



# NEWSLETTER

November 2010

Edition No 33

FFDC Inc. PO Box 5044, Heathwood Vic

Website : <http://ffdc.friends.melbournewater.com.au/> Enquires 9801 1628 Bus. Hrs.

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 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of Tanjenong Tales.

#### National Tree Day Planting on Sunday 1st August

We had a very successful tree planting day despite the forecast bad weather. Over 50 people, including guide groups and local residents, turned out to plant around 800 trees, shrubs and grasses in Scotts Street Reserve in Heathmont. Thanks to all the members and volunteers for their efforts and to Maroondah Council and Visionstream for their sponsorship and support on the day including hot drinks and a sausage sizzle.

#### Annual General Meeting

At the AGM on Thursday 9 September Vicky Pearse was elected as Minute Secretary and Barbara Richards was elected as Membership Secretary. Vivien Holyoake has handled both these roles so professionally for many years and will remain on the general committee. All other committee members were re-elected to the same positions.

#### From strength to strength

We have a very healthy bank balance, several projects underway and a growing membership thanks to the hard work of the committee over the past year.

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Everyone enjoys a well earned sausage and drink after planting on National Tree Day

**President's Report (continued)**

New General Committee Member

We welcome Tim Hughes to the FFDC General Committee. Tim joined in September and we look forward to his contribution over the coming years. We still have 2 vacancies for the general committee so if you are interested please contact me via the email on page 4 of the newsletter.

Plans for new seating

With the assistance of Knox Council and/or Melbourne Water the committee is planning to locate some new seats along the creek path near the end of Mint and Juniper Streets in Wantirna opposite the Ringwood Golf Course. Vivien Holyoake and Anita Infanti are willing to fund these seats on the condition that they are able to add plaques to honour their respective families. By locating seats in this section of the path we hope that it will encourage more elderly and disabled people to use this wonderful area for recreation.

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their great work over the past year and the members and volunteers for their support of our fund raising, tree planting and clean up events and other activities. And to all, wishing you a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2011.

Charlie Miller— President



Members and volunteers and Lulu the dog brave the weather on National Tree Day—Sunday 1 August

### **FFDC Tree Planting at the Ringwood Golf Course—Thursday 9th September**

FFDC members and volunteers planted 50 Manna Gums along the north bank of the creek on the Ringwood Golf Course on Thursday 9th September. The very large flood in early November has luckily only claimed 3 trees.

This event follows on from our hugely successful tree planting day in September 2009 with the aid of Melbourne Water, Maroondah Council and 20 students and teachers from Marlborough Primary School. The 50 trees we planted last year have more than doubled in size already and despite many floods we have only lost a small number so far.

The overall aim of this project is to plant indigenous Manna Gums on the north bank of the creek to cool the water temperature in the hot summer months to promote aquatic life and combat blue-green algae. The trees will also help to prevent bank erosion and provide habitat for birds and other native animals.

We plan to plant another 50 trees next year to complete the golf course. In future years we will plant more trees downstream to Boronia Rd then back up the creek to H. E. Parker Reserve in Heathmont. Under storey plantings will complete the project.

Thanks to Barry Robinson and the management of Ringwood Golf Course for organising a very successful event. Thanks to Melbourne Water for the funding from their Community Grants Program to purchase the trees and materials.

Finally, thanks to Bill Jones, Viv Holyoake, Barbara Richards, Graeme and Joan Ennis and the volunteers from Mission Australia for their efforts on the day.



Members and volunteers at the FFDC Planting Day on Thursday 9 September at Ringwood Golf Course

## **Stop Press!!**

### EPA successful prosecution

Bayswater company Hucon Australia Pty Ltd has been fined \$29,000 by the EPA for polluting Dandenong Creek with detergent back in July this year. Several FFDC members reported large amounts of foam in the creek near HE Parker Reserve in Heathmont to the EPA. EPA officers traced the source of the pollution to the Hucon factory leading to a successful prosecution.

The creek has been regularly polluted with foam for many years in the same area. There have been no reports of foam in the creek in the area since July so this could be a major breakthrough.

If you see any form of pollution in or around the creek report it to the pollution hot line on **9695 2777**.

### Spring clean up

On Sunday 17 October the Wantirna Guides performed 'Spring Clean-up' of the creek from Manson's Reserve down to Eastlink. They managed to pick up 3 bags of rubbish and a large sign. Thanks to Rebecca Whitehead (Guide

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

**Sunday 6 March 2011—9:00 am to 12:00pm**  
Clean Up Australia Day—Meet at the FFDC Stand at the end of Marlborough Rd in Heathmont. Bring gloves, bags supplied. Look for up to date information on our website.

**Tuesday 26 April 2011—10:00am to 5:00pm**  
Annual Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser at Bunnings in Bayswater. . We need members and volunteers to help out so please contact Barry Robinson on 98011628 if you can spare 3.5 hours on the day to work in a 4 person team.

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 March 2011, please email me your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of February at :  
**[charlie.miller@optusnet.com.au](mailto:charlie.miller@optusnet.com.au)**

Leader) and Frank Sullivan for organising the event.

### Marlborough Primary School—History of the creek

On Tuesday 16 November Barry Robinson gave the Year 3 and 4 students at Marlborough Primary School in Heathmont a talk on the history of the Dandenong Creek. He also used the occasion to talk to the children about the activities of FFDC and the important role we play in improving the creek and its surrounds for all comers to enjoy.

### Winton Wetlands needs more water!

Tim Hughes, our new committee member, is leading a project to return the natural flow of water from Eastlink into the Winton Wetlands in Wantirna. Since Eastlink was completed, runoff from the motorway and surrounds that use to flow into the wetlands is captured and directed to the Dandenong Creek. The result is the wetlands have become very dry.

Tim is liasing with Eastlink, VicRoads and Melbourne Water to firstly get them to agree that there is a problem then secondly to fund and provide a solution.

## **FFDC Committee for 2010-2011**

**President:** Charlie Miller  
**Vice-President:** Barry Robinson  
**Secretary:** Vicky Pearse (minutes)  
Barbara Richards (membership)  
**Treasurer:** Frank Sullivan

### **General Committee:**

Heidi Victoria MP  
Vivien Holyoake  
Bill Jones  
Chris MacFarlane  
Tim Hughes  
(2 vacancies)

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