenge

At the end of April some of your committee assisted Monash Council with an evening of wildlife spotting in the dark in Valley Conservation Reserve. We had a great group of families and their children with red light torches looking to see what we could find. We saw some sugar gliders, some possums and disturbed some sleeping birds We also saw some microbats flying overhead.

Two days, later in the morning, we helped lead groups of families around the reserve taking photos of flowers and other interesting objects on their phones and uploading the photos to iNaturalist as part of a weekend of the City Nature Challenge.

These activities encourage the greater community to see what Valley Conservation Reserve has to offer apart from a great childrens playground.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Sunday 20 th June	Friends planting in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 9:30 am
Saturday 26 th June 2021	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 24 th July 2021	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 1 st August 2021	National Tree Day in Fairway Reserve	Register at the end of Fairway Avenue from 10 am

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