



NEWSLETTER

July 2016

Edition No 50

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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 50th edition of Tanjenong Tales.

President Lex Edmond

Our President, Lex Edmond, has decided to step down while he battles with a serious illness. We hope that he can recover enough to remain an active FFDC committee member into the future. FFDC owes Lex a great deal of gratitude for standing as president last year and for the fantastic work he has performed in the role.

Annual memberships are due

It is that time of year again, annual memberships are due. You will find attached with the newsletter a membership renewal form. If you choose to pay by 'bank transfer' make sure that you include your name in the bank transfer description area so that we can identify you as having paid. If possible please also email your transfer receipt to ffdc1999@gmail.com. Payment by cheque is still an option. We would appreciate your renewal payments by the end of September at the latest.

Enhancing our Dandenong Creek Project

Melbourne Water has confirmed that the 'daylighting' of the creek from the railway bridge in Bayswater down to HE Parker Reserve in Heathmont, a distance of about 850 meters, is now funded and works could commence as early as this summer. 'Daylighting' means removing the underground pipes that the creek currently flows through and allowing the water to run overland again. This is probably one of the most significant developments to occur in our area in the history of FFDC. One of our key aims is to restore the creek back to its original condition as near as practically possible.

See the full EoDC project update on page3.

(Continued on page 2)



Autumn Planting Day on 30 April in Manson's Reserve in Wantirna

President's Report (continued)

FFDC Autumn Planting in Manson's Reserve Wantirna

A very successful Autumn Planting was held in glorious sunshine on Saturday 30 April in Manson's Reserve, Wantirna. Over 100 volunteers planted around 3,000 mid and lower story plants in only about 90 minutes. Organisations represented included the Maroondah Group of the Australian Plant Society (APS), Apple, Fintona Girls School, and FFDC members.

The event was followed by a sausage sizzle enjoyed by all the volunteers. Thanks go to the FFDC Committee Members and Dr Trevor Edwards from Maroondah APS/La Trobe Uni. for organising the event. To Trevor again for providing the funding for the plants and some equipment. To Craig Mauger and his Bushland Team from Maroondah Council for preparing the site and assisting on the day. To the MacFarlane family for the sausage sizzle. Finally, huge thanks to all the volunteers and FFDC members who made it such a successful event.

FFDC National Tree Day Event

Very pleasing to report that our National Tree Day event held at Heatherdale Creek on Sunday 31 July was another a great success. See the full report on page 4.

FFDC Annual General Meeting

You will find attached with the newsletter an invitation to the FFDC Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 8th September at 7:30pm at Maroondah Federation Estate at 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. All the other documents for the AGM can be found on the [FFDC website](#) under General -> Annual General Meeting.

We are currently operating very effectively with a committee of 7. However, we encourage more members to join the committee. It is not an onerous task and it is very enjoyable and rewarding to be part of an organisation that achieves so much for the local environment and the amenity of the area.

Charlie Miller—Vice President



Volunteers planting along Heatherdale Creek on National Tree Day Sunday 31 July

Enhancing our Dandenong Creek (EODC)—Update

Daylighting Dandenong Creek

Arguably the most exciting component of the Enhancing Our Dandenong Creek Natural Amenity project is the “Daylighting Dandenong Creek” project. Melbourne Water is currently refining the design for the revitalisation of an 850m section of Dandenong Creek, between the railway bridge and H.E. Parker Reserve. The project will remove 850m of pipe, and bring the daylight back to the creek (daylighting) by constructing a naturalised waterway in its place. Working within the small existing corridor, the revitalised Dandenong Creek will have a variable and natural form that is representative of the former waterway, with plenty of indigenous riparian planting along the banks. The project is due to commence construction over the summer 2016/17 period.

Billabongs re-engagement

The sinuous course where Dandenong Creek flowed previously is still visible in the landscape. By enhancing these remnant billabongs and recreating similar habitat along the creek, we hope to improve biodiversity in the area and also create a landscape that is more representative of the former Dandenong Creek. Working with Maroondah and Knox Councils, environmental groups (including FFDC) and a consultant, concept designs are now complete for six sites along Dandenong Creek, which will be constructed over the next 12 months or so.

Interpretive signage

The Heathmont Historic Group have been very busy pulling together a wealth of material on the modern history of the creek. An Indigenous component will begin soon, as we work with Knox and Maroondah Council on this with their representative contacts. This work is not only fascinating but will be a critical input into the development of interpretative signage along the creek corridor. This work has just commenced and signs should be completed and installed by early 2018.

Dwarf Galaxias

Designs are now complete to construct 22 new habitat sites along the Dandenong Creek corridor for Dwarf Galaxias. These are dotted along the Dandenong Creek corridor all the way from Heathmont down to Dandenong. Six of these sites have been created, with the remainder to be completed over the upcoming spring/summer period. Melbourne Water is hoping to re-introduce the fish to their new habitat in autumn 2017, to coincide with their breeding cycles.

Sarah Watkins - EODC Project Manager



Dwarf Galaxias

Spotted!

Cassie and Sean and their two canine helpers were spotted picking up rubbish along the creek at H.E. Parker creek in July, with Sean’s improvised pick up stick! They often do this and FFDC extends many thanks and ongoing encouragement to continue.

FFDC National Tree Day Event

We had another hugely successful National Tree Day planting event at Heatherdale Creek in Vermont in beautiful sunny conditions on Sunday 31 July. Around 1500 low and mid story shrubs and grasses were planted by around 80 volunteers in one hour. The event was followed by a free sausage sizzle and refreshments.

To Lex our president thanks for organising the event today with Kelly Bayton, David Galloway and Daniel Cortes from Melbourne Water.

To the team from Platypus Environmental Services thank you for preparing the site including spraying and hole digging and assisting on the day, a fantastic job. As a follow-up the team laid weed mats and erected guards to give the plants the best chance of survival in the first year. If necessary the plants will be watered in the summer time.

Thanks to the Box Hill Buddhist Association once again for their assistance today and in previous years, we hope to see you again next year.

Thanks to Rebecca and the Wantirna guide group.

Thank you to the McFarlane family once again for organising the catering and cooking the BBQ.

Dates to mark on your calendar

Sunday 31 July 2016—1:00pm to 3:30pm
FFDC National Tree Day event at Heatherdale Creek in Vermont. Enter via Liddle Way off Canterbury Rd. The event includes a sausage sizzle.

Thursday 8 September 2016—7:30pm to 8:30pm
FFDC Annual General Meeting at Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. All members welcome to attend.

Sunday 5 March 2017—9:30am to 11:00am
FFDC Clean Up Australia event. Look for details on our website closer to the day.

For more details and up to date information on the events above go to our website:
ppw.landcarevic.net.au/ffdc/events
Next edition of the newsletter is in March 2016,

Thank you to FFDC committee members, Vicky, Matt, Bill and Barb for their efforts on the day.

Early planning for next year’s National Tree Day event is already underway. Look for details on the [FFDC website](#) early in 2017.

WaterWatch

This past year creek water has been tested for 5 different conditions which are turbidity, ph, dissolved oxygen, phosphate and electrical conductivity. We also record the water and air temperature. These tests are carried out once per month at two different locations and these are HE Parker Reserve opposite tennis courts and just below where Heatherdale Creek joins Dandenong Creek. We currently have 8 trained water testers who test in pairs approximately once every 4 months. We also do a net and count of critter(bugs) that live in the water.

The testing is usually completed on site in a couple of hours or can also be completed at the home of one of the testers after taking some preliminary tests on site if that is preferred. The results are recorded on a sheet and later uploaded to the Melbourne Water website. Although the water quality has slightly improved in recent times the quality remains poor, largely because of the impact of the Old Joe’s Creek inlet and stormwater. In the past year the poor quality of the water has been evidenced in part by how few critters we found each time we did a test. Critters that are found are usually very tolerant types with almost no intolerant bugs being found in the past year.

Bill Jones—Water Testing Leader

FFDC Committee for 2015-2016

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

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.