



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – April 2025

FSCVR acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we work in, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways.

President's Report

The weather has been very dry and many plants are looking rather stressed or withered. We have certainly had warmer than usual weather with longer periods of higher temperatures and little or no rain. Despite all that we are starting to organise our planting program for later this year.

Since returning from the holiday break we have all been very busy with Friends activities.

Regular activities:

We have had two WaterWatch sessions with a small number of efficient volunteers; a very successful Clean Up Australia Day event with many volunteers; but one cancelled work party due to the expected very hot weather.



Our next 3 work party sessions will be a little different:

In March we will have a group of Chinese speaking people along to help us weed; in April we will be taking part in the Monash City Nature Challenge as part of the session with most of us weeding but with a little help from the other Challenge participants; in May we will advertise our work party as part of the "What's Your Jam" program with Council. Maybe we can interest some more people to join our group!



Cubs/Scouts/Schools:

In February we have had two sessions with junior scouts at Regent Street where we have conducted short walks beside Scotchmans Creek and introduced the scouts to the macro invertebrates that live in the creeks. Our local schools are starting to contact us about sessions for their students in the coming months.

Meetings:

We have had our first evening meeting with a speaker, Claire Brace.

Claire is the new Coordinator Sustainability within the Sustainable Monash Department of the City of Monash. Claire and a couple of Colleagues spoke to us about her role in Council programs, projects and initiatives supporting resource recovery, sustainability, urban biodiversity and the circular economy. A very informative session for us all.

For our meeting with a speaker in May we hope to have Ian Moodie giving us a presentation on spiders. He has been taking many photos of these interesting creatures recently. More details to come.

Friends Afternoon Tea:

But our most important upcoming event is our Friends Afternoon Tea which will take place on Saturday 5th April. I hope that we will see many of our members and friends at this get together which will be held at the education hub at 3 pm. See the attached flyer.

Sally Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.

WaterWatch Results & Reports - February - March 2024

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	16/02/25	23/03/25	16/02/25	23/03/25	16/02/25	23/03/25	16/02/25	23/03/25
Date	16/02/25	23/03/25	16/02/25	23/03/25	16/02/25	23/03/25	16/02/25	23/03/25
Air temperature °C	15	18.5	15	18.5	15	14	13	14
Water temperature °C	15	17.5	14	17.5	14	16	14	16
pH	7.1 G	7.5 G	6.9 E	7.0 E	6.6 E	6.8 E	6.8 E	6.7 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	9.1 E		7.9 G			8.7 E		5.9 F
Conductivity E.C.	160 G	1520 D	130 G	130 G	240 G	250 F	200 G	270 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	16 G	12 E	17 G	3 E	20 P	13 E	29 P	24 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.029 F		0.020 G			0.010 G		0.046 F
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.07 G	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.07 G	0.00 E	0.02 E
Stream Flow L/s	36.3	29.4	19.6	12.0	157.7	23.9	6.4	2.5

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 16-02-2024	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm 16-02-2024	YSC020 Site 2 Regent St 23-03-2025	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Ck 23-03-2025
	Number found	Number found	Number found	Number found
Very Sensitive				
Caddisfly larvae	20	10	2	3
Sensitive				
Damselfly Larvae	20	12	5	1
Dragonfly Larvae	0	7	1	0
Freshwater Slaters	2	1	0	0

Freshwater Yabbies/Crayfish	0	0	0	1
Tolerant				
Beetles/Dytiscid beetles, Whirligig beetles	0	0	1	0
Leeches	1	1	6	0
Snails (freshwater)	20	50	20	20
Flatworms	5	2	20	4
Very Tolerant				
Mosquito Larvae	5	1	0	0
Midge Larvae	1	2	0	0
Fly Larvae	10	0	0	0
Freshwater segmented worms	1	1	0	5
Blood worms	50	50	20	0
Total Number Found	135	137	75	34
Total Bug Score	35	39	32	25
Stream Condition	Poor	Good	Poor	Poor

February

Comments:

- The pH level was Good to Excellent for all sites.
- The oxygen level was Excellent for site 1a and Good for site 1b – typical of fast flow.
- The conductivity level was Good for all sites – typical of fast flow.
- The turbidity level for upstream sites were Good, and Poor for downstream sites.
- The phosphorus level for site 1a was Fair and for site 1b it was Good.
- The ammonium test results were Excellent (they were all zero) for all sites.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('WaterWatch' method) were Poor for Site 1a and Good for Site 1b. It was a pleasant surprise to find a healthy quantity of caddis fly larvae, damselfly larvae and dragonfly larvae in both upstream sites.



Yabby - Photo courtesy May Lee

March

Comments:

- Oxygen concentration at Site 2 was Excellent and for Site 3 it was Fair.
- Conductivity reading was Degraded for Site 1a; Good for Site 1b and Fair for Sites 2 & 3.
- Turbidity was Excellent for Sites 1a, 1b and 2; and Poor for Site 3.
- Phosphorus results were Good for Site 2 and Fair for Site 3.
- Ammonium results were Excellent for sites 1b & 3, Good for sites 1a & 2.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Poor for both downstream sites.
- There were tadpoles at Site 3 and gambusia fish were present at Sites 2 and 3.



Leech - Photo courtesy May Lee

For access to the full reports, the data collected and the habitat photos, view the waterwatch page on our web site. Contact Fred or May if you wish to join in - Email: info@scotchmancreekfriends.org.au

Clean up Australia Day – Sunday March 2nd March

Photo and column by May Lee

Clean Up Australia Day was a huge success with 90 volunteers from the local community, aged 3 to 88. We collected 37 bags of rubbish! We were able to clean up a large area next to the creek along Scotchmans Creek Trail, spanning from Lilian St / Waverley Rd end to Stanley Avenue where our current 3-year grant planting site is. A special shout out to the group from Monash Biological Society (Monash University) who came and helped us out. Thank you everyone!



Friends Afternoon Tea Saturday 5th April at 3pm – see attached flyer

Temporary closure of Regent St entry to Valley Conservation Reserve

Some residents will have received a letter from Monash City Council regarding geotechnical investigation work on the wetland within Valley Conservation Reserve with the works beginning Tuesday 25 March until Monday 31 March 2025.

Temporary fencing will be erected and a temporary closure of the bridge, boardwalk and entry at Regent St end of Valley Conservation Reserve. There is a notice at Valley Conservation Reserve with details.

Guest Speaker for our May meeting on Wednesday 21st May

Join us at Alvie Hall 7.30pm, Wednesday 21 May to hear guest speaker Ian Moodie talking about spiders along with detailed photographs.

Following the talk there will be refreshments. Please bring your own cup. More details to come.

Planting Session

First planting session for the year is a Friends planting Sunday 15th June starting at 9.30 am. Please meet by the amenities block in Valley Conservation Reserve.

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

Happy 5th Birthday Valley Conservation Reserve!

Early 2020 Valley Conservation Reserve was recognized as being a **Conservation** Reserve by Monash City Council. Valley Conservation Reserve has flora, fauna and habitat that is significant and the Conservation Reserve is now managed by full time Rangers.

You may like to celebrate with us by doing some weeding and planting at one of our work parties – a great way to give back to the environment that we love!

It is important to stick to the paths when out enjoying the beautiful Valley Conservation Reserve - in some areas the paths can be quite narrow so remember to walk single file.

A reminder dogs on leash are welcome at the Conservation Reserve however there are strictly “no dogs” areas due to the extremely sensitive areas. If you are unsure, read the signage displayed on signposts along the paths. There are also several maps displayed which have “no dogs” paths indicated on them to assist. The Conservation Reserve is a 24 hour NO cat area.

Please contact the Monash Council on 9518 3555 if you would like to find out about building a cat run, dog off leash parks, notify them of overfull bins or for any other issue.

Autumn in Valley Conservation Reserve & Scotchmans Creek areas

There have been many people enjoying the cool shade of the trees in Valley Conservation Reserve and Scotchmans Creek corridors during recent hot periods. As Autumn is a good time to plan for planting, you may wish to plant some indigenous plants to cool your own gardens and help keep a healthy diversity of the local wildlife.

Reminder chocolate is toxic to most wildlife and dogs so please hold your “Easter Egg Hunts” in your homes.



Buff Banded Rail

Guest Speaker for our March meeting on Wednesday 19th March

Clair Brace from City of Monash spoke about the Sustainability Team with 2 colleagues Naomi and Brenda at our March meeting. They run a Sustainability booth with a craft area for children at Farmers’ & Sunday Markets, Festivals etc. so people can stop and talk to the team.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 5 th April	Friends Afternoon Tea	Education Hub
Saturday 26 th April	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Wednesday 21 st May	Meeting with speaker Ian Moodie	Alvie Hall 7.30 pm
Saturday 31 st May	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Sunday 15 th June	Friends planting in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 9.30am
Saturday 28 ^h June	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 am

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

55 Waimarie Drive
Mount Waverley
Victoria 3149

Email: info@scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au

Incorporation No. A0037872K

Website: scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au

Visit us at facebook.com/fscvr and please “like” us.

Thanks to the office of **Matt Fregon MP** for their help with printing this newsletter.

Responsibility for editorial content is solely that of the editor.



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