



# NEWSLETTER

July 2012

Edition No 38

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

#### Annual memberships are due

It is that time of year again, annual memberships are due. You will find enclosed with the newsletter a membership renewal form. If you choose to pay by 'bank transfer' make sure that you include your name in the bank transfer description area so that we can identify you as having paid. Payment by cheque is still an option. We would appreciate your renewal payments by the end of August at the latest.

#### Anzac Day Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser

We had a very successful fund raiser at Bunnings Bayswater on Anzac Day despite bad weather and shorter operating hours. Gross takings were \$1,567. The net profit was \$1,355 which is a fantastic outcome.

A big thank you to Lisa and Chris MacFarlane for organising the event for the first time. And many thanks to the following who manned the stall during the day: the MacFarlane family, Frank, Viv, Vicky, Barb, Tim and Ashley.

Finally thanks to Bunnings for allocating Anzac Day to us once again. To Heathmont Bakers Delight for supplying the bread free and Wantirna IGA for supplying cheap sausages.

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Anzac Day Fund Raiser at Bunnings

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

### Membership Drive

The \$5 membership joining fee has been waived for 12 months. This is being done to drive up our membership. We are planning a membership drive day down at the creek in mid spring. Watch the website for details.

### Weed control program

We have been successful in securing funding from Melbourne Water and Maroondah Council for a weed control program along the creek bank in the area known as "The Bluff" near Simpson's Court in Heathmont. See details on page 3.

### FFDC Tree Planting on the Ringwood Golf Course

We had beautiful late autumn sunshine for our FFDC Tree Planting event on Tue 8 May. 50 Manna Gums were planted with help of volunteers from the 'Leaps and Bounds' youth program from Bayswater. This completes our planting program on the northern bank of the golf course.

Thanks go to the volunteers from Leaps and Bounds, Bill Jones and Tim Hughes. A special thanks to Matt and Jeremy from the Ringwood Golf Course for allowing us to plant in the area and for organising the hole digging. Finally a big thanks to Viv Holyoake for organising a very successful event and to Tim and Anita for rescuing some of the trees after the huge flood in mid May.

### New Seats

Very pleasing to see 5 new seats erected along the bike path between Manson's Reserve and Boronia Rd, Wantirna. FFDC has been campaigning for additional seating along the shared pathway for a number of years for older and less mobile users.

Charlie Miller— President



Volunteers from "Leaps and Bounds" at the FFDC Tree Planting Day—8th May

### **Weed Control Program**

Great news, we have been successful in securing a grant totalling \$40,000 (yes, that's forty thousand!) over the next 3 years for a weed management program on 'the bluff' near Simpson's Crt in Heathmont. We don't actually get the money it will be managed on our behalf by the Maroondah Bushland Management team who will engage qualified contractors.

The grant is from Melbourne Water's River Health Incentives Program. Melbourne Water will provide \$20,000 and Maroondah Council will match that with \$20,000 of their funding.  
Year 1 \$20,000  
Year 2 \$10,000  
Year 3 \$10,000

A big thank you to Heather Graham from Melbourne Water and Craig Mauger from Maroondah Council Bushland Management team for assisting with the grant application.

The committee sees this as the first stage of a 5 year program (assuming further funding available) to eradicate/control weeds that have taken over the area particularly in the past 2 years following the end of the drought. The weeds that we would like eradicated/controlled include English Ivy, Cape Ivy, Kikuyu Grass, Wandering Jew, Perennial Veldt Grass, Broom, Boneseed, Blackberry and Sweet Pittosporum. These weeds are preventing regeneration of indigenous plants. Once the weeds are eradicated or under control FFDC will organise regular annual planting and weeding days to regenerate the area with indigenous plants and control the weeds.

This project will significantly improve the quality of the indigenous vegetation around the Bluff. It will also increase the plant species diversity through a combination of plantings by FFDC and natural regeneration processes. Being part of the important Dandenong Creek wildlife corridor it will increase the quality of habitat values for wildlife. It will increase the natural scenic value for the many recreational users along the Dandenong Creek shared pathway.



Volunteers at the Yarrabing Wetlands Planting on Sat 7 July

**Spot Light on a Committee Member—**  
Barbara Richards

I came to Australia from England in 1966 with a girlfriend, with the intention of staying for the obligatory two years as a Ten Pound Pom, then paying my fare back to Britain. However, the interviewing Aussie at Australia House in the Strand in London predicted that I would meet a sun bronzed Aussie male and stay, and was he right!! Actually, Peter had ginger hair and freckles, so not sure about the sun bronzed, but I certainly stayed here, and continue to love the life-style.

I started work in St Kilda Road where I met my husband Peter. We were married a year later. We had two children, Emma and Duncan, and I worked full time for most of the years when they were growing up. I moved into politics and became an Electorate Officer for federal and state politicians until I retired a few years ago.

I became involved with First Friends because I have lived in Heathmont for many years, have always had a dog and regularly walk along the creek. My then neighbour Jack Luke was President and he encouraged me to be involved. I believe that the work we, as volunteers, do to enhance the waterway and the pathways, is valuable and constructive for the future health

**Dates to mark on your calendar**

**Sunday 29 July—1:00 to 3:30pm**—National Tree Day Planting in Manson’s Reserve Wantirna. Followed by a sausage sizzle.

**Thursday 13 September—7:30pm**—FFDC Annual General Meeting in the Room 4 at the Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood, Ave, Ringwood. All members are welcome.

**Membership Drive Day**—a Sunday will be chosen in mid Spring to run a membership drive near the FFDC Information Stand at the end of Marlborough Rd in Heathmont. Watch for details on the 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 November 2012, please email me your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of October at : [charlie.miller@optusnet.com.au](mailto:charlie.miller@optusnet.com.au)

of Dandenong Creek.

**Yarrabing Community Planting – Sat 7 July**

On a typically frosty Melbourne morning where most people would rather be under their bed covers, we were fortunate to have clear blue skies and plenty of volunteers for this year’s Yarrabing Community Planting. The aim of the project was to extend the existing Yarrabing Wetland with Tussock grasses, Sedges, Rushes and endangered eucalyptus species.

Over the course of 2 hours we had over 40 people come and plant about 1200 plants. This particular group of volunteers generated a wonderful community spirit that provoked curiosity for people passing by on the bike track. We even had some passing cyclists jump off and come and join in the planting effort. We enjoyed a BBQ lunch at Anita Infanti’s home afterwards.

I’d like to thank Anita for her efforts in making this project an on-going reality. Also a big thank you to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Wantirna for providing the bulk of the volunteers on the day as well as the guidance and instruction we received from James Rose and Hayley Woodward. Can’t wait till next year!

Paul Ulloa

**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 Room 4 at the Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood, Ave, Ringwood.