

From your local Alderman

While we all have different reasons for living here, I believe all folks that live in Fern Tree would have one thing in common. And that is a deep appreciation of the special qualities of Fern Tree. People who live in Fern Tree are often passionate about why they live here, and what they want to keep, what they don't want to see happen, in their ideas about what Fern Tree represents.

Too often though, when folks are asked for an opinion, they either don't speak up, or are content to let others speak for them, thinking the right thing will be said. This sort of complacent attitude isn't any good any more. There are real pressures on Fern Tree, from tourism, from subdivision, from the changes in local, state and federal government policies.

One of the most important decisions that you, as a resident, will make shortly, is whether or not to contribute to Hobart City Council's Local Area Plan process for Fern Tree. On 13 December 1999 Council approved the release of the draft Fern Tree Local Area Planning Provisions for public comment. The Local Area Planning Provisions comprise two documents. Volume 1 (Background Document) contains supporting information on the physical environment, community views, infrastructure and constraints and hazards. Volume 2 (Local Area Planning Provisions) provides the framework for the future planning, development and management of Fern Tree and recommends a number of actions for implementation.

Council is inviting public comments on the draft document prior to making any decision on its recommendations. The documents are available at either the Council's Customer Service Centre for a nominal cost, or you can access them on the internet at www.hobartcity.com.au/planning/ferntree/index.htm. Council will shortly letterbox Fern Tree and hold a community workshop at the end of February. The closing date for comment is 31 March 2000.

So what does it mean to me, you might ask. Well, currently Fern Tree is zoned as a Rural area but this doesn't reflect what is on the ground. Neither does it reflect the aspirations of many of the people of Fern Tree. This is a once-only opportunity to contribute to change you can live with and want to see happen. Do we want to return to being the holiday resort of Hobart? How important is it to you to keep the bushland? Do we want a central node of tourism development with the rest of us left in peace on the outer fringes? How dense do we want building on blocks of land here? How do we feel about bed and breakfast accommodation dotted around the area?

This time, it is important that not only the usual faces turn up at the public consultation or make the effort to write a few lines about what they think about city planning in Fern Tree. I urge all of you, even if this is the only time you ever will, to make the time to read these documents and take part in the community consultation process. If you need help with any part of it, don't hesitate to call me (62391317).

Best regards,

— *Alderman Eva Ruzicka*

The Fern Tree Community Association Inc. is a non-profit group set up to serve and represent the community of Fern Tree. Meetings 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 Place, Fern Tree 7054.*

The *Newsletter* is published 5-6 times a year and is distributed throughout the Fern Tree area by volunteers.

Offers of assistance with distribution are welcome. Paid advertisements are accepted: \$20 for a full page, \$10 per

½-page, \$5 per ¼-page, payable on placement of the advertisement

Find us on the Web at <http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/ferntree>

Fern Tree Community Association Inc. Newsletter

www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/ferntree FEBRUARY 2000



the
**Mountain
Orchestra**

See pages 3-6 for news
about this unique community project,
and an invitation to be part of it...

Bushcare needs you!



Hey you local caring environmentalists — where are you? Fern Tree Bushcare Group needs you to put your bodies where your sentiments are. Weeds continue to encroach on our own bit of nature and the small band of bushcare volunteers are ever-hopeful of an increase in supporters, particularly as several stalwarts will be unavailable during the year. No special skills are needed. You learn on the job what you don't already know. We meet in the vicinity of Stephenson Place at 9.30 am on the second Sunday of each month and work till noon, regardless of the weather — Fern Tree folk

don't melt in the rain.

Look for the Bushcare trailer and join in the fun...it really is! — *Judy Sprent (tel. 6239 1180)*

When walking on the Pipeline Track... Keep your dog on a lead!

A resident reports an unpleasant experience when he met another walker exercising his dogs on a busy part of the Pipeline Track in January.

All the dogs were running free, and the largest of them, a German Shepherd, approached him aggressively, which he found intimidating. As he passed the dog-owner, he suggested to him that he should keep his pets on a lead. In response, the owner was as aggressive as his dog had been.

The only appropriate response of any dog-owner in such circumstances is to apologise and immediately restrain their dogs. Under HCC by-laws, all dogs must be on a lead on public land on the Mountain. It is especially important that they are restrained on the Pipeline Track, which is a busy pedestrian thoroughfare.

Local Area Plan:

Council invites residents to submit their views

The Fern Tree Local Area Plan is the most important document for our community produced by the Hobart City Council in recent years. It will affect how we manage our local affairs, individually and collectively, for many years to come. Anyone interested in the future of Fern Tree should obtain a copy (or check out the website) and take in what it has to say.

The plan is currently approaching its final stage. The HCC has advertised for people to submit their opinions about the plan itself or any subject arising from its draft provisions (see advertisement below). We have until the end of March to have our say before the Council applies the final touches. The plan is in two parts, obtainable from the Council Centre at a total cost of \$15. It's a good idea to buy both — they are an invaluable reference source if nothing else.

Submissions should be with the General Manager, Hobart City Council, by 31 March.

HOBART CITY COUNCIL

FERN TREE LOCAL AREA PLANNING PROVISIONS PUBLIC COMMENT INVITED

Draft Local Area Planning Provisions have been prepared for Fern Tree. The Planning Provisions set out strategies for the future of the Fern Tree area and identify standards for the use and development of land and resources.

Council is inviting public comments on the Local Area Planning Provisions prior to making any decision on their future implementation.

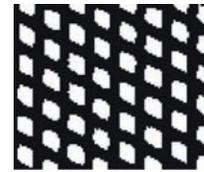
Copies of the Local Area Planning Provisions (Vol 2) document are available from Council's Customer Service Centre at a cost of \$5. The Background Document (Vol 1) is also available for \$10. The documents can also be viewed on Council's web site at www.hobartcity.com.au/planning.

Comments on the Planning Provisions should be sent to the General Manager, Hobart City Council, GPO Box 503E Hobart Tas 7001 by 31st March 2000.

For further information contact James McIlhenny on 6238 2891.

**P. O. Curtis
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**

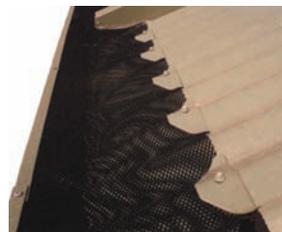
EXIT Fire, birds, leaves and snow...



Leafshield prevents birds from nesting in the roof via the gutters, leaves from settling in the gutters causing a fire hazard (see diagram at bottom right) and causes snow to slide off the roof without taking the gutter with it.



Fires are not nice, as many Fern Tree residents will surely realise. Do you know the physics of fires and roofs? According to many fire authorities, burning embers can travel over 30 km from the fire front and ignite debris in the gutter. Then, due to natural draught, the fire enters the roof cavity and you have a waterproof fire. Up to 80% of homes destroyed in a high fire situation catch from the gutters.



Although the supplying and fitting of Leafshield is not cheap, one item of value saved by it in saving the house, or one life saved in the Fern Tree area, is certainly worth the cost.

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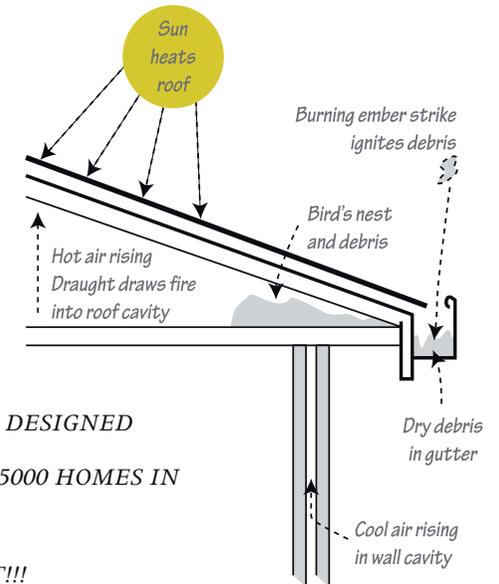
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WE MUST HAVE GOT IT RIGHT!!!



...Mountain Orchestra



Above: Marcus with his prize, a solid blackwood drum-log. Left: Andrew gets to work.



This is where you come in

Anyone can join in this community event, at any time. We're making the instruments at weekly gatherings at Strato's workshop, every Sunday for another few weeks. You don't need to come every week — just when you can make it. Transport is available — just call Chris Cooper on 6223 4656, Torquil Canning on 6239 1570 or Peter Boyer on 6239 1181.

If you can't spare time to make instruments but think you might have some time from late February through March, consider coming along for a bash at playing something. You don't have to have had any previous musical experience. If you don't manage to join in, come along to our concerts in April. Whatever, a good time is guaranteed.—*Peter Boyer*

The Mountain Orchestra has been assisted through Arts Tasmania by the Premier, Minister for State Development, and by the Hobart City Council. Our thanks are also due to the Wellington Park Management Trust and the Tasmanian Environment Centre.



be the sounding board for a very big bass-stringed "tea-chest", or a magnificent bass drum (or both), and a Watson's Wireless aluminium horn has great potential as an acoustic amplifier.

Apart from the efforts of Chris Cooper, Strato Anagnostis, Raffaele Marchellino, Don Cartwright, Marcus Tatton and others, the Mountain Orchestra is indebted to the Hobart City Council and Arts Tasmania for start-up funding, and to the Wellington Park Management Trust and the Tasmanian Environment Centre. With the help of our sponsors and our teachers, we'll get there.

We believe we can make this into an annual or two-yearly event, each time adding to past years' instruments with new, even wackier ideas for making musical sounds.

The Mountain Orchestra gets under way...



The Mountain Drum: Drum-maker Marcus Tatton (left) keeps an eye on Strato's work on a blackwood log which is now being carved, inside and out, into a drum based on the traditional design of New Guinea highlanders. It will be a

The Mountain Orchestra project is up and running. Two months after our first notice in the last newsletter, we have already had two community meetings and three workshops. We are confident that by April we'll have our orchestra and our music ready to serve up to the unsuspecting Hobart public.

First meetings

The process began in December with a well-attended meeting in the Fern Tree Community Centre. Fern Tree residents were augmented with people from South Hobart, Ridgeway and the lowlands. We were all curious to see what Chris Cooper and his co-conspirators had to say about this strange idea.

Chris outlined his plan — to plan and build musical instruments and play them at a Mount Wellington venue (probably The Springs) and at Salamanca Place early in April to celebrate the Mountain and what it means to us. The performances would be outdoors and it was envisaged that there would be no artificial amplification,

so the instruments would need to be large (or numerous) to make sufficient volume.

Chris described the steps he had already taken, including approaching Arts Tasmania and the Hobart City Council for support for the project (resulting in substantial financial support from each of these organisations). It still sounded strange, but interesting.

Then Chris introduced some people he'd roped in to the project, Strato Anagnostis and Raffaele Marchellino. Strato is a musical instrument-maker (now well-known for his hand-made kaleidoscopes) and Raffaele is a composer of national repute based at the Tasmanian Conservatorium of Music.

We were relieved to hear from Strato that, like us, he thought at first that Chris's idea was completely wacky. Then he started thinking about it and decided it had something going for it. He described some past experiences of his, making instruments from scratch with school groups. We began to take on some of Strato's

...Mountain Orchestra...



Above: Strato shows off a 10-minute PVC flute.
Right: Stringing up the gas-bottle gongs for sound-

enthusiasm as he described how people with no previous experience were making simple musical instruments in very quick time. Raffaele talked about his approach to making music. He strongly supported community groups getting involved — people did not need to have a musical background of any kind, formal or otherwise, to be part of the orchestra. He envisaged the performing group as a mixture of people with no musical experience, people with some background in music, and some who had had formal training. It would be mainly people involved in making the instruments but there would also be a number of professional instrumental and vocal performers.

When it came to composing the music, Raffaele said it would depend on what instruments were made. It was envisaged that the performance would last about one hour including an interval. He would be working on the music while the instruments were being put together, after which the performing group would get together and start rehearsals. Some other instrument makers were pres-

ent at the meeting, including Marcus Tatton, a drum-maker. All were enthusiastic about the project, offering their own time to work with members of the community to produce the instruments.

We talked at some length about what kind of instruments we might make and where we might get the raw materials. We agreed that percussion instruments would probably feature highly, as well as wind instruments both large (horn-type) and small (flutes, pipes and the like). We discussed possible sources of materials, such as plumbing suppliers (PVC pipes), gas suppliers (gas bottles), timber merchants and tips.

At a second meeting in January, we nutted



out some more ideas and planned the first hands-on day, to be held at Strato's Bream Creek workshop.

Getting hands dirty

Bream Creek, 40 minutes or so from town, is where Strato makes his kaleidoscopes. It's also where about 30 of us assembled on Sunday 16 January to start the ball rolling (drills drilling, saws sawing, chisels chiselling, etc). We first had a lesson in making flues and wooden whistles from Strato, who managed to complete a flute in about 10 minutes. (We took a bit longer — maybe an hour.) Strato was ably supported by an experienced recorder-maker, Don Cartwright, who guided us through the process. By the end of the day we had about a dozen flutes and as many whistles. Putting their notes together will be an interesting exercise.

Marcus Tatton, drum-maker, got some of us going on the idea of a log drum using a big, heavy blackwood log he'd scrounged from a forest somewhere. In New Guinea people make ceremonial drums by hollowing out logs and strik-



Strato demonstrates his whistle-making



(L to r) Strato, Don, Raffaele and Chris, among others, during the introductory session at Bream Creek.

ing the lip of the cavity to make the sound. In our case, by the time of writing we'd managed between us to carve some mountain decorations on the side and cut out the middle to make a nice resonant sound. This decorative piece will be a centrepiece for our orchestra.

We gathered together some old gas bottles which had had their bases cut, and strung them with rope to an old metal child's swing frame. Their loud gongs provided background noise for other activities.

With some mathematical help, Raffaele worked out how long we should cut large-diameter PVC pipes to make a range of notes when one end of the pipes is hit with something rubbery (an old thong is ideal). The result was deep bass notes resonant enough to add oomph to any Star Wars score.

More ideas, with help from our sponsors We have collected together some very useful bits and pieces, courtesy of the Tip Shop, Gunns Timber, BOC Gases and Derwent Park Plumbing Supplies, who have been strong supporters of the orchestra since first introduced to the idea. For instance, a small galvanised iron tank from the Tip Shop could

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