

The Valley Reserve



History
Plants
Birds

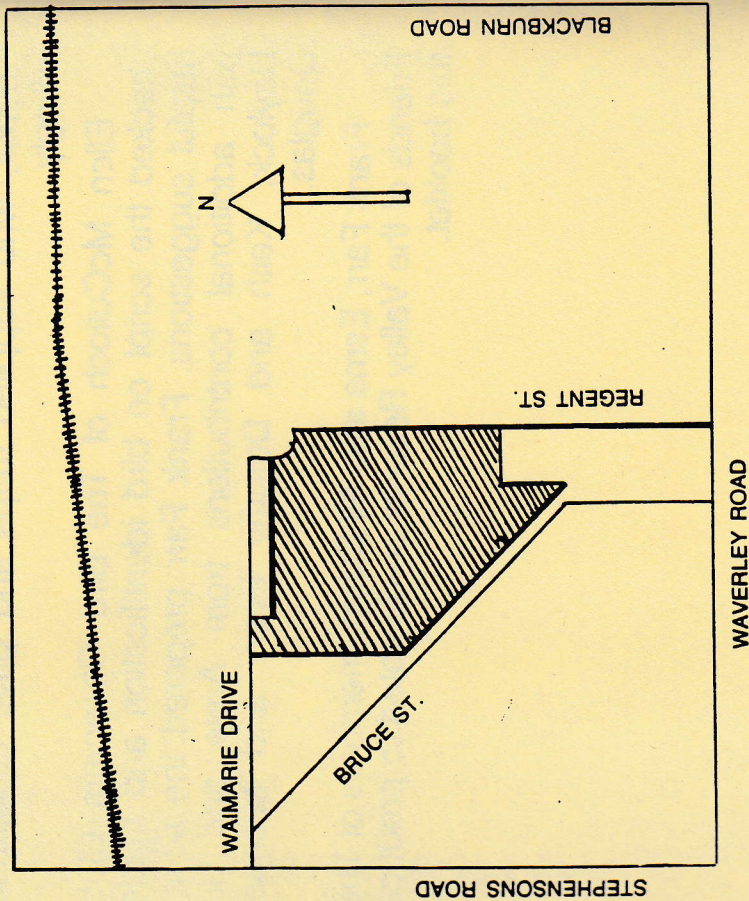
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LOCATION MAP OF THE VALLEY RESERVE MOUNT WAVERLEY



The Friends of the Valley Reserve is a small conservation organization whose members are dedicated to preserving the natural vegetation of the Valley Reserve and by a program of weeding and planting endeavouring to restore the area to its original richness.

In order to achieve this aim members collect local seed and cutting material and grow plants, which are planted in autumn, winter and spring. The work of planting is co-ordinated with a weed eradication program and work parties are held on the last Saturday of each month from 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm. Weeding is the most important part of the work and we are assisted by the Waverley Council, who have a program of blackberry spraying.

The restoration of the Valley Reserve is being carried out for a number of reasons and these are listed below.

Aesthetic

The open sclerophyll woodlands that were the basic vegetation unit in the Waverley area, though not greatly appreciated by many early settlers, have with the help of landscape painters like those of the Heidelberg School and more recently Fred Williams and Arthur Boyd gained a greater appreciation with the general public. It is now increasingly difficult in the metropolitan area to see examples of these quiet scenes so rich in plants, animals and birds.

Recreation

These days many people think of recreation as being an activity requiring expensive equipment. The word actually means to refresh by enjoyment. Many of our active recreations are based on the skills of agility displayed by our the active recreations, reactions displayed by our and co-ordination, reactions, but it is that other ancestors, the hunter-gatherers, but it is that other refreshment that they also knew — an awareness and reverence for the natural environment. The Valley Reserve provides a place for "passive" recreation, where nature can be seen in its complexity, and new where the cycle of flowering, fruiting without the where the cycle of plants and animals occur long before generations of man. Where each year, long before intervention of man. Where each year, the herbaceous humans came to this continent the herbs made perennials such as sundews, lilies and orchids made their annual appearance at the appointed time. To see and to comprehend this is to have a deeper understanding of the meaning and need for recreation.

When the word educational is used people think only of schools, but education has never been restricted to these institutions. It is possible to learn about the birds and plants of the Valley Reserve simply by using some of the excellent identification books and quietly walking through the reserve. There is still much to be learned about the plants and animals (now mainly birds) of the Valley Reserve and more important the interactions between plants, insects, birds, fungi and bacteria. An even better way to learn about the ecology of the Valley Reserve is to come along to work parties and learn by actually participating in ecological changes initially caused by human influences and now being restored by a small group of men, women and children.

HISTORY

We do not have an accurate picture of what the vegetation of the Valley Reserve was like before European settlement, but we do know that the long period of Aboriginal occupancy would have stabilised the vegetation and the flora would have adjusted to their land-use practices as well as soil type and the topography. European settlement modified this stable cultural environment and one of the most significant factors in this modification was land-use practices.

Educational

Films, audio-visuals and television are excellent ways of making people aware of the complex interactions of the science known as ecology, but most educators are agreed that there are few learning experiences to equal the "hands on" approach. The cost of transport increases and the areas where there is natural vegetation become more distant resource like the Valley Reserve becomes increasingly valuable asset.

We can reconstruct a picture of the original flora by studying the composition of small pockets of the natural vegetation remaining today and such an area is the remnant vegetation in the Valley Reserve. We can build on this basic evidence by studying the history of land-use in this small area, using documentary sources such as survey and parish maps, rate books, government records, personal records, old photographs, newspapers, censuses of plants compiled by botanists and naturalists and talking to long-term residents. This latter source is extremely valuable as it gives detail to other evidence and also reveals how people felt about their area and bit of bush.

As Susan Priestley notes in her history of Waverley, *Cattlemen to Commuters*, the earliest sighting of the Waverley district by Europeans was made in 1803 when a survey party sent to Port Phillip Bay by Governor King explored the lower reaches of the Yarra. From a vantage point near the present city of Kew, the party looked eastwards and saw rising timbered hills extending for ten to fifteen miles. Shortly after settlement on the Yarra in 1835, settlers moved into these timbered hills and took up runs along Waverley's creeks. From this moment the natural environment had to adapt to a new range of inputs.

A parish map of c1835-53 shows that the dominant vegetation covering the area of the Valley Reserve was a Stringybark woodland. This Stringybark woodland extended along the Scotchmans Creek watercourse to the south-western parish boundary, where Stringybark intermingled with stands of Oak and Gum and Red Gum and Box.

The writings of Daniel Bunce give us a few more clues about the composition of the local flora. Bunce, nurseryman, explorer, naturalist, creator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, author and newspaper columnist passed through the district in the late 1840s to climb the highest peak in the Western Port Ranges (Dandenongs). On his return Bunce crossed the Dandenong Creek in the vicinity of the Rev. Clow's property. In his book published in 1851, Bunce recorded some of the vegetation collected on this journey.

En route to the ranges he travelled along the southern bank of the Yarra and crossed Gardiners Creek where its waters gushed forth beneath a thicket of tea-tree to join the Yarra. To the south lay the extensive coastal heathlands and eastwards the undulating hills of the dry sclerophyll forests merging in the distance with wet sclerophyll forests and its characteristic fern gullies. On the coastal heaths Bunce noted some of the dominant species, shrubby Casuarina, dwarf Acacia, *Leptospermum*, a variety of heaths, *Eriostemon* and *Tetratheca*. In the foothills the flora on the heavier soils included Peppermint Gum, *Acacia decurrens**, *Hakea*, *Grevillea*, *Lomatia*, *Prostanthera lasianthos*, *Pomaderris apetala*, *Ranunculus*, *Clematis* and *Styidium*, whilst the main characteristic of the wet sclerophyll forests were the fern gullies and creeks and their dense overhead canopies.

A subsequent scholarly study of Melbourne's flora in the early 1900s by Field Naturalists, who used early records and plant censuses from remnant vegetation

* Probably the closely related species *Acacia mearnsii*.

shows that the coastal heathland extended from the mouth of the Yarra down the coast and inland towards the foothills, through Oakleigh, up along Scotchmans Creek and looped into Waverley in the vicinity of the Valley Reserve before cutting across to Ashburton and Hawthorn. Representatives of this coastal flora can still be found in the Valley Reserve and in an unreserved area in the district and until recently a particularly lovely form of *Tetratheca ciliata* grew in the Syndal cutting on Blackburn Road. The main link with the wet sclerophyll zone is now gone. Tree ferns used to grow in deep gullies, the last of these giving way in recent decades to upgrading of roads.

The survival of a remnant of Waverley's original flora in the Valley Reserve is due to a number of factors: the topography, earlier land sub-divisions and land-use practices and the isolation of Waverley from urban development. The major factor that contributed to this survival was the dissected nature of the terrain. Creek tributaries drained sloping ground from the north-east and north-west and converged to form a tributary of Scotchmans Creek and cut diagonally across the area now incorporated in the Valley Reserve. This dissected terrain made large-scale agriculture difficult but within this area were pockets of sandy soil, characterised by *Eucalyptus ovata* and *E. obliqua* and these were used for market gardening.

Crown Land portion 61, that includes the Valley Reserve comprised 160 acres and extended from Stephenson's Road to Regent Street and northerly to Waimarie Drive. This portion was bought at the second land sales in the parish in 1853 for £720 (\$1440). It was later sold to Mr. Jeanes in 1874. He died before the sale was finalised leaving a young wife and six children to develop the property. Sub-division of the property amongst the family began in 1886 and subsequent sub-division into 10 lots was approved by the Mulgrave shire in 1899. These blocks with varying occupancy and tenancy arrangements remained in the Jeanes family for many decades. Over the years the land supported farmers, gardeners, poultry farmers, carters and a blacksmith. The occupiers of these holdings either worked these blocks in conjunction with land elsewhere or pursued other activities to supplement income that could be earned from the land. This pattern of small-scale land use was broken

in the 1920s when an orchard was established on 33 acres of land in the western portion and another orchard encroached on to the eastern boundary. In the heart of the original crown land portion along the creeks and surrounded by rural activity was the remnant of Waverley's original flora.

The rural character of Waverley remained unchanged until the late 1940s. The severe depression of the 1930s had forestalled the promise of urban expansion that came with the residential subdivisions in the late 1920s and the opening of the railway in 1930. About 1948 the landscape of Waverley began to change rapidly as houses invaded the paddocks. At this time the shire council bought up parcels of land at broad-acre value for public open space and from 1955 land was purchased for the Valley Reserve under this policy.

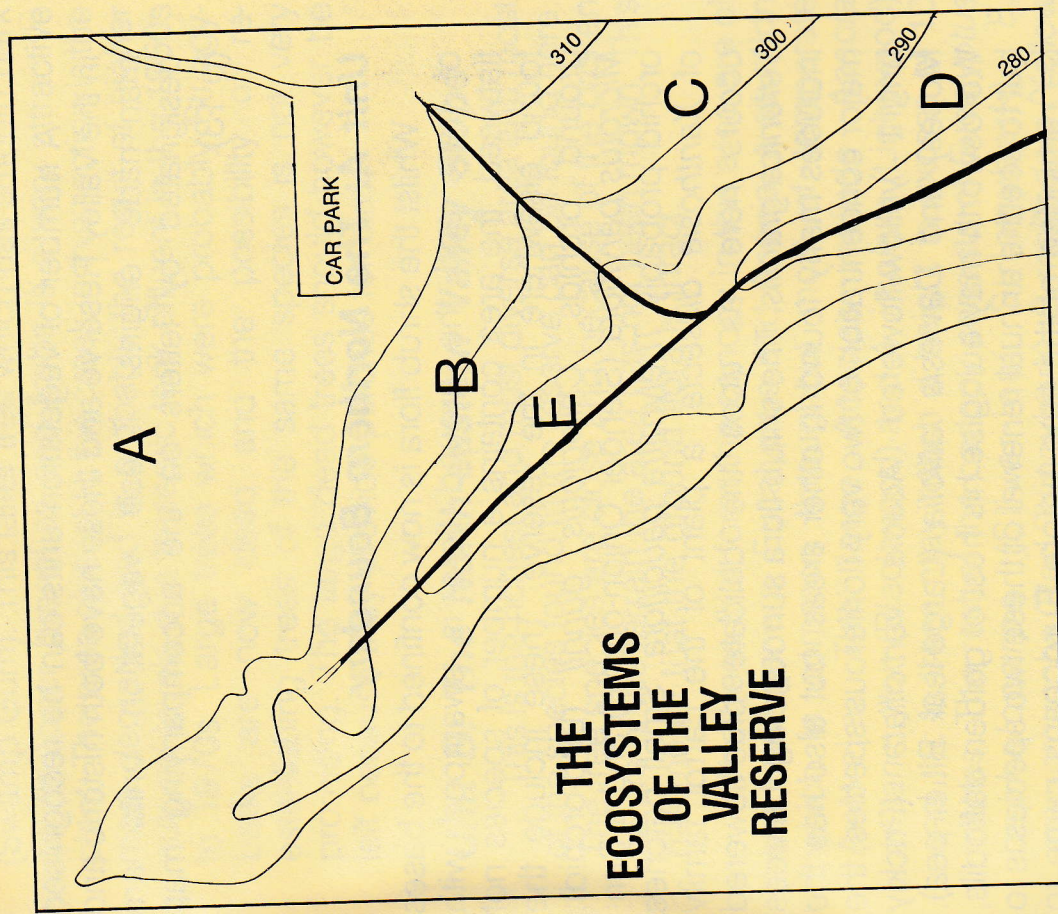
The three largest parcels of land purchased by the council were formerly the properties of the Jeanes daughters. These were narrow strips of land along Waverley Road west of Regent Street and extending to the northern boundary of the reserve. An M.M.B.W. easement and number of house blocks were purchased to supplement these major purchases.

Concurrently with these purchases of land for open space, some Waverley residents and the Native Plants Preservation Society (N.P.P.S.) were negotiating to reserve a sample of Waverley's indigenous flora. Four survival areas of native vegetation were considered when the town planning scheme for the shire was announced, but reservation of all of these areas was rejected by council because

they were either on private land or required for active recreation. The Town and Country Planning Board then suggested that the N.P.P.S. examine a survival area in the Valley Reserve. After examination of the area the society began negotiations with the council to fence off this area and protect it as a nature reserve. Two years later negotiations were still continuing with the society offering to contribute towards the fencing. At this time the society's minutes reported that the area had "deteriorated considerably since last year (but) small bits, still clean and good, remain . . . (and) unless something is done soon there will be little if anything to protect." In the following January fencing of the wild flower area was agreed to, but for a number of reasons the plan lapsed, the minutes of the society in June 1958 merely recording, "Mulgrave — Valley Rd — Abandoned." In spite of this set-back the council had decided to retain the essential natural features of the reserve, but to reduce the fire hazard an access track was constructed and vegetation cleared. This left the best remnant vegetation in the centre of the reserve on sloping ground between the two creek tributaries. Following sections describe the topography of the reserve, the pattern of plant associations and the bird life.

Some of the long term residents of Mount Waverley have fond childhood memories of the Valley Reserve and their memories of the trees and wild flowers that grew there give us a more intimate picture of the flora. The trees making up the overhead canopy included Stringybark, Messmate, Apple Gum, Blackbutt and She-oke and beneath these were Sweet

Bursaria with its sweet white blossom that welcomed in the summer. In wetter places were Tea-tree and Paper-barks and of the smaller shrubs they recalled Green Correa, the Native Boronia or *Tetralochea*, pink and white Heaths, Cranberries, Apple Dumplings, Honey Pots, *Clematis*, Running Postman and the brilliant purple twiner, Sarsaparilla. In little damp niches Maiden Hair Fern could be found and down by the creek were swards of *Gahnia radula* or Brickmaker's Grass. At ground level amongst the grasses were the dainty spring flowers, myriads of native lilies and ground orchids, Early Nancy, Milkmaids, the Mauve Chocolate and Fringe Lilies, Greenhoods, Billygoats, Spiders and the Red-bearded Orchid. This latter orchid also grew in a large colony in the railway cutting to the north of the reserve in association with *Tetralochea*. Furthermore, the epiphytic orchid, the Hyacinth Orchid recognisable by its tall spike of pink flowers once grew on the creek bank near Regent Street and Waverley Road and each December a bunch of these were collected by a local resident as a special treat for his family. The Hyacinth Orchid and *Tetralochea* no longer grow in the reserve, but the other plants can still be found there and will continue to delight future Waverley residents if we show care and respect the needs of our indigenous flora.



THE ECOSYSTEMS OF THE VALLEY RESERVE

A number of vegetation units can be recognised in the Valley Reserve and these have both historic and man-made origins. These vegetation units are designated by letters on the accompanying map (p.13)

Unit A: The Northern Boundary

Whilst the shrub flora is now confined to the bases of trees and the ground flora is swamped with flatweed, the area contains a number of species not found elsewhere in the reserve. These include the ground orchids, *Chiloglottis gunnii* (Bird-orchid), *Microtus parviflora* (Slender Onion-orchid) and a Sun-orchid probably *Thelymitra pauciflora*. Small patches of *Xanthosia dissecta*, a plant of the carrot family occurs here, as does the delicate blue-flowered *Veronica gracilis*. The shrub flora surrounding the trees includes many found in other areas, but also has the major concentration of two very floriferous species, the bright yellow-flowered *Acacia verticillata* (Prickly Moses) and *Daviesia latifolia* (Large-leaf Bitter-pea). Wordsworth may eulogise his host of golden daffodils, but to see the annual renewal of these two species is to be reminded of the time before Europeans came to this district when all the valleys and hills were perfumed and the sombre landscape made bright by bush flowers such as these.

The tree species of this area are mainly *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Stringybark) and a species that is found nowhere else in the reserve, *Eucalyptus ovata* (Swamp Gum). This latter tree which has smooth bark on its upper branches and limbs is a very attractive plant. The area closest to the creek in this section is the most degraded and is probably the result of higher nutrient levels due to septic tank effluent in the 1950s to 1970s. Large trees which were probably Stringybarks are now dead and the possibility of re-establishing trees of the same species is not very promising. The large dead trees should however be left because they provide perches for birds.

Unit B: The North-eastern Valley Slope

This is the richest and most diverse area and most of the species found in the reserve can be found here. The tree species are close and because of the broken nature of the terrain the area has not been mown. This has meant that the ground flora is intact.

The trees that form the canopy in this area are of two main genera, *Eucalyptus* and *Acacia*, a situation which is common throughout most of temperate Australia. The large *Acacias* include *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood) and *A. implexa* (Lightwood) and these trees may reach a height in excess of 10 metres. The rest of the canopy consists of *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa* (Silver-leaf Stringybark), *E. macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark), *E. melliodora* (Yellow Box), *E. obliqua*, and close to the creek *E. radiata* (Peppermint). Under this canopy are a number of small tree species. *Acacia* species include *Acacia*

dealbata and *A. mearnsii* both with feathery leaves, *A. longifolia*, *A. sophorae* and *A. pycnantha* with phyllodes, that is the pinnate leaves present in all seedling Acacias are replaced at an early stage of growth by a flattened leaf stalk. *Exocarpos cupressiformis* (Cherry Ballart), a parasitic tree is also found in this layer.

The layering which is so characteristic of open eucalyptus woodlands continues with a layer of shrubs usually no higher than two metres. It is in this layer that our most spectacular flowering plants occur. These include Acacias, *A. myrtifolia* (Myrtle Wattle) and *A. verticillata* (Prickly Moses) and eight plants of the pea family such as *Pultenaea gunnii* and *Indigofera australis*. The ground flora consists of low shrubs such as *Pimelea humilis* as well as grasses, ferns, lilies and terrestrial orchids. Many of the lilies, sundews and orchids are herbaceous perennials, that is they spend part of their life cycle as dormant corms or bulbs. This dormancy, unlike that of similar plants of the northern hemisphere, occurs from November to June, during the hotter months of the year.

Unit C: The South-eastern Plateau

This area is relatively flat and the spaces between the trees are wide. The area is mown and the shrubs that remain are restricted to the base of trees. As a result of this lack of competition the ground flora is very rich and large continuous patches of *Drosera whittakeri*, the Scented Sundew are common. These begin to appear from underground bulbs in May and in July carpets of white perfumed flowers may be seen on the ground.

A number of other low plants that escape the blades of the mower are *Viola hederacea*, the Native Violet and *Solenogyne gunnii*, which might be mistaken for the introduced flatweed. Another species to escape the mower blades is a small Compositae *Lagenifera gracilis*. The area is also rich in native lilies and orchids and whilst mowing prevents them from flowering they apparently obtain sufficient food from their decapitated leaves to store food for the following year. As the Chocolate Lilies do not set seed until February no new plants can grow as by this time a number of mowings have taken place*. A number of pea plants are also to be found among the plants restricted to the base of the trees, these include *Dillwynia cinerascens* and *Bossiaea prostrata*.

Unit D: The Lower Valley

The valley sides of this unit are steep and this would have given the vegetation a distinctive character. This probably consisted of a ground flora of reeds, rushes and ferns. The more resistant elements of this vegetation still remain and consist of *E. radiata* (peppermint) and *Melaleuca ericifolia* (Paper-bark). In places thickets of *Galium gaudichaudii* (Rough Bed Straw) occur, but much of the original vegetation has been replaced by Blackberry and rank introduced grasses such as Yorkshire Fog-grass, *Holcus lanatus*. Garden escapes such as Honeysuckle, *Lonicera japonica* are also another problem and is indicative of that very old Australian practice of using the bush as a garbage dump for garden wastes. It is unlikely that this area can be returned to its original state.

* If the present practice of delaying mowing until late January is continued, orchids and lilies should not only flower but also produce seed.

Unit E: The Northern Valley Floor

This is the one that has seen the most change in terms of plant communities. The original tree cover of *E. viminalis* (Manna Gum) has been destroyed presumably by high nutrient levels in the water table. A number of weedy introduced species have taken advantage of these changes. Among these *Rubus fruticosus* (Blackberry), which has become very well established is very difficult to eradicate. Almost as noxious is *Watsonia bulbifera* and considerable work has been expended cutting off bulbets as well as digging up clumps. The natural vegetation that is left consists of well established reed swamp of *Typha angustifolia* (Bulrush) and on the margins *Melaleuca ericifolia* (Swamp Paper-bark) still occurs.

There is a layering effect due to moisture and a number of other species occur. In wet depressions *Cotula coronopifolia* (Water-buttons) can still be found. In drier areas shrubs of *Coprosma quadrifida*, Prickly Currant-bush are to be found. These grow to a height of two metres and are to be found in association with the Prickly Tea-tree, *Leptospermum juniperinum*. Recently another species was recorded in the wetter parts of this area. This is *Triglochin striata* (Streaked Arrow-grass).

NATIVE PLANTS RECORDED IN THE VALLEY RESERVE

For the location of the plants see Map p. 13

Cr — creeper, twiner; F — fern; G — ground cover; L — lily;
O — orchid; R — reed, grass; S — shrub; T — tree.

Species	Location	Habit
1 <i>Acacia aculeatissima</i>	C	Cr
2 <i>Acacia dealbata</i>	B	T
3 <i>Acacia implexa</i>	B	T
4 <i>Acacia longifolia</i>	B	T
5 <i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	B	T
6 <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	B	T
7 <i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>	B	S
8 <i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	All	S
9 <i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	B	T
10 <i>Acacia sophorae</i>	B	T
11 <i>Acacia verticillata</i>	A	S
12 <i>Acaena anserinifolia</i>	All	G
13 <i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	B	G
14 <i>Adiantum aethiopicum</i>	B	F
15 <i>Agrostis avenacea</i>	B	R
16 <i>Amyema pendulum</i>	All	G
17 <i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	B	C
18 <i>Billiardiera scandens</i>	B	Cr
19 <i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	B	G
20 <i>Brachycome cardiocarpa</i>	A	G
21 <i>Brachycome decipiens</i>	A	G
22 <i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	All	L
23 <i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	B	S
24 <i>Caesia parviflora</i>	B	L
25 <i>Caladenia catenata</i>	B	O
26 <i>Caladenia patersonii</i>	B	O
27 <i>Caleana major</i>	B	O
28 <i>Callitriche stagnalis</i>	B	R
29 <i>Carex appressa</i>	B	R
30 <i>Carex breviculmis</i>	B	R
31 <i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	All	S
32 <i>Cassinia arcuata</i>	All	S
33 <i>Cassytha glabella</i>	All	Cr
34 <i>Casuarina littoralis</i>	All	T
35 <i>Casuarina paludosa</i>	B	S
36 <i>Centella cordifolia</i>	B	G
37 <i>Chamaecilla corymbosa</i>	B	L
38 <i>Chiloglottis gunnii</i>	A	O
39 <i>Cladium glomeratum</i>	E	R

Location	Habit
All	G
D, E	G
B	G
B	S
B	S
B	S
B	S
B	S
C	Cr
B	S
B, C	S
B	S
B	Cr
All	G
E	T
B	G
B, C	L
B, D	S
D, E	R
B, E	R
B	R
B	R
D	R
D, E	R
B, D, E	R
B	R
B, C	Cr
C	G
D	R
B	G
A, B, C	S
A, B	F
E	G
All	R
A	R
All	R
E	R
D, E	S
B	R
A	O
B	G
E	R
E	R
B	S

Species
<i>Gonocarpus micrantha</i>
<i>Gonocarpus tetragynus</i>
<i>Goodenia humilis</i>
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>
<i>Gynatrix pulchella</i>
<i>Hakea nodosa</i>
<i>Hakea sericea</i>
<i>Hakea ulicina</i>
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>
<i>Helichrysum dendroideum</i>
<i>Helichrysum scorpioides</i>
<i>Hibbertia riparia</i>
<i>Hovea linearis</i>
<i>Hydrocotyle laxiflora</i>
<i>Hymenanthera dentata</i>
<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>
<i>Hypoxis glabella</i>
<i>Indigofera australis</i>
<i>Isolepis nodosa</i>
<i>Isolepis inundata</i>
<i>Juncus anabilis</i>
<i>Juncus butonis</i>
<i>Juncus holoschoenus</i>
<i>Juncus pallidus</i>
<i>Juncus pauciflorus</i>
<i>Juncus planifolius</i>
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>
<i>Lagenifera gracilis</i>
<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>
<i>Leptorhynchos tenuifolius</i>
<i>Leptospermum juniperinum</i>
<i>Lindsaea linearis</i>
<i>Lobelia alata</i>
<i>Lomandra filiformis</i>
<i>Lomandra glauca</i>
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>
<i>Luzula campestris</i>
<i>Melaleuca ericifolia</i>
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>
<i>Microtis parviflora</i>
<i>Opercularia ovata</i>
<i>Paspalum distichum</i>
<i>Phragmites australis</i>
<i>Pimelea humilis</i>

Location	Habit
A, B, C	Cr
C	Cr
C	Cr
D, E	S
A, B	S
E	G
E	G
B	O
All	R
All	R
All	R
All	R
All	R
A	S
B	S
B	S
B	R
A, B, C	L
B	L
B, C	R
A, B, C	L
B, C	G
B	S
B	O
B	O
C	O
C	G
B	S
B	S
B, C, D	T
All	T
C	T
A	T
A	T
B, D	T
E	T
E	T
D, E	R
D, E	R
B, C, D	G
B	R
B	O
B	O
B	O
B	O
D, E	Cr
D, E	G

Species
<i>Clematis aristata</i>
<i>Clematis microphylla</i>
<i>Comesperma volubile</i>
<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>
<i>Correa reflexa</i>
<i>Cotula australis</i>
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>
<i>Cryptostylis subulata</i>
<i>Cyperus tenellus</i>
<i>Danthonia pallida</i>
<i>Danthonia penicillata</i>
<i>Danthonia pilosa</i>
<i>Danthonia setacea</i>
<i>Danthonia spp.</i>
<i>Daviesia latifolia</i>
<i>Daviesia virgata</i>
<i>Deyeuxia quadrifida</i>
<i>Dianella laevis</i>
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>
<i>Dichelachne rara</i>
<i>Dichopogon strictus</i>
<i>Dichondra repens</i>
<i>Dillwynia cinerascens</i>
<i>Diuris longifolia</i>
<i>Diuris pedunculata</i>
<i>Drosera peltata ssp. auriculata</i>
<i>Drosera whittakeri</i>
<i>Epacris impressa</i>
<i>Epilobium hirtigerum</i>
<i>Eucalyptus cephalocarpa</i>
<i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>
<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>
<i>Eucalyptus ovata</i>
<i>Eucalyptus radiata</i>
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>
<i>Gahnia radula</i>
<i>Galnia radula</i>
<i>Galium gaudichaudii</i>
<i>Gastrodia sesamoides</i>
<i>Geranium potentilloides</i>
<i>Glossodia major</i>
<i>Glycine clandestina</i>
<i>Gnaphalium japonicum</i>

BIRDS AT THE VALLEY RESERVE (December, 1983)

Some native bush remaining on the slopes of this small tributary of Scotchmans Creek is home for some of our distinctive Australian birds. They are important as pollinators and keep the insects of the bush under control.

To bring back the birds that we are losing and to keep those we have, areas of native bush need to be large as possible. Birds need privacy and security to breed successfully and this often means an understory of smaller trees and shrubs. We must give up our superfluous access tracks and so help restore the area of bushland and this will also stop soil erosion. Soil gouged away is gone forever. Some old dead trees must be left for birds which nest in tree-hollows, such as the Laughing Kookaburra and Eastern Rosella and furthermore some birds like to perch high on dead branches, which they use as vantage points to view the area.

Before development in Waverley, more streams had a continuous flow, or were deeper in summer than they are now. To make up for this loss in stream flow, shallow pools could be left in the creek to lessen this effect. As a back-up put a birdbath in your garden. A nearby tree will offer birds a perch and a retreat if danger threatens.

Just as we travel around on our highways, so birds need their flyways. These flyways include the strips of native bush that remain after our settlement and development, such as roadside reserves in the

Species	Location	Habit
130 <i>Platylobium obtusangulum</i>	A, B, C	S
131 <i>Poa morrisii</i>	All	R
132 <i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	B	G
133 <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	D, E	G
134 <i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	All	F
135 <i>Pterostylis longifolia</i>	B	O
136 <i>Pterostylis nutans</i>	B	O
137 <i>Pultenaea gunnii</i>	B	S
138 <i>Ranunculus lappaceus</i>	B, C	G
139 <i>Schoenus</i> sp.	All	R
140 <i>Scirpus nodosus</i>	D, E	R
141 <i>Senecio glomeratus</i>	All	S
142 <i>Senecio hispidulus</i>	All	S
143 <i>Senecio quadridentatus</i>	All	S
144 <i>Solanum laciniatum</i>	D, E	S
145 <i>Solenogyne gunnii</i>	C	G
146 <i>Spyridium parvifolium</i>	B	S
147 <i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>	B	G
148 <i>Stipa pubinoides</i>	All	R
149 <i>Stipa rudis</i> ssp. <i>nervosa</i>	All	R
150 <i>Stipa rudis</i> ssp. <i>rudis</i>	All	R
151 <i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	All	G
152 <i>Stypandra caespitosa</i>	D	L
153 <i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>	B	G
154 <i>Tetarrhena juncea</i>	D	R
155 <i>Thelymitra pauciflora</i>	B	O
156 <i>Themeda australis</i>	All	R
157 <i>Thysanotus patersonii</i>	B	L
158 <i>Tricoryne elatior</i>	B, C	L
159 <i>Triglochin striata</i>	D, E	R
160 <i>Typha</i> sp.	E	R
161 <i>Utricularia dichotoma</i>	E	R
162 <i>Veronica gracilis</i>	A	G
163 <i>Viminaria juncea</i>	B	S
164 <i>Viola hederacea</i>	B, C	G
165 <i>Wahlenbergia communis</i>	B, C	G
166 <i>Wahlenbergia gymnoclada</i>	All	G
167 <i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	C	L
168 <i>Xanthorrhoea minor</i>	B	L
169 <i>Xanthosia dissecta</i>	A	G

country and wooded stream valleys. In Waverley such an area is Scotchmans Creek and its tributaries. At present there is a break in the connecting habitat links between the Valley Reserve and native bushland areas along the Scotchmans Creek and any future plans for this area should aim to restore the indigenous vegetation to attract a greater variety of birds.

Restoring the native bushland in the reserve will retain and attract more native birds. By growing more native plants in your garden to attract these birds you can share in this pleasure.

Birds resident in the Valley Reserve throughout the year:—

- Galah — 1 breeding pair
 - Eastern Rosella — 3 breeding pairs
 - Laughing Kookaburra — 1 breeding pair
 - Tawny Frogmouth — 1 breeding pair
 - White-browed Scrubwren
 - Striated Thornbill — a small flock
 - Brown Thornbill
 - Red Wattlebird
 - Little Wattlebird
 - Noisy Miner
 - White-plumed Honey eater
 - Eastern Spinebill
 - Spotted Pardalote
 - Australian Magpie-lark
 - Grey Butcherbird
 - Australian Magpie
 - Little Raven
- up to 3 breeding pairs
— up to 4 breeding pairs
— 1 breeding pair

The competing introduced birds:—

- Spotted Turtle-dove
- Blackbird
- Song Thrush
- European Goldfinch
- European Greenfinch
- House Sparrow
- Common Starling
- Common Mynah

Birds observed during the year: as they pass to and fro along Scotchmans Creek:—

- Whited-faced Heron
- Masked Lapwing (Spurwinged Plover)
- Welcome Swallow
- White's Thrush
- Willie Wagtail
- Mistletoebird
- Silvereye
- Red-browed Firetail

Australian Hobby (Little Falcon) — an occasional visitor using the Valley Reserve as part of its much larger territory.

Birds that visit the Valley Reserve in Autumn and Winter in their non-breeding season, or because as immature birds they have yet to win a territory:—

- Golden Whistler
- Grey Shrike-thrush
- Pied Currawong
- Brown Goshawk — immature
- Crimson Rosella — usually immature
- Black-shouldered Kite — rare
- Gang-gang Cockatoo — rare

Migrant birds that breed during Spring and Summer:—

- Horsefield's Bronze-cuckoo
 - Pallid Cuckoo — rare
 - Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike — other times too
- Passage Migrants:—
- Sacred Kingfisher
 - Flame Robin
 - Scarlet Robin
 - Eastern Yellow Robin
 - Rufous Fantail
 - Grey Fantail

Nomadic visitors which use the area when flowering on native plants is plentiful:—

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Musk Lorikeet
Yellow-faced Honeyeater
White-naped Honeyeater

Very rare visitors:—

Pacific Black Duck
Collared Sparrowhawk
Australian Kestrel
Common Bronzewing
Fan-tailed Cuckoo (Golden Bronze-cuckoo)
Rufous Whistler
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater
Bell Miner
Noisy Friar Bird

Birds no longer using the area:—

Pink Robin
Crested Shrike-tit
Superb Fairy-wren
Striated Pardalote

Observed over the area but no longer breeding in the reserve:—

Dusky Woodswallow

Resident birds that visit local gardens to supplement their food:—

Eastern Rosella
Grey Fantail
Brown Thornbill
Eastern Spinebill
Spotted Pardalote

Identifying the Plants of the Valley Reserve

Most of the native plants recorded for the Valley Reserve are illustrated in Leon Costerman's, *Native Trees and Shrubs of South-eastern Victoria*, providing they are above one metre. For the smaller species such as lilies and orchids, a relatively cheap book on identification is the *Wildflower Diary* of Winifred Waddell, published for the Native Plants Preservation Society of Victoria. Other useful texts are:—
Galbraith, J., *Wild Flowers of South-east Australia*, (Collins)
Willis, J. A., *Handbook to Plants in Victoria*, Vols. 1 & 2, (M.U.P.)

Bird Identification

The Bird Observers Club, 183 Springvale Rd., Nunawading, Victoria, 3131 has a wide choice of literature and gives advice. The Gould League of Victoria has published useful texts, *Birds of Victoria*: 1. *Urban Areas* and 2. *The Ranges*.

Sources Consulted:—

- Minutes*: The Native Plants Preservation Society of Victoria, 1955-8.
Local Government Records, Mulgrave Shire relevant Rate Books and Council Minutes.
Registrar General's Office, relevant land titles.
Bunce, D., *Travels with Dr. Leichhardt in Australia*, (Melbourne, 1859, Facsimile Edition).
Priestley, S., *Cattlemen to Commuters*, (Sydney, 1979)
Sutton, C. S., "Notes on the Sandringham Flora," *Vict. Nat.*, Vols 28 & 29, 1911, 1912, pp. 5-20 & 79-97.

Taxonomy:

- Forbes, S. J., Gullan, P. K., Kilgour, R. A. Powell, M. A., 1984, *A Census of the Vascular Plants of Victoria*, Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

