



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – June 2025

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

President's Report

After a very long summer, winter has now arrived and the overnight temperatures are rather low. We are still waiting for more rain to soak into the soil in preparation for our planting season. But the days have mainly been sunny allowing us to walk in the sunshine through Valley Conservation Reserve to enjoy the lovely bushland.

Planting Season:

Our first planting in Valley Conservation Reserve took place as part of Huntingtower year 9 students Community Outreach Program. About 20 students planted about 250 plants near the Regent Street entry. There will be two more sessions of planting with Huntingtower students over the next few weeks.

Our annual Friends planting will take place on Sunday 15th June. We have requested 800 plants for the Friends to plant so it will be a busy morning but very rewarding. We hope to see a good turnout of Friends.

Our big community planting event, National Tree Day, will be on Sunday 27th July. We will continue planting in Stanley Reserve East on the south side of the creek. The area to be planted is just downstream of where we planted last year. This will be stage 2 of our 3 year grant for this area.



Scotchmans Creek wildlife corridor

The details will be the same as last year except that we are requesting a gold coin donation to help us defray the cost of the sausage sizzle.

On the north side of the creek students from Brentwood Secondary College and staff from Novotel will plant 3000 plants over 2 days. Again this will be stage 2 of our 3 year grant for this area.

More Events:

Monash Council's "What's Your Jam" event has been renamed "Green Up Monash". We will participate in this event by encouraging people to join our work party on Saturday 31st May when we will offer some planting as well as the usual weeding. If you have not attended a work party for a while please join us.

We collaborated with the City Nature Challenge on our April work party afternoon. Unfortunately the day was rather wet but a few people ventured out to use iNaturalist to capture information about lots of different plants.

Sally Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve.

WaterWatch Results & Reports - April - May 2025

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
Date	27/04/25	25/05/25	27/04/25	25/05/25	27/04/25	25/05/25	27/04/25	25/05/25
Air temperature °C	15	11	15	11	15	11	15	11
Water temperature °C	15.5	11.5	15.5	12	15.5	11	15.5	11
pH	7.1 G	7.2 G	6.8 E	6.9 E	6.6 E	6.7 E	6.8 E	6.8 E
Oxygen concentration mg/l	8.1 E		8.2 E			6.0 G		8.8 E
Conductivity E.C.	280 F	410 F	120 G	200 G	160 G	370 F	140 G	160 G
Turbidity F.T.U.	19 F	12 E	23 P	10 E	20 P	24 P	36 D	15 G
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.020 G		0.026 F			0.049 F		0.013 G
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.01 E	0.01 E	0.00 E	0.04 E	0.09 G	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	1.2	2.7	15.7	6.5	33.3	19.3	6.3	2.6

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

Macro Invertebrates Results

	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm 27-04-2025	YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm 27-04-2025	YSC020 Site 2 Regent St 28-05-2025	YVA100 Site 3 Valley Ck 28-05-2025
	Number found	Number found	Number found	Number found
Very Sensitive				
Caddisfly larvae	20	2	0	2
Sensitive				
Damselfly Larvae	15	25	0	0
Dragonfly Larvae	0	4	0	0
Freshwater Slaters	0	0	1	1
Tolerant				
Leeches	20	5	2	0
Snails (freshwater)	50	20	2	0
Flatworms	20	20	4	0

Very Tolerant				
Mosquito Larvae	2	1	1	0
Midge Larvae	1	2	1	0
Fly Larvae	5	0	0	2
Freshwater segmented worms	15	0	16	4
Blood worms	15	6	1	0
Total Number Found	163	85	28	9
Total Bug Score	30	33	20	15
Stream Condition	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor

April

Comments:

- The water quality measurements are mostly Fair to Excellent, except for Poor or Degraded turbidity at 3 of the 4 sites. The cause of poor turbidity at site 1b (upstream site) is not obvious. Turbidity at site 2 (downstream) is probably from works on the adjacent retarding dam. The turbidity at site 3 (Valley Creek) is probably from recent dredging work in Valley Reserve.
- The invertebrate sample ratings at the upstream sites were both Poor. The loose sand in the creek beds has moved recently. At site 1a (Scotchmans Creek, upstream) there are new holes to beware of, and more aquatic vegetation which improves the areas that can be swept with the net. We found many caddisfly larvae (hydrotilidae, micro caddis), which are found in all water bodies but are hard to spot because of their tiny size and translucent silk cases (photo below).



micro caddis at site 1a - in the ice-cube tray (photo ML, cropped)

May

Comments:

This survey was done on two separate days, because of limited attendance (initially 3 people) on the originally scheduled date of 25th May. We deferred the invertebrates survey to be a part of a year 10 school excursion that we were assisting on 28th May.

- Chemical results typical of the low flow conditions were: Low flow, low turbidity and high conductivity at site 1a (YSC010, Scotchmans Ck upstream of Blackburn Rd).
- Ammonium was higher below the Mt Waverley wetlands than above, which often occurs.
- Phosphorus results were better than usual.
- The invertebrates samples had more gambusia (mosquito fish) than usual, and unusually low counts of invertebrates.

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

Planting Session

Join us for a planting and weeding session on Saturday 31st May – a good chance to meet one of the Rangers and learn about indigenous plants and weeds and how to correctly plant a tubestock. It is a good idea to bring a pair of gardening gloves if you can. Please meet at 1:20pm by the amenities block in Valley Conservation Reserve.

Friends planting Sunday 15th June starting at 9.30 am where we hope to plant 800 plants. Please meet by the amenities block in Valley Conservation Reserve.

National Tree Day Sunday 27th July will be a community planting day south bank of Scotchmans Creek, upstream of Stanley Avenue.

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

Guest Speaker - Local Spiders - “how to find a good web browser”

Our guest speaker for our May 21 meeting was local resident and nature enthusiast Ian Moodie who entertained us with his detailed photographs and stories on some of the many magnificent arachnids he has come across in the area. Have a look amongst your fish ferns and see what you can find – you may need a magnifying glass and if you see 2 big eyes looking back at you, it is likely to be one of possibly the largest group of spiders - jumping spiders, that have excellent depth perception.

Valley Conservation Reserve & Scotchmans Creek Wildlife Corridors

The mornings have been quite fresh and you may have noticed Currawongs have been collectively singing, as a new season is upon us. Make some time for yourself away from the hustle and bustle and take a slow walk through Valley Conservation Reserve and Scotchmans Creek wildlife corridors. You may see some fabulous fungi – not just on the ground but look up and you may find it in trees on tree trunks, busily putting nutrients back into the environment, sometimes at the expense of the host tree. Also take a look at how our past plantings are progressing.

Please contact the Monash Council on 9518 3555 if you would like to find out about Gardens for wildlife program, about building a cat run, dog off leash parks, notify them of overfull bins or for any other issue.



Fungi - Valley Conservation Reserve

Friends Afternoon Tea Saturday 5th April

We had a fine Friends Afternoon Tea. Sally our President warmly welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their efforts over the year and gave a brief overview of the exciting events planned. There was plenty of smiles, food, some homemade treats, and a raffle where lucky winners took home some indigenous seedlings to add to their gardens. Without the help of all our fabulous community, Monash Council, Melbourne Water, Friends, Schools, Scouts, Speakers we could not continue to achieve as much as we do – we thank you all and look forward to seeing you again!

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Saturday 31 st May	Work Party and Planting in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm “Green up Monash” event

Sunday 15 th June	Friends Planting in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 9.30 am
Saturday 28 th June	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1.20 pm
Saturday 19 th July	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Sunday 27 th July	National Tree Day Planting	South bank Scotchmans Ck upstream Stanley Ave Mt. Wav

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