



SCOTCHMANS CREEK REPORT 2024

Prepared for Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve Inc. by May Lee



Summary of annual walk -

Section 1. One way route from upstream Waverley Rd end to Huntingdale Rd end on **6th February 2024**, accompanied by Kayla and Kylie. 2:30 - 4:30 pm, dry, sunny and 21°C.

Background - on 16/1/24, a localised storm cell hit Mount Waverley overnight. Eight days before (8/1/24) there was a deluge of rain. A week later after this walk with Kayla and Kylie, on 13/2/24 in the afternoon, another localised storm in the City of Monash which resulted in lots of fallen trees and power cuts.

Section 2. Waverley Road retarding basin and upstream (east of Blackburn Rd), return loop. On **7th September 2024**, 2:10 – 3:30 pm, sunny and 19°C.

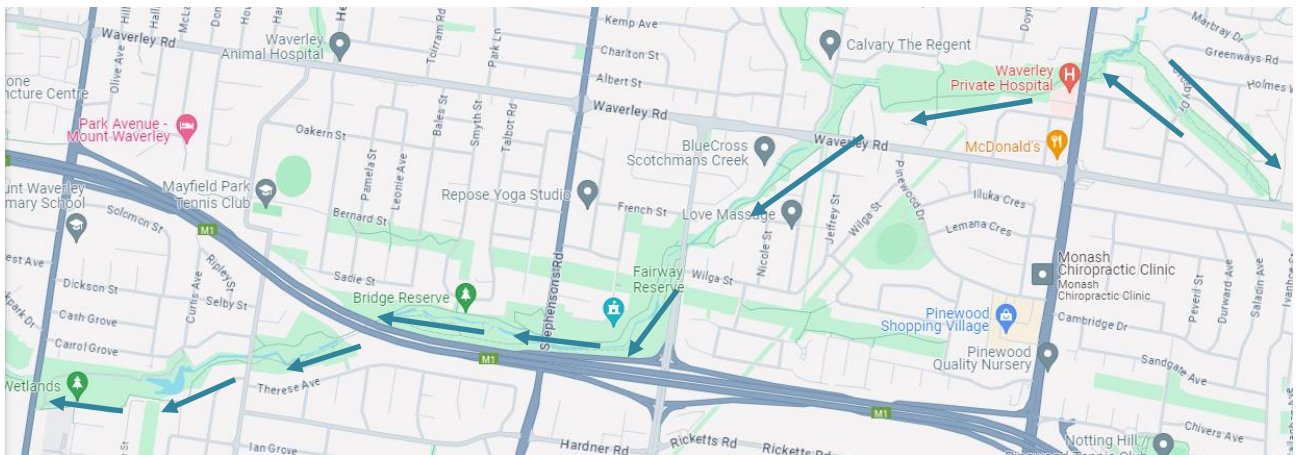
Section 3. MtW retarding basin and downstream towards the Monash (M1) Fwy, return loop. On **8th September 2024**, 11:10 am – 12:50 pm, overcast / occasional sun and 17°C.

Section 4. M1 Fwy tunnels to Stanley Avenue, return loop. On **9th September 2024**, 1:30 – 2pm, sunny / overcast 16°C.

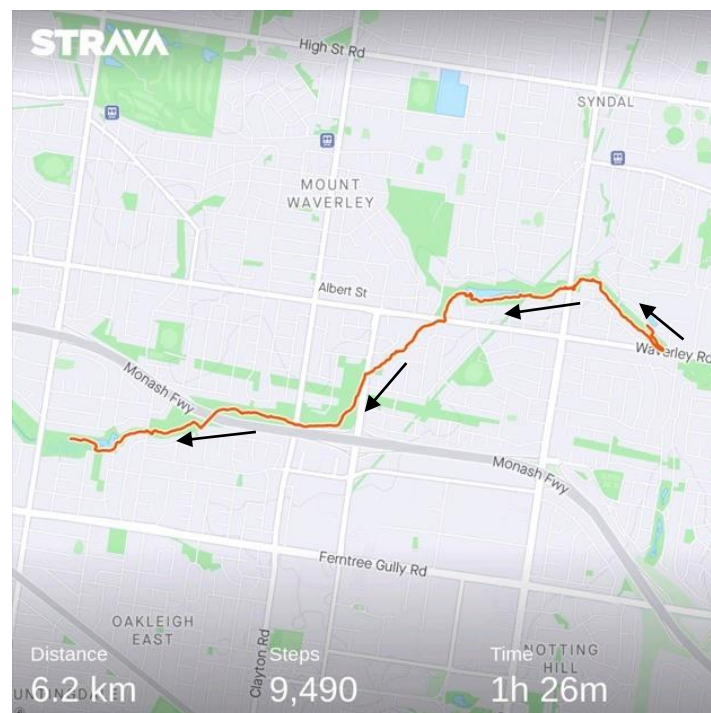
SECTION 1 WALK (6th February 2024) – approx. 6km

It was a one-way walk of the waterways, the purpose was to familiarise 2 other members to FSCVR's "stretch" of the Scotchmans Creek. We started our walk on the pedestrian footpath behind Bunker Crescent and walked downstream towards Stanley Reserve East south bank to look at this year's NTD site.

I had neglected to turn on location on my camera, so exact GPS locations were estimated when I returned home and searched Googlemaps to write down the approximate locations.



Strava (a phone app) was trialled to track our one-way walk, I drew the black arrows below to show the walk direction –



General observations :

Behind Bunker Crescent, signs of erosion, low water level, sandy bottoms.

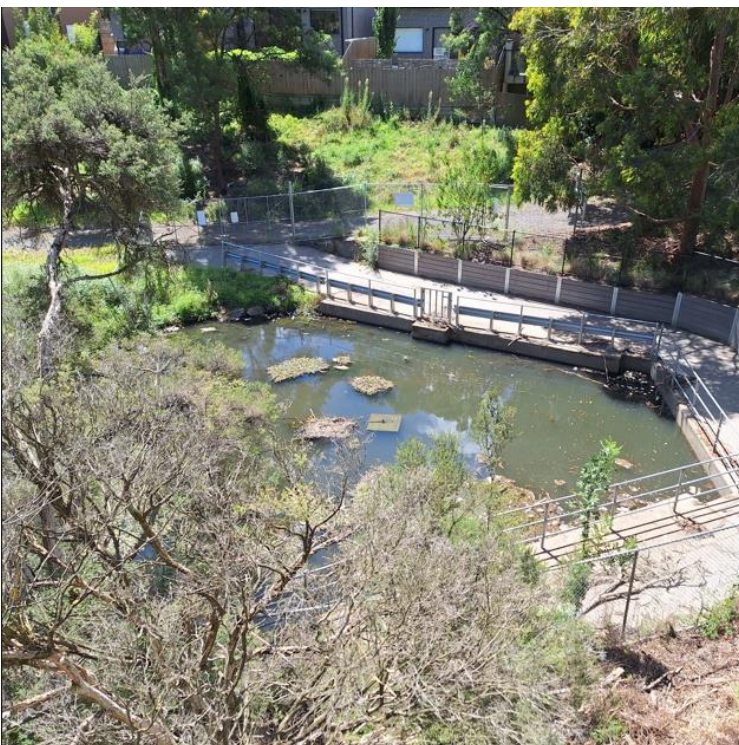


Waterweed *Lagarosiphon* ?

-37.883851, 145.146485



-37.883860, 145.145982 litter trap west of Blackburn Rd



One of the many settling ponds behind Seaton Ct

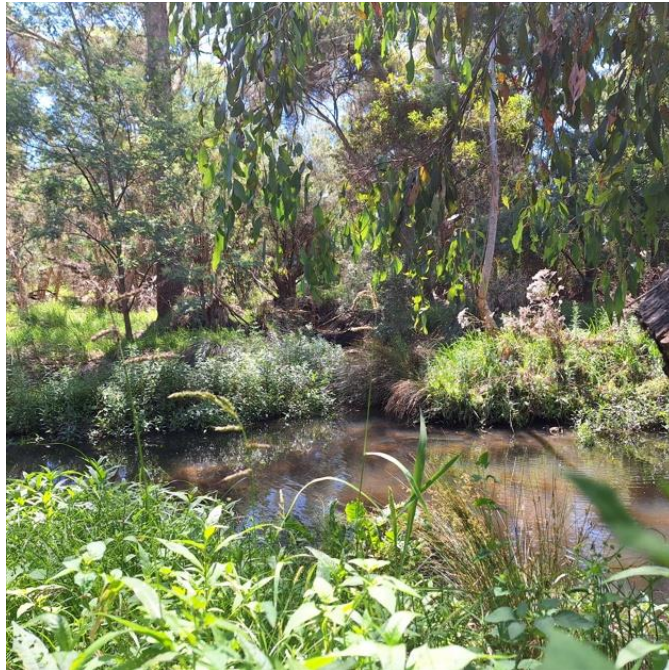


-37.884510, 145.140497 Lawrence Rd south footbridge connecting Scammell Cl



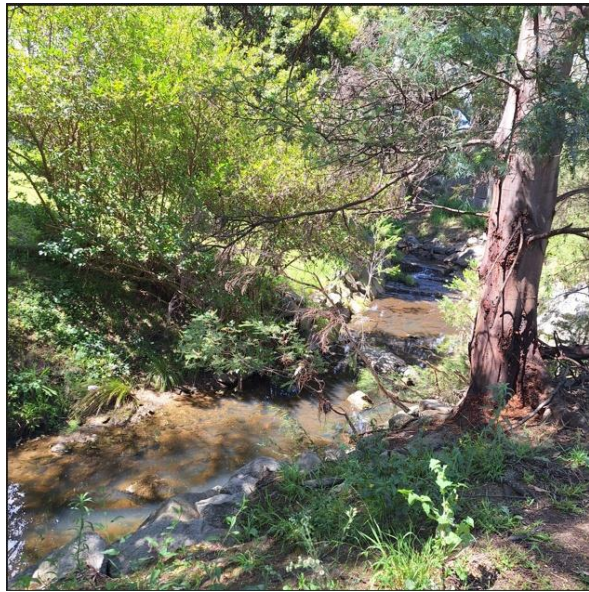
The sediment ponds looked distinctly separated, only the 1st pond had water
The timber footbridge had a few planks replaced.

Valley Ck mouth connecting to Regent St creek – there was no water flowing from Valley Creek today. -37.884795, 145.137241



Several Australasian swamp hens present.

Past Blue Cross Aged Care



-37.888607, 145.131892



Plantings next to bank were growing well despite the dry conditions.

Solanum aviculare / *laciniatum* (kangaroo apple), ?silky oak by the banks

Water flowing slowly, a scummy film on the water surface -37.888818, 145.131709

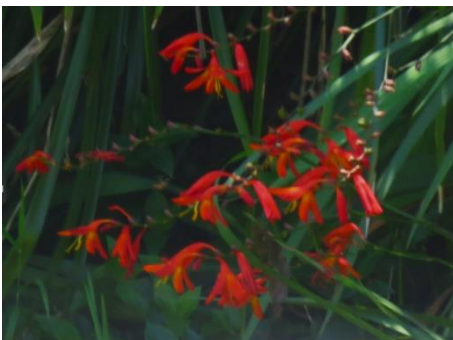


Crossed Foster Rd and walked along south path, very low water level

-37.891950, 145.126606 (near Stephensons Rd end)



Exotic weed - *Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora* (Montbretia) and nasturtiums on north bank :



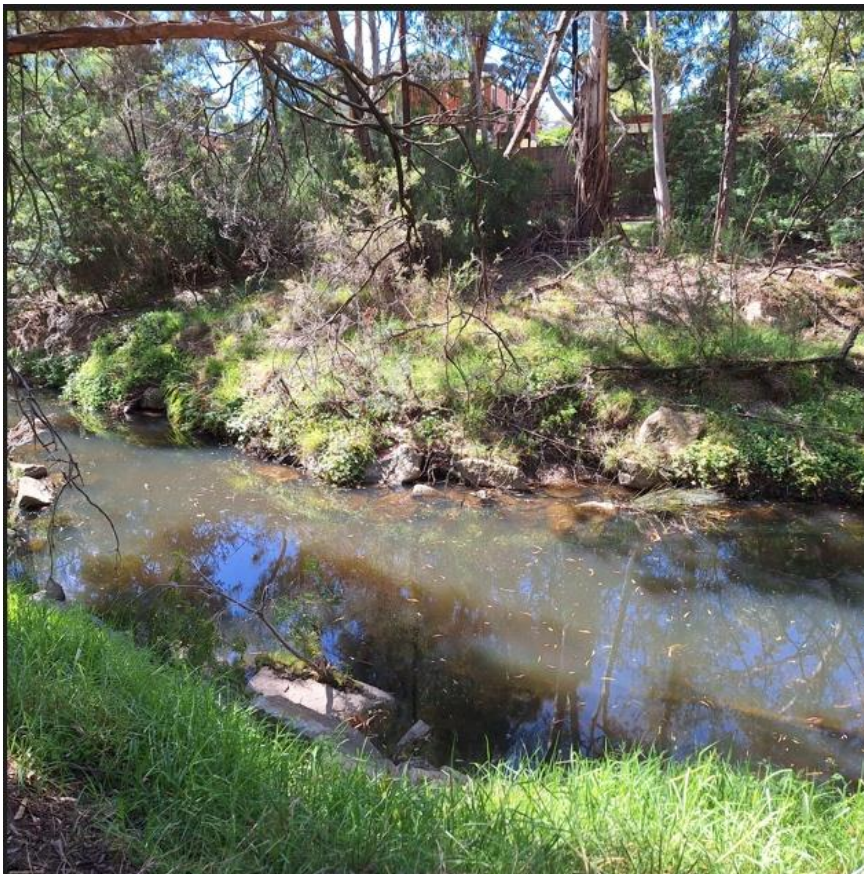
“the island” – the north end had water but the southern loop was dry with exposed gravel -37.891694, 145.123901



cf photo from 14/2/23 with water surrounding “the island”.



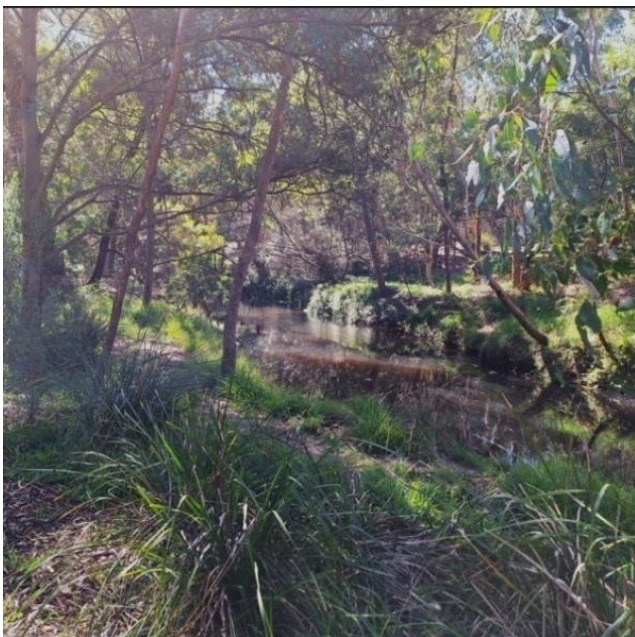
?in stream veg (*Lagarosiphon* ?), water slightly turbid



We then walked through the unlit tunnel under the M1 Fwy to access the south side of the creek.

July 2023 NTD plantings – mostly doing ok

-37.890978, 145.120618



-37.892368, 145.115012 (end of footpath at east of Stanley Avenue), the sign says path upgrade Jan-Feb 2024.



The section west of Stanley Avenue to Huntingdale Rd is not part of our Friends group's "stretch" but we wanted to see the Huntingdale wetlands.

-37.892335, 145.114855 (attached to the bridge railings west of Stanley Avenue), sign says works commence late January 2024 to go on for the next 4 to 5 months. [this was completed late May 2024]



The willows on the north bank were recommended for removal but objected to by residents. Melbourne Water erected fencing for their portable office and work equipment.



At this time, the litter trap itself was work underway -37.892728, 145.113015



The works completed in late May 2024, the 2 photos below were taken on 30/5/2024.
Looking east, the willows are on the north bank



Looking north



The 3 photos below were taken on 16/7/2024 after a downpour overnight, these photos were emailed to Melbourne Water for their information.



The red arrows on the next 2 photos highlight tide mark left by debris -





Back to the 6/2/2024 walk - further down in the wetlands there were sediment removal works being carried out

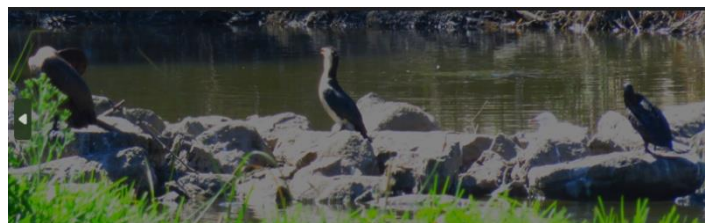
-37.893415, 145.111588



-37.893361, 145.111195



-37.892873, 145.110849



White faced heron, pied cormorants enjoying the sunshine. Cabbage white, Orchard swallowtail butterflies.

SECTION 2 WALK (7th September 2024) – approx. 5km

The route is plotted by Strava (a phone app) below and is a good representation of the walk taken, except that it does not show the direction of walk. The app “hides” the starting and end points (the grey line) when viewed by other people, to preserve my privacy.

The blue (direction) arrows below are added by me :



A trunk fell off a large gum tree next to our Melbourne Water offset 13/8/24 planting of 300 tubestock south of Lawrence Rd -37; 53; 1.197239 145;8; 27.310559



Looking east of the timber pedestrian bridge – note resident little pied cormorant on pole :



Two views, looking northwards from the shared pedestrian/cycle path
-37; 53; 3.574319 145;8; 29.14007999



Angled onion weed (*Allium triquetrum*) in full bloom

-37; 53; 3.6178800 145;8; 30.5473190



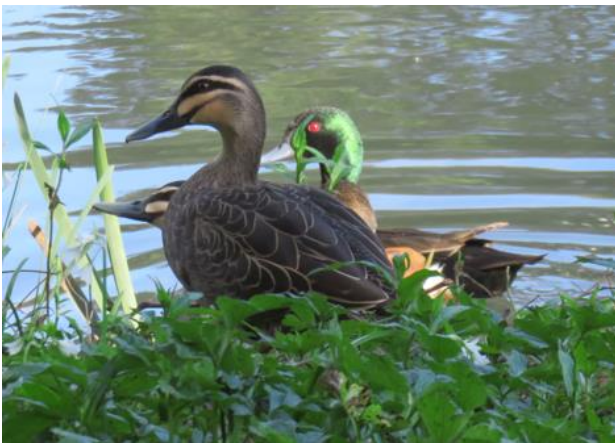
Dumping of car tyres

-37; 53; 3.6524400 145;8; 31.09199899



Breeding season, the wetlands were well used

Clockwise from top left : Pacific black ducks, wood duck, orchard swallowtail butterflies, chestnut teal in the background



Swamp hens, frogs sounds, pigeons, noisy miners

Fenced off area still fenced off as noticed in February

-37; 53; 3.939000 145;8; 32.805240



-37; 53; 3.2981999 145;8; 33.7955990 some deep exposed holes



-37; 53; 3.13007899 145;8; 33.5846400



-37; 53; 3.12935999 145;8; 33.6195590



Looking west backwards, pedestrians/cyclists have created a path on the grass area
-37; 53; 3.7013990 145;8; 35.06927899



-37; 53; 3.6297590 145;8; 39.9991199



Looking downwards from overhead pedestrian bridge, west of Blackburn Road

-37; 53; 1.9082399 145;8; 45.740400



East of Blackburn Rd

Recent windy day snapped off some tree branches -

Bottom end of overhead footbridge

-37; 53; 2.2725590 145;8; 47.52131899



south path

-37; 53; 2.1652790 145;8; 48.4385999



In-stream brown-looking vegetation in slightly opaque water

-37; 53; 0.30263900 145;8; 49.0423200



Litter trap on east side of Blackburn Rd



Same litter trap further upstream -37; 53; 0.23063899 145;8; 51.13283999



Water looked clear here

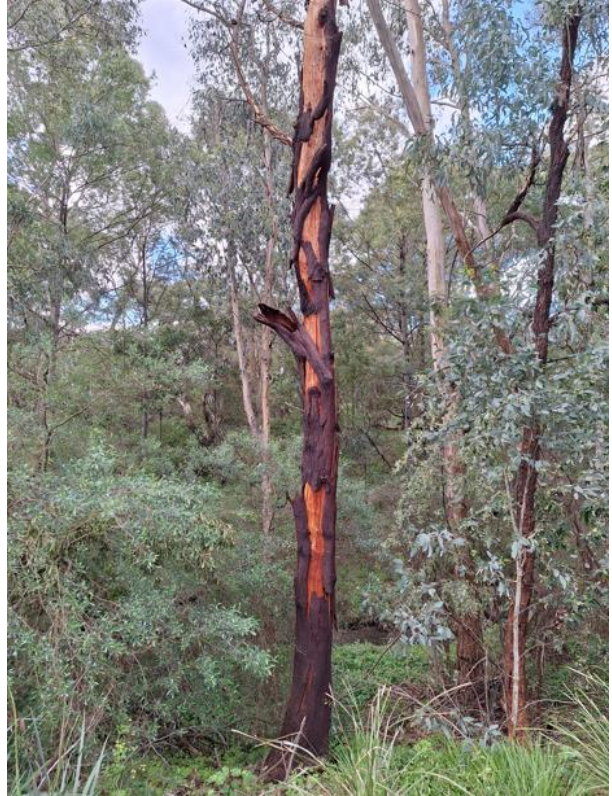


A few trees marked for removal.

-37; 53; 1.10363900 145;8; 54.68531899



-37; 53; 8.30111900 145;9; 1.4410800



-37; 53; 5.01935899 145;8; 57.785999



-37; 53; 10.717438999 145;9; 5.50691900

Heavy infestation of white-flower fumitory weed (*Fumaria capreolata*). Some native clematis in pockets.



Severe erosion of east bank -37; 53; 11.87375999 145;9; 7.40591999



White arum lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) and tradescantia weeds behind 29 Lilian St
-37.53; 12.619318999 145:9:7.66871900



Behind 31 Lilian St -37; 53; 13.08109900 145;9; 8.15039999



Dianella revoluta -37; 53; 14.236799 145;9; 9.47412000



-37; 53; 14.2112400 145;9; 10.3798800



English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and *Tradescantia fluminensis* weeds on west bank
Looking towards 29 & 31 Lilian St -37; 53; 12.73307899 145;9; 9.91785590



Bricks etc in the creek
-37; 53; 11.6466000 145;9; 7.6931999



Soft plastic in and by the creek -37; 53; 10.4773200 145;9; 6.175799000



Heavy growth of English ivy & tradescantia weed

-37; 53; 2.033518999 145;8; 56.553000



Litter trap Turner Ct

-37; 52; 59.77163999 145;8; 51.55259899



Crossed to west of Blackburn Rd, back to Waverley Rd Retarding Basin wetlands. Now walking along the access path **north** of the ponds, looking southwards at the back of Waverley Private Hospital



Looking west and southwest, -37; 53; 1.825439000 145;8; 40.36631999



-37; 53; 1.904638999 145;8; 35.312279000



-37; 53; 1.547878999 145;8; 34.643758999



The same little pied cormorant



-37; 53; 1.17887999 145;8; 33.60769000

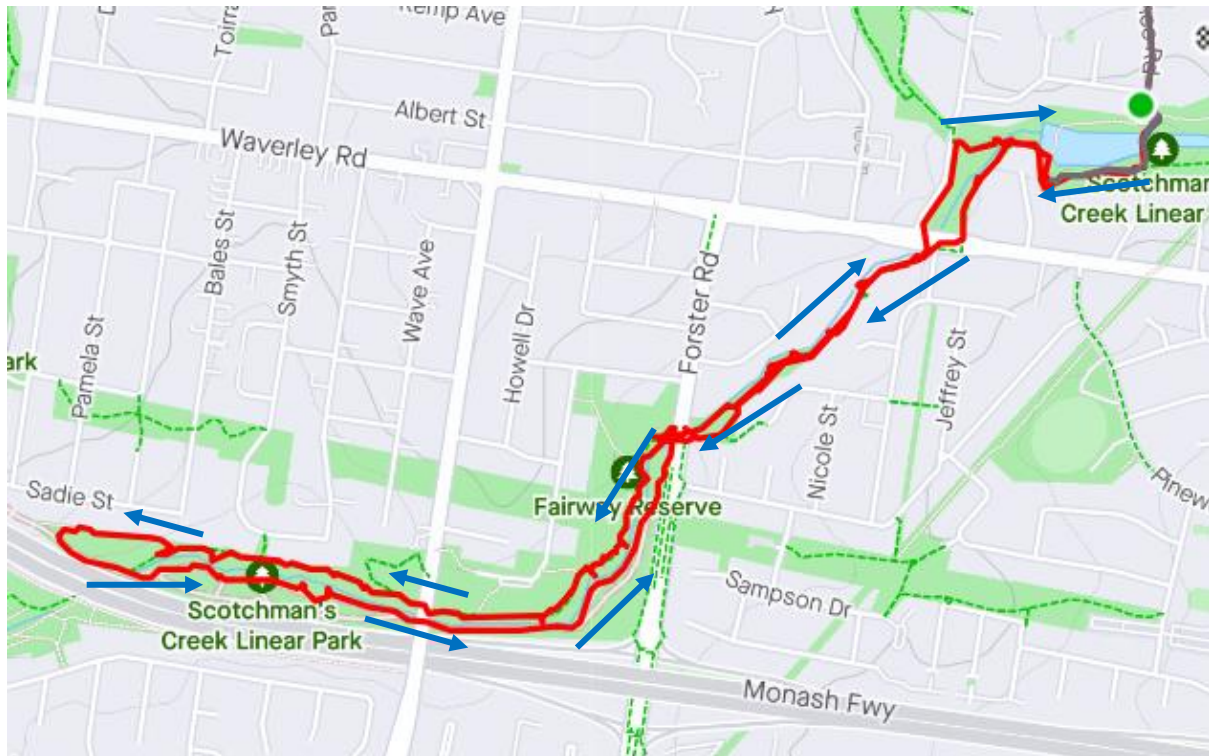


-37; 53; 1.62023900 145;8; 30.23087999



SECTION 3 WALK (8th September 2024) – approx. 6 km

Route plotted by Strava phone app, with added blue direction arrows.



The following GPS coordinates were recorded “as is” taken from my phone.

Settling ponds, west of the timber pedestrian bridge

-37; 53; 4.48152000 145;8; 25.2981600



The Waverley Rd Retarding Basin spillway, due for replacement in 2022 and now from Nov 2024
-37; 53; 3.51276000 145;8; 19.489559000



Looking south towards Waverley Rd, moorhens – there seems to be more moorhens now, previously just Pacific black ducks and chestnut teals.

-37; 53; 2.778358999 145;8; 16.305359999



Inlet of Valley Ck where it joins Scotchmans Ck

-37; 53; 4.330319000 145;8; 14.80452000



One of several dead willows opposite Valley Ck -37; 53; 4.765918999 145;8; 14.40671900



Heavy infestation of white-flower fumitory weed.

Behind Bluecross Age Care – this nesting boxes will need replacing.

-37; 53; 12.721919000 145;8; 4.531199000



Shallow, “beached” area, behind Bluecross Age Care -37; 53; 13.76231900 145;8; 3.40512000



Behind new residence (No. 15 Janfourd Ct) being built

-37; 53; 15.014399000 145;8; 1.21343900



Residents of 16-20 Janfourd Ct have a couple of citrus plants and some belongings behind their back fence -37:53:15.013319999 145:8:0.670918999



Bank plantings flourishing, now (left) compared to Aug2023 (right).

-37; 53; 15.771119000 145;7; 59.126115999



Crossed Forster Rd, at the entrance to Fairway Reserve, water looked clear

-37; 53; 20.08392000 145;7; 51.674158999



Walking on the concrete shared path, looking southwards

-37; 53; 22.3087200 145;7; 50.00735999



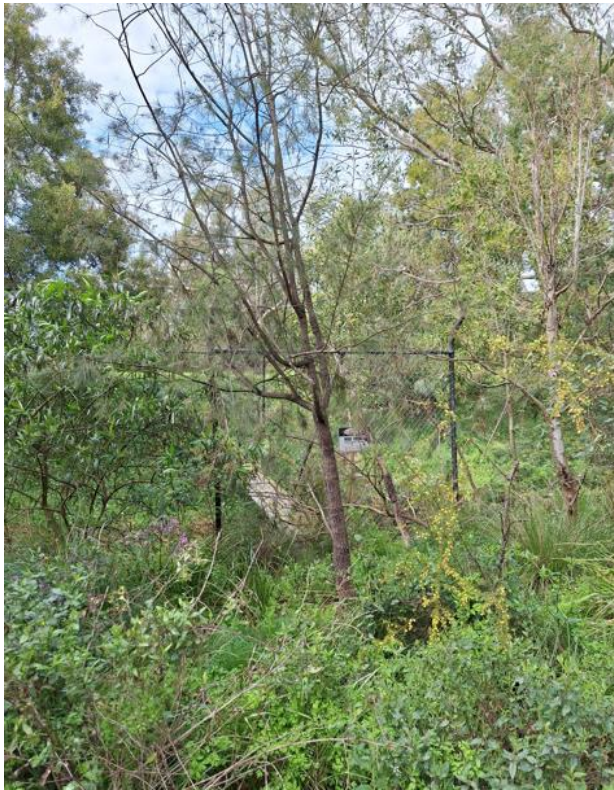
One of the many habitat boxes along this path, mostly bird boxes and one microbat box

-37; 53; 25.820158999 145;7; 48.034558999



“telegraph pole” pipe crossing, now (left, underfoot quite overgrown) and in Feb2023 (right).

-37; 53; 25.002238999 145;7; 48.403198999



South of “telegraph pole” pipe crossing, looking backwards, erosion on east bank

-37; 53; 26.159638999 145;7; 48.556558999



Heavy infestation of white-flower fumitory weed .

Recent cut down? near path to West Waverley Scout Hall.

-37; 53; 27.54456000 145;7; 45.31907999



Straight stretch, parallel to M1 Fwy

-37; 53; 30.5390400 145;7; 42.1931999



Looking south across the creek, you can see the opposite path and park bench.

-37; 53; 27.9168000 145;7; 26.97599900



Very dark-looking water today in this stretch -37; 53; 26.9789999 145;7; 17.97635999



Standing on top of M1 Fwy tunnels, looking east

-37; 53; 27.762358999 145;7; 12.21383999



Now walking on north bank, next to July 2023 NTD plantings

-37; 53; 27.3260390 145;7; 16.80275999



Very dark looking waters -37; 53; 27.3696000 145;7; 17.74631900



More July 2023 NTD plantings, looking quite good and growing well.

-37; 53; 27.9384000 145;7; 18.5556000



-37; 53; 28.084559999 145;7; 19.878238999



-37; 53; 28.07808000 145;7; 21.538559000



Lots of acacias in bloom.



“The island” -37; 53; 28.3164000 145;7; 24.695759000



Dry on this side

-37; 53; 29.297759999 145;7; 25.5251999



-37; 53; 28.56983999 145;7; 26.478118999



This rubbish grate has stopped a significant amount of coarse litter.

-37; 53; 30.85115999 145;7; 43.314239000



More fallen branches over the creek.

-37; 53; 27.96252000 145;7; 47.527678999



Rubbish dumping near Forster Road entrance, looked like bags of grass clippings.
-37; 53; 23.63063999 145;7; 50.4101999



Snapped off branches (circled in red) near Regent St playground, looking westwards.

-37; 53; 2.705638999 145;8; 15.328679000



(blue arrow) Top of casuarina tree looked cut/broken off.

On my return walk home, in the Mt Waverley Retarding Basin wetlands, I encountered a dog off-leash, right beside the ponds where a few water birds were. The owners belittled my request that the dog should be on leash, "oh he's not doing any harm he'll never catch the birds." I said the sign at the reserve entrance says dogs must be on leash. They looked slightly chastened but made no attempt to leash their dog.

SECTION 4 WALK (9th September 2024) 37A Therese Ave - M1 Fwy tunnels – Stanley Ave, return loop – **1.7km**

Route plotted by Strava phone app, with blue direction arrows added by me.



West view of the M1 Fwy tunnels.

-37:53: 30.31296000 145:7: 5.456638999



July 2024 NTD plantings, looking southwards along bank

-37:53: 30.77375900 145:7: 4.903678999



Broken branch over July 2024 NTD plantings.

-37:53: 31.4465999 145:7: 2.830078999



Looking towards the M1 Fwy tunnels

-37:53: 31.7490000 145:7: 2.29368000



-37:53: 31.896238999 145:7: 1.170479000



Natural litter and human litter -

Now (left) and June2023 (right)

-37:53: 32.17919900 145:7: 0.341758999



Opposing banks – south (left) and north (right), some tape marking tree ?hazard

-37:53: 31.3106800 145:6: 57.30047999

-37:53: 31.15392000 145:6: 57.16223999



This year's NTD plantings by Holmesglen TAFE and Brentwood College on the north bank



South bank near tunnel entrance – very enthusiastic cyclists.

-37:53: 29.75964000 145:7: 5.225878999



Vandalism ? Trunk broken off quite low to the ground

-37:53: 32.338679000 145:6: 57.71088000

