



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter – April 2022

### ***President's Report***

#### **The Future of Valley Conservation Reserve**

As many of you will know, we have been assisting Monash Council in drawing up plans for Valley Conservation Reserve. The key element of these plans is an 'Integrated Site Plan' (ISP) which looks at the major works that needs to be done in Valley Conservation Reserve over the next few years. This is really a strategic document and very timely, as it implements Valley Conservation Reserve's new conservation status.

We have seen an advanced draft of the document, which reflects strongly our vision and statement of purpose for Valley Conservation Reserve.

#### **FSCVR Vision for Valley Conservation Reserve**

*We envisage* Valley Conservation Reserve as a thriving, high-quality bushland with outstanding remnant areas, healthy waterways and a rich diversity of local indigenous flora and fauna. It is treasured by the community, providing a peaceful refuge from suburbia, opportunities for passive recreation, and a focus on events which educate and instil a connection with nature.

#### **FSCVR Statement of Purpose for Valley Conservation Reserve**

Valley Conservation Reserve exists primarily as a conservation bushland reserve with a focus on preserving and enhancing its remnant vegetation, of which there are few examples left in the City of Monash. It is utilised for conservation education, and to provide opportunities for schools and the community to experience bushland, and participate in passive recreational activities which encourage an appreciation of our natural environment and history

At our May meeting we have invited Monash Council officers involved in drawing up the ISP, to discuss with us the key activities and priorities for the reserve. This is an important opportunity to get a real insight into the future, and to understand how the ISP supports our vision and statement of purpose.

We have suggested to council that all conservation reserves in Monash should have a vision and statement of purpose appropriate to the reserve, which is used to guide future work.

## **Back to our Normal Program!**

It looks as if we will have a 'normal' planting program this year. Outdoor activities with appropriate Covid precautions have already resumed – our waterwatch and weeding sessions are in full swing for the year. Let's hope we can all continue as planned!

Meanwhile I would encourage our members to come to our May meeting (May 18<sup>th</sup> at Alvie Hall), talk about the future for Valley Conservation Reserve, and reconnect!

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

## ***Planting Program for 2022***

Our program for this year will start with a Friends planting on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June. We will be planting in Valley Conservation Reserve in the northern section. Please put the date in your calendar and come along and help us. These plants will be supplied by the Friends group.

Then on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June we will be planting again the wetlands, but this time next to Blackburn Road. These plants will be supplied by Melbourne Water as part of the wetlands project.

In mid-July, Brentwood Secondary College students and a group from Australia Gas Infrastructure Group will be planting 3 000 plants near Crosby Drive over 2 days. These will be plants funded by Melbourne Water through their grants program.

Finally we will be taking part in National Tree Day on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July, when we hope that the community will come along and help us plant 8 000 plants on the north side of Scotchmans Creek in Fairway Reserve close to the scouts huts. Our second Melbourne Water grants program funded event. Please put this date in your calendar.

## ***Members Get Together – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022***

Fifteen members came together on a lovely sunny afternoon to share cheesecake and good company in Valley Conservation Reserve.

We gathered under the shade of trees in the area of the old playground, reviewed our 2021 year and spoke about the year to come. It was a very relaxing afternoon in a quiet, peaceful corner of the reserve.

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – March 2022

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm	YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
Date	20/03/2022	20/03/2022	20/03/2022	20/03/2022
Air temperature °C	22	22	19	19
Water temperature °C	20	20	18	18.5
pH	7.3 G	6.9 E	6.9 E	6.9 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l			5.0 F	3.9 D
Conductivity E.C.	430 F	260 F	480 F	530 P
Turbidity F.T.U.	5 E	11 E	16 G	28 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm			0.042 F	0.033 F
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.01 E	0.01 E	0.10 F	0.02 E
Stream Flow L/s	2.7	3.6	11.4	0.0
Habitat assessment/50	22 F	27 F	29 G	28 F

E=Excellent ■ G=Good ■ F=Fair ■ P=Poor ■ D=Degraded ■ N/M= Not measured N/A= Not applicable

### Macro Invertebrates Results

	YSC020 Site 2 Regent St	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
	Number found	Number found
<b>Sensitive</b>		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	20	10
<i>Dragonfly larvae</i>	10	1
<i>Water Mites</i>	0	50
<b>Tolerant</b>		
<i>True Bugs</i>	2	0
<i>Leeches</i>	3	7
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	0	50
<i>Flatworms</i>	10	20
<b>Very Tolerant</b>		
<i>Mosquito larvae</i>	0	50
<i>Fly larvae</i>	30	5
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	1	50
<i>Blood worms</i>	10	0
<b>Total number found</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>243</b>
<b>Total Bug Score</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Stream Condition</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>

### Comments

The creeks are recovering from the low flow conditions of the last 2 months. (Valley Creek has not been flowing on the day of any of our site visits this year - we sampled from the pools that remain).

- The number of Excellent water quality results has risen from 4 in January, to 8 in March, and the number of Degraded water quality results has fallen from 7 in January, to 1 in March.
- The invertebrates sample ratings were Poor for site 2 (Scotchmans Ck at Regent St), and Fair for Valley Ck (unfortunately, an unusually large number of mosquito larvae contributed to this Fair result).

For access to the full reports, the data collected and the habitat photos, view the waterwatch page on our web site.

## ***Nest boxes in Valley Conservation Reserve and Fairway Reserve***

The Monash Bush crew have been supervising the installation of some new nest boxes recently. Many of the old ones had become damaged and were no longer usable.

There are two main types: ones with an access hole in the front which are suitable for small parrots or small sugar gliders etc; and ones with no hole at the front but a slit hole at the bottom next to a landing strip which are suitable for microbats.



Parrot or sugar glider box



Microbat box

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Meeting with a speaker	Alvie Hall at 7:30 pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Friends planting in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 9:30 am

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