



FIRST FRIENDS OF DANDELONG CREEK Inc. no A0039273V

# TANJENONG TALES

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# NEWSLETTER

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FFDC Inc. PO Box 5044, Heathwood Vic

Website : <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/portphillipwesternport/ffdc/>

## President's Report

Welcome to the 51st edition of Tanjenong Tales.

### 2016 Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to announce we have a committee of 8 for 2016/17 following the 2016 AGM held on Thursday 8 September. We welcome Anthony Bigelow as a new committee member and look forward to his contribution as our digital communications person.

### FFDC on Facebook

Thanks to Anthony Bigelow we now have a very active Facebook presence. Please follow and 'like us' at @FirstFriendsDandenongCreek. There is a wonderful growing collection of photos of local indigenous flora.

### New FFDC website

Landcare Victoria has revamped the website that FFDC's website is based on. The aim of the revamp is to enable fellow landcare groups like FFDC to share information and resources. The new FFDC URL is <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/portphillipwesternport/ffdc/>. Please check the website for news and upcoming events.

### FFDC Clean Up with Marlborough Primary

On Tuesday 6 September around 200 students, teachers and parents from Marlborough Primary School in Heathmont collected 3 large bags of rubbish along the Dandenong creek from Manson's Reserve in Wantirna down to the bridge over Wantirna Rd. It was fantastic to see the students enjoying themselves while undertaking such an important role for the local environment.

Many thanks to Mel Douglas from Marlborough Primary and Frank Sullivan from FFDC for helping organise the event. We hope to make this an annual event.

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The creek area cleaned up by the students from Marlborough Primary School

## President's Report (continued)

### Enhancing our Dandenong Creek project

Pleasing to see Melbourne Water's Enhancing our Dandenong Creek project, in our section of the creek, is nearing the construction stage. See the update on page 4.

### Spring wildflowers

The photos below show just some of the many wildflowers captured by Anthony Bigelow, our newest committee member, along the creek and surrounding bushland reserves. To see the whole collection go to our Facebook site.

### Water in Winton Wetlands

Following the project to restore water to Winton Wetlands from Eastlink in 2014 and a very wet winter and early spring this year, FFDC is pleased to report the wetlands are now teaming with water once again. See the photo on page 3.

While we are on Winton Wetlands, Melbourne Water is planning a weeding and revegetation project there in 2017. It's not yet confirmed but FFDC may use this project as an opportunity for our annual National Tree Day event. Look for updates on our website.

### Thankyou

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 water testing, tree planting, clean up events and other activities. To all, wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2017.

**Charlie Miller—President**



Spring wild flowers out along the Dandenong Creek and surrounding bushland reserves

### **Container Deposit Legislation in Australia**

Drink containers make up the largest portion of rubbish the FFDC collect during clean up events including Clean up Australia Day. Rubbish is always prominent along the banks of the creek after flooding occurs. This rubbish originates from up stream shopping centres and enters the creek via the storm water system. Unfortunately, most of this rubbish finds its way into Port Phillip Bay and then into the ocean where sea creatures including birds, seals and turtles ingest the plastic with dire consequences.

We are fortunate that our members and volunteers regularly clean up this rubbish but we need preventative measures put in place. Container deposit legislation (CDL) also known as a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) is in place in the Australian state of South Australia and the Northern Territory. New South Wales has announced plans to start a scheme in July 2017. Queensland has recently announced it will pursue a scheme possibly in partnership with NSW for implementation around 2017–2018. Western Australia has also announced plans for a scheme in 2018 as well. The ACT says it will become part of the NSW CDS.

Attempts to introduce similar legislation in other states have been unsuccessful to date. A Newspoll survey found a majority of people in Australia support a deposit scheme, and a national scheme has also been proposed.

This leaves Victoria and Tasmania as the only remaining states without a CDS after 2018. Let's hope that the Victorian government has an epiphany of common sense and breaks the shackles of the Beverage Industry, who run negative campaigns against such schemes, to announce the introduction of a CDS for Victoria in the not too distant future. A Newspoll conducted in November 2013 showed that 80% of Victorians favour a CDS.

The CDS in SA, introduced in 1977, is testimony to the success of these schemes with the highest recycling rate of all states and the absence of container litter along roads, waterways and beaches.

Finally, Container Deposit Schemes provide an opportunity for individuals and community groups to raise much needed funds and encourage recycling.

**Charlie Miller**



One of the billabongs in Winton Wetlands full of water following good winter and spring rain

### **Spotted!**

Abundant spring flora along the creek and surrounding bushland reserves.

### **Enhancing our Dandenong Creek (EODC)—Update**

Arguably the most exciting component of the Enhancing Our Dandenong Creek Natural Amenity project is the “Daylighting Dandenong Creek” project. Melbourne Water is currently refining the design for the revitalisation of an 850m section of Dandenong Creek, between the railway bridge and H.E. Parker Reserve. The project will remove 850m of pipe, and bring the daylight back to the creek (daylighting) by constructing a naturalised waterway in its place. Working within the small existing corridor, the revitalised Dandenong Creek will have a variable and natural form that is representative of the former waterway, with plenty of indigenous riparian planting along the banks.

In addition, six remnant billabongs that exist along the edge of Dandenong Creek will be re-created. This involves removing soil to create deeper pools that will fill in high rainfall events, and create habitat for local native species.

Signage will also be installed between Eastlink and the railway line in Heathmont providing local historical information and insights into native flora and fauna.

The project is due to commence construction over the summer 2016/17 period and be completed by June 2018.

### **Dates to mark on your calendar**

**Sunday 5 March 2017—9:30am to 11:00am**  
FFDC Clean Up Australia event. Look for details on our website closer to the day.

**Sunday 30 July 2017—1:00pm to 3:30pm**  
FFDC National Tree Day event. Look for details on our website closer to the day.

For more details and up to date information on the events above go to our website:

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/portphilipwesternport/ffdc/>

Next edition of the newsletter is in March 2017, please email me your ideas for articles or stories of interest by the end of February at :  
[ffdc1999@gmail.com](mailto:ffdc1999@gmail.com)

### **Spotlight on Anthony Bigelow**

Having fostered a love for the ‘Bush’ when growing up in country Victoria, I was fortunate to have lived in a house surrounded by forest, and would often see Koala’s, Kangaroo’s and the odd Echidna occasionally visiting. Slow to appreciate the indigenous vegetation though, I ended up spending many hours in my youth ‘hunting’ for the indigenous flora of the area and photographically recording them. Since moving to Vermont in 2010, I’ve been struck by how many wonderful reserves and fine examples of remnant bushland exist along the Dandenong creek corridor, and the efforts of the community to maintain and improve those assets.

Our young family over the years have often cycled along the bike tracks, feed the ducks in the creek and walked through many of the reserves. It wasn’t until recently though that the FFDC and my path crossed in connection with the revegetation works along Heatherdale Creek (2015/16) and my interest in the ‘Bush’ was rekindled. As an avid gardener, and having always wanted to revegetate a block of land, we’ve continued the task along our portion of Heatherdale Creek and across our body corporate area; approximately an acre of wetland in total is being revegetated. Although it will take many years for the indigenous vegetation to take a good foothold, I’m always up for a challenge! I’m looking forward to contributing what I can to the FFDC, and learning as much as possible from the accumulated wealth of knowledge.

### **FFDC Committee for 2016-2017**

**President:** Charlie Miller

**Vice-President:** Vacant

**Secretary:** Vicky Pearse (minutes)  
Barbara Richards (membership)

**Treasurer:** Frank Sullivan

**General Committee:**

Bill Jones  
Matt McCabe  
Anthony Bigelow  
Lex Edmond

**Life Members:**

Barry Robinson  
Frank Sullivan  
Vivien Holyoake

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.