



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter – December 2023

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

The end of 2023 approaches and we look back on a very full year and forward to a busy year with some changes in 2024.

#### **Changes to your committee:**

At the AGM in October we said farewell to Alan Moore who has resigned from the committee, but not from FSCVR. He was the first president of the merged groups which became the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve in 2001. He has been on the committee ever since with 17 years on the executive. We will miss his knowledge of the history of the Friends Group and of Valley Conservation Reserve. We thank him for his tireless efforts over so many years.

We have welcomed three new members to the committee: Kylie Burgin, Kayla Sibly and Marilyn Thompson who are settling in and are already helping with the school activities.

Since the AGM, Kallista Sears has found that she needed to resign due to personal reasons. We will miss her report writing and research abilities for which we thank her. We hope to see her around at our activities in the future.

#### **School activities:**

Since the AGM we have spent the best part of two days at the Regent Street playground and by the creek helping year 7 Avila SC students with their environmental activities. In May and October we assisted the year 10 students. We will be taking a group of grade 1 students from Mt Waverley Heights PS for a ramble beside Scotchmans Creek in mid December.

#### **Planting Program for 2024:**

Recently we met with Melbourne Water and the Monash Bush Crew to confirm details for our planting program next year. We will be applying for two 3 year grants this time and will be moving our planting locations to west of the Monash Freeway in the Scotchmans Creek corridor.

Our aim to plants 24,000 plants over three years on the South side of the creek as part of National Tree Day. On the North side of the creek we aim to plant 9,000 plants over three years with the assistance of our friends from the Australian Gas Infrastructure Group and either students from Brentwood SC or students from Holmesglen Tafe.

We will also aim to plant 800 plants in Valley Conservation Reserve on a Friends Planting event.

### **On-going activities in 2024:**

We will continue with our regular waterwatch and work party activities next year. May will be arranging our Clean Up Australia Day event. We will be working with Monash Council with joint activities such as a walk with the Monash Libraries. There will also be evenings with a speaker at Alvie Hall. There will be more details about these events in our newsletters.

### **Finally:**

As the festive season nears, I would like to wish you all a very happy time with family and friends. Stay safe and enjoy walking in Valley Conservation Reserve during the warm weather.

We look forward to seeing you again in 2024.

Sally Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.

### ***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 our treasurer that you have made the transfer.

### ***Did you know...***

Damselfly larvae can live in the water for up to 2 years before emerging as a damselfly.



## Waterwatch Results & Reports – October – November 2023

| Parameter                    | YSC010<br>Site 1A<br>Fiander arm |          | YSC012<br>Site 1B<br>Crosby arm |          | YSC020<br>Site 2<br>Regent Street |          | YVA100<br>Site 3<br>Valley Creek |          |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                              | 29/10/23                         | 26/11/23 | 29/10/23                        | 26/11/23 | 29/10/23                          | 26/11/23 | 29/10/23                         | 26/11/23 |
| Date                         | 29/10/23                         | 26/11/23 | 29/10/23                        | 26/11/23 | 29/10/23                          | 26/11/23 | 29/10/23                         | 26/11/23 |
| Air temperature °C           | 15.5                             | 16.5     | 15.5                            | 16.5     | 15.5                              | 16.5     | 15.5                             | 16.5     |
| Water temperature °C         | 16.5                             | 17       | 18                              | 17       | 14                                | 17       | 14.5                             | 16.5     |
| pH                           | 7.3 G                            | 7.4 G    | 7.1 G                           | 7.1 G    | 6.8 E                             | 7.1 G    | 6.9 E                            | 6.9 E    |
| Oxygen concentration mg/l    |                                  | 8.0 E    |                                 | 9.5 E    | 5.2 F                             |          | 6.4 G                            |          |
| Conductivity E.C.            | 770 D                            | 140 G    | 410 F                           | 90 E     | 530 P                             | 120 G    | 570 P                            | 110 G    |
| Turbidity F.T.U.             | 9 E                              | 24 P     | 13 E                            | 19 F     | 26 P                              | 22 P     | 22 P                             | 34 D     |
| Phosphorus, soluble ppm      |                                  | 0.029 F  |                                 | 0.020 G  | 0.095 P                           |          | 0.013 G                          |          |
| Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm | 0.00 E                           | 0.01 E   | 0.00 E                          | 0.00 E   | 0.35 P                            | 0.00 E   | 0.04 E                           | 0.00 E   |
| Stream Flow L/s              | 7.1                              | 86.4     | 4.1                             | 6.7      | 7.2                               | 175.3    | N/M                              | 16.4     |

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

### October

#### Comments:

- Oxygen level was Fair for Site 2 and Good for Site 3.
- Turbidity results were Excellent for Sites 1a & 1b, Poor for Sites 2 & 3.
- Conductivity reading was Fair to Degraded for all sites.
- Ammonium results were Excellent for Sites 1a, 1b & 3, Poor for Site 2.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Poor for both the downstream sites.
- Some of the in-stream vegetation at Site 2 was exposed. Water looks turbid / muddy.
- There was a slight odour of rotten egg gas at Site 2.
- The water at Site 3 looks clear and there was duckweed growing.

### November

#### Comments:

- The scheduled invertebrates sampling (at sites 1a and 1b) was not done due to high water level, poor visibility, and fast flow from overnight rain.
- Streamflows were higher than normal. Measurements, made with floating twigs, tape measure and stopwatch, are approximate.
- Oxygen concentration at Sites 1a & 1b were Excellent.
- Conductivity reading was Fair to Degraded for all sites.
- Turbidity was Fair to Degraded for all sites.
- Phosphorus results were Fair for Site 1a and Good for Site 1b.
- Ammonium results were Excellent for all sites.

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

## *Summer along Scotchmans Creek*

While walking along Scotchmans creek you will see many flowering plants.

Grevillea robusta – silky oak



Flowering eucalypt



## Summer in Valley Conservation Reserve

With the warmer summer weather there are more opportunities to enjoy Valley Conservation Reserve by having picnics and taking summer walks. Whilst enjoying the time outside, we can all look after the health of our wonderful waterways by making sure the lids on our bins are closed and regularly checking for and picking up any litter in our streets and properties. Please keep track of children's toys when crossing the creek and playing nearby – you may be surprised at how many toys end up in the water! When picnicing, if bins are full please take your rubbish home with you. You can notify Monash Council of any issues on 9518 3555.



| Dates to Remember                       | Event                                     | Notes                              |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 | Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve | Amenities block at 1.20 pm         |
| Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March            | Clean Up Australia Day                    | Regent Street {Playground 9.30 am} |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March        | Meeting with a speaker                    | Alvie Hall 7.30 pm                 |
| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April          | Friends Afternoon Event                   | Details to come                    |

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