



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – October 2022

President's Report

FSCVR Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held at the Mount Waverley Community Centre on Wednesday 19th October. Please put that date in your diary, and come along if you can. Any member of FSCVR can nominate for our committee, and would be very welcome. If you are interested, please contact our Secretary, Sally Walker. There is information on how to nominate, and a nomination form in this newsletter (you can also download the form from the web site).

At the AGM, Emily Payne, from Monash City Council, will give us a presentation on Water Sensitive Urban Design.

Management of water resources and water flow are becoming more and more important in Monash - we need to treat water as a valuable resource, and use it wisely. As more and more of our land in Monash is covered in concrete and asphalt, water flow can become too violent after rain. We need to allow the water to flow off the land as gently as possible – fast flowing water can do immense damage.

In our work along the Scotchmans Creek corridor, and in Valley Conservation Reserve, we see the impact of water flow all too clearly in the form of erosion, and sudden water rises after rain, so Emily's work is a very important part of 'Sustainable Monash'.

Schools, Universities and PALS

As Spring progresses, we have had a number of requests from local schools and from Monash University, for our help in helping students to learn about our local environment. We are always pleased to be involved in these activities as part of our commitment to connecting as many people as possible to nature. During October we will have field sessions with Monash university students, and with school students from 6 years old to 16 years old. We always enjoy the questions we get asked (especially from the young ones).

Some of them are quite disappointed to learn that there are no crocodiles in Scotchmans Creek, nor have any sharks been seen recently. One young student was sure there were octopus in the creek, and I'm not sure I really convinced him otherwise!

However, we do get some very perceptive questions, and their understanding and interest is a tribute to how well our teachers are helping the students understand the importance of the environment and how we all need to work to preserve it.

This month we will also be leading a walk around Valley Conservation Reserve on behalf of the Positive Aging Lifestyles (PALS) program for Monash Council. There will also be a night walk in Valley Conservation Reserve to see if we can spot some of the nocturnal inhabitants.

2021-22 In Retrospect

Like most Victorians, we have (cautiously) returned to normal activities this year. We've had a full Waterwatch program, weeding sessions every month, a full planting program, and our schools and community programs are back to normal. This has been very pleasing especially as after 3 relatively wet years in a row everything is growing – especially the weeds!

Our membership numbers are steady, and activity on our Facebook page has been lively. I believe that FSCVR is widely seen as a significant community asset in Monash, and our work is widely appreciated. This is only possible due to the help of all our members and supporters.

Thank you to everyone! It has been a privilege to be your President for the last 12 months and to work on your behalf with such a dedicated and talented group of people.

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Annual General Meeting and Presentation on Wednesday 19th October

The meeting will be held at 7.30 pm in the Mount Waverley Community Centre Mount Waverley – Lounge.

More details in the attached flyer – but note the change of venue as Alvie Hall is still closed for renovations.

Membership renewals – reminder – New Bank Account Details

Membership renewals become due on 31st August. The Application/Renewal form is available from our web site. Please help to support our work by joining us or renewing your membership. Note that you can pay your subscription by bank transfer to our new bank account with the Westpac Bank – details on the renewal form. But please also notify the treasurer that you have made the transfer.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – August – September 2022

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	21/08/22	18/09/22	21/08/22	18/09/22	21/08/22	18/09/22	21/08/22	18/09/22
Date	21/08/22	18/09/22	21/08/22	18/09/22	21/08/22	18/09/22	21/08/22	18/09/22
Air temperature °C	9.5	10	9.5	10		10		10
Water temperature °C	12	11.5	10	11.5	10.5	11.5	9.5	11
pH	7.6 G	7.5 G	7.4 G	7.3 G	7.1 G	7.2 G	7.0 E	7.1 G
Oxygen concentration mg/l	9.8 E	9.6 E	10.0 E	9.8 E				
Conductivity E.C.	540 P	420 F	360 F	310 F	270 F	250 F	320 F	250 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	22 P	38 D	15 G	26 P	33 D	40 D	28 P	26 P
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.026 F	0.036 F	0.052 P	0.075 P				
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.08 G	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	9.0	73.5	9.1	28.0	47.0	94.5	0.3	3.5
Habitat	23 F		26 F			28 F		30 G

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

August

Comments:

- The ammonium test reagents are overdate, and are known to suddenly become nonresponsive. We obtained 0 ppm results at all our sites for the second month in succession, which is highly unusual. So we are disregarding the ammonium test result.

September

Comments:

- All new chemical reagents received. The ammonium results are good to excellent.
- Turbidity was Poor to Degraded; both upstream branches were muddied by a water mains burst in Crosby Drive 2 weekends ago, and some diesel was lingering in the Crosby arm (think it came from the upstream piped areas). Even so, the oxygen concentration was excellent.
- There was a mystery bug which cannot be identified successfully from the quick sheets and the Waterbug Book, If it was a very sensitive caddisfly larva, that gives a bug score of 7, but if it was a very tolerant fly larva the score is 2. Either way the site's total bug score is well below the break point of 35, and the total count below the break of 200, so it's rated Poor. We should be careful about finding very sensitive creatures in one of our creeks, especially a fortnight after a few days of low flow and diesel smell.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Poor for both the upstream sites.

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

Guest Speaker for our August meeting on Wednesday 17th August

Peter Uhlherr has entertained us before with his excellent presentations on fungi and then on fungi and slime moulds.

This time his presentation was on orchids in Valley Conservation Reserve and the Monash area.

His audience was enthralled with his many excellent photos and detailed explanations of how orchids entice insects to fertilise them.

Spring in Valley Conservation Reserve



Hardenbergia violacea – Purple Coral Pea.

As the bright yellows of the Acacias fade the purple of the Hardenbergias stand out among all the other Spring flowers that are present in the reserve. Hardenbergia is a very showy scrambling climber but is not too vigorous for the garden

Look out for some beautiful Olearia lirata – Snowy Daisy-bush - shrubs which are coming into flower with their masses of white flowers. The yellow Bulbine bulbosa – Bulbine Lilies - are also starting to show their star like flowers.



NOMINATION FORM

I nominate.....

for the position of

Name..... Signed.....

Seconded by..... Signed.....

Consent of nominee..... Date.....



Please send/email completed form to the secretary or bring it to the AGM.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday 19 th October	Annual General Meeting Preceded by a presentation by Emily Payne (Monash Council) on Water Sensitive Urban Design	Lounge Room in Mount Waverley Community Centre 47 Miller Crescent Mount Waverley at 7.30 pm
Saturday 29 th October	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 26 th November	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

55 Waimarie Drive
Mount Waverley
Victoria 3149

Mobile: 0477 006 774
Email: sally.walker55@bigpond.com

Incorporation No. A0037872K
Website: scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au
Visit us at facebook.com/fscvr and please "like" us.

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