



NEWSLETTER

July, 2008

Edition No 26

FFDC Inc. PO Box 5044, Heathwood Vic

<http://ffdc.melbournewater.com.au>

FIRST FRIENDS OF DANDENONG CREEK Inc. no A0039273V

TANJENONG TALES

THIS NEWSLETTER IS FUNDED BY MELBOURNE WATER AND KNOX AND MAROONDAH COUNCILS

President's Report

Welcome to the 26th edition of Tanjenong Tales.

Fundraising

We held our annual sausage sizzle at Bunnings on Anzac Day and raised over \$700.00 for group funds. Our thanks to those members who helped out, it was a great effort.

Our thanks also to the management at Bunnings (Bayswater) for their continued support.

Car Park

We have been advised that the car park has been approved by Knox Council and is to be built this financial year. We are hoping that it will be completed before Christmas. We would like to thank both Knox and Maroondah Councils for their support of this project, which will provide a safe parking area off Wantirna Road near the Dandenong Creek.

Tree Planting Day

We participated in the **National Tree Planting Day on the 27th July** with Knox Council and Planet Ark. See story on page 3 of the newsletter.

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FFDC members and volunteers at this year's National Tree Planting Day

President's Report (Continued from front page)

Scotts Reserve Area

We have purchased 700 plants, and in conjunction with Brad Curtis of Maroondah Council, we have organised a planting day on Sunday 24th August. This planting will be part of an ongoing plan which will require many plantings to beautify the area from the Wantirna Road bridge upstream on the Maroondah Council side of the creek.

We look forward to your support for this ongoing project. Watch out for flyers in your letterbox nearer the day.

Jack Luke—Acting President

YARRABING WETLANDS PLANTING

Yarrabing Wetlands is a conservation area situated at the end of Magnolia Street in Wantirna (Melways Map 63, F3). The Wetlands were developed by Knox Council in 2000.

The Dandenong Creek was re-aligned by the now defunct Dandenong Valley Authority in the late 1960's. A large part of the Wetlands includes the old creek bed.

On Saturday 5th July 2008, thirteen local residents supported by some very able children and the Knox council conducted a very successful planting session , Over six hundred plants were planted in 2 hours, a great effort. And a big thank you from the FFDC Committee.

Next time you are walking along the creek please take a quick detour through the Yarrabing Wetlands to inspect the new plantings and enjoy reading the interpretive signs.

Anita Infanti, 14 Magnolia Street , Wantirna Ph. 9800 2465



Local residents of the Yarrabing Wetlands hard at in on Sat 5 July

Report from National Tree Planting Day

We had a very successful National Tree Planting Day on Sunday 27 July. Despite the weather around 45 members and volunteers turned out to plant about 2,200 plants including grasses, shrubs and eucalyptus trees.

The planting took place adjacent to the bike path near Manson's Reserve. It was very pleasing to see families with children and teenagers joining in to lend a hand for such a worthy cause for our local environment. We held a sausage sizzle afterwards to celebrate a great afternoon's work.

Our thanks go out to Knox Council and our committee members for organising the event and for the members and volunteers who worked so enthusiastically to make it a great success.



Our Local State MP and FFDC Committee Member—Heidi Victoria—at work on the National Tree Planting Day

Carbon Neutral Sponsorship

I have been researching companies offering to help us become carbon neutral by paying them to plant trees. Some companies advertising on the Internet began by helping us to calculate our carbon footprint and then offering to plant trees at a cost to us of \$3 per tree. This service has now stopped and they just suggest an amount of money without specifying how exactly they will offset our carbon footprint. Additionally there are now stories on the internet of how these companies actually only put very small percentages of the amounts raised into planting—figures like 12% are mentioned.

The obvious answer is to sponsor tree planting locally! FFDC can plant the trees right near where we live for nothing and we need only pay the council nurseries \$1 per tree as they are run by volunteers. There is a lot of room along our Dandenong Creek to replace the trees once growing there and we have volunteers only to happy to come out on a cold winter's day .

So if you want a clear carbon neutral conscience, may we suggest a yearly tree buying sponsorship. We can publicise the contribution if you want the publicity for your company or you can be quite anonymous and donations can be any amount that you see fit. A number of people have already jumped the gun prior to this article so thank you both for the money and the idea!

Vivien Holyoake—FFDC Secretary

Memoirs of the Dandenong Creek and Surrounds—Part 1 by Barry Robinson—FFDC Committee and Life Member

I was born at Box Hill Hospital on 29 February 1940. My home was at 386 Canterbury Road Ringwood on top of the hill opposite where the Cadbury's factory is today. In those days houses did not have numbers but the postman knew everyone by name. We lived on 13 acres of land so our backyard was rather spacious.

One of my first memories of the creek was in the winter when after heavy rain the creek would flood and become very wide covering areas that seemed a long way from the creek itself.

As I grew older (about 5 to 6) the creek became an extension of our playground and I also started to learn more about the flora and fauna that lived within the surround of the creek. Platypus, water rats, blackfish, native trout, eels and tortoise were just some of the things that could be found in and around the creek.

The creek itself was a meandering

shallow stream with a series of billabongs which in the summer became very well frequented swimming holes.

Just before my fifth birthday it was time to start school at Wantirna Primary (School No 3709). It's still in use today on the Mountain Highway.

The school had only 2 rooms, one for grades 1, 2 and 3 and the other for grades 4 to 8. We used to walk down to the corner of Wantirna Rd to catch the bus to and from school. We did not have the pleasure of being driven to and from school in those days (makes you wonder how soft they are today).

During winter on frosty mornings it was fun trying to break the ice in the puddles on our way to the bus stop.

(More of my memoirs in Part 2 in the next edition of Tanjenong Tales.

Dates to mark on your calendar

Sunday 24 August—1:00 to 3:30pm—tree planting day around the Scott's Reserve area in Heathmont. Go to the 'Events' page on our internet site: <http://ffdc.melbournewater.com.au> for more information.

Thursday 11 September—Annual General Meeting at the Ringwood room at the Ringwood Library—all members are invited to attend.

Saturday/Sunday—18-19 October—Knox Stringybark Festival at the Rowville Community Centre.

Sunday 9 November—Spring Clean up day—flyers will be sent out to all members near the day.

For more up to date information you can check details on our website.

<http://ffdc.melbournewater.com.au>

FFDC Committee for 2007-2008

President: vacant
Vice-President: Jack Luke
Secretary: Vivien Holyoake
Treasurer: Frank Sullivan
Barry Robinson (Past President and Life Member)
Heidi Victoria MLA
Barbara Richards
Melanie Komisarczyk
Bill Jones
Tanya Haynes-Ford
Charlie Miller

Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month starting at 7:30pm in the Ringwood room at the Ringwood Library. All members are most welcome to attend.