



# *FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.*

## Newsletter – June 2022

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

#### **Monash Council Grant for FSCVR**

As I mentioned in a previous report, we have been generously given a grant by Monash Council to further our work. We have spent part of the grant on some Hi-Vis vests with our Logo, for our volunteers to wear at activities such as plantings, so we can be easily recognised.

We have also sent two of our committee members on a first-aid course and purchased a first aid kit, to assist in the safety of our members and members of the public who come to help us.

The remainder of the grant will be spent on a field microscope to help in our work with schools and scout groups – it will be especially valuable in identifying the macroinvertebrates we bring from the creek during our waterwatch sessions.

#### **Valley Conservation Reserve**

In my last column, I set out our Vision and Statement of Purpose for Valley Conservation Reserve. We propose to feature them permanently on our web site and Facebook page.

Following our discussions with Monash Council, and the presentation made by council officers at our May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, we are confident that Monash Council's Integrated Site Plan (ISP) will be consistent with them. (See below)

#### **Kooyong Koot Alliance (KKA)**

Some of you may be aware already that a number of conservation oriented groups have formed a grouping focussed on the restoration and conservation of bushland along Gardiners Creek. We have been in contact with this group since its formation, and our Vice President (Rex Disting) has been our representative at their meetings. They have now received a substantial grant from the Victorian Government for the purpose of creating a master plan for the Gardiners Creek Catchment (which includes Scotchmans Creek and all tributaries).

We have been in contact with Monash Council, and expect to hear back from them soon regarding their involvement in this plan. We'll keep our members informed on any developments as they emerge! However an integrated plan for the whole catchment supported by all the relevant councils, is in principle a good idea, and should benefit the creek system overall.

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

We have received the grants for 2022, that we applied for, from Melbourne Water, and we have a full planting program for this year. Details are on our web site and Facebook page. Come along and help us make the Scotchmans Creek corridor even better!

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

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

### ***Friends Planting – Sunday 12 June***

Please come along to help us plant 800 plants in Valley Conservation Reserve. Meet us at the Amenities block before 9.30 am. The Friends Group is funding the purchase of these plants.

### ***Friends Planting – Friday 17 June***

Help us plant about 500 plants in the Mt Waverley Wetlands. Meet us next to Blackburn Road on the north west side at 9.30 am. Melbourne Water will supply these plants as part of the recent works in the area.

### ***National Tree Day – Sunday 31 July***

Finally, we will celebrate National Tree Day on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July when we hope to plant 8,000 plants in Fairway Reserve. We will return to planting on the north side of the creek with parking in the car park at the south end of Fairway Reserve. We hope to have a good turn out for this event as the scouts will help us provide a sausage sizzle as usual. We expect registration to start from 10 am. More details to come.

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

### ***Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May***

Monash Council's Patrick Mallon, Michael Grant and Zhiyi Xue gave our meeting a presentation on future plans for Valley Conservation Reserve.

The name change to a Conservation Reserve reflects and supports the intended site character and operational requirements but does not involve any zoning or statutory requirements.

The vegetation management plan is evolving; habitat assessments will be undertaken soon; many nest boxes for bats and small parrots have been installed recently.

The recently completed integrated site plan is an evolving document intended to support the capital works planning process. Key issues of drainage improvement and erosion control were identified, primarily at the Scout Hall car park area.

There is no proposed increase in the size of the play space but buffer zones are to be more clearly defined. There is also no proposal to change the dog on-lead status of the Reserve.

## ***Winter in Valley Conservation Reserve***

It may be cold most days, but we can enjoy the fresh air and the greenery in the reserve.

Our work party at the end of May worked in the north west corner of the reserve. While removing lots of veldt grass and other weeds we uncovered fungi and some small frogs that were hiding in the leaf litter.

This piece of rotting branch displayed these small fungi. Fungi play a very important role in the environment by converting fallen wood into nutrients that can be used by plants.



There are always plenty of weeds to be removed at our monthly work parties. Come and join our friendly group working in the reserve. We have restarted our tea/coffee and chat afterwards which help us all to get to know each other.

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – April – May 2022

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	24/04/22	22/05/22	24/04/22	22/05/22	24/04/22	22/05/22	24/04/22	22/05/22
Date	24/04/22	22/05/22	24/04/22	22/05/22	24/04/22	22/05/22	24/04/22	22/05/22
Air temperature °C	12	10.5	12	10.5	12	10	12	10
Water temperature °C	13	11	12.5	11	13.5	10.5	12.5	10.5
pH	7.1 G	7.3 G	7.0 E	6.9 E	7.0 E	7.1 G	6.9 E	7.1 G
Oxygen concentration mg/l	8.4 E		7.0 G			8.8 E		8.3 E
Conductivity E.C.	440 F	600 P	270 F	280 F	420 F	460 F	330 F	300 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	9 E	7 E	5 E	6 E	27 P	12 E	25 P	23 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.016 G		0.075 P			0.036 F		0.029 F
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.00 E	0.04 E	0.01 E	0.00 E	0.07 G	0.07 G	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	7.5	6.5	16.8	20.5	11.1	32.7	0.4	0.1

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

### April

#### Comments:

- The water quality test results were mostly Fair to Excellent, but Poor for the turbidity tests at both downstream sites 2 and 3 (Scotchmans Ck and Valley Ck) and Poor for the phosphorus test at site 1b (Glen Waverley Drain).
- There were 3 (or more) water mains emergencies in the Scotchmans Ck catchment in the previous week, upstream of our sites. These caused momentary high flows, very muddy, and the residue was still visible on the creek bed rocks at our test time.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Poor for the upstream Scotchmans Creek site (1a) and just into the Good rating for the Glen Waverley Drain (site 1b).

### May

#### Comments:

- The chemical indicators were Fair to Excellent at all the sites except for high conductivity in the upstream branch of Scotchmans Ck, and turbidity in Valley Ck (which was flowing very slowly).
- The invertebrates ratings were Poor at both the downstream sites. A marked difference between the sites was that the Scotchmans Ck sample had very large numbers of the pest *Gambusia*, and the Valley Ck sample taken 50 metres away had none.

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



## **Updated Signage in Valley Conservation Reserve**

You may have noticed that some of the major signs in Valley Conservation Reserve have been removed. These will all be updated very soon. Council has received some grants to assist with the design of the new signs which will conform to the current Monash standard for signage. In the coming months we hope that the bollard directional signs and the bollard information signs will be upgraded as well.

## **Aboriginal Cultural Walk and Food Experience**

In mid May some of your committee assisted Monash Community Ambassadors and Monash Council with guided walks in Valley Conservation Reserve led by Uncle Ian Hunter. We were treated to a delicious aboriginal inspired lunch provided by the Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Palace. A good group of families and their children attended the event.

These activities encourage the greater community to see what Valley Conservation Reserve has to offer apart from a great childrens playground.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Friends planting in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 9:30 am
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July – note earlier date	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> July	National Tree Day in Fairway Reserve	Register at the end of Fairway Avenue from 10 am
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> August	Meeting with a speaker – Peter Uhlherr Orchids in Valley Conservation Reserve	Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm

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