



NEWSLETTER

November 2013

Edition No 42

FFDC Inc. PO Box 5044, Heathwood Vic

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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 42th edition of Tanjenong Tales.

Annual General Meeting

I'm pleased to report our hard working committee members all re-nominated for 2013/14 at the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 12 September. We are operating successfully with a committee of 11 out of a possible 12. If you would like join the committee please contact us at ffdc1999@gmail.com. Committee work is not onerous and can be very rewarding while you acquire new skills.

Life membership for Vivien Holyoake

At the FFDC Annual General Meeting in September Vivien Holyoake was awarded life membership of FFDC for 10 years continuous service on the executive committee as both secretary and vice president. Viv's contribution over this time has been outstanding and a driving reason why FFDC is still going strong after 14 years of existence. Viv joins foundation members Barry Robinson and Frank Sullivan as our only life members.

FFDC National Tree Day event

Over 100 members and volunteers attended our National Tree Day event in Manson's Reserve in Wantirna on Sunday 28th July. See the full story on page 3.

New FFDC email address

FFDC has a new email address ffdc1999@gmail.com.

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National Tree Day in Manson's Reserve Wantirna

President's Report (continued)

Preparation for National Tree Day

We are seeking funding from Melbourne Water for an additional 1000 plants to add to our usual 2500 plants for our next National Tree Day event in July 2014. Plans are underway to continue our plantings for the third year in a row in Manson's Reserve in Wantirna adjacent to the shared pathway. Our 2012 and 2013 plantings are thriving due to favourable rainfall and weather conditions.

Weeding Event

We hope to run a weeding event sometime during 2014. We plan to target a particular weed (or weeds) such as English ivy. Watch our website for more details

Shared pathway update

Pleasing to see that Maroondah Council is finally about to commence works to repair the shared pathway on 'The Bluff' near Simpsons Crt in Heathmont early in 2014.

Reflections on another successful year

FFDC has enjoyed another successful year in 2013. Membership is stable and our bank balance is now in excess of \$8,000. We banked a record \$1,550 at our annual sausage sizzle fund raiser at Bunnings on Anzac Day. Volunteers numbers at our National Clean Up Day and National Tree Day events seem to be growing. Finally, we have a new more informative website.

Thank you and Seasons Greetings

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their great work over the past year. To the members, sponsors and volunteers thank you for your support of our fund raising, water testing, tree planting, clean up events and other activities. To Melbourne Water, Knox and Maroondah Councils, thank you for your continued funding and support. Finally, to all, wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2014.

Charlie Miller— President



Tranquil scene in Yarrabing Wetlands in Wantirna

FFDC National Tree Day event

Over 100 members and volunteers attended our National Tree Day event in Manson's Reserve in Wantirna on Sunday 28th July.

In ideal weather conditions 2500 trees, shrubs and grasses were planted in one hour!

The planting was followed by a free sausage sizzle enjoyed by all. Nearly 200 sausages, 8 loaves of bread and 1 litre of sauce was consumed.

Thanks to the following members for helping to organise such a successful event: The MacFarlane family for organising the sausage sizzle, always a big hit, Viv Holyoake, Vicky Pearse, Frank Sullivan, Heidi and Charlie Victoria, Tim Hughes, Bill and Nerolie Jones, Ashley Miller, Matt McCabe and Jacqui Hansen.

Thanks again to Craig Mauger and the Maroondah Bushland Management team for preparing the site over the past 6 months, including spraying, mulching, digging the holes and providing and placing the plants.

Finally, thanks to all the volunteers who turn up year after year regardless of the weather. Without you the event would not be anywhere near as successful.

Container Deposit Scheme

What are the benefits?

Returning beverage containers for a 10c refund reduces rubbish going to landfill or ending up in the environment, increases recycling rates and generates cash in our hip pockets.

Where is it in place?

South Australia enjoys a recycling rate of cans and bottles of between 75-85% while the rate in other states is less than half of this. The benefits are there for all to see; a national scheme would see a significant increase in recycling and recovery of beverage containers in all of Australia.

What are the current developments in Australia?

State and federal environment ministers are due to meet soon to discuss a possible national scheme, which would give refunds of 10c a can or bottle in a bid to boost recycling.

PREMIER Denis Napthine will call for state and territory leaders to back a new national container deposit scheme for bottles and cans. Dr Napthine recently stated he was "strongly in favour of container deposit legislation" but it would be "much better if there was a national system". "I see how effective it is in reducing litter on the roadsides, in our rivers and streams, and it's a good way of earning a few bob for the local sporting club or scout and guide group," he said.

Why we need a Container Deposit Scheme?

We all use beverage containers every day to hold our soft drink, water, milk, fruit juice and alcohol. Australians use up to 13 billion containers every year. Beverage related rubbish is the most common type found by our volunteers on Clean Up Australia Day. Clean Up Australia believes that a Container Deposit Scheme will help us reduce the amount of containers that are ending up in our environment. We need to take action to ensure we look after our precious environment for future generations.

Spotlight on a Committee Member— Charlie Miller

I joined FFDC in 2004 after volunteering for the clean up day that year. Barry Robinson, foundation and life member, had spoken to me about joining at previous FFDC events that I had attended.

There are several reasons why I joined FFDC. First and foremost, I spent my childhood and teenage years growing up on a dairy farm in the Kiewa Valley in North Eastern Victoria. I moved to Melbourne to further my education when I was 19. I always intended to move back to the bush by the time I was 25 but I'm still here nearly 40 years later. One of the key reasons is the creek and the bush surrounds. It provides my "sanity in city". There are so many plants and birds along the creek that remind me of childhood including eucalyptus, wattles, bracken ferns, cherry ballarts, bursarias, magpies, kookaburras, willy wagtails, rosellas, black cockatoos, owls, possums, the list goes on. I want to help preserve and enhance this wonderful environment for us and future generations.

Secondly, I have a keen interest in the shared pathway along the creek as I like to run, walk and ride along it several times a week. I want to

see the pathway maintained in a good and safe condition for all users including families and the elderly.

Finally, I enjoy working with the committee and members who share the same view that the creek and its surrounds are a wonderful community asset, not a "rat and snake infested drain" as some locals regard it.

Spotted!

This is a new segment for the newsletter.

Baby kookaburras in Yarrabing Wetlands in the large manna gum at the end of Juniper St in Wantirna. Great to see the kookaburras still have habitat to breed each year.

New Seat at the FFDC Information Stand at the end of Marlborough Rd in Heathmont. Thanks to Maroondah Council for installing it.

Sweet Bursaria coming into flower along the shared pathway. The flowers give off a sweet scent between early December and late January.

Dates to mark on your calendar

Sunday 2nd March 2014—9:00 am to 11:30am—FFDC Clean Up Australia Day event. Meet near the FFDC Information Stand at the end of Marlborough Rd, Heathmont. A free sausage sizzle will be held afterwards.

Friday 25th April 2014—11:00am to 4:00pm—Annual Sausage sizzle fund raiser at Bunnings in Bayswater.

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.

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 March 2014, please email me your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of February at :

ffdc1999@gmail.com

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

(1 vacancy)

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.