



NEWSLETTER

July, 2009

Edition No 29

FFDC Inc. PO Box 5044, Heathwood Vic

Website : <http://ffdc.friends.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 29th edition of Tanjenong Tales.

10th Anniversary of First Friends of Dandenong Creek

May 2009 marked the 10th anniversary for FFDC. The group was formed back in May 1999 following Melbourne Water's decision to remove willow trees from the banks of the creek without any community consultation. It is pleasing to note that 10 years on FFDC is still going strongly and working cooperatively with Melbourne Water to plant indigenous plants and trees along the creek.

Car Park

The car park has finally been constructed adjacent to the creek just near the Wantirna Rd bridge. This will allow people to park safely off Wantirna Road and use the wonderful community facilities that the creek and its surrounds provides. We owe a debt of gratitude to Frank Sullivan, our Treasurer, for his 'never give up' attitude. Frank kept the pressure on Knox Council from 2002 right up until the day the car park was completed in early June.

Annual Fund Raiser at Bunnings Bayswater

Thanks go to Barry Robinson for organising another very successful sausage sizzle fund raiser at Bunnings Bayswater on Anzac Day. \$1,246.50 was raised on the day. Thanks also to the committee members and volunteers who assisted on the day.

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FFDC Sausage Sizzle Stand on Anzac Day 2009

President's Report (continued)

Plan for planting large indigenous trees on the banks of the creek

The FFDC Committee has finalised a plan, with the support of Melbourne Water and Maroondah Council, to plant indigenous trees on the banks of the creek starting in the area next to Scott's Street Reserve in Heathmont. The main objective of the plan is to provide shade to cool the water, particularly in summer months, to promote a healthier environment for aquatic life.

The committee has now agreed the planting will take place on Friday 11 September with the aid of grades 5 and 6 students from Marlborough Primary School and Sunday 13 September (9:00 am to 12 noon) for FFDC members and volunteers.

Congratulations Laurissa Lau Grade 5 Marlborough Primary School

I had the pleasure of presenting Laurissa Lau, grade 5 Marlborough Primary School, with a Certificate of Appreciation from FFDC at the school's general assembly on Monday 22 June. Laurissa chose the Dandenong Creek for her Discovery Time Project. Not only did Laurissa produce a fantastic booklet of history and facts about the creek, she also managed to raise \$27.50 as a donation to FFDC.

National Tree Day Planting on Sunday 2nd August

Please note in your diaries our annual tree planting day on Sunday 2nd August from 1:00 to 3:30pm. This year we are working with Maroondah City Council to plant trees and shrubs in Scott's Street Reserve in Heathmont.

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals are now due. Please find your annual membership renewal slip enclosed with your newsletter. Prompt payment would be greatly appreciated.

Charlie Miller— President



The new car park with committee members—June 2009

What's in the name "Tanjenong"?

(Knox Historical Society)

Dandenong Creek forms the City of Knox western boundary and part of the northern boundary as well. As such the name "Dandenong" is associated with Knox. The creek itself links the widespread usage of the name from Mt Dandenong near where it rises to the City of Dandenong some 25 kms away.

There has always been much speculation about the origin and meaning of the word. It has been suggested that it derives from the aboriginal word "banyenong" which comes from "banye" (a burning) and "nong" (the past), an appropriate reference to their and our experience of the Dandenongs.

The surveyors of the 1830's and 1840's confused the issue somewhat by recording many variations of the word —"Tanjenong", "Tangynon", & "Bangenong" were alternative versions to the eventual triumph of "Dandenong". Some maps even used two versions to name the creek.

The problem seems to have been created by the difficulty of early explorers in translating aboriginal terms because the aborigines slurred the consonants "D", "T" & "B". In addition, the surveyors and explorers themselves used a variety of English, Scottish and Irish accents in their efforts to reproduce the aboriginal terms they heard.

Most commentators suggest that 'dandenong' was the aboriginal word for "high" or "high places", thus the use of the word for the range of hills now known as the Dandenongs.

History of the Car Park

(By Frank Sullivan)

I was one of the FFDC members who started the campaign back in 2002 to get the car park built just near the Wantirna Rd bridge over Dandenong Creek. Council elections were to be held in 2003. At the time our Collier ward councillor made promises that the car park would be built. We believed him.

Once the elections were decided and he was re-elected, he turned on us and told me we would not get our car park built. When questioned about his promise, he told me "I made an error of judgement". I used to attend council meetings and chip away at him as to why he turned on us. He used to get quiet abusive towards me. We voted him out in the 2005 council elections. The new councillor, Joe Cossari, supported the car park. I was on good terms with the CEO of Maroondah Council and he agreed to give Knox \$25,000 towards the cost of the car park.

Unfortunately there were still people at Knox council who were on good terms with the deposed councillor and did not make it easy for us to get the car park built. Still in the end we prevailed and the car park was completed in June this year as a jointly funded project between Knox and Maroondah Councils. The way some people at Knox behaved, you would have thought we had a personal interest in the car park. This car park has been built for the public to give them easier access to the beautiful walking and riding tracks of the Dandenong Creek and surrounds.

Memoirs of the Dandenong Creek and Surrounds—Part 4 by Barry Robinson—FFDC Vice President and Life Member

The excess cream would be swapped for a ration coupon or something else. I can hear a lot of people saying what is a ration coupon? For those who don't know they were series of coupons in a book for the basic essentials of life e. g. sugar, flour, butter, cigarettes etc. Dad would swap cigarette coupons for other types of coupons. As you can gather he did not smoke or drink so we got more of the better essentials than other families. The ration system ended about 2 to 3 years after the Second World War ended, when goods became available to buy without any restrictions.

As Christmas neared us kids became excited when we were told where we were going for our holidays. One year we went to our relations place in Altona and stayed there. To our dismay when we ran down to the beach to find not sand but smelly seaweed for at least 100 yards out into the water and as far as the eye could see along the beach. If you wanted to go for a swim you had to plough through the smelly seaweed at least a foot deep until you could find clear water. When we got sick of that we would go searching for jelly fish (they looked like clear sausages) to engage in a jelly fish fight.

Dates to mark on your calendar

Sunday 2nd August 2009 —National Tree Day 1:00 to 3:30 pm at Scotts Street Reserve Heathmont. Meet at the FFDC stand at the end of Marlborough Rd.

Sunday 13 September 2009 —FFDC Tree Plant Day 9:00 am to 12 noon at Scotts Street Reserve Heathmont. Meet at the FFDC stand at the end of Marlborough Rd.

For more up to date information on the events above you can check details on our website: <http://ffdc.friends.melbournewater.com.au/>

Next edition of the newsletter is in November, please email me your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of October at : charlie.miller@optusnet.com.au

At the place that we where staying my uncle was building a large fishing boat in the front yard. This was to replace his boat that was damaged by a storm during the winter months.

A couple of years later we had our first of many holidays on the Rosebud Foreshore. At least this beach had lots of sand and very little seaweed. This was the start of 20 years of fantastic fun each time we went to Rosebud for holidays. We started in section 10 and ended up in section 14 next to Chinaman's Creek in West Rosebud. As kids we quickly made friends and looked forward to seeing them each year. We always had lots to do during our holidays, swimming, sun baking, beach cricket, mini golf, going to the pictures and the Rosebud Carnival. We used to go fishing off the pier to catch fish.

All the parents would get together and have parties that we were allowed to attend. We were amazed by what a lot of parents could do. We were treated to singing, magic tricks, playing various musical instruments, whistling and playing the gum leaf and comb. It was always sad when the holidays came to an end which meant that we would not see each other for another year.

(More of my memoirs in Part 5 in the next edition of Tanjenong Tales.)

FFDC Committee for 2008-2009

President: Charlie Miller
Vice-President: Barry Robinson
Secretary: Vivien Holyoake
Treasurer: Frank Sullivan

General Committee:
 Heidi Victoria MP
 Barbara Richards
 Melanie Komisarczyk
 Bill Jones
 Vicky Pearse
 (2 vacancies)

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