



# Tanjenong Tales

## FFDC Newsletter July 2018

Edition no. 56

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### President's Report

Welcome to the 56th edition of Tanjenong Tales.

### New Look Newsletter

We have revamped the look of the newsletter. It is now produced using GoogleDocs allowing us easier collaboration during compilation. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please email them to us.

### New Website and URL

Thanks to some great work by our Vice President Anthony Bigelow, we now have a new group website. The new site is much easier to navigate. Check it out at <https://www.ffdc.org.au>.

### World Environment Day Event

On Saturday 2nd June FFDC participated in a major planting event at the new Mint St Wetlands site in Wantirna. See detailed article on page 3.



New billabong at Yarrabing Wetlands

### Major Pollution Event

On 21 May we witnessed a major pollution event, see full story on page 2.

### Membership Fees

It is that time of year again, annual memberships are due. You will find attached with the newsletter a membership renewal form. Memberships are still \$5 for individuals and \$10 for families. 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. If possible please also email your transfer receipt to [ffdc1999@gmail.com](mailto:ffdc1999@gmail.com). Payment by cheque is still an option.

Membership fees help fund our regular planting events. We would greatly appreciate your renewal payments by the end of September at the latest.

### Charlie Miller - President



Gang Gang Cockatoos at home on the creek

### Pollution Monitoring

FFDC has engaged Bio2Labs, a private firm specialising in pollution monitoring, to conduct water and sediment sampling in our area of the creek and upstream of Old Joes Creek in Bayswater. The engagement is funded by a grant of \$15,000 from the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation. The grant will be held in trust by the Knox Environment Society on behalf of FFDC. Samples will be gathered from 5 locations along the creek over a 6 month period including the confluences of Heatherdale, Bungalook and Old Joes Creek with the Dandenong Creek. This will help identify the type of contaminants and which tributaries contribute the most pollution. The data collected will be made available via a web portal to local authorities and the general public.

### Major Pollution Event

Sunday 21 May saw yet another major pollution event in the Creek. White foam extended from the outlet of Old Joes Creek in Bayswater all the way down to Eastlink in Wantirna, a distance of 4 kilometres. Using our Facebook page showing a dramatic video of the incident attracted the attention of several news outlets including the Age, the ABC, Channel 7, Channel 9 and the UK Mail.

This created fantastic publicity for our group and more importantly our cause in fighting pollution in the creek. As a result of the incident and the wide coverage by the news outlets we now have 1860 people who follow FFDC on Facebook.

43,726 people viewed all of the videos posted on the page that week and 65,704 people visited our Facebook page.

### Meeting with Melbourne Water and the EPA

On 7 June members of the FFDC committee had a very constructive meeting with representatives from Melbourne Water, the EPA, Centre for Aquatic Pollution Identification and Management (CAPIM) and Bio2Labs. Discussions centered around actions being taken by Melbourne Water and the EPA to combat pollution in the creek in both the short and long term. Some opportunities to be explored further include diverting Old Joes Creek base flow into the sewerage system, Melbourne Water funding the placement of an EPA officer shared between Knox and Maroondah Councils and adding the EPA Pollution Hotline number to the new interpretive signs placed along the creek. To the polluters - we're 100% behind Melbourne Water, EPA, CAPIM and Bio2Labs in support of their endeavours to stop these constant pollution dumps.



Interview with the ABC near HE Parker Reserve on 21 May



Major pollution event on 21 May

### World Environment Day Event

Over 300 members and volunteers attended the annual World Environment Day planting event at the new Mint St Wetlands in Wantirna on Saturday 2nd June. Over 3000 trees, shrubs and grasses were planted around the wetland area. See the full report on our website at: <https://www.ffdc.org.au/news>.

### Daylighting Project Update

The construction phase of the project is nearing completion, with planting underway. It's been 5 years since the project was first conceived between Melbourne Water and the EPA through community consultation and detailed design but it has been worth the wait. For more details go to:

<https://yoursay.melbournewater.com.au/enhancing-our-dandenong-creek/daylighting-dandenong-creek>.

### Frogs of Dandenong Creek Presentation

The presentation at our April meeting was well received despite ongoing challenges with the overhead projector. David De Angelis kept the audience of 30+ keen frog lovers entertained for 90 minutes with his expert knowledge of all species of frogs in our area and his passionate presentation style.

### KES Autumn Festival

On Saturday 5 May FFDC was invited to participate in the Knox Environment Society Autumn Festival. It was a good opportunity for us to promote our group and meet with like minded groups in the area to share our stories. We greatly appreciated the invitation by KES and the subsequent donation. We look forward to strengthening our relationship with KES now and into the future.

### Swinburne students project at Mint Street Wetlands

On Thursday 21 June students from Swinburne University presented their draft report on their environmental study of Mint Street, Yarrabing and Winton Wetlands to FFDC and the Knox Council Biodiversity team. So much time and effort has been put in by them on helping to improve the habitat in the area. The study included surveys of water quality, plants, birds and animals and macro invertebrates. We're looking forward to seeing the final project report which will provide an important baseline of information for comparison in future years. The students are to be commended on their work.



Daylighting the creek project



World Environment Day at Mint Street Wetlands



### National Tree Day Event

We had an amazing turn out of volunteers on National Tree Day Sunday 29 July. 150 plus people turned up to plant 4,000+ indigenous plants at the end of The Greenway in Heathmont. This is by far the largest and most successful National Tree Day event in the history of FFDC. See the full story on our website at [www.ffdc.org.au/news](http://www.ffdc.org.au/news)

### Dandenong Creek Community Panel

FFDC has been invited to be part of the Dandenong Creek Community Panel that will influence the next stage of the Enhancing our Dandenong Creek (EODC) program of works.

In 2013 Melbourne Water and EPA designed the five-year EODC program that focused on:  
detecting and preventing pollution;  
managing uncontrolled sewage spills;  
constructing new habitats for threatened fish species;  
improving the creek's health and amenity.

We are now approaching the end of that five-year program and it is time to shape the design of future works. If you have any ideas please email us at [ffdc1999@gmail.com](mailto:ffdc1999@gmail.com).

### Saving Skinks Crowdfunding Project

The Glossy Grass Skink and the Swamp Skink are little lizards indigenous to the outer Eastern suburbs of Melbourne. They are threatened by: Climate change, rapid urbanisation/ loss of habitat, and feral animals. FFDC wants to conduct a Skink census, re-vegetation and education project around our patch of Dandenong Creek. We will be running a crowd funding campaign (for four weeks from toward the end of August) to hopefully finance the project.

### Spotted

Great to see so many greenhood orchids in the bushland surrounding the creek.



### Dates to mark on your calendar

**Annual General Meeting** —Thursday 13 September  
7:30 pm at Maroondah Federation Estate.

### FFDC Spring Planting Event

Look for details on our website and Facebook page.

**FFDC 20th Anniversary Event** - Sunday 5th May 2019

For more details and up to date information on the events above and more go to our website: <https://www.ffdc.org.au/> or visit our Facebook site: @FirstFriendsofDandenongCreek

### Stop Press!

After several years of consultation, planning and design the Daylighting Project construction stage is now complete. The creek is now flowing much like it would have before it was piped and straightened nearly 50 years ago. The Melbourne Water project team are to be commended and congratulated for such a fantastic outcome for the local community, the environment and the critters. We recommend you take a look for yourself. FFDC will work with Melbourne Water and Knox and Maroondah Councils to plant out the creek banks over the next few years.

This newsletter is published by First Friends of Dandenong Creek Inc  
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Next edition of the newsletter is in November 2018, please email me your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of October to: [ffdc1999@gmail.com](mailto:ffdc1999@gmail.com).