



NEWSLETTER

July 2013

Edition No 41

FFDC Inc. PO Box 5044, Heathwood Vic

Website : ppw.landcarevic.net.au/ffdc

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 41th edition of Tanjenong Tales.

Annual Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser

We had another very successful Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser at Bunnings on Anzac Day. See full story on page 3.

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.

Trees on Ringwood Golf Course

The floods in early June knocked down many of the trees we have planted along the northern bank of the creek on the Ringwood Golf Course over the past 3 years. Luckily only a small number of the trees we planted last spring were completely washed away however some have subsequently died. We were able to stand up, clean up and re-stake the trees that were knocked over. Thanks to Tim Hughes for organising the working bee and thanks to Barb, Viv and Bill for helping out.

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Anzac Day—Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser at Bunnings—25 April

President's Report (continued)

New FFDC website

FFDC has a new website at ppw.landcarevic.net.au/ffdc. Our site is now part of the Victorian Landcare Gateway website. Please check our site regularly for the latest news and upcoming events.

Tree Planting on 'the Bluff'

It is pleasing to see the weed control program along the creek bank in the area known as "The Bluff" near Simpson's Court in Heathmont is having such a positive effect. In late May/early June Maroondah Council Bushland Management team organised the planting of 2000+ plants including eucalypts, wattle, black sheoaks, busaria and many varieties of native grasses and small shrubs. Once the shared pathway is repaired further planting will occur.

Preparation for National Tree Day

Site preparation is well advanced for the FFDC National Tree Day event on Sunday 28th July. We are again planting in Manson's Reserve Wantirna, just east of last years site. The Maroondah Bushland Management team has sprayed the thick kikuyu grass and mulched the area. Thanks to Craig Mauger and his team.

Annual General Meeting

The FFDC AGM will be held on **Thursday 12 September** starting at 7:30pm in Room 4 Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. We encourage all members to attend. The AGM will be followed by the normal September committee meeting.

Charlie Miller— President



Trees planted by FFDC on the northern bank of the Ringwood Golf Course

Annual Sausage Sizzle Fund Raiser— Thursday 25 April

FFDC had another very successful sausage sizzle fundraiser at Bunnings in Bayswater on Anzac Day. We sold about 750 sausages from 11:00am to 5:00pm for gross takings of \$1,925 with a net of \$1,550, a record. A great result!

The money raised helps to pay for some of our administration costs including our post office box, room hire, postage, insurance and newsletter printing. All necessary costs for an active and successful community group like ours.

A special thank you to the MacFarlane family who once again organised such a hugely successful event.

Thanks to Ritchies IGA Wantirna for the sausages, Heathmont Bakers Delight for the bread and Eastfield Natural Food Market for the onions. Without their support we would not be able to make such a healthy net profit.

Thanks to the following people who helped out on the day or during the preparation: MacFarlane family, Viv, Barb, Bill, Barry, Frank, Ashley, Tim and the Marek family.

Finally thanks to Bunnings Bayswater for once gain allocating us Anzac Day. Planning for next years fund raiser will commence soon.

Container deposit schemes (CDS)

Every year FFDC conducts a clean up event along the creek on Clean Up Australia Day in early March. Overwhelmingly, the number one rubbish item our volunteers collect is drink containers that have been discarded around shopping centres upstream of our area of the Dandenong Creek. Each year the amount of rubbish we collect on the day increases significantly. At FFDC we are all in agreement that the only way to effectively reduce the amount of drink containers entering the creek is to introduce a 'container deposit scheme' like the one that has operated successfully in South Australia for many years.

The fight for a national container refund scheme is getting closer to the pointy end. The challenge is that waste management is state based legislation, so we need to get the majority of states across the line. The premiers of Victoria and Tasmania have flagged their support. Western Australia and the ACT are actively debating options. The NSW government needs to know what their community wants.

We can't let this campaign be derailed by misinformation and scare tactics like those employed by the Australian Food & Grocery Council and market lead beverage companies particularly Coca-Cola Amatil. They are running a scare campaign calling the proposed scheme a 'new tax'. Coke claim that a National Bin Network is the best way forward but this scheme has been proven to be far less successful than CDS. Firstly because it relies on people to actually put their rubbish in the bin in the first place. Secondly the rubbish needs to go in the correct bin, if a recycle bin contains over 7% of the wrong rubbish it will ALL go straight to landfill. CDS works as there are always going to be people to will litter, but if there is a 10c value on each of the bottles and cans then there will always be someone who picks them up and collects the cash.

If you feel strongly about this matter, call, email or write to your local MPs or newspaper stating your strong support for a national container deposit scheme.

Spotlight on a Committee Member—Tim Hughes

I have lived in Vermont for the past 36 years and spend many hours walking along Dandenong Creek. I have managed to walk from The Basin down to the Bay along the creek, (over a many weekends). The long flat walks that creek offers is a good way to keep fit without sweating too much.

I used to work in IT, writing my first computer program in 1968 at the age of 18. I think working with machines and looking at video screens all day gives you a real appreciation of the value nature. After retiring I got to spend a lot more time "down at the creek". Chatting to the "the goat man" one day I asked his opinion of friends groups. He said they did good work and now that I had the time I should join one.

I have a special fondness for the Winton Wetlands and wildlife it brings to the creek, particularly the water birds and ground feeding parrots. After the freeway was built it was obvious that it was interfering with the run-off going into the wetlands. I decided to make contact with the FFDC to see if they could help. This resulted in me having a long chat with Barry Robinson, (a long serving committee member) and he talked

me into not only joining FFDC but being on the committee. The three years since it has been very rewarding. Things tend to change slowly down the creek but significant changes can be seen from the work of FFDC.

There are still ongoing discussions with Melbourne Water/Vic Roads and Eastlink about the drains but it will get fixed. Thankfully we have had a couple of big floods and the creek has filled the wetlands.

Apart from my creek activities I'm a keen photographer, a member and treasurer of the Ringwood Black and White Camera Club. I started off with a dark room in the bathroom but now, like most of our members, I'm 100% digital. I do miss the wet hands and the smell of chemicals when "making" a print. However the best reward is being able to teach photography (Digital SLR) at the Heathmont Community Living Centre. I run a course there each term, it only costs \$50 for four nights!!

Dates to mark on your calendar

Thursday 12 September—FFDC Annual General Meeting—7:30 to 8:30pm Room 4 Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Ave, Ringwood. The AGM will be followed by the normal September committee meeting.

Sunday 2nd March 2014—9:00 am to 11:30am—FFDC Clean Up Australia Day event. Meet near the FFDC Information Stand at the end of Marlborough Rd, Heathmont. A free sausage sizzle will be held afterwards.

For more up to date information on the events above you can check details on our website:

ppw.landcarevic.net.au/ffdc

Next edition of the newsletter is in November 2013, please email me your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of October at : **charlie.miller@optusnet.com.au**

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.