



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – December 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

2025 – Another busy Year

I'd like to begin by thanking the outgoing committee, especially Sally who is standing down after 2 years as President. She's worked hard and most effectively for FSCVR over the last 2 years (and for many years before). She won't be leaving the committee though.

Thank you also to all the 2024-25 committee members and to Kelvin Ferguson who creates many of our 'flyers' and looks after the notice boards. We work as a team and everyone contributes!

You can read Sally's report as outgoing President on the web site summarising our activities over the previous 12 months.

New Committee

At the AGM, the new committee was elected for 2025-26.

President: Tony Walker

Vice President: Marilyn Thompson

Secretary: May Lee

Treasurer: Fred Bullock

Committee Members:

Kylie Burgin – schools and scouts

Danielle Cini - Social Media and biodiversity database

Rex Dusting - Kooyong Koot Alliance

Bharathy Shanmungam – engineering and maintenance liaison

Kayla Sibly – River Officer and biodiversity database

Sally Walker – Valley Conservation Reserve and planting planning



Fantail seen during a meeting with Monash Council at Valley Conservation Reserve - Photo Courtesy May Lee

There's a lot of other things that we all do – I'll post a full list of roles and responsibilities for 2026 on our web site in the new year

What's coming in 2026

We're planning for 2026 as I write this – Our first committee meeting after the AGM is the start point for the new Year!

2026 will see the last year of our current 3 year grant from Melbourne Water for Plantings along Scotchmans Creek in Stanley Reserve East. So far under that grant, we have planted a total of 24 500 plants on either side of the creek. Most of these were planted on 2 outstandingly successful National Tree Day plantings – over 250 members of the public came along on each occasion and in 2025 we set a new record of 10 000 plants in 3 hours work.

In 2026 we hope to plant at least another 11 000 plants to complete this phase of bushland regeneration along the creek.



National Tree Day 2025 After the busy planting

In 2026 we should see completion of Melbourne Water's work in the Waverley Road wetlands refurbishing and raising the dam at the lower end.

We also expect to see the start of work to improve the management of water flow in Valley Conservation Reserve. The Reserve is quite steep, and water runoff has created an increasing erosion problem. Planned engineering works should help mitigate the damage and we expect the project to begin in 2026. We'll keep our members posted.

I'll close by wishing all our members a very happy holiday period and best wishes for 2026.

Tony Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Presentation at our AGM Wednesday October 15th

Our outgoing Vice-President Dani Cini gave an informative presentation about using iNaturalist and various nature apps. One app "FrogID" is with Australian Museum to assist in gathering information on and identifying Frogs. Dani was most happy to assist with any questions regarding the use of these.

Friends Get Together BBQ Saturday February 14th 2026

There will be a get together BBQ for FSCVR Friends members on Saturday 14 February 2026 so keep that date free!

More Information to be sent nearer the date.

Waverley Road Wetlands Spillway Construction Update

We have received an email from Melbourne Water advising that the completion date for the Waverley retarding basin spillway construction at Waverley Road wetlands has been extended to late 2026.

There will be additional Saturday works Saturday 13 December 2025, 7am to 3pm.

The site will shut down for the holiday period from Friday 19 December 2025 and project team back on site Monday 5 January 2026. During this time the site will be monitored and a member of the Saunders/Aqua Metro team will be available on 0482 673 695. For further information about the project or any disruptions, the project team at Melbourne Water can be contacted via email at:

Waverley.Spillway@melbournewater.com.au

Waterwatch Results & Reports – October – November 2025

| Parameter | YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm | | YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm | | YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street | | YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Date | 19/10/25 | 23/11/25 | 19/10/25 | 23/11/25 | 19/10/25 | 23/11/25 | 19/10/25 | 23/11/25 |
| Air temperature °C | 20 | 17 | 20 | 17 | 18.5 | 17 | 18 | 17 |
| Water temperature °C | 14 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| pH | 7.2 G | 7.4 G | 6.8 E | 7.1 G | 6.8 E | 7.0 E | 6.0 E | 6.8 E |
| Oxygen concentration mg/l | | 7.3 E | | 8.1 E | 6.2 G | | 5.0 F | |
| Conductivity E.C. | 500 P | 200 G | 270 F | 200 G | 460 F | 130 G | 210 G | 130 G |
| Turbidity F.T.U. | 36 D | 45 D | 8 E | 20 P | 16 G | 27 P | 40 D | 34 D |
| Phosphorus, soluble ppm | | 0.085 P | | 0.029 F | 0.068 P | | 0.098 P | |
| Ammonium NH ₄ ppm | 0.00 E | 0.50 D | 0.07 G | 0.08 G | 0.30 P | 0.04 E | 0.00 E | 0.00 E |
| Stream Flow L/s | 9.8 | 420.0 | 2.0 | 75.6 | 12.6 | 694.1 | 0.025 | 43.9 |

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 |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Bug score | Number found | Number found |
| Very Sensitive | | | |
| Caddisfly larvae | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| Sensitive | | | |
| Damselfly larvae | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| Tolerant | | | |
| Leeches | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Snails (freshwater) | 3 | 12 | 5 |
| Flatworms | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Very Tolerant | | | |
| Midge larvae | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Fly larvae | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Freshwater segmented worms | 1 | 11 | 2 |
| Blood worms | 1 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | |
| Total Number Found | | 43 | 17 |
| Total Bug Score | | 27 | 21 |
| Stream Condition | | Poor | Poor |

A Mayfly emerged from the water at a recent Waterwatch training day – an interesting find



October

Comments:

This survey was done on two separate days: We were assisting a Year 10 school excursion with the invertebrates survey and decided to take those results instead of taking another sample 5 days later and risk oversampling the invertebrates.

- Chemical results typical of the low flow conditions were: Low flow, high turbidity and high conductivity at site 1a (YSC010, Scotchmans Ck upstream of Blackburn Rd).
- The pH at site 3 (YVA100, Valley Creek) was the lowest recorded in years.
- The invertebrates samples rating is Poor, there was hardly any in-stream vegetation.
- Approximately ten golden carp had been spotted on 6th October and had been reported to the City of Monash council and Melbourne Water. Today we can only see four. (See below for a photo of some of them near the Regent Street footbridge over Scotchmans Ck).

November

Comments:

- There was no aquatic macroinvertebrates sampling due to fast and rapid flow of the creek from recent rain.
- The turbidity level for all sites were Poor or Degraded, as expected due to fast flow.
- Oxygen level and electrical conductivity were Good/Excellent, as expected after rain.
- Ammonium level is Degraded at Site 1a, but Good/Excellent elsewhere.
- There was no sign of the golden carp sighted last month.

For access to the full reports, the data collected and the habitat photos, view the Waterwatch page on our web site. Contact Fred or May if you wish to join in - Email: info@scotchmanskreekfriends.org.au

Summer in Valley Conservation Reserve

November is a Wurundjeri season of flowering grasses- Buarth Gurru, Grass Flowering Season.

You may notice a variety of grasses still flowering – indigenous and non-indigenous. One particular grass that you may have seen in your garden and nature strips is *Lolium*, an introduced Rye grass and major cause of hayfever.

To reduce pollen irritation and for less competition for indigenous grasses you can fairly easily remove *Lolium* with a small trowel, to make sure you remove the whole plant.

The Wurundjeri people have several seasons and there are times when it is “in between seasons” as well.

December - Wurundjeri season Garrawang, Kangaroo Apple Season.

During this season Mayflies are emerging from the water to begin their next stage of life and January/February is Wurundjeri Season Biderap, Dry Season.



Lolium, Rye grass

Enjoy our beautiful Valley Conservation Reserve and Scotchman Creek wildlife corridors during the warmer months with walks, picnics and wellness and please take your rubbish home with you if bins are overfull – the wildlife, ducks etc. can become ill from food scraps, dog faeces and rubbish.

To report an overfull bin contact Monash Council 9518 3555.

Hope to see you at our next year's work parties and events where you can help give back to the environment.

Not a member? Join up – your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

You can contact Monash council on Ph. 9518 3555 for any issues, information on cat 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 |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Saturday 14 th February | Friends get together BBQ | TBA |
| Saturday 28 th February | Work party in Valley Conservation Reserve | Amenities block at 1.20 pm |
| Wednesday 18 th March | Meeting with speaker | Alvie Hall at 7.30 pm |

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC

55 Waimarie Drive
Mount Waverley
Victoria 3149

Email: info@scotchmanskreeffriends.org.au

Incorporation No. A0037872K

Website: scotchmanskreeffriends.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