

From your local Alderman

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who showed up for the Local Area Plan consultation despite fierce competition with David Suzuki in town and a good night on teevee! Council staff who attended were more than happy with the feedback and constructive discussion. Peter Curtis, James McIlhenny and Barry Holmes were very impressed with the enthusiasm and range of feelings yet essential unanimity amongst residents about the future of Fern Tree.

The most important thing to do now is put in a submission. No later than 31 March. How do you feel about the suggested zonings? What about the permitted, discretionary and prohibited uses for each new zone? Let the Council know, even if all you do is send in a one page letter saying what you do and don't want to see in particular parts of Fern Tree. Send your comments to James McIlhenny at the Council, GPO Box 503E, Hobart 7001. If you have any questions, contact James on 62382891 or by e-mail mcilhennyj@mailnet.hcc.tas.gov.au Our General Store has a great display on the Local Area Plan and is worth a visit. Enjoy a coffee while you're there perusing the reports on display.

As a part of this folks have shown a lot of interest in the heritage of Fern Tree. The Local Area Plan process resulted in three excellent documents on our heritage, now available at our General Store at a very reasonable price, given the amount of work that has gone into them. A wonderful backgrounder for a school project or unusual housewarming gift for the new next door neighbour!

To update on roadways, the vehicle turning facility is nearing completion. A big thank you again to everyone for their patience during this process. Because it was a complex process in getting one designed, there have been many teething problems which will all hopefully be brushed out over time. Council is going to keep an eye on it for the next 12 months and continue the fine tuning.

You will all likely remember the community consultation process that led to the construction of the vehicle turning facility. Three stages evolved: 1) the turning facility 2) Huon Road/Pillinger Drive intersection upgrade with a T-junction, and 3) a Pillinger Drive by-pass. Extensive further investigations have been undertaken by construction engineers, geologists, cultural and natural heritage experts and traffic engineers in the past 12 months. As a result, the T-junction and by-pass have

not proved feasible. This still leaves residents and visitors with the outdated grading of the intersection, speeding and sight distance problems. A further elegant solution has been found.

Council will instead improve the gradient of the Huon Road/Pillinger Drive intersection through a) lowering the Pillinger Drive approach and b) sight distance improvements. Minor traffic/safety improvements (traffic calming, lowering traffic speeds, etc) in the residential section of Pillinger Drive will also be further considered, in close consultation with the residents in this area in the future. Even with the proposed developments at the Springs, there are no compelling reasons for Council to proceed with the Pillinger Drive by-pass option in the foreseeable future.

Not all residents on Pillinger Drive may be happy with this result, but the proposed works offer significant cost savings and a big improvement in turning for small vehicles. It is an achievable result.

The real cost of the by-pass would not have been justified with the amount of traffic using it. Council would not be able to afford it. The State government would have had to chip in as well. Therefore the bypass would have taken years to get in place with major disruption to residents and Wellington Park. Speeding problems wouldn't have been solved on Pillinger Drive.

I would urge Pillinger Drive residents to get behind the Association and lobby Council and DIER for a lowered speed limit, say 40km/h, as in Battery Point. Combined with a range of traffic calming measures and minor road modifications, speeds and sight distances will be significantly better on Pillinger Drive for walkers, kids on bikes, residents and tourists.

Best regards and a Happy Easter holiday,

— *Alderman Eva Ruzicka*

Skateboarders beware!

Susan Fitzgerald of the Tavern advises that parents need to advise their skateboarding children of the risks of skating in the Tavern car park.

Clean-up finds we're not so tidy as we might be

Esther Robertson and her trusty helpers (including pony and cart) performed a sterling job for their community in organising Cleanup Australia work around Fern Tree early in March. What wasn't so pleasing was the amount of roadside rubbish recovered.

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.* 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 April 2000

Come and have your say at our Annual Meeting on 26 April

Residents of Fern Tree and adjacent places are invited to come along to the Community Centre, 8 Stephenson Place (next door to the shop) on Wednesday evening, 26 April, to discuss current community issues.

 Fern Tree Community Association
NOTICE TO ALL RESIDENTS
2000 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Fern Tree Community Centre
 8 Stephenson Place Fern Tree
 8.00 p.m. Wednesday 26 April

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies
- 2 President's Report
- 3 Treasurer's Report
- 4 Election of Officers
- 5 Guest speaker - Mt. Wellington tourism

This is your opportunity to get up to date on what's happening, have your say in community affairs, and help shape your Association for the year ahead. **DON'T MISS IT!!**

MOUNTAIN ORCHESTRA

See this unique event at the Springs on Saturday afternoon, 8 April. For details, go to pages 4-5

Go beyond the city lights



Experience a little bit more

Active Adventures Further Afield

- Mt Wellington-City Heights Walks
- Cathedral Peak (Sleeping Beauty)
- Wild Cave Introduction
- Abseiling/Rockclimbing Adventures
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Tasmania
Inquiries & bookings
Tel. 6267 9877 or email
andyroberts@netspace.net.au

Contributing to your community Newsletter

The Fern Tree Community Association *Newsletter* is the voice of Fern Tree and the adjacent communities of Neika, Ridgeway and South Hobart (upper Strickland Ave—Huan Road). It is published every two months:

- February (submit material by 3rd Saturday in January)
- April (deadline 3rd Saturday in March)
- June (deadline 3rd Saturday in May)
- August (deadline 3rd Saturday in July)
- October (deadline 3rd Saturday in September)
- December (deadline 3rd Saturday in November)

Your contribution in the form of a community announcement, a news item or a letter to the editor will be very welcome. All contributions must be signed with your name and should include your telephone number.

Paid advertisements are accepted: \$20 for a full page, \$10 per ½-page, \$5 per ¼-page, payable on placement of the advertisement. Contributions, advertisements and offers of assistance with distribution should be sent to the Editor, 8 Stephenson Place, Fern Tree 7054.

For the next newsletter, get your contribution or advertisement to us by Saturday 20 May.

A tribute to "Q" (Tony Quarmby)

On Christmas Day last year the Fern Tree community lost an important identity.

"Quarm" or "Q", born and bred in Hobart, was well known for his huge store of stories which he would regail us with over a pot or two of rough red. Many of them were about the original bush fire brigade, which gave Q and his fellow brigade members the opportunity to set fire to bits of Fern Tree every Saturday afternoon. His old battered helmet and brass backpack still bear silent witness to that part of his life.

Annie and Q moved into the "hollow log" (the old guide hut) and lost it all in the 1967 bushfires. Many people who suffered the same fate never returned to the mountain, but Q threw in his job at Murex (later CIG) to live on the bushfire relief and rebuild his house almost single-handed.

Q was a little exxentric. For some reason he could recite the value of π (pi) to 100 decimal

places. Once when there was a NSW beer shortage he stocked up a boat that he had a share in with local grog and sailed up to Sydney. One of his favourite sayings may have come from this episode: "So there we were, three miles off seal rock with both engines stopped on a lee shore in 40 fathoms with 20 fathoms of rope!"

In the early seventies at CSIRO at Stowell Avenue, he worked on the first internet (CSIRO NET) connection between Canberra and Hobart. Nobody knew anything about it then! Computing remained an interest to Q until he left us.

Q was always there if you needed a hand and would offer tools, encouragement, motivation and advice. A mine of useful information.

His favourite tune was "Blue Suede Shoes" (Elvis), so please remember Q when you hear it.

We all miss him.
— Eric Baynes

Water quality concerns lead to dog ban on Silver Falls track

The Wellington Park Management Trust has informed us that in the near future dogs will be prohibited from entering the lower Silver Falls catchment area—that is, the length of the Silver Falls track from the junction with the Pipeline Track at Fern Tree Bower, past Silver Falls to the junction with Middle Track. This shall allow dogs to be exercised along the Pipeline Track and also allow access to the Springs via Middle Track.

The Trust has based this decision on water quality data collected by Hobart Water over the last 10 months. These tests show a consistent high level of turbidity and faecal-total coliforms, particularly when compared to data collected at other undisturbed sites. This indicates that dogs are the likely cause of the contamination.

Hobart Water have offered to attend a meeting of the FTCA to further explain the rationale behind the proposal and any other concerns regarding water quality.

Thanks for the lollies!

Many thanks from Melissa and Doug, the Fire Brigade and the children of Fern Tree to Robbie's Confectionary and Network Foods, both of whom generously contributed quantities of lollies to the Fire Brigade Christmas Eve lolly run.

Fern Tree Fine Tucker General Store Great Service

Doug & Melissa McDonald welcome all residents and visitors.

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- Home-made Devonshire teas, gifts and crafts.

We want to continue to use re-cycled shopping bags and egg cartons, so if you have any please drop them in. Thank you.

We look forward to seeing you!



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FERN TREE

FOLK AT THE TAVERN

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Coming events

- March 30 (Thursday) "Last Gasp" Singaround
Performers welcome — free
- April 1 (Saturday) **Andy Stewart*** (ex-Silly Wizard)
and **Gerry O'Beirne***
\$18 / \$15
Ring Tavern to book tickets
- April 6 (Thursday) "Folk at Fern Tree"
Concert with 4 local artists—\$10
- April 27 (Thursday) "Last Gasp" Singaround
Performers welcome — free
- May 4 (Thursday) "Folk at Fern Tree"
Open mike night — donation

**PLUS: Check the notice board at the Tavern
for other events due to be announced.**

*ANDY M. STEWART

is regarded as one of Celtic music's most gifted singers and one of the best songwriters in the entire folk tradition. He has been delighting audiences in the U.K., America and Europe for two decades. Born in Perthshire, he grew up in a family noted for its fine traditional singing. He first came to notice as lead singer and instrumentalist for Silly Wizard with whom he toured until they broke up in 1988. It was with Silly Wizard that he gained the reputation for his beautiful interpretations of the traditional songs of Scotland and Ireland and also became known as a master of songwriting in the traditional style.

As an accomplished banjo player, his ear for a good tune has been displayed in his arranging and composing abilities. Known for his wicked wit and sterling live performances, Andy M. Stewart is among the finest singers in the Scots-Irish genre, with a voice "that conveys more emotion in one line than most singers do in a lifetime" (The Boston Herald)

He has recorded four solo albums, BY THE HUSH, named folk album of the year by Melody Maker magazine, SONGS OF ROBERT BURNS, MAN IN THE MOON, and his most recent, DONEGAL RAIN, Mojo's folk album of the month January 1998. He has also recorded albums with Manus Lunny, also featuring Phil Cunningham of Silly Wizard.

*GERRY O'BEIRNE

Gerry is a talented singer songwriter and multi-instrumentalist from Dublin. He is a former member of supergroup, PATRICK STREET, and has toured with SHARON SHANNON BAND, MAURA O'DONNELL and CATHIE RYAN from CHERISH THE LADIES. While he is known for his superb producing, arranging and composing it is perhaps for his songwriting that he is best known. His songs "Western Highway", "Shades of Gloria", "Half Moon Bay" and "The Holy Ground" have been recorded by such top names as Mary Black, Maura O'Connell and Patrick Street.

IN THIS EXCITING NEW COMBINATION AUDIENCES WILL BE TREATED TO THE WIDE-RANGING AND DIVERSE SONGS OF ANDY, BEAUTIFULLY AUGMENTED BY THE UNIQUE AND INNOVATIVE GUITAR ARRANGEMENTS OF GERRY O'BEIRNE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact John Bushby, tel. 6229 2072 or email bushby@netspace.net.au

Transformation of Community Centre moves a step closer

Plans to renovate the Fern Tree Community Centre to make it a more versatile public venue were approved by the Hobart City Council in February. John Harbinson, the project's architect and manager, is now awaiting a builder's quote to bring to the Association for its approval before work goes ahead.

The project, when complete, will transform the former kindergarten into a facility readily usable for a much wider range of community needs. One of the Association's aims is to secure a better return on the hire of this valuable community asset, up to now limited by the building's original design as a kindergarten.

The work, which we hope will begin around the end of April, will involve two stages:

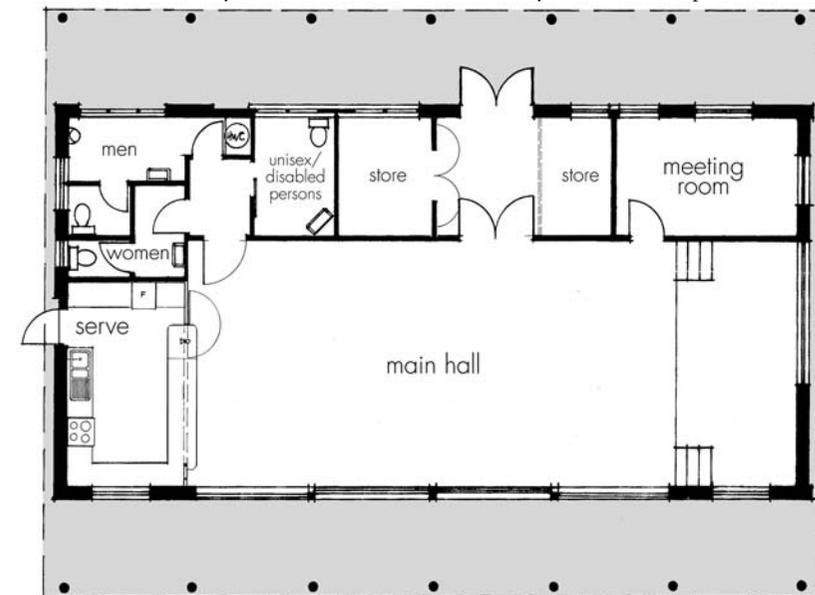
Stage 1 involves removal of walls and facilities to be either relocated or removed altogether. These include the hot water service, washbasins and sink, children's toilets, high-level internal glazing, cupboards and shelving.

Stage 2, the construction phase, involves

- installing cupboards, stove, refrigerator and vinyl flooring in what is presently the office (to become a servery);

- opening a serving space between the servery and the main hall, with a counterbalanced shutter;
- creating a new external doorway for servery access when the hall is in use;
- creating new women's and men's toilets using new and existing facilities in the space now occupied by a toilet and a storage area;
- blocking off an external door at the back of the building and relocating the hot water service adjacent to it;
- creating a new disabled and/or "unisex" toilet in the present location of children's toilets;
- creating a new storage space by moving the southern wall of what is currently the vestibule and putting in new double doors; and
- creating further storage and/or hat and coat hanging space to the left of the rear entrance.

The community owes John a great debt of gratitude for willingly contributing his time and expertise to get this project through the planning stages. We are now at the point where we can expect to be able to make this much-improved community asset available by the latter half of the year for workshops and seminars, commu-



nity groups, and public and private occasions.

Plans for a renovated Community Centre include provision of a servery and new toilets. New storage areas will free up space for a relocated meeting room.

→Go to page 4

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Friday 9 am – 5 pm

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appointment.

Making mountain music

Around 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon, 8 April, some unusual sounds will begin to echo around the Mountain slopes close to the Springs. Deep windy notes will contrast with a cacophony of shorter, sharper, rhythmic sounds as the Mountain Orchestra gets into its stride.

Fern Tree people may have heard such sounds on recent Sunday afternoons as the Orchestra practised its rhythms and instrument combinations at the Community Centre under the direction of composer Raffaele Marcellino. The organised chaos of the early rehearsals is settling into a more orderly sequence of sounds as Raffaele builds the group's cohesion.

No-one can remember anything like the Mountain Orchestra happening before. South Hobart resident Chris Cooper started the process in consultation with composer Raffaele and instrument maker Strato Anagnostis, getting funding Hobart City Council and Arts Tasmania funding for a Fern Tree based group to make and play an array of unusual acoustic instruments suitable for outdoor performance.

The purpose of the Mountain Orchestra project is to celebrate our Mountain and what it means to us. The making of the instruments, under Strato's direction at his Break Creek kaleidoscope factory, is now more or less complete. We now have at our disposal a wide array of wind and percussion instruments, including

- a five-metre alpenhorn which will take several people to play,
- around half a dozen cornamuses (basic reed instruments that sound a little like an oboe),
- a set of gongs made from suspended gas cylinders with their bases cut out,
- a merimba, a percussive pipe instrument made from large-diameter polystyrene pipe,
- several calfskin and polystyrene drums, painted with mountain motifs, as well as a double-ended drum made from a beer keg,
- a large blackwood log drum, hollowed inside and shaped and carved on the outside into a unique Mount Wellington artefact, as well as a smaller hollowed huon pine drum, and
- a suspended wooden bell-drum made from shaped lengths of glued timber.

The making of the instruments was a cooperative affair involving a number of professional instrument makers working with the group members. Strato was joined by Marcus Tatton of Neika (a drum-maker) and Don Cartwright of Lindisfarne (a recorder maker).

Materials for the instruments were scrounged, purchased from grant funds or acquired by donation. Donors of materials included the Tip Shop, BOC Gases, Gunns Timber, Instant Scaffolds and Derwent Park Plumbing Supplies. Besides the HCC-Arts Tasmania grant funding, further support has come from the Mercury newspaper, WIN television, Metro Tasmania, the Wellington Park Management Trust, Photo Force, the Department of Education, Monotone Printers, the Tasmanian Environment Centre and, of course, the Fern Tree Community Association.

The members of the orchestra come from many parts of Hobart. Some have musical experience, some not. They were drawn together out of musical interest and a curiosity about this strange idea, and all have enjoyed the experience immensely. These players are to be joined by the Tasmanian Conservatorium Percussion Quartet, the voice group Big on Bass and the South Hobart Primary School ensemble.

Raffaele's composed music is being combined with more spontaneous "sound landscapes" and vocal music to make up an hour-long musical program.

The main performance of the Mountain Orchestra will be at the Springs, at 2pm on Saturday 8 April. Metro Tasmania is putting on a bus from the City.

Admission is \$10 for adults (\$8 concession). There's no charge, or course, if you're a player or helper: if you'd like to help out, call Chris Cooper on 6223 4656. See you there!! —
Peter Boyer



Above: Judy is on bell drum and Julian on alpenhorn. Below: Raffaele, flanked by the pipes of the larger merimba, talks to the group in between sessions.

