



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

## **Newsletter – October 2023**

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

#### **Another Strong Year for FSCVR**

Well, another year has gone, and I come to the end of my term as your President. All that we have achieved this year has been due to the hard work of the entire committee and the support of all members and supporters.

It has, as always, been a busy year. On adding it all up, our calendar shows over 60 events for the last 12 months, including weedings, plantings, waterwatch sessions and our ongoing work with local schools and the community.

Our AGM will be held at Alvie Hall on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm. Please come along if you can – we'd love to see as many of you as possible! Our speaker for the evening will be Arthur Jackson, Indigenous Partnerships Officer for the City of Monash. He will talk about the Monash Reconciliation Action Plan developed over the last 2 years.

We made submissions on behalf of FSCVR members, to the City of Monash, on the Reconciliation Action Plan. Among our key points, was a proposal for an Acknowledgement of Country to be placed on the main notice boards in conservation reserves such as Valley Reserve. We believe this is particularly appropriate for Valley Conservation Reserve as it has an explicit connection to the prior custodians of the land, through the scar tree. We also proposed that where possible, working with local aboriginal groups, first nation names for prominent local natural features (such as Scotchmans Creek) be identified and adopted.

FSCVR membership is now over 50 having risen since the 'Covid dip' to above where we were in 2019. Our Social Media (Facebook) also shows strong and growing activity.

As members will have noted during the year, we received a 'Conserving Our Urban Environment' grant from City of Monash, for \$5000 to assist our work. We have spent all the money, buying equipment, training two of our members in first-aid, and additional plants (1500) for Valley Reserve.

After a successful planting season in 2023, we await what is forecast to be a dry, hot summer, with trepidation, but experience tells us that many of the plants will survive that first summer, and those that do, will thrive in cooler, wetter years.

Finally, I want to specially acknowledge the immense contribution made by Alan Moore, who is standing down from the committee after having been a key contributor in so many ways ever since FSCVR was formed. He has been President, Vice President, Secretary, Committee member with special responsibility for Clean up Australia day and PALS activities, and a tireless contributor to our schools activities.

Thank you from all of us Alan.

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

KKA have received a major Grant from the State of Victoria to develop a Strategy Plan for the Gardner Creek catchment (which includes Scotchmans Creek). As I noted in an earlier report, Rex has been our representative with KKA, and has been deeply involved in their work. He will give a report at the AGM on where KKA are, and where they are going.

### **Statement of Purpose for Valley Conservation Reserve**

As I mentioned in a previous report, FSCVR, led by Kallista, have been working with City of Monash, and their consultants to draft and finalise a Statement of Purpose for Valley Conservation Reserve. As FSCVR members would expect, it emphasises strongly the conservation and education focus of Valley, and the strong focus on retaining and enhancing the natural bushland environment.

We are also about to start work on a Statement of Purpose for the Scotchmans Creek Corridor as in our view this too has become an important part of the City of Monash natural environment.

As usual, thank you to Melbourne Water and City of Monash, for the grants and support in kind they give us. Above all, thanks to the City of Monash Horticulture team who do an enormous amount of work in preparing the planting sites and managing the planting operations as well as helping us with our weeding sessions. None of our work would be possible without them.

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

## ***Annual General Meeting and Presentation on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October***

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm in Alvie Hall. We will start with a presentation by Arthur Jackson, who is the Indigenous Partnerships Office for the City of Monash.

Arthur will speak about the Monash Reconciliation Action Plan.

Full details in the attached flyer.

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – August – September 2023

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
	20/08/23	24/09/23	20/08/23	24/09/23	20/08/23	24/09/23	20/08/23	24/09/23
Date	20/08/23	24/09/23	20/08/23	24/09/23	20/08/23	24/09/23	20/08/23	24/09/23
Air temperature °C	13	17	13	20	13	18	13	16.5
Water temperature °C	11.5	13	11.5	14	12	16.5	12	16
pH		7.3 G		7.1 G		6.9 E		6.9 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	9.1 E	6.6 G	8.8 E	8.0 E				
Conductivity E.C.	540 P	750 D	340 F	330 F	290 F	590 P	300 F	850 D
Turbidity F.T.U.	21 P	10 E	39 D	8 E	16 G	24 P	21 P	15 G
Phosphorus, soluble ppm		0.026 F		0.114 D				
Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm	0.00 E	0.07 G	0.00 E	0.05 G	0.00 E	0.10 F	0.00 E	0.04 E
Stream Flow L/s	17.5	4.4	6.3	2.0	32.0	13.4	0.2	0.0
Habitat	20 F	20 F	26 F	26 F	28 F	28 F	29 G	29 G

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

### August

#### Comments:

- No pH or phosphorus measurements were taken as there was no chemicals available.
- Oxygen level was Excellent for Sites 1a and 1b.
- Conductivity was Poor to Fair
- Water appearance was muddy for Sites 1a & 1b.
- Ammonium level for all sites was Excellent (zero).
- Valley Creek flow was low.

### September

#### Comments:

- All new chemical reagents received from QA/QC session on 9/9/23.
- Oxygen level was Good for Site 1a and Excellent for Site 1b.
- Conductivity was Fair to Degraded.
- Ammonium level for Sites 1a & 1b was Good, Fair/Excellent for Sites 2 & 3.
- All stream flows decreased due to no/little rainfall. Valley Creek was not flowing.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Poor for both the upstream sites.
- There was very little in-stream vegetation at Site 1a.

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 16<sup>th</sup> August***

Emily Payne from Monash Council gave a very interesting talk entitled “Incoming from the Catchment”.

She described how Streamflow and Waterway Health are influenced at Valley Conservation Reserve and how, in general, the changes in streamflow hydrology and pollutant load from urbanisation affect waterway health.

## ***Spring in Valley Conservation Reserve***



Long Purple-flag



Tall Bluebell

As the bright yellows of the Acacias fade some of the mauve and blue flowers in the reserve appear. You will see these flowers near the education hub.

## ***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.



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

**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.

<b>Dates to Remember</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Annual General Meeting Preceded by a presentation by Arthur Jackson	Alvie Hall Mount Waverley at 7.30 pm
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> 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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