



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – April 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

Engineering Works in Valley Conservation Reserve

Many members have noticed and commented on the engineering works going on in Valley Conservation Reserve near the scout hut. You may remember that I spoke about the plans, last year.

For a number of years, there has been an increasing problem whenever we have a significant rain event, of water overflowing the Wills Avenue sidewalk near the main entrance, and making its way across the surface to the creek line behind the scout hut. This has resulted in severe erosion in that area, which affects the entire creek line down to Valley Creek itself.

The new engineering work is designed to improve the water flow in that area and channel it underground into the creek behind the scout hut. There is also an overground 'spillway' to handle any water that does not get into the drainage system. In the upper part of the creek, large boulders have been installed to stabilise the creek bed and slow water flow.

This is the first stage of managing the water flow down through the reserve.

Further work is planned nearer and along Valley Creek. We'll let you know when that work is scheduled to begin.

We anticipate that there will soon be a planting program for the area in front of the scout hut, to stabilise the soil and reduce further erosion.



Drainage works - View from Wills Ave looking SW



Drainage works - outlet to the creek behind Scout hall

Barbecue and Get Together

Our Barbecue in February was very successful and well attended. It was good to catch up with so many members and supporters. I think we'll do something similar next year. Let us know what you think!



Work Parties in Valley Conservation Reserve

We need more people to assist us in keeping Valley Conservation Reserve beautiful! The work parties run from 1:30 to 3:30 on the last Saturday of each month. In spring and autumn, we weed, and in winter we plant. If you enjoy spending time in Valley Conservation Reserve, think of seeing if you can help us in our work, from time to time.

If any of your friend or neighbours might be interested, please encourage them to come along. Everyone is welcome, and every bit of help is valuable.

Monash Council Climate Resilience Plan

I hope that as many of you as possible have responded to the questionnaire put out by council asking for comments on their draft plan. FSCVR has also provided comments aimed at strengthening the plan and encouraging a catchment focus on those parts relating to creeks and waterways. This is consistent with our ongoing work with the KooyongKoot Alliance and Council's involvement in the corresponding Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Regional Collaboration.

Wishing all our members and supporters a happy Easter, and looking forward to seeing you all at future events!

Tony Walker
President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.

WaterWatch Results & Reports - February - March 2026

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	22/02/26	22/03/26	22/02/26	22/03/26	22/02/26	22/03/26	22/02/26	22/03/26
Date	22/02/26	22/03/26	22/02/26	22/03/26	22/02/26	22/03/26	22/02/26	22/03/26
Air temperature °C	20	19	20	19	21	17	21.5	19.5
Water temperature °C	19	19.5	19.5	22.5	20	17	20	20
pH	7.1 G	6.8 E	6.9 E	6.6 E	6.8 E	6.6 E	6.8 E	6.7 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	4.0 P		1.5 D			2.8 D		2.3 D
Conductivity E.C.	555 P	477 F	598 P	382 F	498 F	400 F	289 F	287 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	13 E	8 E	18 F	12 E	33 D	22 P	28 P	32 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.039 F		0.199 G			0.068 P		0.039 F
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.04 E	0.00 E	0.08 G	0.02 E	0.40 D	0.15 F	0.00 E	0.01 E
Stream Flow L/s	2.8	2.0	2.8	8.8	11.7	11.8	0.9	0.1

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 22-02-2026	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm 22-02-2026	YSC020 Site 2 Regent St 22-03-2026	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Ck 22-03-2026
	Number found	Number found	Number found	Number found
Very Sensitive				
Caddisfly larvae	1	0	1	5
Sensitive				
Damselfly Larvae	2	50	10	4
Dragonfly Larvae	2	20	1	1
Freshwater Mussel	0	3	0	0
Freshwater Yabbies/Crayfish	0	0	1	0
Water Mites	0	1	50	30
Freshwater Slaters	0	0	1	2
Tolerant				
True Bugs	2	0	1	1
Leeches	20	20	19	5
Snails (freshwater)	50	100	20	8
Flatworms	10	0	50	15
Very Tolerant				
Freshwater segmented worms	10	0	5	2
Blood worms	100	100	20	0
Total Number Found	197	294	179	73
Total Bug Score	34	29	49	43
Stream Condition	Poor	Fair	Good	Good

February

Comments:

- Despite the mid-week rain, the water quality showed dry-weather characteristics. Oxygen levels were low (poor to degraded), and electrical conductivity (salinity) was rather high (fair to poor).
- The high (degraded) ammonium level at our downstream Scotchmans Ck site was possibly related to a persistent sewage seepage just upstream of Blackburn Rd.
- The invertebrates survey was better than usual, with Fair abundance in the Glen Waverley Main Drain, but the variety we found at both upstream sites was poor.

March

Comments:

- Creek flows were low, despite the rain earlier in the week, and Valley Creek was at a trickle.
- The chemical test results were generally good, except for the usual summertime low oxygen levels, and the usual fair or poor soluble phosphorus levels.
- Turbidity was low at the upstream sites, but higher downstream, and in Valley Creek.
- We found an unusually good variety of invertebrates in both downstream sites.

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@scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au

KooyongKoot Alliance Update - article by Rex Dusting

A quick refresher on the Alliance. KKA was established to provide a whole of catchment approach to support community efforts to improve the waterways and streamside vegetation focussing on the Gardiners Creek catchment but recognising downstream impacts on the Yarra River and the Bay. With a membership of over thirty Friends Groups KKA works with the five Councils, state government, other authorities, educational institutions and businesses in the catchment and other similar streams in the Melbourne area to provide a community voice in policy, regulatory and project decisions. It provides support to share information, expertise and support to new and existing friends' groups where needed as well as delivering projects in its own right.

Recent and upcoming items of interest are:

- KKA last year ran two successful, well attended clean waterways events – at Blackburn Lake and another on the banks of the Gardiners Creek at Glen Iris. These events aimed at not only committed parties but passing foot and bike traffic, promote activities to improve our local environment. There were presentations from Waterwatch communities in the area, Melbourne Water and the EPA as well as local friends groups and other activities. They are planning to run further possibly one at a location in our portion of the catchment. TBA.
- A high-level Strategic Plan for the catchment has been under development by the Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration (which consists of the Councils, Melbourne Water, KKA and other stakeholders). This draft Plan, which had strong KKA participation, is scheduled to be released for public comment in April.
- KKA are working a trial project in the Blackburn area with the Whitehorse Council and local business sponsorship to reduce litter by identifying sources and having targeted education and enforcement campaigns where needed. An earlier study has shown that there are several “hotspot” sources of litter in the upper reaches of the Scotchmans Creek catchment and the FSCVR committee – depending on the results of the trial – plan to use processes developed in the trial to implement something similar in our area.

As Scotchmans Creek covers over 25% of the catchment the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve have been active members since KKA foundation in 2021 with a number of committee members directly involved with KKA activities. We encourage you to look at other KKA activities on its website – www.kka.org.au – or its Facebook page and are welcome to participate in any activities that are of interest.



Clean up Australia Day – Sunday March 1st

The focus of our latest CUAD was to observe what kinds of rubbish is found along the creek. Our report and some photos are up on our website. Thank you everyone!

Guest Speaker for our May meeting Wednesday 20th May see flyer for more details

Join us for an interesting night listening to guest speaker Ian Moodie talk about the Krefts Glider along with detailed photographs. Please note we will be at Community Centre, Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley, 7.30pm.

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!



Mycena viscidocruenta with mycelium sighted at Valley Conservation Reserve during a work party

Guest Speaker for our March meeting on Wednesday 18th March

Geoff Lay was our speaker for our March meeting who gave us some very interesting insights into fungi – from miniature to knee high, 90% of plants rely on fungus to survive. For those of you who would like a reference guide to help ID fungi Geoff has given us the following link: shop.fungimap.org.au

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.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 18 ^h April	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Wednesday 20 th May	Meeting with speaker Ian Moodie	Mt Waverley Community Centre 7.30 pm
Saturday 30 st May	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Sunday 14 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](https://www.facebook.com/fscvr) and please “like” us.

Thanks to the office of **Dr Carina Garland MP** for their help with printing

Responsibility for editorial content is solely that of the editor.



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