



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – June 2024

President's Report

Our president Sally Walker is taking a well-earned break and she has asked me to temporarily step-up and provide a “VP report” for this month.

As I write we are enjoying a spate of bright sunny May days – cool to start but filled with glorious sunshine later in the day. I hope our readers are managing to get out and enjoy your past hard work and support and our wonderful Reserves.

Preparation for Winter Planting

After a dry late summer – early autumn April brought some welcome rain and with some further moderate falls will provide a good start to our planting season this year.

Commencing late last year we kicked off some planning meetings with Melbourne Water and Council Officers to develop some plans for future plantings in the Scotchmans Creek corridor downstream of the Freeway crossing and upstream of Stanley Avenue. The outcome of this planning work and follow up Grant Applications was an agreement for a three-year program of plantings in this area.

This program will this year be the basis of our big community tree planting event on National Tree Day on July 28th. This will involve filling in some largely un-used open areas on the south bank of the creek with a variety of plants. This should be a fun event with easy access. Look out for more detailed notices on this event but in the meantime mark it into your diaries.

The other part of this three-year program will involve plantings on the north bank to strengthen and thicken the understory to improve habitat for small birds and other fauna. This is planned for early July mid-week plantings principally using local secondary school and Holmesglen students.

Other activities this winter include:

- A Friends planting session of 900 plants in Valley Conservation Reserve as previously mentioned in April's newsletter on at 9:30 on Sunday 16th June courtesy of funding by Yarra Valley Water.
- A mid-week Friends planting in the wetland area immediately south of the end of Lawrence Road in an area we commenced planting several years ago. This planting is courtesy of

offset funds for plants and ground preparation provided by Melbourne Water's contractor undertaking tree removal around the Mount Waverley Reservoir on High Street Road. Current planning is for this to occur mid-July but more details on this event will be announced when they have been confirmed.

One of the benefits of Sally taking a break is that I can take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank her for the time, effort and invaluable knowledge she applies to planning, enabling funding and managing our annual planting activities. I have had the opportunity to personally witness and appreciate the work she does for the benefit of us and the wider community. So thank you Sally!

Rex Dusting

Vice-President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Guest Speaker – Lichens - beauty in miniature - Wednesday 15th May

Our guest speaker for our May 15 meeting was Dr. Kathleen Ralston, an avid collector of lichens and Voluntary Research Lichenologist who gave a very interesting and informative talk. Some of what we learnt about lichens was they are made up of 90% fungus and 5-10% algae, thrive in sunlight, open up in rain and tend not to be present in areas of high pollution. Kathleen brought in some very detailed photographs and botanical illustrations of a variety of lichens she has collected from many parts of Australia and spoke about the 3 forms of lichen: *crustose* – crusty, *foliose* – leafy and *fruticose* – shrubby in appearance. Lichens truly are “beauty in miniature” and there is still a lot scientist do not know about these delicate plants.

Planting Session

Our first planting session for the year will be a Friends planting in Valley Conservation Reserve Sunday 16th June starting at 9.30 am where we hope to plant 900 plants.

It is a good idea to bring a pair of gardening gloves if you can.

Please meet by the amenities block in Valley Conservation Reserve.

Mid July we plan to have a Friends planting - wetland South end of Lawrence Road.

National Tree Day Sunday 28th July will be a community planting day south bank of Scotchmans Creek, upstream of Stanley Avenue.

As other times and locations are decided we will keep you informed.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – April – May 2024

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	21/04/24	19/05/24	21/04/24	19/05/24	21/04/24	19/05/24	21/04/24	19/05/24
Date	21/04/24	19/05/24	21/04/24	19/05/24	21/04/24	19/05/24	21/04/24	19/05/24
Air temperature °C	14	10	14	10	14	10	14	10
Water temperature °C	14	12	13	12	14	11	13.5	10
pH	7.4 G	7.4 G	7.1 G	6.8 E	7.1 G	6.7 E	7.0 E	6.8 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	9.3 E		7.0 G			9.5 E		7.8 G
Conductivity E.C.	400 F	420 F	370 F	90 E	410 F	240 G	400 F	280 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	10 E	44 D	11 E	6 E	21 P	12 E	31 D	19 F
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.016 G		0.121 D			0.055 P		0.068 P
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	14.7	3.7	7.9	14.0	16.3	21.5	0.7	0.1

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

Macro Invertebrates Results

	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm 21-04-2024	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm 21-04-2024
	Number found	Number found
Sensitive		
Damselfly larvae	0	2
Dragonfly larvae	1	2
Freshwater mussel	0	0
Freshwater Shrimps/prawns	0	0
Water Mites	0	0
Tolerant		
Beetle larvae	1	0
True Bugs (Backswimmers, Water Scorpions, Water Boatmen, Lesser Water Spiders, Water Striders/Treaders)	0	0
Leeches	3	5
Snails (freshwater)	30	50
Flatworms	0	10
Very Tolerant		
Fly Larvae	0	0
Freshwater segmented worms	5	20
Blood worms	4	20
Total Number Found	44	109
Total Bug Score	18	23
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor



Freshwater Yabby



Caddisfly larvae

April

Comments:

- Stream flows were low. Measurements made with floating twigs, tape measure and stopwatch, are approximate.
- Oxygen concentration at Site 1a was Excellent and at Site 1b was Good.
- Conductivity reading was Fair for all sites.
- Turbidity was Excellent for Sites 1a & 1b but Poor to Degraded for Sites 2 & 3.
- Phosphorus results was Good for Site 1a and Degraded for Site 1b.
- Ammonium results were Excellent for all sites.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Poor for both upstream sites.

May

Comments:

- Scotchmans Ck Site 1a was muddy, conductivity was high, and had very low flow.
- Glen Waverley Drain Site 1b was clear, low conductivity, and was flowing normally.
- Scotchmans Ck Site 2 rated good to excellent except for poor phosphate level, and was flowing normally.
- Valley Ck Site 3 rated fair to excellent except for poor phosphate level, and was flowing very slowly.
- We omitted the scheduled invertebrates survey because only 2 people were on site.

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 and Scotchmans Creek

Hopefully this winter will bring a few good heavy rains to give our proposed and existing plantings a good boost to promote growth and for the new seedlings well established root systems in preparation for our typically drier summer months.

We can already see the progress of previous plantings which is helping revegetate and create more habitat for native wildlife.

When out walking along Scotchmans Creek and Valley Conservation Reserve it is important to please try and stick to the paths, this assists our sensitive new seedlings growing and revegetation. When walking with your dogs all areas are on-leash only and please be aware there are sensitive revegetation areas within Valley Conservation Reserve that are strictly no dog areas (these no dog areas are indicated on the maps around the reserve). We are trying to encourage more habitat

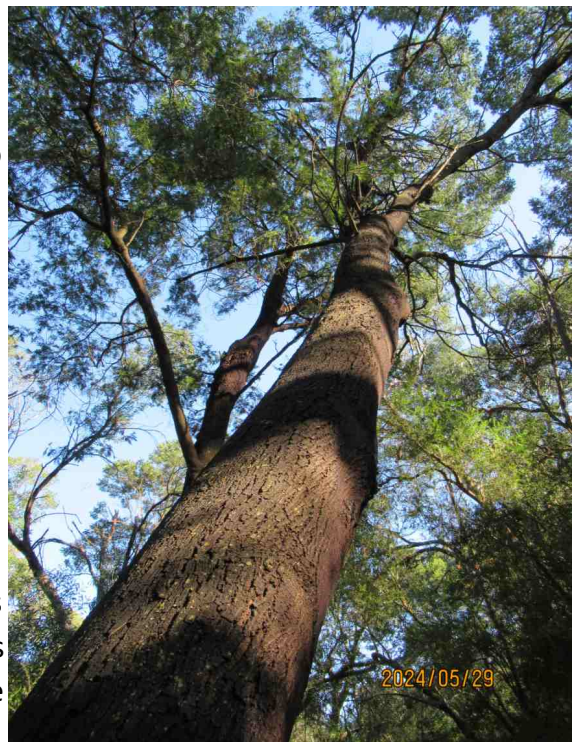


Photo courtesy Imogen Burgin Uhlherr

and increase wildlife numbers and dogs, which leave a scent behind as they travel along, deter many native animals from visiting the areas dogs have been through. If you are unsure, there is signage posts to assist.

For more information you can contact the council on 9518 3555.

Friends Afternoon Tea – Saturday 6th April

The rain held off and we had a fine Friends Afternoon Tea where Sally our President, welcomed everyone, old and new, reflected on past year’s achievements, discussed future events and thanked everyone for all the work that is done to help maintain and improve our wonderful waterways and conservation reserve. The tea was attended by 24 people, including State Government representative Matt Fregon, Federal representative Dr. Carina Garland, our Mayor Cr Nicky Luo and her daughter. Sally thanked all of our community, Monash Council, Melbourne Water, Friends, Schools, Scouts, Speakers - without your help we would not be able to achieve as much as we do!



Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Sunday 16 th June	Friends planting in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 9.30am
Saturday 29 th June	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 am “What’s your jam?” event
Saturday 20 ^h July	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Sunday 28 th July	National Tree Day planting	South Bank Scotchmans Ck, upstream Stanley Ave
Midweek Mid July	Friends Planting Wetland South end of Lawrence Road	T.B.A.

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