

## Bus shelter like a second home

WHEN the Fern Tree Community Association asked for someone with a quirky sense of humour to maintain the Village Green bus shelter, Marna and Jarod answered the call.

The pair, who have lived in Fern Tree for the past year, have transformed the bus shelter into an offbeat retreat that is attracting compliments from people around the world.

A quick flick through the visitors' book reveals that overseas tourists are thrilled to discover Fern Tree's over-the-top bus stop.

Marna and Jarod have spent hours decorating the bus shelter. A lot of their treasures have come from the tip shop in South Hobart.



Marna (left) and Jarod in the bus shelter

## Heat the hall project

ANYONE who has used the Fern Tree Community Centre will know how limited the heating is. Our current heater is inadequately rated to provide comfort in such a high-ceilinged space.

The large area of glazing on the north wall provides solar heat gain at certain times of year but this is more of a daytime benefit.

Radiant heat is the most efficient method for heating the centre because it is pretty well instantaneous in its effect, can be positioned so that it is focused on the users, and can be easily controlled

by well thought out switching design.

The disadvantage is that it is necessary to install a high total wattage, and this has an effect on the circuitry, metering and fuseboard design and the upgrading of the supply from the street.

A recent quote for this work indicates a likely installation cost of between \$7500 and \$8000. The heaters themselves will be in the order of \$2500.

We are applying for as many grants as we can and have received \$1000 from Nyrstar.

Takings from the past two quiz nights, amounting to about \$1200, have been allocated to the heat the hall fund.

There will be a number of fundraising events coming up next year.

The Fern Tree Community Association hopes community members will recognise the importance of ensuring the ongoing viability of the community centre and one way to do this is to support the events the FTCA organises.

Think of it as an investment in your community.

Thanks to Duncan Kerr MHR for assistance in printing this community newsletter

Fern Tree Community Association Inc., 8 Stephenson Place, Fern Tree. GST Registered. ABN 88 577 475 907. The Fern Tree Community Association is a non-profit group set up to serve and represent the community of Fern Tree. Meetings that are open to all residents elect a committee each year to conduct the association's business. Address all correspondence to: The Secretary, Fern Tree Community Association, 8 Stephenson Pl, Fern Tree, 7054 or email secretary@ferntree.tas.au



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## Celebrate Christmas

THE 22nd Fern Tree Carols by Candlelight will be held on Sunday, 20 December, in the Fern Tree Bower, opposite the tavern, starting at 8.30pm. If the weather is bad, the carols will be held at the community centre. Bring a cushion or a rug.

The Fern Tree Fire Brigade will hold its lolly run on Christmas Eve. A fire truck will start at the fire station at 6pm and will visit all streets in Fern Tree, Neika to Wolfs Rd, Ridgeway, South Hobart to Strickland Ave and Fingerpost and Turnip Fields.



Image: Ron Bird  
FreeDigitalPhotos.net

## Prepare, act, survive

THE Fern Tree Fire Brigade would like to remind all residents to prepare for the forthcoming bushfire season. Are you bushfire ready? Prepare, act, survive.

### PREPARE

- Prepare a personal or family bushfire plan.
- Prepare your property for the impact of bushfire. For full details of property preparation and preparing yourself and your family, view the *Prepare to Survive* DVD. To obtain a copy of the DVD, phone 1800 000 699.
- Prepare to leave early if that is in your plan.
- Prepare yourself if you intend to stay and defend your property.

### ACT

Act on your bushfire plan and stick to it.

If your plan is to leave your property, you must leave early.

If your plan is to stay and defend, you and your property must be well prepared. In either case, it's too late to leave or prepare your property as the fire approaches.

Keep yourself informed about what's going

on by observing local conditions, listening to the ABC local AM radio 936 and checking the TFS website — [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au).

### SURVIVE

The bottom line is that people are more important than houses. Become familiar with the bushfire warning alert levels and the new fire danger rating (FDR) system.

The *Bushfire, Prepare Act Survive, Are YOU Bushfire Ready?* booklet circulated in *The Mercury* details the actions you need to take to be bushfire ready.

If you don't have a copy, go to [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au) and click on the *Bushfire Prepare Act Survive* image or request a copy by phoning 1800 000 699.

## Changing of the guard

AFTER 38 years of volunteer service to the fire service and to the Fern Tree and Tasmanian community, Don Jones has decided to call it a day as Fern Tree Brigade Chief. More details in the next newsletter.



# Great response to forum

IT WAS wonderful to see so many people turning up to the Fern Tree area community bushfire forum on 1 November.

This indicates many residents in and around Fern Tree are very aware of their bushfire risk. Awareness of risk is the first step to deciding to act to mitigate the risk.

The main messages from the forum were:

- While there is much that individuals can do to prepare their own property, a community response is best. Bushfires do not respect property boundaries.
- Staying and defending a well-prepared property or leaving early are both valid options.

However, people need to plan for a number of contingencies. Even though you may have a plan to leave, if you don't leave early it may not be possible, so preparing your property still offers the best means of protection.

Fern Tree and surrounds is one of four communities chosen for a community development pilot project. As the TFS community development officer, I am available to facilitate local community responses to bushfire risk. Contact me on 6230 8600 or 0418 145 746 or email [kerry.sakariassen@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:kerry.sakariassen@fire.tas.gov.au) if you think I can be of help to your street or local area.

- Kerry Sakariassen

# Quiz night raises \$714 for heating fund

AROUND 55 people attended the Fern Tree Halloween quiz night in October, raising \$714 for the Fern Tree Community Association's heat the hall fund.

The FTCA thanks the fol-

lowing people and businesses for their sponsorship:

The Salad Bowl, South Hobart; South Hobart Pharmacy; OfficeWorks, Hobart; Kemp and Denning, Hobart; AWM Electrical, Hobart;

Fresh Food Market, Channel Court, Kingston; Channel Court Wine Cellars, Kingston; Mitre 10, The Fork in the Road, Huntingfield; Alan Bryce, Fern Tree; Murielle and Rob, Fern Tree.

# Community garden

IN November, around 25 people from Fern Tree and Ridgeway listened to a presentation from Nell Smit about the Tarroona Community Garden.

The idea of a community garden behind the Fern Tree community centre was embraced. The idea is to produce fruit and veg to be shared among members and sold through the shop, the money raised to go back into the garden project or to the community association.

Berries will be a major

focus - we envisage jam and other preserve-making days, and a festival along the lines of the old Strawberry Festival. Other ideas include holding monthly events at the community centre, with an op-shop and market stalls.

A group is working on the community garden plan and is seeking funding. If you would like to know more, contact Sharon Moore on 6239 1388 or [smoore@in.tas.net.au](mailto:smoore@in.tas.net.au) or Maria Demange on 6239 1797 or [mde-mange@bigpond.com](mailto:mde-mange@bigpond.com).

**FERN** Tree Playgroup meets Thursdays between 10am and noon in the community centre. Contact Anne Parisi on 6239 1995.

**FERN** Tree Bushcare's next meeting is Sunday, 14 February 2010. Contact Bec Johnson on 6239 1962.

**ORANGE** Hawkweed is like dandelion but with orange flowers and hairy stems and leaves. It will flower in January. If you find some in your garden, remove it or if you can't, ring bushcare co-ordinator Sonya on 6238 2884.

# Contribute to our website

THOSE of you who attended the recent quiz night also witnessed the official launch of the Fern Tree community website.

It was intentionally a low-key event, but for those who have been involved in putting the site together, a significant step. There is still plenty more work to do, but that is what the site is about - an on-line tool for communication within the community which can adapt to the needs of the community.

The key to the future success of the website will be in the use of the community makes of it. The FTCA is committed to taking advantage of computer technology and the internet in order to enhance community communication and contribute to new lifestyle opportunities.

Those of us who are creating the content want you to guide us - use the forums or email to let us know what works, what doesn't and what else should be incorporated. There are many possibilities.

But above all, why not become a contributor? If you visit the history section you will find some ideas as to how you can do this; or send news or notice of events using the email addresses given on those pages.

[ferntree.tas.au](http://ferntree.tas.au) Why not make it one of your favourites/bookmarks?

# Change at store



A NEW family has taken over the Fern Tree General Store. Mira Collins and her husband AJ have moved to the community with their three children - Dyllan, 15, Courtney, 11 and Jaymi, 5.

Many residents may have

already met Mira, who runs the shop. She says support has been good but she would like to see more residents come in. The store is open from 7.30am to 7.30pm Monday to Saturday and 8.30am to 6.30pm Sunday.

# Clothing sale raises funds

THANKS to Janneke, who ran a kids' clothes and toy market in October. A proportion of profits (\$106) went towards the Fern Tree Community Association's ongoing fundraising efforts.

**Mountain Property Maintenance**

- Fencing
- Landscaping
- Hazard reduction
- Mowing and slashing
- Property cleanup/maintenance
- Annual servicing and test/new installations of fire fighting pumps and fittings

**MPM**

Chris Wagstaff  
0438 055 199  
Or  
Ken Fishwick  
0411 627 148

Local Fern Tree Business    Great Rates are guaranteed