



Tanjenong Tales

FFDC Newsletter November 2021

Edition no. 66

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President's Report - Welcome to the 66th edition.

Another year has come to pass, and I'm immensely proud of what FFDC has been able to achieve under very trying circumstances again. In recognition of our short film 'The Eels of Dandenong Creek', FFDC was awarded a Premiers Sustainability Award. We are truly grateful to have worked with some amazing people to make this happen, and to have given a voice to our short-finned eels. We partnered with the Rotary Club of Bayswater to plant over 120 eucalypts along the southern side of the creek in Bayswater, in celebration of their 100th Anniversary.

As the first community group in Australia to deploy real time monitoring into a waterway, which is looking for pollution events, I'm happy to announce that Melbourne Water will be funding this equipment for a further two years.

Some of our other major achievements this year include: • Clean Up Australia Day • Save our Sugar Gliders • Save our Skinks - survey project • Save our Skinks - revegetation project • 9,000 plants returned along the corridor • Lake Knox advocacy and support.

To our wonderful members and committee for helping support the group, and without this support and guidance during this past year we simply could not have achieved so much, so well done everyone and thank you.

Wishing everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and all the best for 2022.

Anthony Bigelow - President



President Anthony Bigelow accepting the award



Premier's Sustainability Award

Save Lake Knox campaign

The community is still collectively holding its breath as the fate of Lake Knox swings in the balance. The town planner at Knox Council is yet to make a decision on the two permit applications currently before the organisation.

Collaboration with Monash University

We are collaborating with Dr Carly Cook, who is co-ordinator of the undergraduate Ecology and Conservation Major students at Monash University.

There is a big overlap between what we do, and what the students would be interested in supporting FFDC with. Specifically, this could be conducting on-ground work for us or report writing or studies into everything from wetland ecology through to habitat corridors, land management, survey work, through to weed control etc.

The students are looking to do volunteer work, and Monash is looking to broaden their horizons. More to come.

FFDC Facebook Page

We recently passed 6000 likes on our Facebook page. A big thank you to everyone for supporting our local community page.

FFDC 2021 Annual General Meeting

At the 2021 AGM we elected our committee for the 2021-22 year.

Congratulations all

Anthony Bigelow - President

Charlie Miller - Vice President

Hannah Skipworth - Secretary

Chris Macfarlane - Treasurer

Vacant - Membership Secretary

General Committee:

Matt McCabe

Bill Jones

Bruna Iotti

Robert Lee

John Cull

Jesse Oehm

Bec Penrose

Congratulations to Bec Penrose for joining the committee and we look forward to her contribution to FFDC over the coming years.

Lex Edmond has decided to step down from the committee. We thank Lex for his fantastic contribution to FFDC and the committee over recent years, and especially his wonderful work on the Save Our Skinks initiative.



Female Long-Necked Turtle leaving Lake Knox to lay eggs



Committee Xmas Dinner

iNaturalist

In our previous 2 editions of the newsletter we explained how to use the eBird database for recording bird sightings. In this edition we explain how to use iNaturalist for recording more than just birds, such as animals, plants and insects.

iNaturalist is an online social network of people sharing biodiversity information to help each other learn about nature. It's also a crowdsourced species identification and recording tool.

iNaturalist is very user friendly and allows you to build your identification skills as you go. When you upload your observations, (can be photos or sound recordings) you are encouraged to make an identification to the level of your knowledge. Once uploaded, iNaturalist users from everywhere can see them, and provide their own knowledge to further refine, or confirm the identifications.

So, you may only know what you have observed as a 'moth' or 'plant', but once uploaded it is very likely someone from the iNaturalist community will be able to tell you the full species name of what you saw. More information

here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/help>

When you see a bird, mammal, reptile, insect, or plant, you can use the iNaturalist app to record your observation or upload your photos. While you're using the app, you may find it interesting to see what others have observed in the area.

Directions for Use:

Download the iNaturalist mobile app to your smart phone or device (iOS or Android from the app store).

Create an iNaturalist account using your personal email address and a unique password

Begin making observations! Simply take a photo of the species and upload.

For more detailed user notes go to <https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/getting+started>

EoDC2 Update

The section of Bungalook Creek between the confluence with Dandenong Creek and the railway line has been approved as one of the EoDC2 projects. The project is being scoped up at the moment and works will include weed control and revegetation. Works should commence early in 2022.

The Old Joe's Creek filtration treatment project is still in the planning phase, Melbourne Water are working on the design for the filtration system.

Drain Sock Trial

The location has been chosen for the trial of the drain sock underneath the railway bridge on the Belgrave line along the creek in Bayswater. However, we're waiting on additional advice and support from Knox Council's maintenance team before deployment.



iNaturalist map showing sightings along the creek



Baywater Rotary 100th Anniversary planting

Saving Our Skinks Project

The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on outdoor gatherings has meant the project is on hold. We are hoping we can restart in 2022 and will keep you updated on developments.

Save our Sugar Gliders Project

Following the lifting of the latest lockdown we have recommenced installing the nesting boxes along the creek. Hoping to have the installations completed early in the year before we reach out to the residents who have volunteered to host nesting boxes in their own gardens.

FFDC receives Premier's Sustainability Award

We are thrilled and honored to announce that we are the WINNERS of the 'Healthy Environment - Community Champion' category for the Premier's Sustainability Awards 2021.

We won the category for our film 'The Eels of Dandenong Creek', which highlights the short-finned eel's amazing lifecycle, their importance to Australia's indigenous nations, and to educate the wider community around the consequences of pollution. All of which is not just unique to Dandenong Creek, but covers the creeks and waterways across Victoria and the eastern seaboard. Since production, the film has been viewed over 33,000 times on our social media platforms.

Link to our film is here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umZINGATy0E>

Pollution Monitoring

Melbourne Water has announced it will fund the maintenance and support of the equipment along the creek for the next 2 years, FFDC greatly appreciates their support for this ground breaking project. We are now working with Bio2lab on ways of sharing the data with the public and we will let you know when we can.

Bayswater Rotary's 100th anniversary planting

In celebration of Rotary's 100th anniversary, and in partnership with the Rotary Club of Bayswater, our towering giants, the Manna Gums, have been returned to the creek corridor in Bayswater.

The 120 eucalyptus trees can be seen downstream from HE Parker Reserve on the Bayswater side of the creek for about 1.5km. Reintroducing these wonderful trees to this side of the creek will ultimately provide important habitat for our fauna, as they connect up pockets of fragmented vegetation along this section.

Darren Wallace, from Operation Revegetation, grew the 120 trees (which also include some Swamp Gums and Yarra Gums), for us for this special occasion.

The Biodiversity team at Knox City Council organised a contractor to plant them for us due to COVID restrictions, and we are very grateful for this generous offer of support on behalf of the community. A special thank you to the Bendigo Bank Ringwood, Boronia and Bayswater, who backed the grant application for the funding of the trees through the community grants program. Additional thanks to Melbourne Water, who allowed the planting of the eucalypts within the riparian zone of the creek.

Dates to mark on your calendar

FFDC Clean Up Australia Day event - Sunday 6th March 2022 - 10am to 12 noon. End of Armstrong Rd in Bayswater. Look for details on our Facebook page or website.

Spotted

A mob of 7 eastern grey kangaroos in Koomba Park in Wantirna back in September.

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

Next edition of the newsletter is in March 2022, please email us your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of February 2022 to: ffdc1999@gmail.com.