



# NEWSLETTER

March 2017

Edition No 52

FFDC Inc. PO Box 5044, Heathwood Vic

Website : <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/portphillipwesternport/ffdc/>

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 52nd edition of Tanjenong Tales.

### Clean Up Australia Day Event

Despite a low turnout of volunteers and an unfortunate clash with a netball tournament, we had a successful Clean Up Day event at HE Parker Reserve on Sunday 5 March. See full report on page 3.

### Water Testing

The committee has made a decision to cease water testing because the monthly effort to co-ordinate and conduct the testing far outweighs the benefits. After testing for many years the conclusion is the water quality has remained about the same. The good news is the water has not deteriorated.

Thank you to Bill Jones for co-ordinating the testing over the past few years and to all the members and volunteers for giving up a Sunday morning once per month to conduct the tests.

### Living Links Grant

Maroondah Council has received a grant of \$200,000 from Living Links for tree planting along Dandenong Creek. The grant needs to be spent over the next 4 years. FFDC is working with the Maroondah Bushland team to select sites. Our key role will be to engage the community and co-ordinate volunteers to do the actual planting on National Tree Days and other planting events most likely around late Autumn. More details to follow.

### National Tree Day planning

We are planning a National Tree Day event in Manson's Reserve, Wantirna, with the Maroondah Bushland Team.

(Continued on page 2)



The Bigelow family at our Clean Up Australia Day event at HE Parker Reserve

### **President's Report (continued)**

In total 3000 plants are to be supplied for the event; 2000 on behalf of Maroondah Council and 1000 by FFDC. This will contribute towards our group's 1500 contribution per annum of plants. Look for details on our website and Facebook page.

### **Enhancing our Dandenong Creek project presentation**

We had a very informative presentation from Aaron Broadway (engineer) and Garry Petroff (communications) from the Melbourne Water Enhancing our Dandenong Creek project team at our March meeting. The committee and members present asked many questions and I believe all shared the view that this project once completed will transform the creek, between the railway line and HE Parker Reserve, back to a more attractive meandering stream from the underground pipe it is today. See the before and after images below. The project is in the final design phase with works starting later this year. One logistical challenge is the need to close the shared pathway for up to 6 months between the railway line and Armstrong Rd while the works are underway. Another challenge is the need to provide a crossing over the creek at allow tractors to enter the area bounded by the creek and the railway line to mow the grass in spring and summer.

### **Control of Desert Ash trees**

Melbourne Water have commenced work near the confluence of Bungalook and Dandenong Creek (near HE Parker Reserve) to control the abundance of Desert Ash trees. This area seems to be the source of the Desert Ash trees that are spreading downstream all the way to Boronia Rd and beyond. So, come next spring/summer we should notice a significant difference in the number of ash along the creek.

**Charlie Miller—President**



Before and After images from the Enhancing our Dandenong Creek project

### **Clean Up Australia Day event**

4 bags of rubbish were collected along the creek and surrounds on Clean Up Day 5th March at HE Parker Reserve. The low amount of rubbish collected on the day is testament to the continuous efforts of our members and volunteers, including our secretary Vicky Pearse and members Anita Infanti and Diana Long, along the creek throughout the year. Once again shopping bags and drink containers made up the vast majority of the rubbish collected. The most interesting item collected was a cash register, most probably dumped as a result of a crime.

A big thank you to Anita Infanti, Bill Jones, Matt McCabe, Jacqui Hansen and the Bigelow family, Anthony, Sam, Nikki, Charlie and Lily, for their efforts on the day.

### **Native Fish Project**

This project will re-establish native fish habitats along Dandenong Creek and its floodplain to support sustainable populations of nationally threatened dwarf galaxias and Yarra pygmy perch. The works (by Melbourne Water) vary from site to site, but in general involve deepening of existing depressions/wetlands and creating shallow batters which are suitable for native fish habitat and planting them with native aquatic vegetation prior to introduction of native fish. At Yarrabing Wetlands the works are quite minor, just deepening of two sections of the existing wetland. At Winton Wetlands, they will deepen the existing wetland in two locations and also install an outlet pipe to control the level of one of the ponds and to prevent flooding of the shared user path. The works at Yarrabing Wetlands are likely to commence the week of the 10th of April.

### **Seats along Dandenong Creek pathway**

Great news for path users on the Heathmont side of the creek. Maroondah Council is seeking agreement with Melbourne Water to replace and add to the seats between HE Parker Reserve and Wantirna Rd as part of the Enhancing our Dandenong Creek Project. This will also include a drinking fountain either near the playground or scout hall off Barrow Drive. There is no agreed timeframe for this but hopefully it is this year as the existing seats are in poor condition.



Dwarf Galaxia



### **Stop Press!!**

Site preparation in Manson's Reserve, Wantirna, is well underway for our National Tree Day planting event on Sunday 30 July. This year the site is on the south eastern end of the reserve bordering the sports ovals. Preparation by the Maroondah Bushland team includes spraying weeds, clearing some dead trees for the safety of the volunteers, selecting the plant species and finally digging the holes ready for planting.

### **Spotted!**

"Swamp Isotome" (*Isotoma fluviatilis*) at JW Manson reserve is rare, bordering on locally extinct. It is only found naturally occurring in two locations in Maroondah now - this is one of those locations.



### **Dates to mark on your calendar**

**Sunday 30 July 2017—1:00pm to 3:30pm**  
FFDC National Tree Day event in Manson's Reserve Wantirna. Look for details on our website closer to the day.

**Thursday 14 September 2017—7:30pm**  
FFDC Annual General Meeting at Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood.

For more details and up to date information on the events above go to our website:  
<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/portphillipwesternport/ffdc/>

Next edition of the newsletter is in July 2017, please email me your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of June at : [ffdc1999@gmail.com](mailto:ffdc1999@gmail.com)

### **FROG HABITAT – from Melbourne Water**

Habitat loss is a key threat to frog populations across greater Melbourne. You can take action in your own backyard, school or community garden by creating frog friendly habitat.

Frog ponds and frog friendly gardens can provide increased living space for your local frogs and help link up disconnected populations. Find out how to create frog ponds and frog friendly habitat by downloading our brochure.

For more information, download the Frog Friendly Habitat Guide here: <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/getinvolved/protecttheenvironment/Pages/Frog-Census.aspx>

### **CRISP Nursery—SALES DAY - 6th MAY 10am - 2pm 10% off all sales**

It's time to start thinking about your autumn planting. The nursery has good stock availability in both tubestock and 140mm pots. New prices for 2017 tubestock are now \$1.50 for CRISP members, \$2.00 non-members, 140mm pots now \$4 for CRISP members & \$5.50 non-members. All sales are cash only unless by prior arrangement.

### **FFDC Committee for 2016-2017**

**President:** Charlie Miller  
**Vice-President:** Vacant  
**Secretary:** Vicky Pearse (minutes)  
Barbara Richards (membership)  
**Treasurer:** Frank Sullivan  
**General Committee:**  
Bill Jones  
Matt McCabe  
Anthony Bigelow  
Lex Edmond

**Life Members:**  
Barry Robinson  
Frank Sullivan  
Vivien Holyoake

Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month (Feb to Nov) starting at 7:30pm in Room 4 at the Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood, Ave, Ringwood.