



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – April 2023

President's Report

Friends Afternoon Get-Together

Our first attempt to hold our annual get-together turned out to be the one day in March when really hot weather was forecast – 37 degrees! So, for everyone's comfort, we postponed the event, only to discover that on the day, it was a fine, pleasant 27 degrees!

The postponed event happened last Saturday (16 April), and although we had some rain, we were under cover at the education hub, and we had a good turnout of members, including our local (state) MP, Matt Fregan – a member for several years now.

We all enjoyed cakes, soft drinks, and a chance to catch up with FSCVR doings and events. There was a raffle for Australian plants and a nursery gift voucher, which was won by our youngest member (who is six years old!)

Friends Plantings

We have been able to fund an extra planting in Valley Conservation Reserve from our grant from City of Monash, so we will have 2 plantings in the Reserve in June:

- (1) On June 11th (Sunday), for members of FSCVR. This is also a What's Your Jam? Event.
- (2) On June 17th (Saturday) for members and supporters, and Valley Conservation Reserve neighbours.

In each case, we'll meet at the amenities block at 9:30am and look to finish before lunch.

We hope to plant 1100 plants in the two sessions thus continuing our work in restoring the bush in Valley Conservation Reserve.

May Meeting: Dr Gary Presland and Graham Ross

I have spoken about the important program aimed at rehabilitating and regenerating the Gardiners Creek catchment – of which Scotchmans Creek is a significant part. Five Cities (Monash, Whitehorse, Booroondara, Glen Eira and Stonnington) are involved in a long-term program called the Gardiners Creek Strategic Collaboration. As part of that program an alliance of Friends and other community groups has been formed, called the KooyongKoot Alliance (KKA).

As I noted last year, FSCVR made the decision to join KKA and Rex Dusting has been a regular attendee at KKA meetings, representing us.

The program is now gaining momentum, and has secured a substantial State Government grant to further its work, so we felt it was an appropriate time to invite the archaeologist and historian Dr Gary Presland to tell us about the history of Gardiners Creek, and the KooyongKoot Catchment Keeper, Graham Ross, to tell us what the KKA alliance is doing, and share a little of the vision for the future of Gardiners Creek.

This is an important opportunity to find out about the history, present and strategic vision for the future of our creek system.

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Guest Speakers for our May meeting on Wednesday 17th May

Join us for our presentation on Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) and what part we can play in looking after its tributary, Scotchmans Creek. This should be a very informative session.

On the publications page of our website there is a document in the reports section called

Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration Prospectus – April 2023

This will provide background information for the presentation.

World Environment Day – Monday 5th June - #Beat Plastic Pollution

We will be celebrating World Environment Day with the PALS (Positive Ageing Lifestyle) program. Details in the next PALS program booklet. Or book with Sally Walker on 0477 006 774 and meet us at 10 am in Valley Conservation Reserve.

What's Your Jam? – National Volunteer Week

Discover Environmental Volunteering in Monash. Visit www.monash.vic.gov.au/whats-your-jam

for all the details including the 2 events that FSCVR is offering:

Saturday 27th May - Work party session in Valley Conservation Reserve

Sunday 11th June - Planting with Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Waterwatch Results & Reports – February – March 2023

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	19/02/23	19/03/23	19/02/23	19/03/23	19/02/23	19/03/23	19/02/23	19/03/23
Date	19/02/23	19/03/23	19/02/23	19/03/23	19/02/23	19/03/23	19/02/23	19/03/23
Air temperature °C	18.5	16.5	18.5	16.5	19.5	16.5	19.5	16.5
Water temperature °C	16.5	16.5	16.5	16	19	17	18	16.5
pH								
Oxygen concentration mg/l	6.4 G		8.1 E			6.9 G		2.7 D
Conductivity E.C.	730 P	420 F	100 G	90 E	250 F	210 G	1070 D	380 F
Turbidity F.T.U.	10 E	6 E	7 E	5 E	10 E	10 E	52 D	51 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.039 F		0.020 G			0.016 G		0.068 P
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.10 F	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.01 E	0.01 E	0.12 F	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	1.7	5.6	18.5	16.4	29.8	17.2		0.1
Habitat	23 F	23 F	26 F	26 F	28 F	28 F	30 G	30 G

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

February

Comments:

- No pH measurement was taken as there was no pH indicator available.
- Oxygen level was Good and Excellent for Sites 1a and 1b.
- The turbidity was low at Sites 1a, 1b and 2.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Poor for both the upstream sites.
- Valley Creek bed was virtually dry (no stream flow measured) and had very little litter.

March

Comments:

- No pH measurements were taken as there was no pH indicator available.
- Valley Creek was reduced to a trickle, with several poor or degraded phys/chem results, and the pools were too small for our invertebrates sampling method.
- The other 3 sites had better flows and all phys/chem results were Fair to Excellent (high conductivity at site 1a (Scotchmans Creek, upstream) was rated Fair, all the other results were rated Good to Excellent).
- Damselfly larvae and aquatic leeches were plentiful at site 2 (Scotchmans Ck, Regent St), however the overall invertebrates rating was Poor. The sample also caught some large tadpoles, one maturing with striped marsh frog patterning.
- We did not do the scheduled invertebrates sampling at Valley Creek, as noted above.

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

Autumn in Valley Conservation Reserve

This is the low season for flowers but I have noticed a few early acacias starting to show their yellow flowers. It is time for us to start thinking about planting those vacant spots in our gardens.

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 5th March

We had excellent weather for our Clean Up event.

15 volunteers filled up 8 bags with rubbish. There were fewer small thin plastic bags as there are less being handed out in the shops.

Guest Speaker for our March meeting on Wednesday 15th March

Peter Uhlherr did not disappoint his audience as he entertained us with his excellent presentation 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.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 29 th April	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Wednesday 17 th May	Meeting with presentation on KooyongKoot	Alvie Hall 7.30 pm
Saturday 27 th May	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm What's Your Jam? event
Sunday 11 th June	Friends planting in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 9.30 am What's Your Jam? event
Saturday 17 th June	Special planting in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block 9.30 am
Saturday 24 th June	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

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