



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – June 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

Extending our Boundaries

For many years FSCVR has set its downstream limit for Scotchmans Creek, at Stanley Avenue – historically another 'Friends' group worked downstream from there, but for many years they have no longer been active.

At our committee meeting in May, it was resolved that we would take on the area below Stanley Avenue as far as (but not including) the Huntingdale Wetlands.

This has allowed us to plan with City of Monash and Melbourne Water, the closing of a gap in the bushland corridor between Stanley Avenue and the wetlands (see below)

Planting Program Gets Underway

The bush crew tell us that plants have started arriving for the 2026 planting season, so our planting program has just begun. At our work party on Saturday, we planted 500 indigenous plants in Valley Conservation Reserve, helped by a number of new volunteers from the local area and from Mannix College. We have planned plantings by Huntingtower school, followed by Mount Waverley Secondary College. Keep a look out in the newsletter, or on Facebook or the notice boards for information about our Friends' planting sessions in Valley Conservation Reserve (all members and friends are welcome), and for information about National Tree Day (Sunday 26 July).



We had 16 planters with Patrick from the Bush Crew at VCR on Saturday

Our friends at Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve have also begun their planting program, and we'd encourage all our members to lend them a hand if you can – their work has created an outstanding linear bushland corridor along Damper Creek.

Planning for next two years

In 2026, we will complete the highly successful planting program we began in 2024 down Scotchmans Creek to Stanley Avenue. The 2024 and 2025 plantings have grown extremely well, and we are confident that 2026 will be as successful.

We have been meeting with Melbourne Water and City of Monash to plan out our planting seasons for 2027 and 2028. As I mentioned above the major plantings in those years will be immediately downstream of Stanley Avenue, just East of the Huntingdale Wetlands, so continuing the step by step extension of the bushland corridor South of the creek.

Smaller plantings will continue North of the creek, East of Stanley Avenue, to enhance the bushland corridor in that area.

Work Parties in Valley Conservation Reserve

Now that planting has begun, 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, so 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 friends or neighbours might be interested, please encourage them to come along. Everyone is welcome, and every bit of help is valuable.

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.

WaterWatch Results & Reports - April - May 2026

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	19/04/26	24/05/26	19/04/26	24/05/26	19/04/26	24/05/26	19/04/26	24/05/26
Date	19/04/26	24/05/26	19/04/26	24/05/26	19/04/26	24/05/26	19/04/26	24/05/26
Air temperature °C	13	13	14	13	13	13	13	13
Water temperature °C	11	13	11	12.5	13	13	12	11.5
pH	6.8 E	6.7 E	7.6 G	6.7 E	6.9 E	6.6 E	6.8 E	6.9 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	7.7 G		7.3 G			7.6 G		8.6 E
Conductivity E.C.	470 F	158 G	383 F	389 F	330 F	363 F	171 G	372 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	18 F	66 D	19 F	9 E	17 G	36 D	17 G	19 F
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.029 F		0.075 P			0.026 F		
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.04 E	0.00 E	0.15 F	0.15 F	0.00 E	0.04 E
Stream Flow L/s	1.7	2.1	1.0	1.0	9.0	11.7	0.7	0.4

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 19-04-2026	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm 19-04-2026	YSC020 Site 2 Regent St 24-05-2026	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Ck 24-05-2026
	Number found	Number found	Number found	Number found
Very Sensitive				
Caddisfly larvae	0	3	0	0
Sensitive				
Damselfly Larvae	2	2	5	5
Dragonfly Larvae	0	0	2	1
Freshwater Yabbies/Crayfish	0	0	0	1
Water Mites	1	0	0	0
Freshwater Slaters	0	0	0	0
Tolerant				
True Bugs	1 (water boatmen)	0	0	3 (backswimmers)
Leeches	0	10	11	5
Snails (freshwater)	10	100	0	25
Flatworms	5	0	1	10
Very Tolerant				
Fly Larvae	0	1	2	0
Freshwater segmented worms	1	10	50	25
Blood worms	5	50	100	10
Total Number Found	25	176	171	85
Total Bug Score	23	23	22	32
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

April

Comments:

- Turbidity downstream was lower than upstream's.
- Water in Site 1a was slightly cloudy, and there was a gravel mound near the inlet. The sediment removal works at Bogong Reserve had completed.
- There was gambusia fish present in both creeks, with 10 sampled from Site 1a and 15 sampled from Site 1b.
- Two large tadpoles were sampled in Site 1b.
- There was litter observed in Site 1a, typical after rains. Some deep spots in the creek have developed opposite the in-ground grate behind Turner Ct. The drain that empties into the creek is now quite exposed and visible.

May

Comments:

- The phosphorus reagent ran out – hence no phosphorus result for Site 3.
- Turbidity was very high at the upstream site 1a and downstream site 2. Water in Site 1a was milky coming from further upstream - Yarra Valley Water reported 2 emergencies.
- At Site 1a, the gravel mound near the drain inlet from the previous month is still present, the water from the inlet is running clear.
- There were 15 gambusia fish sampled in Scotchmans Creek Site 2. One tadpole was sampled in Site 3. Both downstream sites rated Poor for waterbugs.
- There was litter observed in Sites 1a and 1b.
- Last month we reported that the drainpipe that empties into the Site 1a creek from behind Turner Ct houses was exposed. Today it was observed that that creek embankment had been repaired with new boulders and a new in-ground grate.

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

Planting Session

Friends planting session is planned for Sunday 14th June where we hope to plant 800 indigenous plants at Valley Conservation Reserve. A good chance to meet one of the Rangers and learn how to correctly plant a tubestock and help the understory habitat. Join us at the amenities block at 9.30am.

Join us for a community planting, National Tree Day Sunday July 26th to help expand the wildlife corridor along South side of Scotchmans Ck, East of Stanley avenue. See website and flyer for details.

Bring gardening gloves. A trowel is also handy.

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 March meeting on Wednesday 20th May

Guest speaker Ian Moodie, local resident and nature enthusiast, talked on the Kreffts Glider. Sharing his knowledge and experiences we learnt interesting and surprising facts. Kreffts Gliders are quite small and rely on tall trees to glide across from. On the ground they are vulnerable to cats and other predators.



Stinkhorn fungi - Courtesy May Lee

Many people and wildlife navigate by the stars at night and many nocturnal animals emerge from their nests at dusk. It is very important to turn outside lights off at these times, as it interferes with their ability to navigate – to reach safety, travel safely, search for food, find a mate etc. Minimize the time outside lights are turned on. Use amber lighting, a motion sensor, carry a small torch/use your mobile phone light instead and outdoor lighting dim, fixed down low to the ground, rather than up high.

Around Valley Conservation Reserve and Scotchmans Creek areas

There has been sightings of the Blue Faced Honeyeater visiting from further north. The days are shorter, there is more fungi sprouting/emerging, since the wetter weather and during a recent work party session at VCR we learnt from Ranger Patrick that the soil has been hydrophobic. While out walking you may wish to take a look at past plantings to see how well these indigenous plants are progressing during these challenging times. See our website for some more photos.



Blue Faced Honeyeater - courtesy May Lee

REMINDER – Annual subscription due Tuesday 30th June 2026

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
Sunday 14 th June	Friends planting in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 9.30am
Saturday 27 th June	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 am
Saturday 18 th July	Work party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Sunday 26 th July	National Tree Day Planting East of Stanley Ave	South bank Scotchmans Ck upstream Stanley Ave Mt. Wav
Wednesday 19 th August	Meeting with Speaker (TBA)	Alvie Hall 7.30 pm
Saturday 29 th August	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 am

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