



# NEWSLETTER

November 2012

Edition No 39

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 39<sup>th</sup> edition of Tanjenong Tales.

#### National Tree Day

Despite showers and a forecast top temperature of 11 degrees we had over 120 members and volunteers (a record) attend our National Tree Day event at Manson's Reserve in Wantirna on Sunday 29th July. Over 2000 trees, plants and grasses were planted including eucalypts, acacias, tall sedge, cassinias, correa, flax lily, goodenia, hakea, hemp bush, tussock grass and pomaderris. Thanks go to Craig Mauger and his Bushland team from Maroondah Council for preparing the site including spraying and mulching, supplying the plants and digging the holes. Without their support we would not be able to run events of this size. Thanks to Chris and Lisa MacFarlane for organising and running the very popular free sausage sizzle during the event, we had nothing left over. Thanks to committee members Barb Richards, Bill Jones and Ashley Miller for helping out on the day. Thanks to the members and volunteers who travelled from as far away as Thornbury and Northcote. Finally, great to see our foundation and life member Barry Robinson attend to help out.

#### Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on Thu 13 September and we are pleased to report we have a near full strength committee with 11 of the 12 positions filled. We welcome Matt McCabe onto the committee and look forward to his contribution over the coming years. Thanks to Barb Richards for hosting the AGM at her place.

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National Tree Day at Manson's Reserve in Wantirna

## **President's Report (continued)**

### Membership Drive

We conducted a membership drive in glorious sunshine on Sunday 14 October near the footbridge at the end of Marlborough Rd in Heathmont. I'm pleased to report that we managed to attract 10 new members, a very good outcome. We now plan to run an annual membership drive along side our annual Clean Up Australia event in early March. Thanks go to the membership 'spruikers', Viv, Frank, Bill, Ash, Matt and the MacFarlane family.

If you have not renewed your membership as at the 16 November we have included a renewal payment slip and urge you to renew to support our activities.

### Weed control program

The weed control program along the creek bank in the area known as "The Bluff" near Simpson's Court in Heathmont has commenced. To date the focus had been on ivy, wandering jew and onion weed.

### Melbourne Water Grant

We are seeking funding from Melbourne Water to continue our annual tree planting along the northern banks of the creek along the Ringwood Golf Course. Over the next few months another 50 manna gums will be planted, replacing trees that have either died or been washed away in floods.

### 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 all, wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2013.

Charlie Miller— President



2012 AGM: From left, Charlie, Bill, Vicky, Frank, Viv, Matt, Chris and Barb. Ash took the photo.

### **Summary of our achievements in 2012**

As we approach the end of the year it is worth reflecting on our achievements for 2012:

- A healthy bank balance over \$6500.
- Membership around 80 and stable.
- We have 11 hard working committee members.
- 40 bags of rubbish collected by 60 members and volunteers on Clean Up Australia Day.
- Worked with Melbourne Water to have a mural painted on the Automatic Weather Station to cover up the offensive graffiti.
- \$1,355 raised at our annual sausage sizzle fund raiser at Bunnings on Anzac Day.
- Frog recordings for Melbourne Water in April & May.
- 50 mature manna gums trees planted by volunteers from the 'Leaps and Bounds' youth program in Bayswater on FFDC Tree Day in early May.
- 2000+ trees, shrubs and grasses planted by 120 members and volunteers in Mansons Reserve on National Tree Day in July.
- 10+ new members signed up on our membership drive day in October.
- 5 new seats along the shared path along the Knox side.
- Water testing has started again.
- Successfully gained \$40,000 in funding for the weed control program along the shared pathway in Heathmont.

We acknowledge the support of Knox and Maroondah Councils and Melbourne Water. Without their support and funding FFDC would not be able to achieve all of the above.

Finally, a special thank you to Craig Mauger and the Maroondah Bushland Team and to Heather Graham and the Melbourne Water River Heath Team for their ongoing support over 2012.

### **The Importance of Riparian Habitats**

A riparian habitat is the interface between land and a river or stream. Up until recently, riparian habitats were an exploited resource by humans for water supply and the transport of waste material. With more knowledge of riparian environments, we now have an understanding of their importance and the factors which affect their health.

Threatening factors to rivers and streams rarely occur in isolation, and are usually the result of a combination of factors. For example, the removal of riparian vegetation causes river bank erosion, which then leads to altered flow patterns and increased sedimentation. In turn, increased erosion can cause collapse of the vegetation growing within the bank. With less vegetation, and hence less woody debris as habitat, the water temperatures can increase due to less shade.

Looking after the remaining riparian vegetation and allowing recruitment and revegetation of indigenous species will help to increase the health of current systems.

Stabilisation of the banks is increased with the presence of root systems. Roots bind the soil substrate together, which prevents erosion and bank collapse.

The presence of vegetation in rivers and streams is important for fish, invertebrates and other species. The cover provided by vegetation provides protection for spawning adult fish, juveniles and eggs. Woody debris and fallen vegetation can be used as sites for spawning, feeding and resting. Woody debris can create microhabitats, whereby a pool can be created by the slowed water movement. This, in turn, increases the variety of habitat types in a riparian environment and allows for a greater diversity of species that can live there.

FFDC is working actively with Melbourne Water and Knox and Maroondah Councils to maintain and improve the riparian corridor along our section of the Dandenong Creek.

**Spot Light on a Committee Member**

I respond quickly to Vicky, with a mini delay to my given name Victoria, and have lived with my family in Heathmont for about 10 years. I joined the FFDC committee to add my rubbish collecting skills to the group and to learn about overall litter management of the Dandenong Creek for the time when I am too old to bend! Rainfall is wonderful, but floods leave behind debris from less than desirable human activity. FFDC initiatives are underway with local councils and Melbourne Water to improve the situation. I discovered lots more about FFDC activities too, detailed in Tanjenong Tales.

My path into being an obsessive litter collector began with a Pavlovian conditioned response to finding 6 pence in the gutter as a primary schoolgirl in Dunedin, NZ. Not even the reprimand by the Principal, Miss Mitchell, to tell me “to get out of the gutter” has deterred me. I am now really and truly “up the Creek” as a picker-upper most weekends! My patch is mainly from H.E.Parker to Wantirna Rd.

Our committee is a cohesive group of people and we dine out each year at Christmas time to congratulate ourselves on work well done! I enjoy serving at our Bunnings Anzac Day fund

**Dates to mark on your calendar**

**Sunday 3 March**—Clean Up Australia Day 9:00 to 11:30am at the FFDC Information Stand end of Marlborough Rd, Heathmont. We will also conduct a membership drive at the same time.

**Thursday 25 April**—Annual sausage sizzle fund raiser at Bunnings in Bayswater. 10:30am to 4:30pm. We need a minimum of 12 people for 3 x 2 hour shifts.

**Sunday 28 July—1:00 to 3:30pm**—National Tree Day Planting in Manson’s Reserve Wantirna. Followed by a free sausage sizzle

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 2013, 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)

raising BBQ; joining in the group days for plantings and litter pick up days; and am one of the people doing regular water testing of the Creek, with our data being pooled with all Melbourne waterways. I sit on high next to Charlie Miller, our President, when he so ably chairs the meetings and as one of two secretaries, type up the minutes each month.

The Creek provided a playing card on one of my pick-ups – The Queen of Spades and I have unilaterally assumed its title!! This is the only card taken from the stack of 52 so, please, you are welcome to join us in our activities and to choose your title. Barb is membership secretary. A wave to me/us when you see me/us a-bending will be welcomed.

**Vicky Pearse—Minute Secretary**

**FFDC Committee for 2012-2013**

**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

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.