



FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND VALLEY RESERVE INC.

Newsletter – October 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

October is the month for our Annual General Meeting which this year will be held on Wednesday 15th October. The Notice of the AGM also contains a Nomination Form for Membership of the Committee. We would welcome some new members on the Committee as there are many ways that a Committee member can assist with the running of the group. Please consider nominating yourself for the Committee.

Please remember that in order to be a member of the Committee you must be a financial member.

Spring came early this year and by late September many of the Spring flowers were past their best. We still have many acacias in bloom – new species blooming as others fade. The hakeas are still at their best and the chocolate lilies are coming out. There are also many egg and bacon flowers as well.

Since my last report, we have had frequent, but short showers of rain which have been excellent for all the new plants that we have planted this year. Recently we took our Melbourne Water contact round the planting areas in Stanley East Reserve and she was delighted with the results both of this year's planting and last year's planting which have grown very well. Next year we will complete our planting in this area.

Recently we have assisted 4 Duke of Edinburgh Award students from Mount Waverley Secondary College with a planting session in Valley Conservation Reserve. The students also completed a walk in Valley Conservation Reserve when they used iNaturalist to record and identify the plants and birds that they saw.

October is also a month for school and tertiary excursions. So far we have planned excursions for Avila year 10 students and Monash University students.

Several members of the committee attended the Friends of Damper Creek Conservation Reserve's AGM in August. This meeting started with a question and answer session with Cr Anjalee de Silva and Paul McNamee from Monash Council who updated us on new State-wide planning rules.

Unfortunately, these changes will remove the Creek Abuttal and Creek Environs planning rules that we all worked hard to get a few years ago. There will also be changes to the planning rules about canopy trees. Council is not happy with the changes but can have no opportunity to change them.

Since that meeting we have been notified that there will be a new tree planning provision which has now been released by the Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos. Here is an excerpt from the press release:

“From tomorrow, there will be stronger protections for established trees across the state – a planning permit will be required to remove trees taller than five metres on vacant residential lots.

For lots with an existing house or planning approval for a house a permit will be required for the removal of trees within six metres of the front boundary and 4.5 metres from the rear boundary – all permits to be fast tracked through the 10 day VicSmart process.”

These rules are not as strong as the previous Vegetation Protection Overlay that used to apply but we hope that they will reduce some of the potential loss of canopy.

Sally Walker

President, Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve

Annual General Meeting and Presentation on Wednesday 15th October

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm in Alvie Hall. We will start with a presentation by Dani Cini, who is our vice-president, on iNaturalist.

Dani will show us how iNaturalist can help all of us to identify the plants and wildlife that we see in our neighbourhood.

Full details in the attached flyer.

After a short refreshment break we will continue with the Annual General Meeting itself.

Membership renewals – reminder – New Financial Year dates

Due to the change in our financial year dates, membership renewals now become due on 30th June. The Application/Renewal form is available from our web site. Please help to support our work by joining us or renewing your membership. Note that you can pay your subscription by bank transfer to our bank account with the Westpac Bank – details on the renewal form. But please also notify the treasurer that you have made the transfer.

Waterwatch Results & Reports – August – September 2025

Parameter	YSC010 Site 1A Fiander arm		YSC012 Site 1B Crosby arm		YSC020 Site 2 Regent Street		YVA100 Site 3 Valley Creek	
Date	24/08/25	21/09/25	24/08/25	21/09/25	24/08/25	21/09/25	24/08/25	21/09/25
Air temperature °C	9	8	10	10	10	11	10	11
Water temperature °C	10	9	11	11	10	11	10	11.5
pH	7.7 G	7.2 G	6.7 E	6.8 E	6.7 E	7.0 E	7.7 G	7.1 G
Oxygen concentration mg/l	9.3 E	8.9 E	5.7 F	5.8 F				
Conductivity E.C.	490 F	410 F	220 G	340 F	490 F	430 F	300 F	200 G
Turbidity F.T.U.	8 E	6 E	10 E	8 E	9 E	14 E	16 G	16 G
Phosphorus, soluble ppm	0.261 D	0.046 F	0.368 D	0.192 D				
Ammonium NH ₄ ppm	0.00 E	0.00 E	3.75 D	0.30 P	0.40 D	0.07 G	0.00 E	0.00 E
Stream Flow L/s	7.7	5.7	21.0	8.5	6.4	13.3	10	Est. <1
Habitat	22 F	22 F	27 F	27 F	28 F	28 F	29 G	29 G

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

August

Comments:

- There had been no rain for over a week. Chemical results typical of low flow conditions were low turbidity, high conductivity and high soluble phosphorus.
- *Although we were able to get pH readings from the meter using thymol blue indicator, the readings were outside thymol blue's effective range, rendering the results invalid and unacceptable. The pH data will not be entered into the Waterwatch portal.
- Ammonium test result was high (rated as "Degraded") for both sites YSC012 (Crosby arm) and YSC020 (Regent Street). The YSC012 sample required a 4% dilution. The council has been notified.
- The high ammonium result from site YSC012 coincided with low oxygen concentration.
- Phosphorus results were rated Degraded for both upstream sites.

September

Comments:

- Ammonium level at Site 1b (Crosby arm) is lower than last month's, but still elevated than usual. The oxygen concentration was similar to last month's results (lower than usual). The EPA had asked that we keep them updated of this month's sampling results.
- The invertebrate sample ratings at the upstream sites were both Poor. We found freshwater mussels in the fine gravel at Site 1b (Crosby arm).

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

Guest Speaker for our August meeting on Wednesday 20th August

Brenda Perez from Monash Council gave a very interesting talk entitled “Works planned for Valley Conservation Reserve”.

She provided an overview of the different phases of the project, outlined who will be responsible for each stage, and shared key dates and next steps for this project.

Testing has shown that the level of contamination in the sediment in the creek is much less than was anticipated and consequently the soil can be relocated on site within Valley Conservation Reserve. This will be a fairly long term project in order to break the costing up into suitable bite size chunks for Council.

Spring in Valley Conservation Reserve



Grey Parrot Pea



Snowy Daisy Bush

As the bright yellows of the Acacias fade some of the orange and white flowers in the reserve appear.



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NOMINATION FORM

I nominate.....

for the position of

Name..... Signed.....

Seconded by..... Signed.....

Consent of nominee..... Date.....



Please send/email completed form to the secretary or bring it to the AGM.

Dates to Remember	Event	Notes
Wednesday 15 th October	Annual General Meeting Preceded by a presentation by Dani Cini	Alvie Hall Mount Waverley at 7.30 pm
Saturday 25 th October	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm
Saturday 29 th November	Work Party in Valley Conservation Reserve	Amenities block at 1:20 pm

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