

Springs development: what do you think?

SULTAN Holdings is proposing to build a restaurant/café at The Springs on Mt Wellington.

The single modern building will be on the land currently occupied by the stone toilet block and stone shelter, and there will be an 85 space carpark located on part of the cleared area where the snow plough shed now stands.

The building will contain an interpretation/information area, and a shop associated with the interpretation area, and will be oriented to get a view of the Organ Pipes.

In addition, the developers will build a replacement toilet block and picnic facilities, and will relocate the snow plough shed.

Water will be supplied from tanks at the old hotel site, fed by the local springs. The development is said to be consistent with the formal requirements for development at The Springs.

FTCA would like to get a better understanding of community views before proceeding with any action.

We regret that we were unable to do this in the short time available for public comment prior to Christmas. We have established a web page on the Fern Tree website (<http://ferntree.tas.au>) then click on The Springs link at the right).

There are links to some of the relevant planning documents and you can post your thoughts and view the opinions of others.

We urge you to look at the planning documents and do any other research you can before commenting.

A likely outcome of this process is the holding of a public meeting – details to come. If you aren't able to use the internet, ring Bruce Wilson on 6239 1028.

Carols night a success

THE 22nd Fern Tree Carols by Candlelight was held in the Fern Tree Park on Sunday, 20 December 2009.

Around 100 people sang lustily to all their favourite carols, encouraged by Phil Sansom as MC and Una Harbinson on keyboard.

Readings were performed by local and international visitors and the evening concluded with fine communal renditions of *Jingle Bells* and

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

The FTCA thanks all the people who came along, Phil for being an excellent compere, John Harbinson and Brian Marriott for connecting up the sound system (provided by GR8 Productions), and Una who organised the program. Around \$200 was received in donations, which will offset the costs of the evening.

BOOK FAIR

**Saturday, Feb 27
10am-2pm
at the Fern Tree
Community Centre**

**More than
300 titles
Prices start
at 50c**



**Funds raised go towards the
FTCA's Heat the Hall project**

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. Community website: ferntree.tas.au



The Big Day Out



Meet your neighbours on Sunday, Feb 14

THIS year we have three venues for the event, which runs from 3.30pm to 6pm. These are:

Barbara Tassell and Jim Laver of 7 Pillinger Drive will host residents of upper Strickland Avenue, Huon Road to the Pillinger Drive turn off, Bracken Lane and Pillinger Drive. Phone 6239 1407.

Doreen and Terry Gill will welcome residents of Summerleas Road and its offshoots, Stephenson Place and Huon Road from Pillinger Drive to Clegg Road to their home at 127 Summerleas Road. Phone 6239 1124.

Liz Dombrovskis and her team of helpers at 761 Huon Road will welcome residents of Huon Road and its offshoots from Clegg Road

south. Phone 6239 1212. Residents of Ridgeway will be welcome at any of the venues.

Your hosts will provide the venue and ambience and, if time permits, will distribute reminder notices closer to the event.

You will bring food, drinks, glasses and chairs and it will be helpful to your hosts if you can let them know if you are coming. You are welcome to bring additional people.

Parking is difficult at all venues and we would encourage you to walk if possible.

If you do travel by car you should park on the road rather than in driveways.

If you have any further questions please ring Barbara Tassell on 6239 1407 for details.

What's new in the community

A NEW noticeboard for Fern Tree Community Association and Fire Brigade issues has been put up in a prominent place on the back wall of the Fern Tree General Store.

Thanks to Kerry Sakariassen (Tasmanian Fire Service) for supplying it and to store owner Mira for her support.

There has been a lack of available information about where to source fire-resistant building materials, so please use the noticeboard to share knowledge with the community.

A similar service, with links to other information, is also available on our website, <http://ferntree.tas.au/bushfire-protection>.

Strathewen response

LAST year the FTCA wrote to the Victorian bushfire recovery effort offering our services, as a fellow bushfire-prone community and one that actually received assistance from country Victoria after the 1967 fires.

We were put in touch with the devastated Strathewen community.

They are keen to hear of any advice we can offer about rebuilding their community.

If you have any thoughts or memories to offer, contact the FTCA at admin@ferntree.tas.au.

Questivale shakes it up

THE Mountain Festival's first event for 2010, the Mountain Questivale, rocked the community centre on Saturday, 23 January.

Bus stop designers Marna and Jarod dressed the room and local quiz maestros Len and Gay Spaans and Gill provided the questions. Christopher Lawrence anchored the show, ably partnered at the front-of-house by comedienne Momma Rosa (Rose Kokkoris).

Music was provided by samba percussion band Chicada and emerging troubadour Emlyn Johnson. Who won? Who cares!

Dates to note

FERN Tree Playgroup, Thursdays 10am, call Anne 6239 1995.

FERN Tree Bushcare, Sunday, 14 February, 10am, call Rob 6239 1991.

WEAVERS, knitters, felters and embroiderers are meeting on Sunday, March 14, from 3pm to 5pm at the Fern Tree Community Centre. A pot of natural dye will be on for yarn, fibre or small pieces of cloth. Bring a project to work on and something to share for afternoon tea. Call Chanchal Foxen 6239 1262.

FREE roadside green waste collection, Tuesday, 20 April.

MONSTER CAKE STALL

To be held by the FTCA outside the Fern Tree Community Centre on state election day.

Donations welcome, so now is the time to think about what you could bake, or you can buy up big when you come to vote.

All contributions must show the contact details of the maker, plus a list of ingredients. Hobart City Council regulations prohibit fresh cream.

Other produce and offers of help on the day will be welcomed. Phone 6239 1206



Fire chief retires

AFTER a volunteer career spanning 38 years with the Tasmania Fire Service, Don Jones retired from operational service with Fern Tree Fire Brigade on 6 December, 2009.

Don commenced as a firefighter in the Fern Tree Brigade in 1971, was promoted to deputy district officer in 1973 and then to district officer (now brigade chief) in 1975, the rank he then held to retirement.

Beyond his local brigade, Don was involved in a number of other fire service activities. These included membership of the Hobart special fire area committee, the TFS clothing committee, the TFS volunteer training advisory committee and the Wellington Park Trust maintenance co-ordinating committee. As a foundation committee member of the Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association, he has been its treasurer for years.

Somehow he also found time to be a volunteer training instructor (training volunteers from other brigades), an incident management team member (during long-running wildfires, both here and interstate), and a foundation member of the Tasmania Fire Museum. He was one of the first Tasmanian volunteers to study and qualify for a Graduate Diploma from the Institution of Fire Engineers (UK). He also squeezed in a career as a high school teacher.

Among other decorations he has received, in 1992 he was awarded the Australian Fire Ser-



From left: Ken Fishwick, Phil Sanson, David van Geytenbeek and Garry Sullivan

vice Medal by the Governor-General for distinguished service. At a dinner in the Fern Tree Fire Station mess on 5 December, 2009, brigade members farewelled Don by presenting him with gifts and a framed and signed testimonial which summarised the highlights of his fire brigade service.

Don's retirement as brigade chief meant that all brigade officer positions fell vacant. An election was held, the outcome of which has been approved by the TFS chief officer.

The new brigade management team is: 4th officer Ken Fishwick, 3rd officer Phil Sanson, 2nd officer David van Geytenbeek and brigade chief Garry Sullivan.

Read the flyers and stay safe this summer

ALTHOUGH former 2nd officer Terry Gill, with 30 years' experience as a brigade officer, was unsuccessful in being re-elected to an officer position, he has agreed to remain active in the brigade as a leading firefighter and will take on the additional role of co-ordinating our community engagement activities.

Our brigade has always considered interaction with our local community to be an important part of promoting community fire safety

awareness. Terry's role will include being our bushfire ready neighbourhood facilitator. Please take up the invitation to become involved in the flyer with this newsletter.

I also draw your attention to the other flyer with this newsletter: Using Fire Outdoors for Hazard Reduction. Please retain that flyer for future reference and, on behalf of the brigade, have a safe summer.

- Brigade chief Garry Sullivan