



NEWSLETTER

November 2011

Edition No 36

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 36th edition of Tanjenong Tales.

National Tree Day

We had a hugely successful national Tree Day Planting on Sunday 31 July. See the full story on page 2.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on Thursday 8th September and I'm pleased to announce that we have a working committee for 2011-12. I congratulate Vivien Holyoake on being elected for the position of Vice President. We farewell Barry Robinson who retired from the committee. This leaves 2 vacant committee positions so if anyone would like to nominate please contact me at the email address on the back page.

Melbourne Water Grants

The committee has submitted an application for some grant funding to cover some of our annual administration costs including newsletter production and public liability insurance. In addition, we are seeking project funds for the continuation of our tree planting along the northern banks of the creek. The total funding sought is \$2,250.

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National Tree Day—31 July 2011—in Scotts Street Reserve in Heathmont

President's Report (continued)

New FFDC Banner

We now have an official FFDC banner to help promote the group at our various events throughout the year. See the picture on page 3.

Weeding Day

The committee is planning to organise a “Weeding Day” each year to compliment our other activities including water testing, planting and clean ups. If you are interested in participating in the weeding event please contact me on my email address on the back page.

Water Testing

We are pleased to report that water testing recommenced again in September following a break of 2 years due to the drought. Thank you to the many members rostered on to conduct tests once a month and to Bill Jones for leading the testing activity.

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, tree planting, clean up events and other activities. To all, wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2012.

Charlie Miller— President

National Tree Day - Sunday 31 July 2011

We had another hugely successful National Tree Day planting event in Scott's Street Reserve in Heathmont. Around 90 people turned out in beautiful late July sunshine to plant 1000 trees, shrubs and grasses at 2 sites prepared for us by the Maroondah Bushland Management team. The event finished with a BBQ.

The plants included: Black Wattle, Bidgee Widgee, Sweet Bursaria, Tall Sedge, Pale Flax-lily, Narrow-leaf Peppermint, Red-fruit Saw-sedge, Hop Goodenia, Siny-headed Mat-rush, Elderberry Panax and Hazel Pomaderris.

Thanks go to committee members Barry Robinson, Viv Holyoake, Chris MacFarlane (and family), Vicky Pearse, Tim Hughes and Ashley Miller for their efforts on the day.

Thank you to our members, the Guide and church groups and the volunteers from all over Knox and Maroondah for making the event so successful.

Finally a thank you to Craig Mauger and the Maroondah Bushland Management team for supplying the trees, preparing the sites including mulching and digging the holes and their support on the day.

Early plans are already underway for our National Tree Day planting on **Sunday 29th July 2012**. At this stage we intend to plant in Manson's Reserve on the Knox side of the creek. Please keep this day free in your diary. More details will be posted on our website closer to the day.

Frogs along Dandenong Creek

Last May we found 4 or 5 different species of frog along Dandenong Creek but most of them were either Common Froglets or Southern Brown Tree Frogs, both of which are small frogs. The Common Froglet is about the size of a fingernail and the males call hopefully for most of the year. Both of these frogs can spawn in small shallow puddles and will happily inhabit garden ponds if they are sunny and with some rushes for the spawn to cling to.

By the end of October, the Southern Brown Tree Frogs had finished calling altogether and there were far fewer Common Froglets. These frogs had finished spawning and the tadpoles were now happily growing. Instead there were plenty of Spot-Striped Marsh Frogs and These are medium sized until the Spring rains the pools. The Striped blessing as it eats other sounds like a chook while sounds like 2 stones frogs do not generally use



By the time you read this, finished spawning and Pobblebonk or Eastern Banjo (pictured) frog, which is about the size of your fist. Pobblebonks wait til summer to spawn and can only be found in larger permanent waterholes.

these frogs may also have you may hear the larger Marsh Frog is a mixed frogs as well as insects. It the spotted Marsh Frog knocking together. These garden ponds.

Frogs are regarded as a basic indicator of a healthy environment, so we can be proud of their presence in the waterholes along our creek.

Vivien Holyoake—Vice President



New FFDC banner (from left Bill Jones, Frank Sullivan and Charlie Miller)

Summary of our achievements in 2011

At the end of each year it is always a good thing to reflect on our achievements:

- Healthy bank balance around \$4,000.
- Membership around 80 and stable.
- 30 bags of rubbish collected on Clean Up Australia Day.
- \$1,200 collected at our annual fund raiser.
- 40 trees planted by 20 students from Marlborough Primary School on FFDC Tree Day.
- 1000 trees, shrubs and grasses planted by 90 people on National Tree Day.
- 6 bags of rubbish collected on Spring Clean day.

Graffiti on the Automatic Weather Station

For those of you who use the bike path near the foot bridge at the end of Marlborough Rd in Heathmont you will have noticed graffiti all over the automatic weather station (AWS), some quite offensive.

Melbourne Water has agreed to take some action by painting a mural on the AWS to cover the existing graffiti and hopefully discourage further graffiti.

Dates to mark on your calendar

Sunday 4 March—9:00am to 11:30am—
Clean-up Australia Day meet at FFDC stand at end of Marlborough Rd in Heathmont.

Wednesday 25 April—10:00am to 4:00pm—
Annual Fund Raiser at Bunnings Bayswater.

May—FFDC Tree Planting on a date to be set. Look for details on our website.

Sunday 29 July—1:00 to 3:00pm—National Tree Day Planting—look for details on our website

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 2012, please email me your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of February at : charlie.miller@optusnet.com.au

Works along the creek

Melbourne Water has undertaken erosion control works between HE Parker Reserve and Wantirna Road, Heathmont.

Due to significant bank erosion alongside Dandenong Creek adjacent to J.W. Manson Reserve, exacerbated by the February flood event, Melbourne Water has armoured, with rock, approximately a 40-50m section of the creek, and included some minor rock chutes – which are designed to take some of the energy out of the system. The works were part of protecting the shared user path adjacent to the creek.

During recent flooding, an old rock chute on Dandenong Creek adjacent to the golf driving range failed. This caused the discharge pipe from the driving range to dislodge, creating a large cavity in the bank (approximately 4m x 8m). Melbourne Water is currently in the process of completing large scale work here to reconstruct the rock chute, re-set and rock armour this part of the creek, including around the discharge pipe.

Heather Graham—Melbourne Water

FFDC Committee for 2011-2012

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

(2 vacancies)

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 the Ringwood room at the Ringwood Library.