



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter – February 2022

### ***President's Report***

Happy new year to all our members and supporters.

It looks as if this year we'll be able to resume our pre-Covid activities, with appropriate precautions. We're certainly planning to do so – looking forward to a busy 2022.

We are looking forward to a full planting program this year, and hoping to plant another 11 000 plants along the creek corridor. We'll update you on key dates when we know our grants situation.

#### **Members Get-Together**

We'd like to invite all members for a get-together at the Education Hub in Valley Conservation Reserve, 3pm on Saturday March 19. We will provide a variety of cheesecakes, but bring your own drinks and chairs if possible (There is seating at the education hub but experience says we may be too many for the available seating). We hope to also see the Mayor and some Monash Councillors.

Please let Sally Walker know if you are coming for catering purposes. (0477 006 774 or [secretary@scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au](mailto:secretary@scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au))

#### **444-454 Waverley Road**

We have made a submission to council concerning this very significant development. You can view this submission on our web site (look in the events & news page).

We have launched an on-line petition relating to the development aimed at ensuring that it is respectful of the Scotchmans Creek corridor and is as low-impact as possible. If you'd like to sign the petition, you can access it via our Facebook page.

We are also in discussion with council relating to the alignment of the new Scotchmans Creek trail section which will run adjacent to the creek. We are trying to strike a balance between retaining as many healthy native trees as possible while preserving the maximum practicable native vegetation corridor next to the creek.

The development is scheduled to be considered by council in March – we'll keep you posted.

#### **Monash Support Grant – Council's Discretionary Fund**

We are very pleased to have received a support grant from Monash Council of \$1000. We'll use this to buy a first aid kit and some Hi-Vis vests for our volunteers, and to put two of our committee

members through a first aid course. We will also buy a field microscope to support our schools and scouts activities.

### **Safety Officer**

We have decided to create a formal role of Safety Officer for FSCVR, and Danielle Cini, one of our new committee members has agreed to take this role. She has already reviewed and updated our activities safety plan, and is working to update our incident reporting processes.

### **Meeting with Gladys Liu and Sussan Ley**

A group of us met with Gladys Liu (Federal member for Chisholm), and Sussan Ley (Federal Minister for the Environment), in Valley Conservation Reserve. We took them for a brief walk and discussed what we do, and the importance of Conservation Reserves like Valley, to our local urban environment. I believe they were impressed by the quality of the Reserve and understood the need for ongoing support for such oases of bushland.

I hope you all had a pleasant holiday period, and like me, are looking forward to a busy new year as little affected by Covid as possible!

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

## ***Planting Program for 2022***

We have prepared and submitted grant applications for more plants to be planted in 2022 near Crosby Drive and in Fairway Reserve. We have completed our site visits with Melbourne Water and hope to be successful with our grant applications again this year.

We intend to have a Friends planting in Valley Conservation Reserve in June – more details to come.

## ***Guest Speaker for our meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March***

Finally, we should be back in Alvie Hall for our meetings with a speaker. But, maybe, with a maximum number of attendees of 25.

We are hoping that Lucas Skelton, Manager Horticulture from Monash, will be able to speak to us about the new management plans for Valley Conservation Reserve and the strategies for implementing the plans. More details to come.

As Covid restrictions are relaxing we hope to be able to provide tea/coffee after the presentation, but please bring along your own coffee cup.

Please also email or phone the secretary to let her know that you are coming so that we can manage numbers of attendees.

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – January – February 2022

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	23/01/22	20/02/22	23/01/22	20/02/22	23/01/22	20/02/22	23/01/22	20/02/22
Date	23/01/22	20/02/22	23/01/22	20/02/22	23/01/22	20/02/22	23/01/22	20/02/22
Air temperature °C	24	17	21.5	17	23.5	17	23.5	17
Water temperature °C	21.5	17	23	16.5	19.5	19	20	19
pH	7.1 G	7.1 G	6.7 E	6.8 E	6.8 E	7.0 E	7.2 G	7.0 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l		8.3 E		4.4 P	1.8 D		3.4 D	
Conductivity E.C.	510 P	220 G	350 F	360 F	620 P	350 F	1200 D	5200 D
Turbidity F.T.U.	9 E	10 E	20 P	14 E	18 F	22 P	49 D	10 E
Phosphorus, soluble ppm		0.023 G		0.218 D	0.098 P		0.121 D	
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.04 E	0.00 E	0.25 P	0.07 G	1.40 D	0.02 E	0.80 D	0.10 F
Stream Flow L/s	10.0	10.5	5.0	1.2	10.0	7.0	0.0	0.0

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

### January

#### Comments:

As expected after 2 weeks with only 3 mm rainfall, most of the water quality results were poor. The exception was good pH values at all sites.

- Scotchmans Creek, upstream (site 1a, the Fiander Arm) looked clear but had a Poor result for conductivity.
- The Glen Waverley Drain (site 1b) had Poor results for turbidity and ammonium.
- Scotchmans Ck, downstream (site 2, at Regent St) was generally degraded.
  - Oxygen was very low, conductivity and ammonium were high.
  - The waterbug sample was disappointingly poor. However there were many adult dragonflies about, indicating better long term conditions, but there were no dragonfly larvae in the waterbug sample.
- Valley Ck was not flowing, and smelling a bit of decaying vegetation.
  - All the water quality results (except pH) were Degraded.
  - The waterbug sample was better than expected (although rated Poor), with larger numbers of tolerant and very tolerant waterbugs, including some mosquito larvae. There were also many tadpoles.

### February

#### Comments:

Scotchmans Creek was covered in streaks of foam in the pool at Regent street (site ME\_YSC020, site 2), and there was some foam caught on the surface upstream between Turner Court and Crosby Drive (site ME\_YSC010, site 1a, Fiander Arm). The flow at the upstream site was stronger than 2 days prior, despite no rain. Half the flow was slightly cloudy water coming from a large pipe which drains the area close to Glen Waverley Station, via Bogong Reserve. This catchment includes part of the Kingsway precinct. Despite this appearance, these sites' chemical indicators were Fair to Excellent except for Poor turbidity at Regent St.

The Glen Waverley Drain (site 1b, Crosby Arm) looked good but had low oxygen and high phosphorus in the chemistry.

Valley Creek was not flowing but had Fair to Good chemistry except for extraordinarily high conductivity, measurable only after diluting the sample.

The waterbug samples, from the upstream sites, were not as good as we had hoped (given the warm weather) and both were rated Poor.

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

## ***Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 6th March 2022***

Alan Moore, our regular CUAD co-ordinator, has registered our group for Clean Up Australia Day this year as usual. We meet at the Regent Street Playground from 9.30 am.

Please remember to bring your own gloves, water and sunscreen. Collecting bags will be provided. This year we are being asked to count the number of face masks that we pick up.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Clean Up Australia Day	From 9.30 am at the Regent Street playground
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Meeting with a speaker	Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Friends Afternoon Tea in Valley Conservation Reserve	3 pm at the education hub
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm

### **FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC**

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Production of this newsletter is funded through Melbourne Water's River Health Incentives Program