



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – February 2024

President's Report

January – February 2024

Happy New Year!

We hope that you all enjoyed the break over the festive season. We are now looking forward to a full and productive year in 2024 with lots of activities.

Planting activities:

After several years planting in the Fairway Reserve and upstream at Regent Street and Crosby Drive Reserves using plants funded by Melbourne Water Grants, our new focus for 2024 and the following two years will be Stanley Reserve on both sides of Scotchmans Creek in the section between the Freeway crossover and Stanley Avenue.

Melbourne Water is now keen to arrange 3 year contracts for grants and so we have applied for a 3 year contract for the south side of the creek for 8000 plants each year for each of the 3 years which will be the site for our National Tree Day event and a separate 3 year contract for the north side of the creek for 3000 plants each year for each of the 3 years where we will engage with a local business and a local school to help us with the planting.

In addition, we will continue with our Friends planting in June when the Friends will subsidise a moderate planting in Valley Conservation Reserve.

Regular activities:

We have already started our monthly waterwatch sessions but our monthly work parties will start up again at the end of February. The greater than expected rain fall over summer has encouraged the growth of weeds everywhere so come along on the 24th February to help us remove all these weeds from the Reserve.

We look forward to having four evening meetings with a speaker for our members and interested members of the public and the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve. The first such meeting will be on Wednesday 20th March when Tony Collins who is a lecturer at Holmesglen TAFE will give us a talk on "Educating for Bushland Regeneration". Do come along and hear Tony talk about his experiences in this area. He was Team Leader, Parks and Recreation at Kingston City

Council. This also gives you an opportunity to speak with members of the committee on anything that concerns you. For full details, see the attached flyer.

Community engagement:

As usual, our first such event will be Clean Up Australia Day which will be held on Sunday 3rd March. We will have a table at the Regent Street Playground from 9.30 am to 12 noon where you can register. For full details, see the attached flyer.

Later we expect to join the Monash Libraries in a walk through Valley Conservation Reserve, possibly in mid-April.

Get together for our members:

We are planning for a get together on Saturday 6th April, so put the date in your calendar. More information to come.

Sally Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Summer in Valley Conservation Reserve

This is not the best time of the year for flowers but with all the rain we have had the fungi are doing very well.



Fungus by the track in Valley Conservation Reserve

Waterwatch Results & Reports – January 2024

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm	YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
Date	21/01/2024	21/01/2024	21/01/2024	21/01/2024
Air temperature °C	18	18	18	18
Water temperature °C	17.5	17	17	16.5
pH	7.6 G	7.3 G	6.9 E	7.0 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l			7.0 G	5.2 F
Conductivity E.C.	600 P	470 F	560 P	560 P
Turbidity F.T.U.	9 E	12 E	20 P	33 D
Phosphorus, soluble ppm			0.088 P	0.036 F
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.00 E	0.01 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	3.5	1.1	8.4	0.8

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

Macro Invertebrates Results

	YSC020 Site 2 Regent St	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek
	Number found	Number found
Sensitive		
<i>Damselfly larvae</i>	4	2
<i>Freshwater mussel</i>	10	5
Tolerant		
<i>Leeches</i>	4	2
<i>Snails (freshwater)</i>	3	50
<i>Flatworms</i>	5	1
Very Tolerant		
<i>Fly larvae</i>	0	2
<i>Freshwater segmented worms</i>	0	5
<i>Blood worms</i>	10	10
Total number found	36	77
Total Bug Score	21	24
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor

Comments

- There was a localised storm cell in the early morning hours of 16th January, which brought heavy downpour and caused some erosion of the creek banks.
- Oxygen concentration at Site 2 was Good, Fair for Site 3.
- Conductivity reading was Poor for Sites 2 & 3, Poor to Fair for Sites 1a & 1b.
- Turbidity was Poor to Degraded for Sites 2 & 3, Excellent for Sites 1a & 1b.
- Phosphorus results were Poor for Site 2 and Fair for Site 3.
- Ammonium results were Excellent for all sites.
- The invertebrate survey ratings ('Waterwatch' method) were Poor for both downstream sites.

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 3rd March 2024

Our new secretary, May Lee, has registered our group for Clean Up Australia Day 2024. We will meet at the Regent Street Playground from 9:30 am on Sunday 3rd March. Please bring your own gloves, water, and sunscreen. Collecting bags will be provided.

Guest Speaker – Tony Collins – Wednesday 20th March 2024

Tony will speak about “Educating for Bushland Regeneration”.

The meeting will take place in Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm, Wednesday 20th March, with refreshments to follow. Please bring your own cup.

Friends Afternoon Tea – Saturday 6th April 2024

We will hold an afternoon tea in Valley Conservation Reserve to celebrate the achievements of 2023 and look to the events of 2024. We would love to see you there! More details to come via email closer to the day.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 24 th February 2024	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 3 rd March	Clean Up Australia Day	Regent Street Playground from 9:30 am
Wednesday 20 th March	Meeting with a speaker – Tony Collins	Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm
Saturday 23 rd March	Work Party in Valley Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 6 th April	Friends Afternoon Tea	Details to come

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

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