

SCOTCHMANS CREEK REPORT JULY 21, 2021

Prepared for Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

by Rex and Rosemary Dusting



The walk follows the waterways downstream.

SECTION 1: WAVERLEY ROAD to CROSBY DRIVE

Start is at Waverley Road near Holmesglen TAFE following the Crosby arm, diverging to include the Fiander reach of Scotchman's Creek, and then continuing to Crosby Drive.

SECTION 2: CROSBY DRIVE to BLACKBURN ROAD

SECTION 3: BLACKBURN ROAD to WAVERLEY ROAD

Downstream via the Melbourne Water retarding basin and wetland, continuing to Waverley road near Regent Street intersection.

SECTION 4: WAVERLEY ROAD – FORSTER ROAD

Along path adjacent to the Blue Cross private land to Forster Road.

SECTION 5: FORSTER ROAD to STEPHENSONS ROAD OVERPASS (Fairway Reserve)

SECTION 6: STEPHENSONS ROAD OVERPASS to STANLEY AVENUE

SECTIONS 1-6: July 21, 2021, 2pm- 4pm

Weather: Partly cloudy, 12 deg C, had rained 6-12 mm in previous two days. No wind.

General observations:

- It was quite a busy Wednesday in the reserve during this Melbourne Covid-19 lockdown with many walkers, joggers, and cyclists taking advantage of the paths for their 2 hour exercise
- New signs on the shared pathway the full length. Our observation is that cyclists are taking notice with most warning us as they passed.





- Creek flow moderate to rapid the entire length –quite turbid overall, with what appeared to be suspended clay particles
- Noted two large bike trails have been constructed by members of the public in Fairway reserve
- Noted completion of Melbourne Water Access Works at Blackburn road, both sides



Workers clearing boom of litter, upstream side

SECTION 1: WAVERLEY ROAD to CROSBY DRIVE

Photo-point 1 Crosby Arm entering from under Waverley Road.

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	 <p data-bbox="846 653 1268 764">Erosion on bank on Waverely road side may be more stabilised due to vegetation growth (weeds)</p>

Clematis microphylla well established on both sides of creek. Hakeas in flower. Various Acacia species were either setting flowers or in full bloom.

Issues noted were weed growth (veldt, ivy, tradescantia, fumitory) and plastic litter in the creek.



Noted fresh graffiti damage to trunk of large eucalypt (*E. Camaldulensis*?) on north side of creek. These trees seem to be routinely targeted.

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Creek water moderate to fast flowing and generally quite brown in colour and turbid (suspended clay?) along the entire length, due to recent rain. Areas with rocks in creek noticeably improving aeration



Birds observed were mudlarks bathing/drinking in creek, noisy miners, king parrots, rainbow lorikeets, Australian raven (nest at top of 50 m eucalypt).

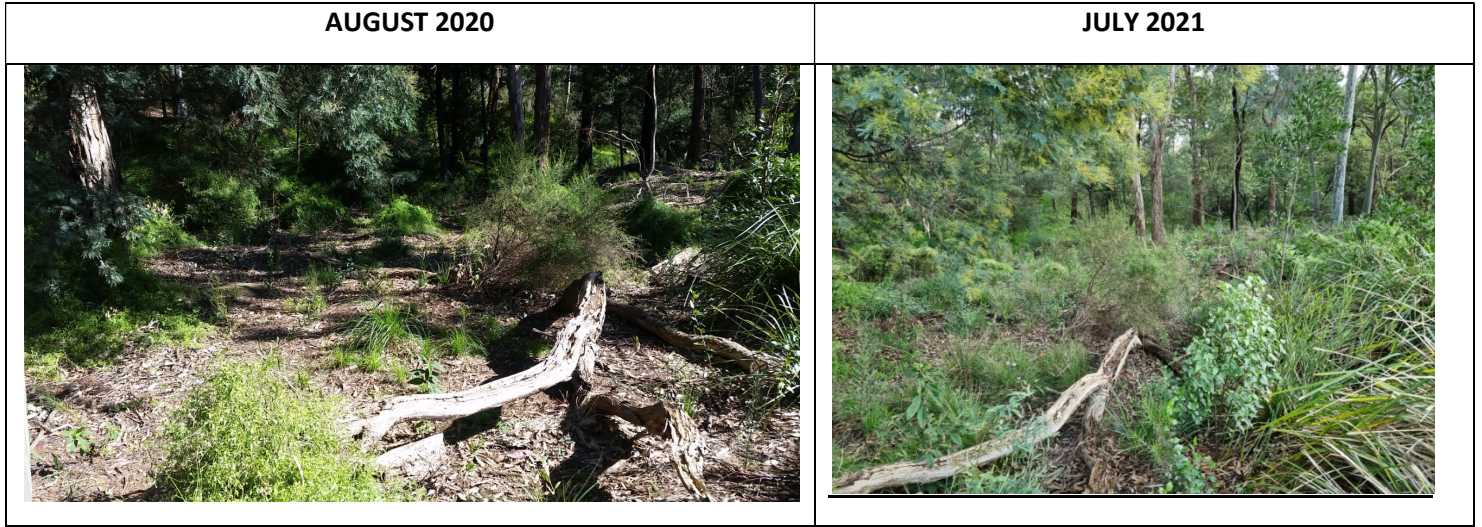


Photo-point 2: Scotchmans Creek at Crosby Drive. Water immediately adjacent to Crosby Drive was turbid.



SECTION 2: CROSBY DRIVE to BLACKBURN ROAD

Re-vegetation near Crosby Drive continues to thrive.



At Fiander Arm noted recent plantings completed with the assistance of Brentwood Sec College Green Team.

Area cleared by the Monash Council bush crew (in preparation for this planting day) has greatly improved appearance of the junction area, downstream of Fiander Arm bridge and around the 'peninsula' area.

Wood ducks observed in this section.





2A: SCOTCHMAN'S CREEK: Fiander Arm upstream from junction with Crosby Arm.

Fiander Arm water looked clear but became very brown and opaque after confluence with the large drain there.



Photo-point 3 –Fiander Arm from bitumen pedestrian bridge

Top row looking upstream, bottom row looking downstream

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Weed clearance and new plantings improvements in this area.

2B: DOWNSTREAM OF JUNCTION of FIANDER ARM and CROSBY ARM

Photo-point 4 towards Blackburn Road (upstream side)

Creek turbid – clay colour. Flowing fast in narrow sections and more slowly in wider, deeper section, as usual.

We did not notice significant changes to the undercut erosion. Plastic litter sporadically in evidence.





Noted this aquatic plant near Blackburn road. Is this parrot weed?



Maned geese/Wood ducks

Melbourne Water works – noted planting done by Monash Council and MW at works area. Noted retention of clematis and large eucalypts along the security fence as had been requested by FSCVR.



SECTION 3: BLACKBURN ROAD to WAVERLEY ROAD

This area was being well used for recreation. It has a feeling of space and is a very pleasant place to be, with lots of bird calls and moderate/tall tree cover on both sides of the waterway.



Photo-point 5 – Looking towards Blackburn Rd over sediment pool (downstream side)

More open water in pond downstream of Blackburn Road. Shape of water body appeared different perhaps due to encroachment of aquatic vegetation on north side.

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Photo-point 6 – Upstream from pipe track causeway

No water birds or frogs observed. Arboreal birdlife quite noticeable. Rosellas and others active.

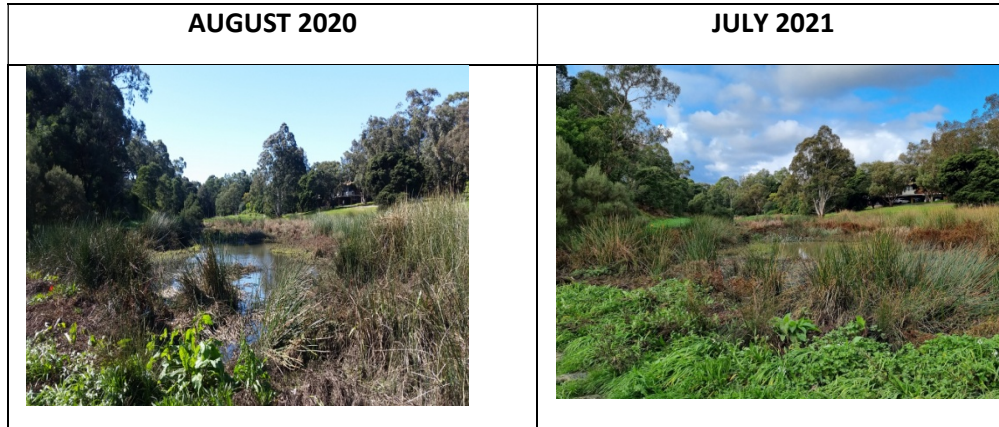


Photo-point 7 - Lawrence Road pedestrian bridge up and downstream

Quite a lot of water but murky. Low numbers of water birds – only Pacific black ducks observed. No coots or swamp hens. Flattened vegetation evidence of recent flooding. No frog calls.

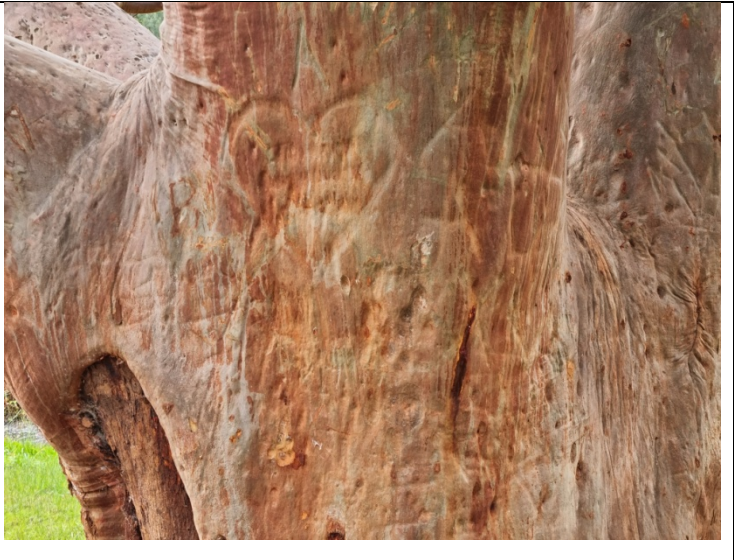
Looking upstream (below top row) and downstream (below bottom row).



These photos record the recent environmental-planting by FSCVR and Melbourne Water at the Lawrence Road entrance to the Reserve. There are 600 new plants – not all of which are visible here.



Issues noted in Section 3 – refer to photos below. Ivy growth up some trees on trees on south side of path, trees with scratched graffiti in bark of some eucalypts, (scars noted last year on large salmon (?) gum have healed but still visible) dropped masks, deep ruts made by cyclists not using the formed path, pittosporum and ivy on North side of waterway.



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Photo-point 8: Regent Street Reserve pedestrian bridge up and downstream

Pacific black ducks and chestnut teal observed. Turbid water moderately fast flow. Photo below taken the following day shows calmer water with more ducks. This is a popular perch!

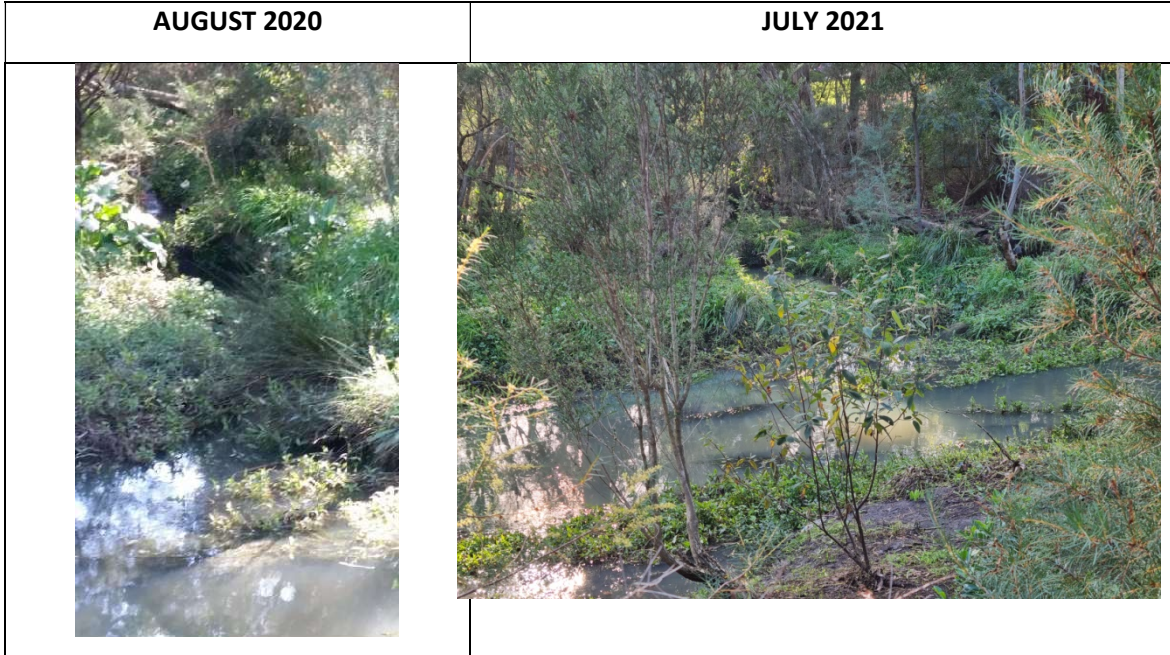


Upstream views (below top row) and downstream views (below bottom row).

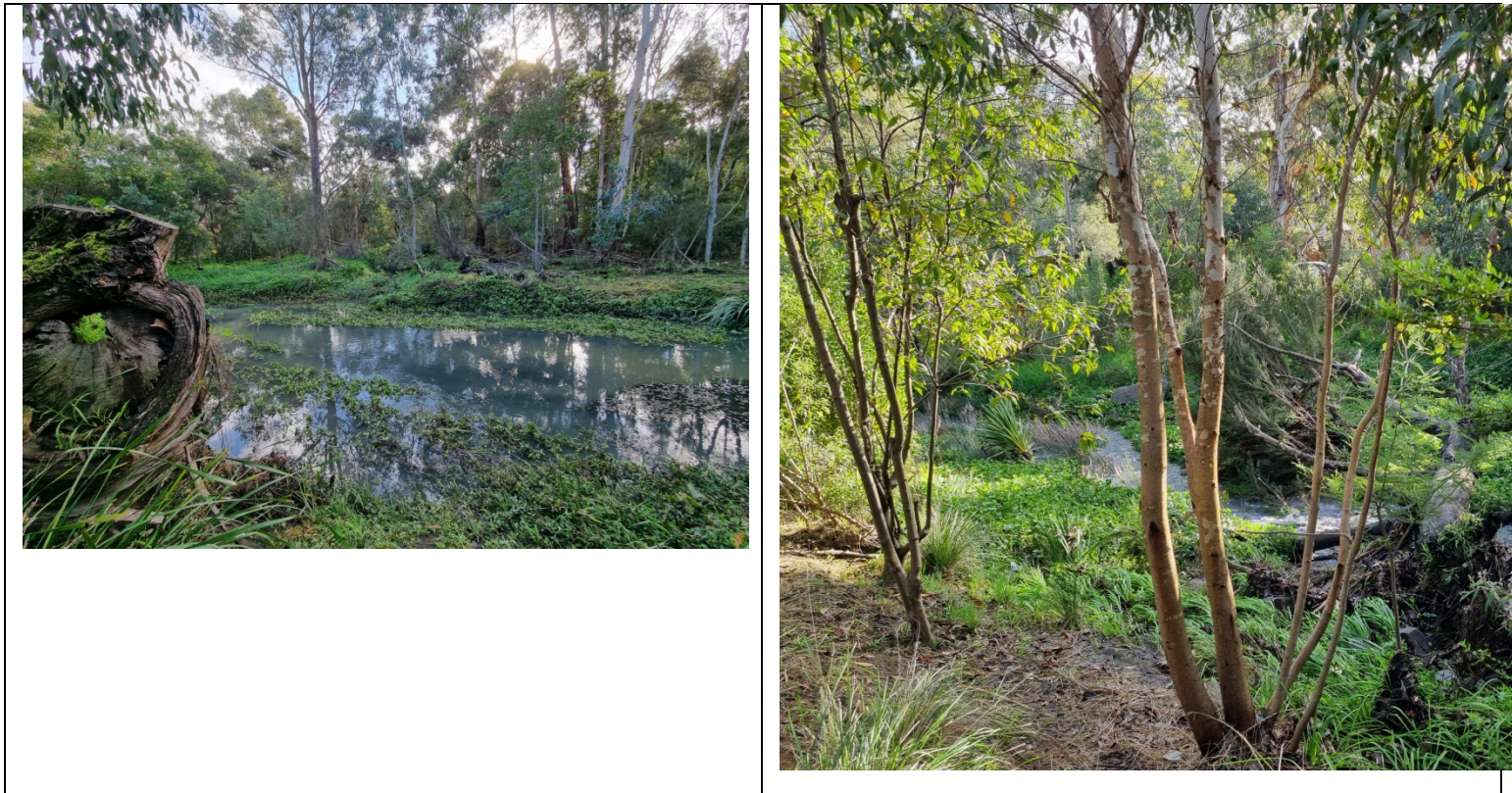
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Photo-point 9: Valley Creek in-flow

Valley Creek flowing. Parrot weed (?) in evidence.



General shots of creek downstream from Valley Creek in-flow. Water flowing rapidly in narrow section in photo on right.



Re-vegetated bushland (shrubs and trees) in the area either side of creek close to Waverley road/ Regent Street intersection continues to do well (see photos below).



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SECTION 4: WAVERLEY ROAD – FORSTER ROAD

Drain entry point from under Waverley Road. Water flowing – similar turbidity to other sections.



Noted noisy construction work at Blue Cross. Buildings being constructed close to the creek edge on North side.



Photo point 10: Elbow bend near Aged care residence up and downstream

Looking upstream. Fast flow.



Banks in poor condition in this section beyond Blue Cross and towards Forster Road. Many weeds. Residents appear to have appropriated land for various uses ranging from raised veggie beds, viewing spots and rubbish dumps.



Near Forster road there is erosion on North side, as well as unsightly concrete slabs.



SECTION 5: FORSTER ROAD to STEPHENSON'S ROAD OVERPASS (Fairway Reserve)

At the entry point on Forster Road the creek was flowing, some plastic litter courtesy of recent rainfalls.

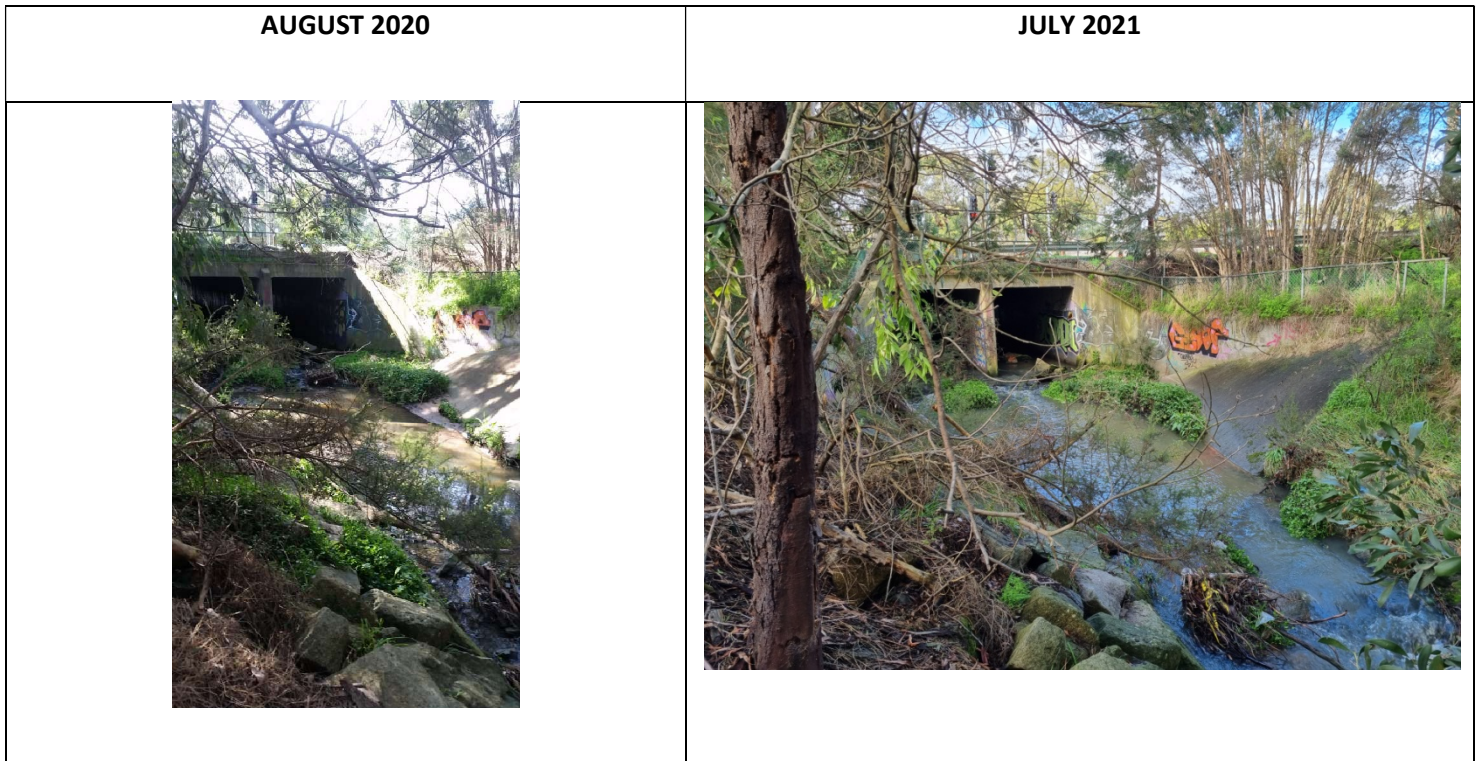


Photo below shows planned planting area in Fairway Reserve path-side

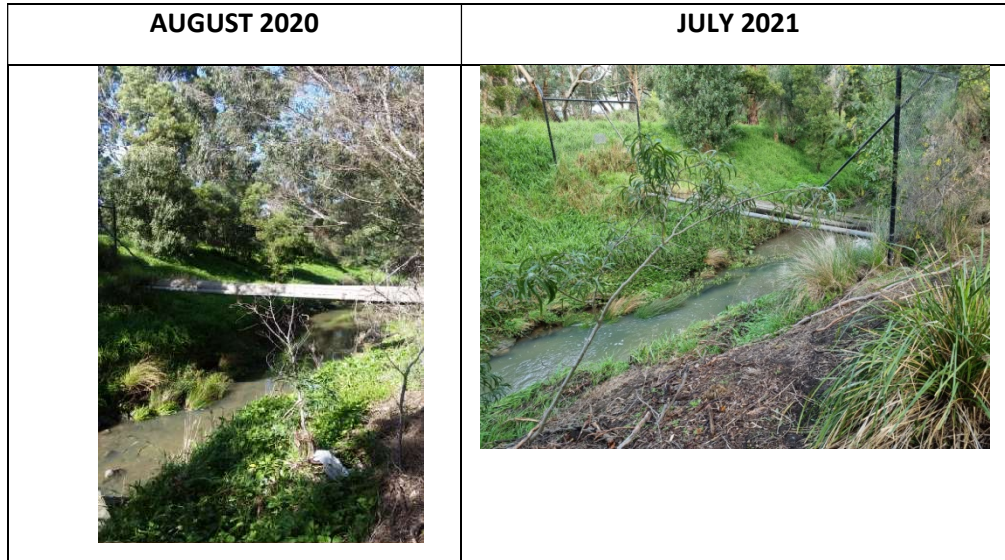


There are some very beautiful areas in this Section – the legacy of those who have worked hard to re-vegetate the area.



Photo point 11:– ‘telegraph pole’ pipe crossing

Path side vegetation good. Weeds on creek banks. Creek turbid here with similar moderately fast flow to elsewhere.



At the Scout hall, we noted the sign for the Remnant vegetation, previously defaced, has been replaced.



SECTION 6: STEPHENSON'S ROAD OVERPASS to STANLEY AVENUE

On this day of moderately high flow the concrete drain section was acting as a true storm water conduit in stark contrast to the creek waterway either side.



Issues in Section 6

We noted last year (2020) that this side is popular with mountain and motor bike riders who have caused some damage by creating new tracks and riding through area re-planted on National Tree Day in 2019. Council notified via Snap Send Solve 27 August 2020. However, we note that even bigger and more 'ornate' bike tracks have since been constructed.

The damage is to the bank between the top and bottom path on the South side – one large bike course (about 4 m wide) and two smaller ones (1-2 m wide) have been constructed with jumps and destruction/clearing of vegetation.



Last year we noted at the picnic table there was an unsightly disturbance to the path margins (due to improvement works?) as well as evidence of vegetation trampling and loss at the creek verge. This walk we noted prolific weeds in disturbed soil near the picnic table where works were carried out by Council last Spring. A widened area has replaced a small trail into the picnic table. Perhaps an area for future re-vegetation program?

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Looking west at picnic table



Looking east from picnic table

The section from the picnic table to Stanley Avenue is picturesque and particularly nice to walk through where the path diverges from the formed bike path. (below)

