



FIRST FRIENDS OF DANDENONG CREEK Inc. no A0039273V

TANJENONG TALES

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NEWSLETTER

March 2014

Edition No 43

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President's Report

Welcome to the 43rd edition of Tanjenong Tales.

Clean Up Day

We had another highly successful Clean Up Day event on Sunday 2nd March. See detailed story on page 3.

New FFDC Signs

FFDC recently purchased four promotional 'sandwich board' signs for our regular activities. They were used very effectively for the first time on Clean Up Day. See the photo below.

New Committee Member

We are delighted to welcome our newest committee member Lex Edmond. Lex, who joined us in February this year, has a scientific background that we will be able to utilise over the coming years. Great to report that FFDC finally has a full quota of 12 committee members as per our constitution.

Preparation for National Tree Day

FFDC successfully applied for funding from Melbourne Water for an additional 1000 plants to add to our usual 2500 plants for our next National Tree Day event on 27 July 2014. Preparations are underway for our planting site again in Manson's Reserve in Wantirna. See the FFDC website for more details. To register go to: <http://treeday.planetark.org/site/10002937>.

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Viv Holyoake with the new signs and collected rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day

President's Report (continued)

Annual Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser

Very disappointing to report that Bunnings Bayswater store has terminated our annual Anzac Day booking for our sausage sizzle fund raiser. New management saw fit to cancel all regular bookings like ours due to community pressure. A new roster has been drawn up but unfortunately FFDC was not allocated a spot despite successfully running our event for the past eight years. We are now looking at other fund raising options at local shopping centres.

Shared pathway update

Pleasing to see that Maroondah Council has finally commenced works to repair the shared pathway on 'The Bluff' near Simpsons Crt in Heathmont early in 2014. The work is expected to be completed before winter. See picture below.

Newsletters

From now on we are going to provide members with an option to receive their newsletters via email rather than in the post. If you would like your future newsletters emailed to you please email our membership secretary Barbara Richards on barbarajrichards@hotmail.com.

Community Grants from Melbourne Water

Very pleasing to announce that FFDC has received the following grants from Melbourne Water:

1. \$1,500 for 1000 plants to supplement our annual National Tree Day planting of 2,500 plants.
2. \$540 for 360 understory plants to plant around the base of the surviving trees planted on the northern bank of the creek on the Ringwood Golf Course.
3. \$1,000 general purpose grant to cover administration expenses.

Thank you to Melbourne Water for their continued support of FFDC and special thanks to Heather Graham.

Charlie Miller— President



Shared pathway repair works at the Bluff in Heathmont

FFDC Clean Up Day event

In good early autumn weather around 40 members and volunteers picked up around 25 bags plus assorted rubbish including tyres and dumped building rubbish at 3 sites. The clean up area covered from HE Parker Reserve in Heathmont downstream to and including Heatherdale Creek.

The main items of rubbish again included drink containers and plastic bags. The amount of rubbish collected was down on previous years mainly because there have been no major floods in the creek in recent months.

We had our new sandwich board signs placed at strategic points along the shared pathway to warn users and promote FFDC.

Thank you to Vicky Pearse for organising the HE Parker Reserve clean up site and Lex Edmond for organising the Heatherdale Creek site. Vicky has picked up around 50 bags of rubbish along the creek throughout the year, a fantastic effort.

Thank you to all the volunteers and members for a wonderful effort. Thank you to the committee members for organising the event. Special thanks to the MacFarlane family for organising the popular sausage sizzle.

Finally, thank you to the Maroondah Council for their support and the prompt collection of the rubbish from our sites.

Container Deposit Scheme

South Australia introduced its container deposit legislation (CDL) in 1977, which to this day continues to be a highly successful environmental program aimed at litter reduction and resource recovery.

The container deposit scheme is one of the first pieces of environmental legislation to focus on the 'polluter pays' principle, meaning that if someone discards an empty container they forfeit the right to the refund and someone else would benefit by picking it up and collecting that refund. It is also one of the first pieces of 'product stewardship' legislation in which industry is obliged to take greater responsibility for its packaging after it has been sold. In the case of CDL, beverage suppliers must ensure that a system is in place for the recovery and recycling of their empty beverage containers.

South Australia now leads the nation in the recovery, recycling and litter reduction of beverage containers with a current, overall return rate of 80.8%. With the refund scheme, beverage containers make up only 2.2% of litter.

In 2012–13 nearly 595 million containers (representing nearly \$60 million in refunds to the community) were returned to collection depots, representing around 46,200 tonnes of containers that may have otherwise ended up as litter or landfill.

A few big powerful companies in the beverage industry - especially Coca Cola and Lion - claim that such a national scheme would be too expensive and an inefficient way to clean up our nation's rubbish, and the environmental problems it causes. They have strongly lobbied state governments to prevent new schemes, and are also behind an aggressive national advertising campaign claiming that a national reward scheme for rubbish will strongly impact Australians' cost of living and introduce another tax. Given the outstanding success of the South Australian scheme over three decades this is simply a scare campaign by vested interests.

Spotlight on a Committee Member—Bill Jones

I was raised in the country at Dean which is located on the Midland Hwy between Ballarat and Daylesford. In those days back in the 50s and 60s environmental issues were pretty much non-existent as farmers and loggers were in a mad race to clear bushland for farming and timber. There was nothing more beautiful than a lovely cleared paddock growing potatoes or wheat where pristine bushland once grew. I grew up with log trucks passing our front door constantly, hauling logs out of our bushland property which Dad was hoping to farm one day.

When I was 18, I moved to Melbourne for work which I hated (both the work and the lifestyle). The city life was almost unbearable. The noise, the smog and the traffic was such a culture shock, so far away from the sounds of the bush, clear running creeks and waterways and yes, all those gum trees. Anyway, I gradually got used to the life and now have been here nearly 50 years - time flies I guess. I married in 1975 and moved to Bayswater and then to Scoresby where I am now. My wife and I raised three children and when they were quite young it meant lots of visits to parks and gardens so they could expend their boundless energy running

Dates to mark on your calendar

Saturday 24th May—10:00am to 12 noon
Yarrabing Wetlands Planting end of Magnolia Crt in Wantirna. Contact James Rose at Knox Council on 9298 8000.

Sunday 27th July 2014—1:00pm to 3:30pm—
FFDC National Tree Day planting in Manson's Reserve Wantirna. A free sausage sizzle will be held afterwards.

Thursday 11th September 2014 —7:30 to 8:30pm—FFDC Annual General Meeting at Maroondah Federation Estate, 28 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood.

For more up to date information on the events above you can check details on our website:
ppw.landcarevic.net.au/ffdc

Next edition of the newsletter is in July 2014, please email me your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of June at : **ffdc1999@gmail.com**

around and playing games without endangering the neighbours. All of this tended to make me appreciate how important the environment is to all of us no matter our age or our background.

I joined FFDC a few years ago after responding to an article in the Knox News by Barry Robinson about FFDC and water testing. I did the water testing training with Melbourne Water and now lead our team of water testers. Barry invited me to attend committee meetings which I do regularly. I enjoy participating in our many activities such as litter clean-up, tree planting and assisting with the BBQ when able to. It is great to be part of a group which is dedicated to improving the Creek environment not only for current users but generations to come.

Spotted!

A White Necked Heron spotted in Heatherdale Creek in February.

FFDC Committee for 2013-2014

President: Charlie Miller
Vice-President: Vivien Holyoake
Secretary: Vicky Pearse (minutes)
Barbara Richards (membership)

Treasurer: Frank Sullivan

General Committee:

Heidi Victoria MP
Bill Jones
Chris MacFarlane
Tim Hughes
Ashley Miller
Matt McCabe
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.