



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – February 2023

President's Report

January – February 2023

Happy New Year to everyone!

Conserving Our Urban Environment Grant

The new year has begun on a most positive note for FSCVR. We have received a generous grant of \$5000 from City of Monash to help us in our work. The grant is aimed at supporting our work on conserving and restoring our local environment, and we plan to put it to good use.

We will be using the funds to upgrade our waterwatch equipment, including a new pair of waders and some new work tables. We will also be buying some equipment to support our planting program and to support our work with schools and the public. We'll take the opportunity to replace our computer which is very old, and very slow by modern standards. The remainder will be used to buy additional plants for Valley Reserve for our Friends Planting, and on a new initiative I'll talk about a little more below.

Lifting Our Profile

We have decided to use part of our grant try to lift our profile in the local community and to increase our membership this year – this will probably turn into a multi-year program. Our membership has been stable over a number of years, and our Facebook page is increasingly active thanks to Kallista and Danielle, but we'd like to engage with the Monash community more widely than we have managed up to now.

We'll keep you up to date as this program develops.

Damselflies around the Creek

If you are walking along the Scotchmans Creek trail or are anywhere near the creek, you may have seen an unusual number of Damselflies darting about over the water. Damselflies are related to Dragonflies but are generally a little smaller, and their eyes, while large and prominent, don't cover quite as much of their heads. Both Dragonflies and Damselflies are fierce predators that catch other insects on the wing. The nymphs grow in our creeks for up to 3 years and are often found by our waterwatch group.

After three wet years in a row, the nymphs are maturing in large numbers this year.

Most Damselflies fold their wings when at rest, unlike Dragonflies, which keep their wings outstretched. However, confusingly, the commonest Damselflies along our creeks are like the Dragonflies, and don't fold their wings. Below, you can see a picture of a Dragonfly and a Damselfly side by side.

Discoloured Water in Scotchmans Creek

Many of you may have noticed several episodes of discoloured water, sometimes with an accompanying odour, in Scotchmans Creek. The cause has been water mains leaks, generally in the area East of Blackburn Rd. The water runs over the ground before rushing into the creek and often picks up contaminants and detritus on the way. The effect on the creek is usually fairly short lived, although repeated episodes can lead to a build-up of sediment in the creek which can smother water plants.

Yarra Valley Water has a web site that details known water leaks in our area.

Looking forward to a great 2023 for FSCVR. Hope to see you at our public meetings this year. Make a note in your diary for the 15th March meeting with Peter Uhlherr talking about Orchids (part 2).

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve



Note: the adult damselfly pictured (bottom right), most likely a Common Flatwing, is unusual in that it does not fold its wings like most damselflies.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – January 2023

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm	YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
Date	22/01/2023	22/01/2023	22/01/2023	22/01/2023
Air temperature °C	21	21	19.5	21
Water temperature °C	19.5	19	18.5	17
pH	7.1 G	6.8 E	7.0 E	6.7 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l			6.6 G	2.0 D
Conductivity E.C.	220 G	100 G	260 F	530 P
Turbidity F.T.U.	31 D	7 E	16 G	32 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm			0.036 F	0.075 P
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.15 F	0.15 F
Stream Flow L/s	40.5	15.1	26.8	0.0

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

Macro Invertebrates Results

Comments

	YSC020 Site 2 Regent St	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
	Number found	Number found
Very Sensitive		
<i>Caddisfly larvae</i>	1	0
Sensitive		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	100	3
Tolerant		
<i>Beetle larvae</i>	3	20
<i>True Bugs</i>	7	1
<i>Beetles</i>	0	6
<i>Leeches</i>	4	0
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	20	20
<i>Flatworms</i>	50	1
Very Tolerant		
<i>Mosquito larvae</i>	10	200
<i>Midge larvae</i>	0	20
<i>Fly larvae</i>	10	0
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	5	10
<i>Blood worms</i>	10	10
Total number found	213	291
Total Bug Score	36	29
Stream Condition	Very Good	Fair

- There were abundant damselfly larvae at Site 2. It was observed that there was quite a number of adult (flying) dragonflies at Site 1b.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Very Good and Fair for both the downstream sites.
- Valley Creek water level was low and stagnant, oxygen level was Poor. There was a large number of mosquito larvae counted.
- Milky coloured water at Site 1a, at first suspected sewerage spill and reported to the EPA. However, ammonium test results were zero.

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

Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 5th March

Committee members May Lee and Alan Moore have registered our group for Clean Up Australia Day 2023. We will meet at the Regent Street Playground from 9:30 am on Sunday 5th March. Please bring your own gloves, water, and sunscreen. Collecting bags will be provided.

Guest Speaker Peter Uhlherr – Wednesday 15th March 2023

In August last year, Peter Uhlherr presented on native orchids in Valley Conservation Reserve and Mount Waverley. The talk was so popular that Peter was invited to present a 'part two' at FSCVR's first meeting with a speaker for 2023. Don't worry if you did not attend the talk in August, as a brief introduction to orchids will be provided. It will take place in Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm, Wednesday 15th March, with refreshments to follow. Please bring your own cup.

Friends Afternoon Tea – Saturday 18th March 2023

We will hold an afternoon tea in Valley Conservation Reserve to celebrate the achievements of 2022 and look to the events of 2023. We would love to see you there! More details to come via email closer to the day.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 25 th February	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 5 th March	Clean Up Australia Day	Regent Street Playground from 9:30 am
Wednesday 15 th March	Meeting with a speaker	Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm
Saturday 18 th March	Friends Afternoon Tea in Valley Conservation Reserve	Time and location TBC

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Production of this newsletter is funded through Melbourne Water's River Health Incentives Program