



# Tanjenong Tales

## FFDC Newsletter November 2018

Edition no. 57

Email: [ffdc1999@gmail.com](mailto:ffdc1999@gmail.com)

Facebook: [@FirstFriendsofDandenongCreek](https://www.facebook.com/FirstFriendsDandenongCreek)

Website: <https://www.ffdc.org.au>

### President's Report

Welcome to the 57th edition of Tanjenong Tales.

### Annual General Meeting

I'm pleased to announce we have a committee of 10 following the FFDC AGM on 13 September, See full report on page 4.

### Winton Wetlands

Some great news. Melbourne Water is negotiating a 10 year formal lease arrangement with Vic Roads for Winton Wetlands between Eastlink and the Dandenong Creek in Wantirna, thanks to the advocacy of FFDC. If successful, it will allow Melbourne Water to provide stewardship for the site without needing approval from VicRoads for any onsite work during the term of the lease. We'll keep you posted on the outcome.

### Melbourne Water Community Grants

We have again applied for project and support grants from Melbourne Water to fund our planting projects and our administrative costs for 2018/19.

### Saving Our Skinks Crowdfunding Project

We have raised an amazing total of \$9,950 via crowd funding for this project. See full story on page 4.

### Thankyou

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their great work over the past year. And, on behalf of the Committee, to the members, sponsors and volunteers, thank you for your support of our major events and other activities during 2018. To all, wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2019.

Charlie Miller - President



Winton Wetlands (inside red outline)



Save Our Skinks Logo

### **Update on Pollution Monitoring**

FFDC has engaged Bio2Labs, a private firm specialising in pollution monitoring, to conduct water and sediment sampling in our area of the creek and upstream of Old Joes Creek in Bayswater. The engagement is funded by a grant of \$15,000 from the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation. Bio2Labs has commenced Phase 1 of sampling from 5 locations along the creek over a 6 month period including the confluences of Heatherdale, Bungaloak and Old Joes Creek with the Dandenong Creek.

This will help identify the type of contaminants and which tributaries contribute the most pollution. The data collected will be made available via a web portal to local authorities and the general public.

A draft report was released in late October from the first round of sampling. In summary, it confirms the high level of toxic chemicals flowing from Old Joe's Creek in Bayswater and Heatherdale Creek in Ringwood.

Melbourne Water is considering the feasibility of diverting the Old Joes Creek base flow into the sewer system as a temporary measure to reduce the amount of toxic chemicals that enter the creek from the Bayswater Industrial Estate, the likely source of most pollution events in the creek.



Bio2Labs taking samples along Dandenong Creek

### **Bush Foods Walk**

Thanks to Jamie Simpson from [Walkabout Education](#) for an incredible insight into our indigenous heritage and how plants were used for food, shelter and medicinal purposes at Bateman Street Reserve in Wantirna on Sunday 7 October. We all had a great time and walked away wanting to know more! We plan to run another event in the near future at Winton Wetlands.

### **KES Spring Festival**

On Saturday 27 October FFDC was invited to participate in the Knox Environment Society Spring Festival. It was a good opportunity for us to promote our group and meet with like minded groups in the area to share our stories. We greatly appreciated the invitation. We look forward to strengthening our relationship with KES now and into the future.

### **FFDC 20th Year Celebration**

Who would have thought nearly 20 years ago, when the group was formed way in May 1999, that FFDC would still be going strong today. Next year we are planning to celebrate our 20th anniversary on Sunday 5th May with a planting event in Manson's Reserve in Wantirna. For details go to our website [ffdc.org.au](#) or Facebook page [@FirstFriendsofDandenongCreek](#).



Bush Foods Walk in Bateman Street Reserve

### Frogs Census Celebration

The Frog census celebration night was a lot of fun. The event was to recognize the high number of census recordings by members of FFDC. Thanks to James Fraser (from Melbourne Water) and Anthony Bigelow (our Vice President) for hosting the evening. With thanks also to Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority for funding the night, and the Melbourne Water team lead by Sarah Watkins for information on the Enhancing Our Dandenong Creek project. With a big thanks to Sarah Maclagan for coordinating the event and supplying the yummy food, including the delicious gingerbread frogs.

### New Billabongs

The Enhancing Our Dandenong Creek project is reconstructing billabongs along our stretch of the creek.

The role of these wetlands in today's urbanised catchments are very important. In urban and suburban areas, much of the land surface is covered by buildings and pavement, which do not allow rain to soak into the ground. Instead, most developed areas rely on storm drains to carry large amounts of runoff from roofs and paved areas to nearby waterways. The stormwater runoff carries pollutants such as oil, dirt, chemicals and lawn fertilizers directly to streams and rivers, where they seriously harm water quality, and as a result harm fish, macroinvertebrates and wildlife in general.

The vegetation in wetlands help to filter the pollutants from the runoff and improve the water quality.



Frogs Census Celebration

### When will Victoria get a Container Deposit Scheme?

Surveys have indicated a vast majority of Victorians (84 per cent) would support the introduction of a container deposit scheme (CDS) for drink bottles and cans including plastic. In August, the Victorian government and opposition combined to defeat a Greens upper house motion to introduce a container deposit scheme in Victoria by November next year. The Labor government stated it was not convinced it should adopt a CDS, despite being one of two states in Australia not to have a system in place - the other being Tasmania. Instead, they are monitoring the performance of CDS in other states. The opposition is taking a similar stance.

Environmental group Boomerang Alliance estimates that every minute 15,000 bottles and cans are littered or landfilled in Australia.

Let's hope that common sense prevails soon, the success of these schemes is plainly obvious to all. The scheme in South Australia has been running successfully for over 40 years and that state has a recycling rate of nearly 80%, the highest in Australia.

The other real blocker is the heavily vested interest of the Beverage Council of Australia. They are running a scare campaign claiming such schemes are a "new tax" on consumers. However, a spokesperson for the BCA recently stated that a CDS is inevitable for Victoria now that all the other mainland states have a scheme.



New billabong opposite the Ringwood Golf Course()

### **2018 FFDC Annual General Meeting**

We are pleased to announce that we have a committee of 10 members for 2018/19 following our AGM on 13 September.

We welcome Jude Dwight and Jesse Oehm to the committee and we look forward to them applying their knowledge and skills. We also welcome back Chris MacFarlane to the committee in the role as Treasurer. Chris and his family have been great supporters of FFDC in recent years particularly in catering at our regular events.

We say farewell to Vicky Pearse who has held and executed both the Minute Secretary and Treasurer roles with great dedication and professionalism in recent years. On behalf of the committee we thank her sincerely and we know she will continue her regular litter clean up activities along the creek.

We also say farewell to John Cull. We wish him well and thank him for his contribution to the activities of FFDC over past 12 months. His scientific background has been invaluable.

We are looking forward to another great year of achievements for our group and the local community as we build on our successes over recent years.

### **Saving Our Skinks Crowdfunding Project**

The Glossy Grass Skink and the Swamp Skink are little lizards indigenous to the outer Eastern suburbs of

Melbourne. They are threatened by: Climate change, rapid urbanisation/ loss of habitat, and feral animals. FFDC wants to conduct a Skink census, re-vegetation and education project around our patch of Dandenong Creek. We ran a successful crowd funding campaign during October raising \$9,950 to finance the project. \$5,959 raised via crowd funding and \$4,000 from the Victorian Government. If you would like to get involved in this project contact us at [ffdc1999@gmail.com](mailto:ffdc1999@gmail.com). A big thank you to Lex, Jude and Anthony for leading this project.

### **Spotted**

For the first time in over 40 years an echidna has been recorded in our patch of the creek. This one was spotted near Abbey Walk in Vermont in early November.



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

**FFDC 20th Anniversary Event** - Sunday 5th May 2019 11:00am to 1:30pm Manson's Reserve.

**World Environment Day Planting Event** - Saturday 1st June - venue to be decided.

For more details and up to date information on the events above and more go to our website: <https://www.ffdc.org.au/> or visit our Facebook site: @FirstFriendsofDandenongCreek.

### **Stop Press!**

The FFDC Committee is pleased to welcome Bruna Iotti as the newest member of the Committee taking us up to 11 committee members. Bruna has a background in sustainability and environmental management systems. We are looking forward to Bruna applying her skills.

This newsletter is published by First Friends of Dandenong Creek Inc  
A0039273V

Next edition of the newsletter is in March 2019, please email us your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of February 2019 to: [ffdc1999@gmail.com](mailto:ffdc1999@gmail.com).