



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – February 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

Happy New Year!

I hope that you all enjoyed the festive season break.

We are now a charity:

The Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve is now a charity. Since the AGM last year we have applied to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission to become a charity and were accepted in December last year.

This will involve minor changes in reporting requirements but will not affect our day to day activities.

The environment:

We now know that 2024 was the world's hottest year since records began. It continues to be very important that we keep working with Council to look after and advocate for Valley Conservation Reserve and the Scotchmans Creek corridor.

I am aware that the horticultural group are investigating how they need to change their plant lists to ensure that they are using plants that can prosper in a warmer climate. We also need to assist Monash in encouraging the planting of suitable vegetation in private gardens including trees to provide shade and cooling in a warmer climate.

Our regular activities:

Our schedule for monthly work parties has been approved and is now up on our web site. The usual reminders will appear in our newsletters. We encourage you to come along to help with the weeding as the more of us that come along the more weeds that we can remove. Weeding is a very satisfying activity as when we gather the weeds we have removed and look at the area we have been working in we realise just how much of a difference our efforts have made. Last year had quite a lot of rain and few dry periods so the weeds grew very well.

Our program of waterwatch sessions has already started. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to Fred or May.

Our planting program:

We will return to Stanley East Reserve in July for National Tree Day and hope that both Holmesglen Tafe students and Brentwood SC students will assist us again on the North side of the creek. This will be the second year of our 3 year grant.

We will have our usual Friends planting on Sunday 15th June when we will purchase plants for Valley Conservation Reserve.

Community events:

Our first community event for 2025 will be Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 2nd March.

We expect to assist Monash Libraries with a walk in the next few months – date to come.

We are creating a program of evening events with a speaker and expect to have our first such evening on Wednesday 19th March. We have an arrangement with the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve to share our evening speakers which will start with their February meeting on Wednesday 26th at Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm. Wendy Clark will provide a photographic essay of local insects and their importance to the environment.

Get together for our members:

We are planning for a get together on Saturday 5th April, so put the date in your calendar. More information to come.

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



Waterwatch Results & Reports – January 2025

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm	YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
Date	19/01/25	19/01/25	19/01/25	19/01/25
Air temperature °C	24	24	24	24
Water temperature °C	20	22	20	20
pH	7.6 G	6.9 E	6.8 E	6.9 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l			7.0 G	3.5 D
Conductivity E.C.	1010 D	120 G	290 F	410 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	17 G	5 E	8 E	31 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm			0.026 F	0.065 P
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.04 E	0.07 G	1.50 D
Stream Flow L/s	0.7	2.1	15.4	0.02

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

Macro Invertebrates Results

	YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street 19/01/2025	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek 19/01/2025
	Number found	Number found
Very Sensitive		
Caddisfly larvae	1	0
Sensitive		
Damselfly larvae	10	0
Dragonfly larvae	0	1
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	0
Snails (freshwater)	30	30
Flatworms	50	30
Very Tolerant		
Mosquito larvae	0	1
Fly larvae	2	0
Freshwater segmented worms	20	20
Blood worms	20	30
Total Number Found	137	112
Total Bug Score	30	16
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor



Caddisfly larvae - Photos courtesy May Lee

Comments:

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

Guest Speaker for our meeting on Wednesday 19th March – Sustainable Monash: Supporting an environmentally sustainable city

Join us at Alvie Hall 7.30pm Wednesday 19 March to hear guest speaker Claire Brace, the new Sustainability and Biodiversity Coordinator for the City of Monash speak on the Sustainability Team's programs, projects and initiatives supporting resource recovery, sustainability, urban diversity and circular economy. Following the talk there will be Q&A and refreshments. Please bring your own cup.

Work Party

First work party session for the year is Saturday 22nd February starting at 1.20 am for weeding. Please meet by the amenities block in Valley Conservation Reserve.

Come along to our work parties – it is a great way to learn about weeds, maintenance and planting as well as learn about the valued indigenous plants. This may help you ID plants in your own garden – you may find you have weeds to pull or a real gem that has self seeded!

Weeding in Valley Conservation Reserve is very rewarding and gives the indigenous vegetation less competition for space and nutrients. We also pull weeds in preparation for new plantings.

Work parties with FSCVR are a good way to get out into the local community, good for the soul and a good way to give back to the environment. You also get to meet the Monash Bush Crew and Rangers who do a fabulous job maintaining Valley Conservation Reserve and Scotchmans Creek corridor! Please join us!

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

Summer in Valley Conservation Reserve and Scotchmans Creek

The insects are abuzz in Valley Conservation Reserve and along Scotchmans Creek corridor at the moment and some flowers blooming others finishing and fruits and seeds forming. You may wish to take a summer walk and listen to all the summer sounds of the beautiful wildlife that inhabit the areas. Perhaps take an evening stroll, watch the sunset, marvel at the moon and be in awe at the beauty that surrounds.



Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 2nd March

Our group will meet at the Regent Street Playground from 9:30am on Sunday 2nd March for Clean Up Australia Day 2025 - more details on our website and notice board flyers.

Guest Speaker for our October AGM 2024

Our member Kayla Sibly spoke on fire management in Australia at our October AGM meeting last year and discussed the importance of fire in the ecosystem and the indigenous cool burns which have been practiced in this country. A most informative, thought provoking talk.

Revisiting the site of a 2024 fire (NW corner) in Valley Conservation Reserve you can see how some regrowth has developed. Fortunately the fire did not reach the canopy.



Kangaroo Apple – *Solanum aviculare* at the 2024 site burnt by fire at Valley Conservation Reserve

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 22 nd February	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Sunday 2 nd March	Clean Up Australia Day	Regent Street Playground from 9:30am
Wednesday 19 th March	Meeting with with speaker Claire Brace	Alvie Hall 7.30 pm
Saturday 29 th March	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Saturday 5 th April	Friends Afternoon Tea	Details nearer the date
Saturday 26 th April	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 am

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

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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