



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – June 2023

President's Report

Planting Season is About to Start

Looks like 2023 will be one of our busiest planting seasons to date. We have:

- A Friends planting in Valley Conservation Reserve on Sunday 11th June (this is a 'What's Your Jam?' session – all friends and supporters welcome). Meet at the Amenities block in Valley Conservation Reserve for a 9:30am start. We hope to plant 800 plants that morning.
- A second Friends and supporters planting on Saturday 17th June in Valley Conservation Reserve. Again, we will start at 9:30 am and for this event, there will be a free native plant for everyone who participates. We will be planting 700 plants that day. This event is supported by a grant from the City of Monash.
- We have two special plantings for our community partners in AGIG and Brentwood School – both of these will be in July, along the Scotchmans Creek corridor and the two groups will plant 3000 more plants along the creek. A grant from Melbourne Water will fund the plants.
- Finally the big one! National tree day on Sunday 30th July in Fairway Reserve, starting at 10:00am where we will plant 8000 plants. This planting is open to the entire community and the scouts will provide a free sausage sizzle for everyone who helps us plant. Melbourne Water will provide the funding for the plants.

We'll provide full details of that event closer to the date, with meetup details etc. and it will be on our web site, and our Facebook page. Bring the whole family, and help us build on the great work the whole community has done in making the Scotchmans Creek corridor even better!

World Environment Day

Our focus this year is on plastic pollution. This is a world wide problem – it has been estimated that by 2050, if we don't take action, there will be a greater weight of plastics in the ocean than fish! Beaches are now polluted with plastic almost everywhere around the world – even on remote islands, and plastic ingestion is already having a catastrophic effect on seabirds and mammals.

In our local creeks, we can always tell how high the most recent flood event reached, by the tide line of plastic bags clinging to the tree along the creek. Remember – everything that reaches the street winds up in the creek eventually – and hence often winds up in the ocean.

In our annual ‘Clean up Australia’ day in March, we typically collect 12 – 15 bags of litter along Scotchmans Creek, and the vast majority of it consists of hundreds of items of plastic.

Our local focus is on reducing plastic waste as far as we can. Plastic bags used for fruit and vegetables can be re-used over and over, but better still, use cloth and other natural substance bags wherever possible.

Try to avoid plastic drinks bottles – especially water bottles. Lets use refillable wherever possible.

If we want to keep our creeks and reserves clean and attractive, we all need to play our part in reducing our use of plastic, and recycling wherever we can.

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

KooyongKoot - Gardiners Creek

Past, Present and a Vision for its Future

Wednesday 17th May

Dr Gary Presland gave us a fascinating insight into the history of Gardiners Creek with old maps and historical photos showing a very different world from today.

The Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Regional Collaboration (G.C.R.C.) is an alliance of organisations and groups working together to protect and enhance the Gardiners Creek catchment.

Graham Ross from the KooyongKoot Alliance informed us about the future options for Gardiners Creek under its older name of KooyongKoot and introduced the new Regional Collaboration document. This document may be found on our web site on the publications page.

Scotchmans Creek is part of the Gardiners Creek catchment and Valley Creek is part of the Scotchmans Creek catchment. So, our efforts to look after our Scotchmans Creek catchment are an important part of looking after the KooyongKoot catchment.

Winter in Valley Conservation Reserve

It may be cold most days, but we can enjoy the fresh air and the greenery in the reserve.



With all the rain that we have had on the last few months the fungi have been fruiting prolifically.

These creamy coloured fungi can be seen near the Regent Street playground where there are several clumps of them. There are also lots of other fungi to be seen in the reserve.

Fungi play an important role in the environment as they not only break down vegetable matter but provide an underground web of mycelium which transfers nutrition and information between the fungi and the other plants around them.

Next Meeting on Wednesday 16th August – The Management of 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.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – April – May 2023

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	23/04/23	21/05/23	23/04/23	21/05/23	23/04/23	21/05/23	23/04/23	21/05/23
Date	23/04/23	21/05/23	23/04/23	21/05/23	23/04/23	21/05/23	23/04/23	21/05/23
Air temperature °C	16	10.5	16	10.5	17	10.5	17	10.5
Water temperature °C	15	11	15	11	15.5	10.5	15	11
pH	n/a		n/a		n/a		n/a	
Oxygen concentration mg/l	8.1 E		9.5 E			10.0 E		9.6 E
Conductivity E.C.	680 P	220 G	110 G	160 G	260 F	110 G	410 F	180 G
Turbidity F.T.U.	10 E	36 D	6 E	23 P	9 E	40 D	29 P	54 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.059 P		0.013 G			0.000 E		0.013 G
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.07 G	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	6.8	166.6	26.0	181.3	23.8	210.0	<5	59.9

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

April

Comments:

- No pH measurement was taken as there was no pH indicator available.
- Oxygen level was Excellent for Sites 1a and 1b.
- Ammonium level for all sites was Excellent (zero).
- High conductivity reading for Site 1a.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Poor for both the upstream sites.
- Valley Creek flow was too low to measure (estimate taken).

May

Comments:

- The scheduled invertebrates sampling was not done due to high water level and fast flow from overnight rain.
- As expected, Turbidity was Poor to Degraded for all sites; upstream and downstream branches were muddied by overnight rain. Oxygen concentration at Sites 2 & 3 were excellent.
- Ammonium results were Good to Excellent for all sites.
- Stream flows were high – Regent St Site 2 was close to bankful and Valley Creek Site 3 was over bankful.

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

In the next three months we will be undertaking our annual habitat surveys of the creek.

Visit to Melbourne Water’s Western Treatment Plant – Saturday 20th May

Some members of our Waterwatch group visited Melbourne Water’s Western Treatment Plant as guests of Volunteer Recognition - Landcare and Melbourne Water.

We had an interesting tour of the old Werribee wetlands which are being opened up to birdwatcher group as they host an amazing range of birdlife. It is an important feeding area for migratory birds. Many have flown in from the northern hemisphere and some have just flown over Bass straight from Tasmania.

Our sewage is treated differently now and it does not require the large land area that was required in the past.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Sunday 11 th June	Friends planting in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 9:30 am
Saturday 17 th June	Friends planting in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 9:30 am
Saturday 24 th June	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 22 nd July – note earlier date	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 30 th July	National Tree Day in Fairway Reserve	Registration details will come soon.
Wednesday 16 th August	Meeting with a speaker – We have asked Emily Payne from Monash Council to update us on future plans for the management of Valley Conservation Reserve	Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm

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