



# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

## Newsletter – April 2024

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

After a cooler, wetter January we have had a drier February and March. Our temperatures have been very variable, but perhaps not in the usual Melbourne pattern. We are now moving into Autumn. In no time the earliest wattles will be in flower.

The green grass in the Mount Waverley wetlands has turned brown after being green for so long and we look to the skies for real rain clouds.

#### **Valley Conservation Reserve:**

At our most recent work party we all noticed how dry the earth and plants were. The grasses had dropped their seeds and it was difficult to differentiate between weedy grasses and good grasses. Recent visitors may have noticed that there has been a small fire in the Reserve near the entrance from Valley Road. Luckily the SES was called and attended quickly to put out the fire. Due to the location between two paths the fire did not spread much at all. It will be interesting to see what plants arise from the ashes.

#### **Friends Afternoon Tea:**

We will get together for a celebration of last year's achievements and to look forward to this year's activities on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 3.30 pm at the Education Hub in Valley Conservation Reserve. Food and drinks will be provided but please bring your own mug for tea or coffee. We hope to see many of you there.

#### **March meeting – Educating for Bushland Regeneration:**

Tony Collins from Holmesglen TAFE gave us an excellent talk on his experiences in Bushland Regeneration. Food for thought for us all.

Tony has over 30 years' experience in Conservation Management as well as having been a member of the Friends of the Grange and Friends of Seaford Foreshore groups. He has also supervised staff and teams in bushland, foreshore and wetland sites.

Currently, he is teaching Conservation Management at Holmesglen TAFE. Some of his students attended the meeting and joined in the discussion over coffee afterwards.

#### **Clean Up Australia Day:**

We had an excellent turnout of 46 volunteers who came along to lend a hand picking up rubbish along the Scotchmans Creek corridor. We had good weather and collected about 10 bags of litter. We noticed that

there were far fewer recently dropped drink cans and plastic bottles. Maybe this is due to the recently introduced container deposit scheme.

### **Planting Program:**

*Yarra Valley Water has provided \$2,500 to support our biodiversity work as part of their commitments to customers, community and environment.*

We have received an unexpected donation from Yarra Valley Water due to their guaranteed level of service agreement following a “Do Not Drink Advisory notice issued in Chadstone”.

We will be using these funds to increase our planting program both in Valley Conservation Reserve and in the Scotchmans Creek corridor this winter. We are working with the Monash bush crew to determine what and where we can plant using the plants that they have available.

Our first planting session will be our regular Friends planting morning on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June starting at 9.30 am. Please meet by the amenities block in Valley Conservation Reserve.

As other times and locations are decided we will keep you informed.

### **Recognition in Parliament:**

Our State Government representative, Matt Fregon, thanked the local Friends Groups in a Constituency Question on the 7<sup>th</sup> March:

From Hansard

*“I would like to take this opportunity to thank some of the many groups who work tirelessly, some of whom have done so for decades, to improve our district: the Friends of Damper Creek, the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve, the Friends of Gardiners Creek Valley and more recently the KooyongKoot Alliance under the leadership of Graham Ross, whose work for our local environment is so important. Importantly we should also thank the many volunteers who turn up time after time to improve our suburbs – people like Dianne Carra, the President of Damper Creek, Helen Clements, the former president, and also Sally Walker at Scotchmans Creek.”*

It is very pleasing to see the efforts of all our members are recognised. Thank you from the committee to you all as it is you, our members, who give their time and are involved and perform the actual work.

Sally Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.



## Guest Speaker for our May meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May

Join us at Alvie Hall 7.30pm, Wednesday 15 May to hear guest speaker Kathleen Ralston talking about the wonders of Lichens.

Following the talk there will be refreshments. Please bring your own cup.

### Planting Session

First planting session for the year is with Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June starting at 9.30 am.

Please meet by the amenities block in Valley Conservation Reserve.

As other times and locations are decided we will keep you informed.



*Flavoparmelia rutidota*

Photo courtesy Kathleen Ralston

## Waterwatch Results & Reports – February – March 2024

| 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 |          |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                              | 18/02/24                         | 24/03/24 | 18/02/24                        | 24/03/24 | 18/02/24                          | 24/03/24 | 18/02/24                         | 24/03/24 |
| Date                         | 18/02/24                         | 24/03/24 | 18/02/24                        | 24/03/24 | 18/02/24                          | 24/03/24 | 18/02/24                         | 24/03/24 |
| Air temperature °C           | 18.5                             | 13.5     | 18.5                            | 15       | 18.5                              | 13.5     | 18.5                             | 14       |
| Water temperature °C         | 16.5                             | 14.5     | 17                              | 14.5     | 17                                | 14       | 17                               | 13       |
| pH                           | 7.0 E                            | 7.0 E    | 6.7 E                           | 6.8 E    | 6.7 E                             | 6.5 E    | 7.0 E                            | 6.7 E    |
| Oxygen concentration mg/l    | 7.1 G                            |          | 5.0 F                           |          |                                   | 5.9 F    |                                  | 2.9 D    |
| Conductivity E.C.            | 510 P                            | 270 F    | 420 F                           | 350 F    | 590 P                             | 400 F    | 740 P                            | 660 P    |
| Turbidity F.T.U.             | 6 E                              | 11 E     | 13 E                            | 14 E     | 28 P                              | 35 D     | 39 D                             | 43 D     |
| Phosphorus, soluble ppm      | 0.013 G                          |          | 0.166 D                         |          |                                   | 0.039 F  |                                  | 0.010 G  |
| Ammonium NH <sub>4</sub> ppm | 0.00 E                           | 0.00 E   | 0.00 E                          | 0.01 E   | 0.01 E                            | 0.07 G   | 0.00 E                           | 0.00 E   |
| Stream Flow L/s              | 5.7                              | 28.8     | 2.1                             | 3.7      | 4.7                               | 10.6     | 0.4                              | n/a      |
| 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

## Macro Invertebrates Results

|   | YSC010<br>Site 1A<br>Fiander arm<br>18-02-2024 | YSC012<br>Site 1B Crosby<br>arm<br>18-02-2024 | YSC020<br>Site 2<br>Regent Street<br>24-03-2024 |
|---|--|---|---|
|   | Number found                                   | Number found                                  | Number found                                    |
| <b>Sensitive</b>  |  |   |   |
| Damselfly larvae  | 0  | 1   | 2   |
| Dragonfly larvae  | 1  | 0   | 0   |
| Freshwater mussel   | 0  | 5   | 0   |
| Freshwater Shrimps/prawns   | 0  | 0   | 1   |
| Water Mites   | 0  | 0   | 1   |
| <b>Tolerant</b>   |  |   |   |
| Beetle larvae   | 1  | 0   | 1   |
| True Bugs (Backswimmers, Water Scorpions, Water Boatmen, Lesser Water Spiders, Water Striders/Treaders) | 0  | 0   | 5   |
| Leeches   | 0  | 2   | 10  |
| Snails (freshwater)   | 50   | 30  | 1   |
| Flatworms   | 20   | 10  | 50  |
| <b>Very Tolerant</b>  |  |   |   |
| Fly Larvae  | 0  | 0   | 50  |
| Freshwater segmented worms  | 10   | 5   | 20  |
| Blood worms   | 30   | 5   | 20  |
|   |  |   |   |
| <b>Total Number Found</b>   | <b>112</b>                                     | <b>58</b>                                     | <b>161</b>                                      |
| <b>Total Bug Score</b>  | <b>18</b>                                      | <b>22</b>                                     | <b>37</b>                                       |
| <b>Stream Condition</b>   | <b>Poor</b>                                    | <b>Poor</b>                                   | <b>Good</b>                                     |



## February

### Comments:

- Stream flows were low. Measurements made with floating twigs, tape measure and stopwatch, are approximate.
- Oxygen concentration at Site 1a was Good and at Site 1b was Fair.
- Conductivity reading was Fair to Poor for all sites.
- Turbidity was Excellent for Sites 1a & 1b but Poor to Degraded for Sites 2 & 3.
- Phosphorus results was Good for Site 1a and Degraded for Site 1b.
- Ammonium results were Excellent for all sites.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Poor for both downstream sites.

## March

### Comments:

- Oxygen concentration at Site 2 was Fair and Degraded for Site 3.
- Conductivity reading was Fair for Sites 1a, 1b & 2; Poor for Site 3.
- Turbidity was Excellent for Sites 1a & 1b, but Degraded for Sites 2 & 3



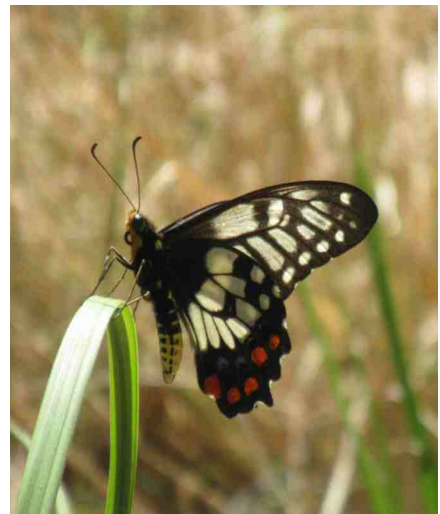
- Phosphorus results were Fair for Site 2 and Good for Site 3.
- Ammonium results were Excellent for all sites.
- The water level was too low at Site 3 for invertebrates sampling.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) was Good for Site 2 despite having Fair oxygen concentration.

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*



*Sheok at Valley Conservation Reserve*



*Dingy Swallowtail butterfly at Valley Conservation Reserve*

With the warm early Autumn weather there are still some butterflies about.

Autum is a good time to start planning for planting.

Native grasses and plants provide habitat diversity which helps maintain a diversity of native animals. You can also help by planting native grasses and plants to attract native wildlife in your gardens and help maintain their numbers! Perhaps you may like to try planting on your naturestrip. For more information you can contact the council on 9518 3555 to find out if your naturestrip is suitable and what type of plants are suitable.



## ***Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday 5th March***

We had fine weather for our Clean Up event along Scotchmans Creek.

46 volunteers signed in . The oldest volunteer was 85 years old and the youngest aged 2. The main type of litter is usually takeaway food packaging. Remember there is now a container deposit scheme in place – you are never too young or too old to help keep our waterways clean.

## ***Guest Speaker for our March meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March***

Tony Collins spoke on Bushland Regeneration at our March meeting and brought a diversity of knowledge and experience into his most informative talk. He has a hands on approach with his students which has proved extremely successful.

| <b>Dates to Remember</b>        | <b>Event</b>                                    | <b>Notes</b>               |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> April  | Friends Afternoon Tea                           | Education Hub              |
| Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> April | Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve       | Amenities block at 1.20 pm |
| Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May  | Meeting with with speaker Kathleen Ralston      | Alvie Hall 7.30 pm         |
| Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> May   | Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve       | Amenities block at 1.20 pm |
| Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> June    | Friends planting in Valley Conservation Reserve | Amenities block at 9.30am  |
| Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> June  | Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve       | Amenities block at 1.20 am |

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

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