



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter – August 2023

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

#### **Planting Completed for 2023**

In my last report, I noted that our planting season would be one of the busiest ever, and it certainly lived up to its billing! We had excellent attendances at all sessions, and all 12,500 plants are now in the ground. Let's hope for a moist spring to help them all get well established before summer comes.

Our plantings in Valley Conservation Reserve saw us establish 1,500 plants near the education hub, continuing the replanting of the area we began last year. The plants are in an existing bushland area where we are aiming at establishing a native understorey to replace a rather weedy – mainly grass – environment.

Along the Crosby Drive arm of Scotchmans Creek, between Crosby and Waverley Road (near Holmsglen TAFE), AGIG and Brentwood school's 'Green Team', planted 3,000 native plants, making a notable contribution to the further regeneration of a rich bushland corridor in that area.

Finally National Tree Day, when we set an all-time record for the number of participants with 291 FSCVR members and members of the community coming along on a beautiful sunny morning, to plant 8,000 plants along Fairway Reserve.

Thank you to everyone who took part in these plantings and helped play their part in restoring our wonderful bushland. Also thanks to Melbourne Water for providing the grants that make our program possible.

Above all, thanks to the City of Monash Horticulture team who did an enormous amount of work in preparing the planting sites and managing the planting operation itself. None of this would be possible without them.

#### **Kooyong Koot Alliance (KKA)**

We hosted a visit from representatives of KKA, at Valley Conservation Reserve. They comprised employees of the five councils involved, and Friends group and other community group members. The idea was to show them a maturing natural bushland restored through many years of care and hard work.

I believe they were all very impressed, and see Valley Conservation Reserve as a model of what can be done. They gained an understanding of the processes needed to bring back the bush and saw for themselves what a regenerated bushland environment looks like.

### **River Officers**

We have taken the step of splitting the River Officer role between 2 of our committee members (Rex and May) in order that each may focus on one stretch of the river in more detail. They have decided to set up a number of photo-points along Scotchmans Creek, to monitor for erosion and sedimentation and to observe environmental changes over time. We'll keep you posted on how that initiative develops.

### **Statement of Purpose for Valley Conservation Reserve**

As I mentioned in a previous report, FSCVR, led by Kallista, proposed that significant reserves in Monash, should have a Statement of Purpose, agreed with the community, as a preamble to their management plans.

I am pleased that City of Monash have agreed to this approach and we have been working with them, and their consultants to draft and finalise such a statement. As FSCVR members would expect, it emphasises strongly the conservation and education focus of Valley, and the strong focus on retaining and enhancing the natural bushland environment.

I expect to be able to publish it in the near future.

We are also about to start work on a Statement of Purpose for the Scotchmans Creek Corridor as in our view this too has become an important part of the City of Monash natural environment.

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

## ***Next Meeting on Wednesday 16th August –***

### ***Incoming from the Catchment – How Streamflow and Waterway Health are influenced at Valley Conservation Reserve***

We have asked Emily Payne from Monash Council to speak to us on the long term plans for Valley Conservation Reserve. Following a meeting we had with Emily and other members of Monash and a consultant when we discussed options to address the water flow issues in the Reserve, we look forward to hearing what plans have been developed to address this matter.

Join us in Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm.

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – June – July 2023

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	18/06/23	23/07/23	18/06/23	23/07/23	18/06/23	23/07/23	18/06/23	23/07/23
Date	18/06/23	23/07/23	18/06/23	23/07/23	18/06/23	23/07/23	18/06/23	23/07/23
Air temperature °C	15	10.5	12	10.5	12	10	12	10
Water temperature °C	11	10	11.5	11	10.5	8.5	10	9
pH								
Oxygen concentration mg/l	9.3 E		9.6 E			7.9 G		6.5 G
Conductivity E.C.	360 F	930 D	160 G	160 G	230 G	660 P	250 F	760 D
Turbidity F.T.U.	42 D	15 G	13 E	23 P	30 D	15 G	34 D	11 E
Phosphorus, soluble ppm								
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.00 E	0.02 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	37.6	8.4	66.5	181.3	58.3	8.5	16.2	0.0

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

### June

#### Comments:

- No pH or phosphorus measurements were taken as there was no chemicals available.
- Oxygen level was Excellent for Sites 1a and 1b.
- Ammonium level for all sites was Excellent (zero).
- Habitat scoring for Site 1a is the lowest (20) for several years; score for Site 1b is steady at 26.

#### Habitat Assessments:

Site YSC010 (1a), Scotchmans Creek upstream of Crosby Drive/Turner Court.

Ivy covers the west bank at the upstream end of the site. Narrow verge coverage of native trees and bushes, flanked by paths and mown grass. The scoring was 20/40, rated as Fair.

Site YSC012 (1b), Glen Waverley Drain. Bushland revegetation continues to improve the banks and verge. The scoring was 26/40, rated as Fair.

### July

#### Comments:

- No pH or phosphorus measurements were taken as there was no chemicals available.
- Oxygen level was Good for Sites 2 and 3.
- Turbidity results were Good to Excellent for all sites.
- Conductivity reading was high for all sites.
- Ammonium results were Excellent for all sites.
- Habitat scoring for Sites 2 & 3 are steady.

#### Habitat Assessments:

Site YSC020 (2), Scotchmans Creek downstream, Regent Street.

West bank vegetation growing well. Some new dianella plants at top of west bank. In-stream vegetation degraded/gone. The scoring was 28/40, rated as Fair.

Site YVA100 (3), Scotchmans Creek downstream, Valley Creek.  
Weeds on south side thinned out. The scoring was 29/40, rated as Good.

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

## ***Spring in Valley Conservation Reserve***

It has been cold, but the days are getting longer and the flowers are blooming.



Moisture encourages the fungi and these orange ones are very spectacular.  
This pair of tawny frogmouths were observed in the Scotchmans Creek Reserve.

## ***Membership renewals – reminder – New Bank Account Details***

Membership renewals become due on 31st August. The Application/Renewal form is on the back page of this newsletter. 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 the treasurer that you have made the transfer.

# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Membership Application / Renewal

Membership is renewable each year on 31 August

Name(s): .....

Address: .....

Phone: ..... Email: .....

I'm happy to receive all notices by email:  Yes  No

Membership type:  Individual (\$5.00)  Family (\$10.00)  Organisation/Corporate (\$20.00)

I enclose cash/cheque of \$ .....  Tick if receipt required

OR

I have deposited \$ ..... in the Association's Westpac Bank account:  
Account name: Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc.  
Account number: 033065 573951

\*\*\*\* Please put your name in the banking details and also advise the treasurer \*\*\*\*

Date:.....

Please forward to: **The Treasurer,  
Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc.,**

**email [treasurer@scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au](mailto:treasurer@scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au)**

**Ph. 0425 724 011**



Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	Meeting with a speaker – Emily Payne from Monash Council - future plans for streamflow and waterway health in Valley Conservation Reserve	Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm
Saturday 26 August	Work party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Saturday 30 September	Work party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Wednesday 18 October	Annual General Meeting	Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm

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