



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – December 2022

President's Report

FSCVR Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in the Mount Waverley Community Centre on Wednesday 19th October with a good attendance of members and friends, including our colleagues from Friends of Damper Creek.

The new office bearers for 2023 are:

- ❖ President: Tony Walker
- ❖ Vice President: Kallista Sears
- ❖ Secretary: Sally Walker
- ❖ Treasurer: Bharathy Shanmugam

FSCVR is involved in a large number of activities along the Scotchmans Creek corridor and in Valley Conservation Reserve, nowadays. The list of key roles and responsibilities illustrates how active we are!

- ❖ Safety Officer: Danielle Cini, May Lee
- ❖ River Officer: Rex Dusting, Fred Bullock, May Lee
- ❖ Valley Reserve Coordinator: Kallista Sears and Alan Moore (Education Garden)
- ❖ Waterwatch: Fred Bullock, May Lee
- ❖ Schools/University/Scouts Liaison: Tony Walker, Fred Bullock
- ❖ Melbourne Water Grants and Plantings: Sally Walker and Rex Dusting
- ❖ Social Media: Danielle Cini
- ❖ Newsletter Editor: Sally Walker, Danielle Cini
- ❖ Web Site: Sally Walker, Bharathy Shanmugam
- ❖ Clean Up Australia: Alan Moore, May Lee
- ❖ PALS Events: Alan Moore, Sally Walker
- ❖ Kooyong Koot Project: Rex Dusting
- ❖ VEFN and Yarra Riverkeepers: Rex Dusting and Danielle Cini
- ❖ Planning and Development Issues: Kallista Sears, Tony Walker

We are also being helped by Kelvin Ferguson with public notices and noticeboards.

As you can see, there is plenty for everyone to do! If you'd like to help in any of these areas, please contact us at info@scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au. We'd be delighted to see you!

At the AGM, Emily Payne from Monash City Council was our guest speaker, and she gave a most interesting and informative talk on water sensitive urban design (WSUD) and water management generally.

Despite the last 2 wet years, water remains a precious resource which we need to be prepared to manage carefully. It can, as we can see all too well also be a potent force of destruction. We need to learn to live with our rivers and creeks carefully and with respect!

Part of the medium term management for Valley Conservation Reserve will focus on water management – as many will be aware, the entrance area to the reserve is prone to local washout across the Waimarie Drive/Wills Avenue junction, and this results in severe local erosion near the scout hut.

Emily will be contributing her expertise to help design a suitable solution to this problem, that respects the sensitive nature of Valley Conservation Reserve's natural environment and reduces or (hopefully) eliminates the erosion problem.

Two of our committee members (Kallista and Bharathy) plan to meet with Emily to discuss the problem, and to understand the proposed solutions. We'll keep you posted. We also hope to have Emily back in the near future to tell us more about water management in Monash and hopefully, the proposed solution for Valley Conservation Reserve.

Planning for 2023

In my address to the AGM, I made the point that this year has seen a (cautious) return to normality. Covid has not disappeared, and may be with us for the longer term, but we have managed to carry out our normal programs of planting, weeding, waterwatch and schools activities constrained more by weather than Covid.

The committee has already begun discussing our priorities for 2023. We want to make sure FSCVR continues to reach out and connect with the community even better next year. If you have any ideas you think would help, please let us know.

Thank you to all our members and supporters and all those who helped us in 2022, and best wishes for a happy festive season and for the new year.

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Membership renewals – reminder – New Bank Account Details

Membership renewals become due on 31st August. The Application/Renewal form is available from our web site. Please help to support our work by joining us or renewing your membership. Note that you can pay your subscription by bank transfer to our new bank account with the Westpac Bank – details on the renewal form. But please also notify our new treasurer, Bharathy Shanmugam, that you have made the transfer.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – October – November 2022

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	23/10/22	20/11/22	23/10/22	20/11/22	23/10/22	20/11/22	23/10/22	20/11/22
Date	23/10/22	20/11/22	23/10/22	20/11/22	23/10/22	20/11/22	23/10/22	20/11/22
Air temperature °C	14.5	15	14.5	15	14.5	15		15
Water temperature °C	15	15	15	15	15.5	14.5		14.5
pH	7.6 G	7.5 G	7.5 G	7.4 G	7.1 G	7.3 G		7.1 G
Oxygen concentration mg/l		9.6 E		9.1 E	8.2 E			
Conductivity E.C.	550 P	340 F	340 F	280 F	340 F	220 G		310 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	41 D	74 D	16 G	42 D	43 D	54 D		52 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm		0.068 P		0.082 P	0.033 F			
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.02 E	0.00 E		0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	77.3	176.4	58.8	93.8	252	170.2	2.9	50.5
Habitat	23 F	23 F	26 F	26 F	28 F	28 F	30 G	30 G

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

October

Comments:

- Due to sewerage spill into Site 3, no sampling was performed for health and safety reasons. Yarra Valley Water is aware of the issue and had tagged the area. Some hay bales were placed in the stream to assist cleanup. Vegetation around Valley Creek was noticeably sparse, perhaps due to ingress/egress of Yarra Valley Water. The photo below was taken from the footpath; Valley Creek is not normally visible from this viewpoint :
- Turbidity was Good (Site 1b) to Degraded (Sites 2 & 1a); both downstream branches were muddied by heavy rain. Even so, the oxygen concentration at Site 2 was excellent.
- Ammonium results were excellent for Sites 1a, 1b & 2.
- The scheduled invertebrates sampling was not done due to high turbidity and fast flow making conditions difficult at site 2 (Scotchmans Ck) and due to remnants of the sewerage spill at site 3 (Valley Ck).

November

Comments:

- The scheduled invertebrates sampling was not done due to high turbidity and fast flow from previous day's heavy rain.
- As expected, Turbidity was Degraded for all sites; upstream and downstream branches were muddied by overnight heavy rain. Oxygen concentration at Sites 1a & 1b were excellent.
- Ammonium results were excellent for all sites.
- Stream flows are high – Regent St Site 2 was flowing almost as fast as Fiander arm Site 1a ! Valley Creek was at bankful.

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

Summer in Valley Conservation Reserve

Spring is the best time for flowers in Valley Conservation Reserve, but there are flowers in Summer as well.

Take a walk near the Education hub to see these blue to purple summer flowers.



Patersonia occidentalis – Long Purple-flag



Wahlenbergia gracilis – Australian Bluebell

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 5th March

Bring your friends along to help us clean up our little part of Australia – the Scotchmans Creek corridor, the Mount Waverley wetlands and Valley Conservation Reserve.

We meet at the Regent Street playground from 9.30 and finish about mid-day.

Please bring your own gloves, if possible, and sunscreen and water. Stout shoes are best as well.

Guest Speaker for our March meeting on Wednesday 15th March

Last year Peter Uhlherr entertained us with his excellent presentation on orchids in Valley Conservation Reserve and the Monash area.

His audience was enthralled with his many excellent photos and detailed explanations of how orchids entice insects to fertilise them.

We have invited Peter back to give us part 2 of his presentation on orchids.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 25 th February 2023	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Sunday 5 th March	Clean Up Australia Day	Regent Street {Playground 9.30 am
Wednesday 15 th March	Meeting with a speaker	Alvie Hall 7.30 pm
Saturday 18 th March	Friends Afternoon Tea	Details to come

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

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