



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – October 2026

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

Interactive Signage for Valley Conservation Reserve!

Late in 2025, working with City of Monash and Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve (FoDCCR), we submitted an application for a community grant from the Suburban Rail Loop Authority. The project we proposed, was for interactive signage for Valley and Damper Creek Conservation Reserves. Recently we were advised that our application had been successful, and we have now received the first part of the grant.

This project will establish marker points around the two reserves, equipped with QR codes. On reading these codes you will be linked to a web page containing information about the reserve, the place you are in, and what you can see and experience as you look around. City of Monash will host the web site and FSCVR and FoDCCR will provide much of the information visitors can draw on as they walk around.

For Valley Conservation Reserve, we anticipate giving information about the reserve's history and significance, the bushland in our area, and the plants, birds and animals you can see in the reserve. Each marker point will tell a story about its special features.

We'll be able to update information periodically, as changes happen in the reserve, and to help all our visitors understand and appreciate what a special place it is.

Danielle Cini will be our lead information provider, and she will be helped by all of our committee members and by City of Monash staff. She will also reach out to FSCVR members to help contribute their knowledge and stories about the reserve.

This project will begin almost immediately – firstly by getting the information together and working out how best to present it, then later, visitors will see a new set of unobtrusive marker points with QR codes appearing around the two reserves.

This is a project we have wanted to do for some years - it uses technology already in place in ACT Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Museum and in many similar public spaces.

We'll keep you updated as the project progresses.



FSCVR Annual General Meeting!

Just a quick reminder that our AGM will be at our usual venue, Alvie Hall, on Wednesday October 21 at 7:30pm. Please come along and meet the committee, and your fellow members.

If any member would like to join the committee and help us to keep our reserves and river corridor beautiful and healthy, please contact our Secretary, May Lee, or get in touch on info@scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.

WaterWatch Results & Reports – August – September 2026

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
Date	23/08/26	20/09/26	23/08/26	20/09/26	23/08/26	20/09/26	23/08/26	20/09/26
Air temperature °C	15.5	18	15.5	18	13	N/M	13	N/M
Water temperature °C	12.5	14.5	12	15.5	12.5	17	12	19
pH	7.6 G	7.3 G	7.2 G	7.0 E	7.2 G	7.1 G	7.4 G	7.2 G
Oxygen concentration mg/l	9.5 E	9.0 E	9.2 E	6.9 G				
Conductivity E.C.	520 P	444 F	324 F	408 F	342 F	605 P	422 F	663 P
Turbidity F.T.U.	17 G	54 D	15 G	10 E	21 P	34 D	17 G	2 E
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.046 F	0.016 G	0.055 P	0.088 P				
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.01 E	0.00 E	0.01 E	0.03 E	0.10 F	0.10 F	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	6.0	2.0	8.9	3.5	14.2	3.2	3.9	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 20-09-2026	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm 20-09-2026
	Number found	Number found
Very Sensitive		
Caddisfly larvae	0	4
Sensitive		
Freshwater mussel	0	1
Tolerant		
Leeches	1	0
Snails (freshwater)	50	60
Flatworms	2	6
Very Tolerant		
Freshwater segmented worms	1	2
Blood worms	50	30
Total Number Found	104	103
Total Bug Score	11	20
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor



Micro-caddis in silk purse
and Freshwater snails - Mt Wav
Secondary College waterbug session

August

Comments:

- Oxygen concentration at both upstream sites rated Excellent.
- During the week YVW website reported 3-4 water pipe bursts. Midweek we observed that Site 1a water closer to Blackburn Road end looked "white" from silt.

September

Comments:

- Despite having clear running water, Site 1b's oxygen content was lower than Site 1a's which was muddy in appearance. Site 1b's soluble phosphorus was higher than Site 1a's.

- Site 1b's in-stream vegetation was green by comparison to Site 1a's sparse in-stream vegetation.
- Site 1a banks were very eroded, in particular opposite the newly repaired embankment.
- Both downstream sites rated Poor for aquatic macro invertebrates.
- Three days ago, we held a small session at Site 2 (Regent St) with four Mt Waverley Secondary College students and found : 2 caddisfly larvae, 1 damselfly larva, 1 dragonfly larva, 1 leech, 10 snails, 1 flat worm, 10 fly larvae, 1 segmented worm and 30 blood worms. The rating is Poor. The in-stream vegetation was covered in dark algae.

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

KooyongKoot Alliance Update by Rex Dusting

Launch of the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Catchment Strategy Plan

The Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Catchment Strategic Plan was launched on the on the 28th of July.

The Plan has been developed by the Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration (GCRC). Principal strategic partners in the plan development include all five Councils in the catchment, Melbourne Water, with the KooyongKoot Alliance (KKA) making the major community input.

KKA used funds from a 2022 State Government grant as well as in kind support from members (including FSCVR committee members) attending multiple meetings and workshops to make a significant contribution to the development of the Plan.

Scotchmans Creek is approximately 25% of the Gardiners Creek catchment and FSCVR has been one of the 30 odd Friends Groups making up the KooyongKoot Alliance (KKA) from the time it was established in 2021. Our President (Tony Walker) and KKA rep (Rex Dusting) were present at the launch which was well attended by over 50 individuals - including mayors, councillors, state and federal MPs, senior officers from Melbourne Water, Councils and DEECA. This attendance provide confidence that there is strong support for the Plan and its implementation.

The **Strategic Plan objectives** are to promote better coordinated action between the partners, harness community support and engagement and collectively provide and source funding to address challenges facing the catchment over medium to long term.

The Plan covers five themes (or aspects) to benefit the catchment and community including Biodiversity & Environmental Sustainability, Systems and Urban planning and Advocacy. It looks at the current status and ongoing and future challenges in the catchment, has isolated three focus areas and a variety of flagship programs (long-term, large-scale initiatives) for each of the focus areas. Each of the flagship programs has projects identified to help deliver improvements.

The Plan itself is accessible through the following link.

[13210-MW-GardinersCreek_StrategicPlan_PRINT_FA2.indd](#)

Work has commenced on a number of projects – including litter management, identifying priority areas for revegetation and related funding submissions. FSCVR committee members remain involved and will provide progress updates to members as projects progress.



H5 Bird Flu

The H5 Bird Flu has caused many casualties in Australia. Some things to keep in mind to help:

- Do not feed wild birds - Feeding wild birds can bring them in close contact with each other and may cause viruses to spread.
- Clean your shoes before/after going out walking.
- Wear gardening gloves.

If you see sick or dead wild birds or animals, do not touch them, record your observations and report it immediately to Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on phone 1800 675 888.

It is good practice to be in the habit of taking these precautions and enjoy your time when out in the environment.

Other information Birdlife Australia website <https://birdlife.org.au>

Gross Pollutant Trap Update - Some landscaping is now evident as work has progressed on the Gross Pollutant Trap at Valley Conservation Reserve.

Work party Session

We did one more planting at our September VCR work party. Members and friends helped Darren from Bush Crew weeding and planted some remaining tube stock North of the Reserve near the Scout Hall. Darren assisted us in identifying some vetch that is a weed to the area. The dry, hardness of the soil made work difficult so we were unable to plant all 500 plants, Darren planted these later on. Thank you all for your hard work and thank you Darren! We have work parties planned Saturdays 31st October and 28th November at Valley Conservation Reserve, meet at the amenities block at 1:20pm. Bring gardening gloves – a trowel is also handy. Join us for a cup of tea/coffee afterward. As other times and locations are decided we will keep you informed.

If you enjoy using the Valley Conservation Reserve and Scotchmans Creek areas and are not a FSCVR member, please consider becoming one. If you are unable to get to our work parties or plantings your membership is still greatly appreciated – the more members we have, the more grants we are entitled to, to purchase plants etc. so Please join up!

Guest Speaker at our meeting on Wednesday 19th August

Guest speaker Dr Chris Lee, lecturer in Botany and Ecology at Monash University School of Biological Sciences gave an insight into what is involved in a consulting botanist role. We were shown examples of different EVC's, Dr Lee spoke about "looking at the environment and helping people see the vegetation", also the importance of mistletoe – its nutritional value to wildlife and attracting birds were amongst the many interesting topics discussed.

Around Valley Conservation Reserve and Scotchmans Creek areas

Local resident and wildlife photographer Ian Moodie has supplied video footage for us to share of a Buff-banded Rail. This footage shows the adult foraging for food with two chicks. See our facebook page and website for some more information. There are plenty of flowers in bloom at the moment, lillies, acacias, peas, tree violets are finishing. It is breeding season for many wildlife and there are delicate plants in the area so keep to the paths, have your dogs on tight lead and away from waterways to keep dogs safe, protect the wildlife and enjoy your walk!



Buff-banded Rail foraging with chicks – from Video courtesy Ian Moodie

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. If you feel unsafe at any time contact Police.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday 21 st October	AGM with Speaker Andrew Mangan T.B.C.	Alvie Hall 7.30 pm
Saturday 31 st October	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Saturday 28 th November	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm

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Visit us at facebook.com/fscvr and please "like" us.

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