



NEWSLETTER

November, 2008

Edition No 27

FFDC Inc. PO Box 5044, Heathwood Vic

<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 27th edition of Tanjenong Tales.

FFDC Tree Planting Day

On Sunday 24th August 11 members planted around 700 indigenous plants including trees, shrubs and grasses in Scott's Reserve in Heathmont. See story on page 3.

Annual General Meeting

We held our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 6 September. The position of president was filled by Charlie Miller and vice president by Barry Robinson.

Our thanks go to Jack Luke for his wonderful work as acting president over recent years. Jack has stepped down from the committee in preparation for his move out of Heathmont. We wish Jack and his family all the best for the future.

Plan for planting large indigenous trees adjacent to the creek

The FFDC Committee is formulating a plan, with the support of Melbourne Water and Knox and Maroondah councils, to plant large indigenous trees adjacent to the creek. Starting in the area east of Wantirna Road.

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. We will keep you updated on this plan over the coming months.

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The creek in flood at Wantirna Rd bridge (circa 1950's)

President's Report (Continued from front page)

Spring Clean-Up Day

We had a small turn out of members and volunteers for of clean up day on Sunday 9th November. In all we managed to collect 6 bags of rubbish from H.E Parker Reserve down to Eastlink.

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 days and other activities. And to all, wishing you a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2009.

Charlie Miller— President

Living Links Program for the Dandenong Creek Catchment

Living Links is an ambitious, large scale program at the cutting edge of catchment restoration. Its coordinated implementation over 25 years, will create a tranquil haven where the community may enjoy natural, physical, social, cultural or educational experiences.

Living Links is being developed in partnership with Melbourne Water, South East Water, City of Kingston, Shire of Yarra Ranges, City of Whitehorse, City of Maroondah, City of Monash, City of Casey, City of Greater Dandenong, Knox City Council, Bushwalking Victoria, Landcare Australia Limited, Parks Victoria and Bicycle Victoria.

Living Links seeks to:

- Develop new and enhance existing vegetation corridors along roadsides, waterways, public open spaces and coastal zones
- Protect and enhance habitat for native fauna and ensure the retention of biodiversity in an otherwise fragmented and urbanised landscape
- Develop further pedestrian and cycle paths throughout south-east Melbourne connecting major commercial and recreational centres
- Benefit the community through cleaner waterways, more desirable and accessible recreation areas, improved opportunities for environmental education, safer and more comprehensive pedestrian and cycling facilities.

More information at http://www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/projects_key_links.htm



Anita and Carolyn with the fruits of their labor on Spring Clean-up Day—Sunday 9th November

Frog Census

The Melbourne Water Frog Census, which began in 2001, is a community-based frog monitoring program in which volunteers record frog calls at their local rivers, creeks and wetlands. The frog calls are analysed and the call locations plotted on a map to form a picture of the distribution of frogs across the region.

The census aims to monitor frog populations across the Western Port and Port Phillip region (including Dandenong Creek) to indicate waterway health; raise awareness about wildlife that depend on our waterways; and encourage people to get to know their region's waterways.

Frogs call throughout the year, but spring and autumn are the most vocal times for most species. Since Melbourne Water started the Frog Census in 2001 volunteers have recorded 13 species of frogs across the region and sent in over 3,000 recordings.

The spring 2007 and autumn 2008 Census results uncovered some significant finds with a higher than usual number of recordings for two threatened species: the Growling Grass Frog and the Southern Brood Frog. For more information on the Frog Census go to <http://frogs.melbournewater.com.au/>. More on frogs in the FFDC area in the next edition of Tanjenong Tales.

Report from the FFDC Tree Planting Day

We had a disappointing turn out for the FFDC Tree Planting day at Scott's Reserve Heathmont on Sunday 24 August. Perhaps we planned it too soon after the National Tree Planting day in late July. However, thanks to the dedicated 11 people who turned up we managed to plant the 700 trees, shrubs and grasses in the allotted time of 2.5 hours. Thanks to Brad Curtis and his team at Maroondah Council for digging the holes.

Thanks go to: Barry Robinson, Annette Culley, Aidan Miller, Ashley Miller, Charlie Miller, Bill Jones, Neralie Jones, Vivienne Holyoake, Tanya Haynes-Ford, Joan and Graeme Ennis for a great effort planting 700 plants including: Myrtle Wattle, Hedge Wattle, Silver Wattle, Golden Wattle, Tall Sedge, Bidgee Widgee, Hop Goodenia, Long Leaf Box, Narrow Leaf Peppermint, Black Sheoak, Paperbark, Golden Tip, Yellow Hakea and Tussock Grass.



Members at work on the FFDC Tree Planting Day on Sunday 24th August

Memoirs of the Dandenong Creek and Surrounds—Part 2 by Barry Robinson—FFDC Vice President and Life Member

My father worked in the Brick and Tile Works situated alongside the railway line in Blackburn. Until he bought a car (in 1958), he used to ride his bike to and from work each day along Canterbury, Springvale and Whitehorse roads.

To supplement his income he used to grow flowers and vegetables, which he sent to the Vic Market twice a week. I spent many a night tying up bunches of flowers and picking vegetables before going to bed.

A treat for us during summer and autumn, when all our chores were done, was to hitch our horse up to the jinker and go for picnic on Saturday or Sunday to a far away place called FernTree Gully. Many a lovely day was to be had exploring new areas of bush that we had not seen before. I remember once, on one of these days out, dad killed a snake because it had spooked our horse and to our amazement all the baby snakes appeared from the dead snake.

Quite often during winter we would not be able to go to school because Wantirna Rd would be flooded at the bridge (see photo on the front page).

This was a regular occurrence during the winter months of our school life up until the late 1960's when creek was decimated by the then Dandenong Valley Authority who, in their wisdom, decided to straightened it to reduce the effects of regular flooding.

Looking at the photo on the front page, on the left hand side before the bridge was called "Bellbird Park" It disappeared when the land was claimed to make the current Ringwood Golf Course.

Every spring time a visit to Bellbird Park was a must. It was a fairly wooded area bounded by the creek, Wantirna Road and Gordon Street. It had an unnamed stream running through the middle of it into the creek. Part of this stream is still visible today at the edge of the block in Wantirna Road and Gordon Street.

This was the period when most of the boys in the area added to their prized collection of bird eggs. My collection was housed in a large card board box lined with cotton wool so that the precious eggs would not get damaged when moving. Each egg had its own little label denoting the type of bird.

(More of my memoirs in Part 3 in the next edition of Tanjenong Tales.

Dates to mark on your calendar

Thursday 11 December 2008 — FFDC Christmas breakup starting at 6:30pm at the Wantirna Hill Club on Boronia Rd. All members are welcome.

Sunday 1 March 2009—Clean Up Australia Day—flyers will be sent out to all members near the day.

Saturday 25 April 2009—Annual Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser at Bunnings in Bayswater. Watch for details on the website.

For more up to date information on the events above you can check details on our website.

Please note that our website address has changed to:
<http://ffdc.friends.melbournewater.com.au/>

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
Tanya Haynes-Ford

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.