

### Help us get our Community Centre, bus stops into shape

Your Community Centre in Stephenson Place is a special asset, fully owned by the people of Fern Tree. We are spending hard-earned community funds this year to make it a more versatile venue. But your committee needs community support to keep it in good shape.

Get fit, keep in touch and earn some handy landscaping hints from Torquil Canning, who is planning a rock entry plinth for our Centre. Set aside a few hours on the first Sunday of each month to take part in our monthly Community Centre working bee at 1.00 pm. Bring tools.

### FTCC Working Bee 2000 Calendar

- Sunday 2 July, 1.00 pm
- Sunday 6 August, 1.00 pm
- Sunday 3 September, 1.00 pm
- Sunday 1 October, 1.00 pm
- Sunday 5 November, 1.00 pm
- Sunday 3 December, 1.00 pm

*Our bus stops need some care and attention*  
Peter Fawcett has gone around all our bus stops and itemised what needs doing and has offered to lead the charge in getting them into good repair. In particular need of attention is Bus Stop 25 on Huon Road near the Ridgeway turnoff.

The work will need some assistance. If you'd like to help, Peter can be contacted on 6239 1422.

### Events to pencil in the diary

- We're planning some surprises for winter-spring. More details in the August Newsletter.
- Fern Tree Winter Festival..... Saturday 24 June
- The Book Fair..... August
- Playback Theatre..... August-September
- Fern Tree Trivia Night..... October
- Fern Tree Carols by Candlelight..... Sunday 17 December

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 Fine Tucker General Store Great Service

Doug & Melissa McDonald welcome all residents and visitors.

Open daily from 8 am till 7 pm.

We offer...

- same-day dry cleaning
- free-range eggs • smallgoods

Come in and look at our bigger range & variety!

Free home delivery to the local area — ring Monday for delivery on Tuesday.



### Eat in or take away!

A varying menu for all tastes, including barbecue chicken on Friday and Saturday nights.

- 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!

### Thanks from Millie

*I wish to thank the residents of Fern Tree, Neika and Kingston for the love, support, cards and flowers I received on the sudden death of my mother on 31 March 2000. Your support was very much appreciated as I not only lost my mother but also my best friend. Thank you to all, from your Postlady Amelia Verschuur (Millie).*

# Fern Tree Community Association Inc. Newsletter

[www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/ferntree](http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/ferntree)

JUNE 2000

## FERN TREE WINTER FESTIVAL



5 pm to 8 pm

Help us Shape our Community's Future

See report on Fern Tree Futures discussion, page 3

## Residents' Annual General Meeting Your Committee for 2000

The Annual General Meeting of residents on 26 April elected the following Committee to conduct the business of the Association for the coming year:

*President*... Torquil Canning (tel. 6239 1570)

*Vice-president*..... Peter Boyer (6239 1181)

*Secretary* ..... Bruce Wilson (6239 1028)

*Treasurer* ..... Brian Marriott

*Committee* ..... Trudi Disney, Mike Emery,

Robin Errey, Cynthia Johnson, Melissa

McDonald, Karen Phillips, Prue

Quarmby, Dave Roberts

Other positions filled were —

*Public Officer* ..... Dave Roberts

*Auditor* ..... Rendell Ridge

## 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—Hoon Road). The *Newsletter* is published every two months:

— February (submit material by 3rd Saturday in January)

— June (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 15 July.**

## Fern Tree Midwinter Festival promises to be a cracker

A safe and enjoyable evening for the whole family is in store for Fern Tree's second Midwinter Festival on Saturday 24 June.

The Festival, from 5.00 to 8.00, will feature the pyrotechnical wizardry of our own Werner Ihlenfeld, of Flaming Eye Productions, who last year put on a stunning 20-minute show that had the audience gasping.

We are very conscious of the need for stringent safety requirements in the wake of the recent fireworks accident in Brisbane. Werner uses plastic and cardboard containers (not metal as was used in the Brisbane event) and will not be using the class 3 high aerial fireworks which exploded in Brisbane to cause the accident. People will of course need to keep behind barriers and otherwise follow safety directions.

As in all recent Fern Tree Festivals, our own Fire Brigade will play an important role. The brigade will be in charge of the safety arrangements and, of course, the Big Bonfire which will be a feature of the evening. \*\*Contributions of burnable garden rubbish will be very welcome throughout June—just take it to the bonfire heap below the Community Centre.

Music, a raffle and refreshments will round out the evening. We will be raffling the Festival Hamper, and will be providing soup and rolls, cake and biscuits, tea and coffee, and your traditional village fête toffee apples. Entry to the Festival will be a gold coin donation, and there will be a small charge for food and refreshments.

### You can help

Your contribution to our community festival will be welcome in any of the following...

...**bonfire**: put your garden rubbish on our bonfire below the Community Centre.

...**raffle**: Melissa and Doug will welcome your contribution to our raffle hamper (buy something at the shop or bring your own gift).

...**soup and rolls, biscuits and cakes**: call our coordinator Bruce Wilson on 6239 1028.

See you there, 5 o'clock on the 24th!

## 2000 Annual Meeting— President's Report

*Local institutions*—In Fern Tree we are fortunate in having several community institutions which are very important in promoting an identity for this community.

- The news letter comes out six times a year to keep everyone in Fern Tree informed.
- The Fern Tree Fire Brigade is on call 24 hours a day not only for fires but car accidents and any incident requiring the emergency services—no small task for a volunteer group!
- Groups such as Fern Tree Bushcare, Playgroup, Guides and others play key roles not only in their own fields but in introducing members of the community to each other.
- And of course we have our two most regular meeting places, our Tavern and General Store.

*Fund raising, community events*—The long tradition of the Fern Tree Festival was moved last year to winter with great success. 19 June, almost the shortest day, seemed the best date for our bonfire, fireworks, hot soup, bread and bush dance. Many thanks to Fern Tree volunteer Fire Brigade, Hobart City Council, Great South Land Minerals, Flaming Eye Productions etc.

Other events last year were the very innovative Playback Theatre and All Hallows Trivia Night held at the Fern Tree Tavern.

Last event every year in Fern Tree is Carols in the Park. We decided very late to go outside on a crisp summer evening. Many thanks to Susan Fitzgerald for having the Tavern on stand-by until the very last minute and thanks of course to Chris Wisby (ABC), Big on Base voice ensemble and the volunteers who did the readings.

*Planning*—A draft Fern Tree Local Area Plan (LAP), using information from earlier local meetings, was presented by HCC representatives to a well attended meeting at the Community Centre on 29 February. Further feedback was provided at this meeting and submitted formally to the HCC. It is great to have such a detailed study of our own patch and I hope the new proposed zones and provisions lead to more appropriate land use in Fern Tree.

*Community Centre*—We are poised to start renovation work on the Community Centre, rationalising the toilets and creating a servery, small meeting room, and new storage areas to improve the Centre for rental and community uses.

*Issues*—Some of the more prominent issues that have been addressed by the committee in the last year are dog ownership and traffic, in particular appropriate speed limits for Summerleas Road and Pillingers Drive.

*Peoples Pipeline*—This FTCA-initiated project, awarded a \$30,000 Federation Fund grant, involves installing interpretation panels from Gentle Anne Falls at the Water works Reserve up the Pipeline Track to the wishing well (near Browns Road). We will also be producing a map with further historical information which will be for sale at the local businesses and tourist information centres in town.

*The Mountain*—The Wellington Park Management Trust has been developing several management plans over the last year that the FTCA has had input into. They are The Wellington Park Fire Management Plan, Bike Strategy and Sign Strategy. They are studies that highlight the complex social and environmental mix that is Mount Wellington. Fern Tree, which borders the Park is very much part of that mix. We stand to benefit from the work being done to understand and manage The Mountain.

*Springs development*—The proposed eco-tourism development at the Springs is still in the planning stage. Over the last year the FTCA has had several consultation sessions with the chosen design consortium (Building Integrity). The two major issues bought up were competition with the Fern Tree General Store and the displacement of the public by any private development.

*Mountain Orchestra*—The Mountain Orchestra, largely people new to music playing hand-made instruments, performed in brilliant autumn weather at The Springs to a crowd of many hundreds with the help of several choirs and the Conservatorium percussion ensemble. This event reaffirms The Springs as a much loved public place.—*Torquil Canning, President, FTCA.*

## From your local alderman

One of the burning issues in our City is whether or not to take on wheelie bins. There are several good reasons for and against this proposition.

Council workers are constantly at risk from residents who fail to exercise some common sense and fairness in disposing of dangerous garbage. Unwrapped broken glass, medical waste, sharp bits of metal—all of these puncture garbage bags. Workers lift the bags, the sharp bits stick out and, voila, a nasty leg or arm wound. The lifting, carrying and emptying of garbage bins and bags also leads to a number of back and other injuries. Council has a duty of care to its workers and wants to ensure this is met. On top of which, workers compensation insurance is not getting any cheaper.

From the residents' point of view, Hobart is a city built on very few flat bits. In the flatter areas of Hobart and in the CBD this type of innovation will go a long way to better council

worker safety and amenity for ratepayers.

Unfortunately, Hobart has a number of steep driveways, gravel driveways, properties with no off-street parking and no driveway, properties with steps or stair access only or properties where there is a steep roadside nature strip, or a combination of these difficulties.

Council officers think that a lot of the problems envisaged by people are perceptions that can be overcome by one-on-one consultation.

It is fine to ensure worker safety, but I believe the safety of residents is, in number of cases, at risk as well in getting the wheelie bins to the roadway for trucks to empty them and back to the home again. Where bins cannot be easily stored around the home or got up or down driveways, it is proposed that they be left in situ and residents take rubbish out to them. This poses questions of wheelie bins on view seven days a week. Proof against possums and dogs in Fern Tree, but not a pretty sight.

Perhaps we can run competitions on 101 ways to hide a wheelie bin on the street! Or a rash of multi-coloured painted wheelie bins as art statements instead of the dull khaki green plastic! I'll keep you all posted on this issue. In June the City Services Committee will report on how to run a consultation process and I'll let you know who to call if you have concerns.

On a happy note, I now have an office in the Town Hall. If you need to see me on some issue (and the thought of my 1:4 4WD driveway is daunting) please give me a call and I'll arrange to meet you there so we can talk in comfort. (6239 1317 or 0407 391 317).

Best regards, and see you at Fern Tree's Winter Festival on the 24th!

— *Alderman Eva Ruzicka*

## Dog kennels

HCC has approved a licence for six dogs at a Grays Rd property. This was appealed against by local residents for being inconsistent with Fern Tree values. Conditions have been imposed restricting noise and visual impact. While neighbouring councils are not granting kennel licences, HCC seems to see this kennel as a "model" for future applications in Hobart. If you have concerns about a kennel application in your neighbourhood please contact the FTCA. We are considering a special general meeting to discuss domestic animals in Fern Tree and will notify residents by notice in the shop.

## Residents' meeting discusses tourism in Fern Tree What do we want to do about our visitors?

A lively discussion on tourism covering possible future scenarios for Fern Tree was the highlight of a well-attended General Residents' Meeting at the Fern Tree Community Centre on 26 April.

The guest speaker was Jane Foley, a senior Tourism Tasmania officer, who led a discussion on what Fern Tree can do as a community to gain more benefit from tourism.

Jane began by talking about the Tasmania-wide context in which a tourism plan for Fern Tree might be considered. She said the aim of Tourism Tasmania's overall program is to maximise visitors' spending in Tasmania. 85 percent of visitors were from the Australian east coast, with UK and USA major overseas sources.

Jane said that with new infrastructures, such as development of the Springs site, more people would come to visit. Communities can benefit from such developments—in such a way new tourism development brought benefits to Freycinet Peninsula and Cradle Mountain. It is up to the community as to how it might market itself or otherwise manage the increased visitation.

Jane wrote up points raised by residents to consider in a community marketing plan:

- expansion of business and employment
- HCC survey of heritage values
- viability of businesses and community links
- local outlet for artists
- infrastructure available/needed to handle visitor increases (e.g. roads, parking)
- need for sympathetic infrastructure design
- marketing edge from Springs development
- varied range of experiences needed
- need to provide reason for visitor to stop
- checking on regulations with authorities

Infrastructure and implementation of community amenity were major issues. It was agreed that the community needed to develop a vision of itself at a suitable future time, and in the process look for balance in development to ensure important values and activities (such as accessibility for walkers) are conserved.

In developing a vision, the community should look particularly at...

- identifying our visitors,
- control over what happens,
- balancing local and visitor use,
- the kind of infrastructure needed,
- identifying what we can offer for visitors,
- identifying who we want to take action (HCC, Hobart Water, Wellington Park Management Trust, Main Roads), and
- opportunities for business and employment.

Terry Gill said that the FTCA should seriously look at the issue of marketing Fern Tree and its values to the wider world, and the new Committee should take up the idea of formulating a marketing plan and articulating a vision for the community to help guide future development. A motion to this effect was carried.

The FTCA Committee will be gathering information and opinion from around the community over the next few months and will report back to the October Residents' Meeting.

Have your say in Fern Tree's Future Residents are invited to submit thoughts on how Fern Tree might manage its visitors. Contact Dave Roberts on 6239 1163 or drop a note in our letterbox at 8 Stephenson Place, next door to the shop.

## Other General Meeting items

*Community Centre*—Quotes are currently being sought for work to make the Centre more presentable and useful as a community facility. The former Zoe School, now closed, is to be sold; Bruce Wilson (secretary) will be contacting the school about the disposal of its assets.

*Bus stops*—The meeting was told of various repairs needed to bus stop facilities along Huon Road. Peter Fawcett is coordinating repair work but volunteers and financial support are needed.

*GST*—Information from the Taxation Department that the FTCA would be ineligible for government funding without an Australian Business Number (ABN) has persuaded the Association to apply for a number.

See page 7 for President's Report

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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- Duckhole Lake Historic Walk

Venture-Out

Tasmania

Inquiries & bookings

Tel. 6267 9877 or email  
andyroberts@netspace.net.au

## Seeking a safer Summerleas Road

On 20 August last year, Committee member Mike Emery wrote to the Speed Zoning Committee of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources (DIER) about the safety of pedestrians and motorists on the road for virtually its full length from Fern Tree to Kingston. In the absence of major roadworks to improve safety, Mike asked the Committee to consider a reduction in the present 60 km/h speed limit, down to 40 km/h.

Mike's letter drew attention to the frequent accidents and near-misses on the road and pointed out that "the present limit...is completely unsafe for much of the road, is misleading to people driving here for the first time, and is an encouragement to the less responsible who can claim they are driving within the legal speed limit."

Sorry, but we have rules...

Over four months later we received the following reply, dated 20 December 1999:

*Dear Mr Emery*

*Thank you for your letter of 20 August 1999, raising road safety concerns on Summerleas Road. I apologise for the delay in responding as the matter was unintentionally overlooked on file.*

*Following a recent speed zone survey, the reduction of the existing 60 km/h speed limit on Summerleas Road to a 40 km/h limit is not supported.*

*Under the current state speed zoning criteria the 40 km/h speed limit applies to school zones, recreational or resort areas and high pedestrian/car park activity areas. Likewise, an area speed zone applies to a network of roads within a defined area and is not designed to cover a through route in a semi-rural environment.*

*It must be made clear that a posted speed limit sets the maximum speed permissible and motorists are expected to drive in a manner having consideration for the prevailing road, traffic and weather conditions. In other words the posted speed does not mean that every driver should attempt to maintain the speed indicated by the sign.*

*The existing speed limit signs will be upgraded*

*to the current departmental standard as soon as possible.*

*The Department's Traffic Management Branch is liaising with the relevant councils regarding the other road safety issues in your letter.*

*Again, I apologise for the delay in responding and thank you and your Association for your interest in road safety.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*William Lok*

*A/Chief Traffic Engineer*

*Traffic Standards Branch*

*Gathering the evidence for official action*

The Committee was unhappy with the response for a number of reasons, mainly to do with its dismissive attitude to community concerns about the safety of people using the road. There was concern that the Department appeared to take a blanket approach to speed limits which seemed to ignore specific conditions applying in individual cases. Mike was asked to gather further information about the road's history and hazards and respond accordingly.

On 19 April Mike replied to Mr Lok, pointing out the Committee's concerns, providing specific information on road conditions and listing traffic accidents over the past few years. The list specified 17 accidents in which cars had been damaged and occupants injured. It pointed out that there had also been many near misses.

We have again asked DIER to reconsider its opposition to any speed limit change, asserting that "speed restrictions should be chosen according to what is safe for that particular area, not according to bureaucratic listings and preconceptions." We also pointed out that at Spring Beach near Orford a 40 km/h speed limit applied on a road very similar to Summerleas Road. We have invited DIER representatives to join Committee members in an inspection of the road.

We have been keeping in touch with the Summerleas Road Residents Association, Kingston, which supports our position.

**If you have new information about recent accidents and near-misses on Summerleas Road, including difficulties encountered by pedestrians, call Mike on 6239 1518.**

## The Mountain Orchestra has its day



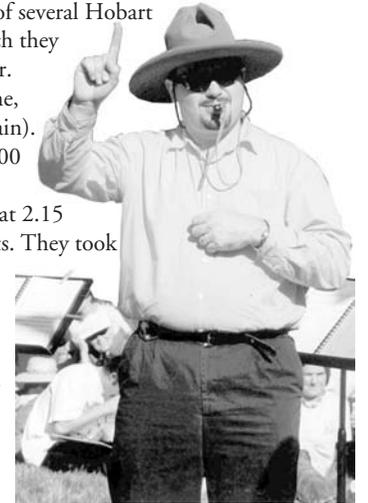
On a glorious autumn afternoon in early April, hundreds of folk gathered at The Springs, in the large space where the Council has its snowplough shed, to hear the sound of the Mountain Orchestra. Over the previous three months a motley mixture of musicians and would-be musicians had sawed, chiselled, drilled, glued, welded, tied and painted to put together a strange assemblage of musical instruments, most of which looked anything but (musical). Chris Cooper (manager),

Strato Anagnostis (chief craftsman) and Raffaele Marcellino (composer-conductor), with players from Fern Tree, South Hobart and points father afield, with the support of several Hobart businesses, put together an event which they and their audience will long remember.

Saturday 8 April was a pearler—fine, clear and no wind (thank you Mountain). An audience of somewhere between 600 and 1000 (we lost count of the kids) saw the players emerge from the trees at 2.15 banging and blowing their instruments. They took their places and treated the masses to some sounds they'd never heard before, more or less following the patterns worked out with Raffaele in rehearsal at the Fern Tree Community Centre. Contributions by the South Hobart Primary School choir, Big on Bass voice group and the Tasmanian Conservatorium's "Concussion" drum ensemble rounded out a splendid afternoon. As the sun set over the mountain, the audience mingled with the players to try their own hand at playing.

Have we started something here? Who knows?  
— Peter Boyer

*Julian and his Elves make music on the familifone (above), while Judy and Marcus keep time on*



*Above: Maestro Marcellino signals a change of tempo  
Below: Joe, Raffaele and Strato dem-*

