



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – August 2025

FSCVR acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we work in, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways.

President's Report

Planting Program:

With National Tree Day on Sunday 27th July our 2025 planting season is over. The weather for NTD was very good with only a short shower followed by an afternoon of rain. The Council provided 2,000 plants to add to the 8,000 plants that the Melbourne Water grant paid for so we had a grant total of 10,000 plants added to Stanley Reserve East just downstream of where we planted last year. A total of 252 adults and children came along to do the hard work. All in all an excellent morning's work.

We were very pleased that several community groups helped us with the planting. Many of these groups have sent along volunteers for several years now.



Our National Tree Day 2025 efforts with our local community

Among the groups were the Teluga Community School, Rotary Club of Monash Glen Waverley, Chinese Professionals Club of Australia Inc., Dharmasoka College Past Student Association Australia and Daimler Truck Australia.

We also had three scout groups whose members came along.

A big thank you to everyone who took part – your commitment has helped to improve our local environment.

The previous week Brentwood Secondary College sent 15 students from their “Green Team” to plant 1,500 plants on the opposite side of the creek and with the unexpected assistance of the Monash Bush Crew another 1,500 plants were planted in the same area two days before. Again the plants were paid for using a Melbourne Water grant.

On June 15th we had a “Friends” planting when 9 members planted about 350 plants on the bank to the west of the lower pond. The ground was very dry and difficult to make suitable holes in. As a result more plants were put in on the following work party session.

We would like to thank the Monash Horticultural team who prepared the sites and helped the planters each day. Without their hard work we would not be able to arrange these planting events.

School Program:

Recently Huntingtower school asked us to assist with their “Community Outreach” program. We had a total of 5 sessions with their year 9 students: two sessions were based at the creek and we explained about the creek and its role in the environment, the other three sessions involved in their students planting in Valley Conservation Reserve.

Dredging in Valley Creek:

For a few years now, Council has been aware of the need to dredge the lower pond in Valley Conservation Reserve. The creek brings a lot of sediment down which remains in the creek bed in the pond.

Over time the pond fills up and the reeds cover the water surface. The Council were concerned that the sediment might be toxic as much of the water comes from the local streets. Recently the soil was tested for contaminants and the results showed that the contamination was low and so it will not be as expensive as feared to dig out the pond and get the sediment removed.

Come to our next meeting on Wednesday 20th when Brenda Perez from Council will speak about the proposed work as well as the options for remediating the drainage issues next to the scout hall in Valley Conservation Reserve.

Sally Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Guest Speaker for our August 20th meeting

Join us at Alvie Hall 7.30pm, Wednesday 20th August to hear guest speaker from Monash Council Brenda Perez give an informative presentation on the Council's proposed works for Valley Conservation Reserve.

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

Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve AGM Wed 27 August 7.30pm

FoDCCR will be having their AGM Wednesday 27th August at Alvie Hall. There will be a guest speaker Chris Carra talking about off-shore wind farms and Cr Anjalee de Silva is expected as well, to update us on new State-wide planning rules.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – June – July 2025

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
Date	22/06/25	20/07/25	22/06/25	20/07/25	22/06/25	20/07/25	22/06/25	20/07/25
Air temperature °C	10	9.5	10	9.5	13	8	13	9.5
Water temperature °C	8	10	8	10	9.5	9	8	8.5
pH	7.1 G	6.7 E	6.7 E	6.8 E	7.0 E	6.8 E	6.8 E	6.8 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	10.0 E		8.1 E			9.1 E		10.0 E
Conductivity E.C.	500 P	290 F	260 F	170 G	460 F	380 F	190 G	200 G
Turbidity F.T.U.	13 E	12 E	7 E	12 E	12 E	13 E	13 E	18 F
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.134 D		0.114 D			0.042 F		0.039 F
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.01 E	0.00 E	0.09 G	0.30 P	0.10 F	0.07 G	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	3.4	3.3	5.6	1.7	12.6	6.8	0.1	1.2

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

June

Comments:

- Chemical results typical of low flow conditions were low turbidity, high conductivity and high soluble phosphorus at site 1a (YSC010, Scotchmans Ck upstream of Blackburn Rd).
- Phosphorus results at site 1a were high and similar to those from site 1b today. We had the same result in November 2024.
- Habitat scoring for Scotchmans Ck at Crosby Drive/Turner Court.arm still rated Fair despite poor in-stream and increased weeds on the banks.
- The habitat scoring for the Glen Waverley Drain remains Fair. The council's bushcrew had recently planted on the north bank.

Habitat Assessments:

Site YSC010 (1a), Scotchmans Creek upstream of Crosby Drive/Turner Court. still very little in-stream vegetation. Bank vegetation increased weeds. The numerical scoring was 22/40, rated Fair.

Site YSC012 (1b), Glen Waverley Drain. recent planting on south bank. Reduced in-stream vegetation. Generally good bank & verge vegetation cover. The numerical scoring was 27/40, rated Fair.

July

Comments:

- Ammonium test result was high for site YSC012 compared to site YSC010, even though the stream flow for YSC010 was higher than that of site YSC012.
- Phosphorus results were rated Fair for both downstream sites.
- The habitat rating for Scotchmans Creek was Fair and similar to last year's score; very little change to the vegetation.
- The habitat rating for Valley Creek remains Good. There was very little change to the vegetation.

Habitat Assessments:

Site YSC020 (site 2), Scotchmans Creek at Regent St. The bank and verge had very little change from last year. The numerical scoring was 28/40, rated Fair.

Site YVA100 (site 3), Valley Ck at Regent St. There was very little change from last year. The numerical scoring was 29/40, rated Good.

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

Recovery of Burnt Area in Valley Conservation Reserve by Tony Walker

In March 2024 a small area of Valley Conservation Reserve, near the Waimarie Drive notice board was burnt. We believe the fire was set deliberately but the area affected was not very large.

It was decided to allow the area to regenerate naturally and to see just how this progressed. Below you can see photos taken just after the burn, and very recently. The regeneration is remarkable, and a testimony to the adaptation of many Australian plants to a regime of periodic fires.

The recent photos show an almost complete recovery of Lomandras and tussock grasses that were burnt down to soil level. In addition, a dense growth of Goodenia shrubs (Goodenia ovata) has emerged, either from seeds, or recovery of prior plants.

There is a new peppermint gum (Eucalyptus radiata) seedling growing up adjacent to the charred trunk of the mature gum - which appears to have died, whether from the fire or disease is not clear. In addition, a kangaroo apple (Solanum aviculare) has grown very rapidly, presumably from seed as it was not visible before the fire.

There are likely other small plants growing in the area that we have not noticed, and it will be interesting to keep an eye on the area into the future.



March 2024



July 2025



March 2024



July 2025

Spring in Valley Conservation Reserve

With ice on the bridge in Mt Waverley Wetlands this morning it may be hard to think Spring is approaching. However we have had several sunny days and violets are flowering so it must be near.

Naomi from Monash City Council's Sustainability team held a display at the National Tree Day event including new Brochures on Gardens for Wildlife and Nature Strip planting, some printed in Chinese, also a display of a bee hotel and other interesting information. Planting up your garden with indigenous plants is a good way of helping biodiversity within the area, attracting indigenous wildlife, providing food and habitat.

As you walk along the Scotchmans Creek and Valley Conservation areas remember keep to the paths, keep your dogs on lead so we can all feel safe - and enjoy the beauty around!

Join us at any of our work parties - you learn a great deal - one of our members Kallista happened upon an "Earthstar" fungi which was a real treat to see.



When Huntingtower School visited VCR this winter the Sheoaks were in flower. This photo shows one of the females in flower.

You can contact Monash council on Ph. 9518 3555 for any issues, information on curfews and hints on preventing strays – particularly important for protecting wildlife.

Sustainability team can also be contacted at sustainable@monash.vic.gov.au

For injured or vulnerable wildlife, Wildlife Victoria can be contacted on ph. 8400 7300

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday 20 th August	Meeting with speaker Brenda Perez	Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm
Wednesday 27 th August	FoDCCR Annual General Meeting with speakers	Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm
Saturday 30 th August	Work party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Saturday 20 th September	Work party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Wednesday 15 th October	Annual General Meeting	Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

55 Waimarie Drive
Mount Waverley
Victoria 3149

Email: info@scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au

Incorporation No. A0037872K

Website: scotchmanscreekfriends.org.au

Visit us at facebook.com/fscvr and please "like" us.

Responsibility for editorial content is solely that of the editor.



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