

buy up property that is of value to the community. (This means local ownership of land, not buying up local businesses. Not many people have \$200,000 to invest, but many more can afford to invest \$2000, and 100 people x \$2000 = \$200,000. Local investment could rekindle an interest in this part of Fern Tree.)

- Improve Community Centre entrance to set a precedent for Stephenson Place frontages.
- Information about Fern Tree's historical public buildings near Community Centre.

- Rationalization of signs in this area
- Walking tracks
- An outdoor walkers' map and information sign like NPWS walker registration booths.
- Do you have a vision for Fern Tree??
Drop it into our letterbox at 8 Stephenson Place, or email: <torquil@netspace.net.au> or <david.roberts@trump.net.au>.

If you would like to be on a steering committee for this document please let us know.
— Torquil Canning, FTCA President

From your local alderman

Dear Folks,

By the time you receive this newsletter, local government elections will be in full swing.

Will you notice? After all the media of the Olympics and Para-Olympics, will you be interested in the more mundane matters of life like voting for who next decides on your rates, roads and rubbish?

Local government is a bit more than that these days. Whoever you decide to elect, give some thought about asking the candidates what it is they understand local government is really about. In the time I have been representing you, my mind and time have been occupied by much more than roads, rates and rubbish.

There have been public health issues like genetically-engineered food and the regulation of smoking in public places. Lifestyle issues like the local area planning amendments for Fern Tree and Mount Nelson. Aesthetic issues such as urban hillface and skyline, particularly with Porter Hill in Lower Sandy Bay.

Since I've been elected, I've had to grapple with issues of regional development, ethical investment, mobile phone towers, split-budgeting for new asset projects, major infrastructure asset replacement, planning issues around the regulation of the sex industry, eco-resorts, fire management and bikes on Mt Wellington, strategic planning for Hobart over the next five to ten years, Y2K and GST, markets around the City, bed and breakfast accommodation in residential areas, funding bushland buyback, racial intolerance and reconciliation, and a host of other issues.

I even got to meet and greet the Queen! Nothing can prepare you for local government. It is the only tier of government since Federation that has had to accept new responsibilities and a complete overhaul of how it operates - all in the last ten years. The Local Government Act now fairly and squarely make local government accountable for itself, and Aldermen accountable for their actions. Local government must now be strategic in its thinking and consultative in its approach.

To my mind, for Hobart to succeed, it needs Aldermen who understand the pressures of State and Federal governments that prefer to focus on Launceston, rather than Hobart as the Capital City. Alderman that not only understand the effects of globalisation but are prepared for predicted financial slumps and how to insulate Hobart ratepayers from their effects. Aldermen that think about the replacement costs of the city's roads, pipes and sewers — an intergenerational equity issue. All this at the same time as working out how to get support and funding for the issue that drives candidates to stand in the first place. And, most importantly how to best represent all the community — residents and businesses in the competing demands for money, resource and amenity.

As the Electoral Office ads say, "support your locals". In October, take a bit of time to find out who they really are and what a possible four years on Hobart City Council for them, could mean for you.

Best regards, *Alderman Eva Ruzicka*
Town Hall, Macquarie Street, HOBART TAS 7000. Telephone (mobile): 0407 391 317. Fax 03 6239 1738

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 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 October 2000



Formateam,bookatableandputyourwitstothetestinthemostoriginalTriviaNightofall!Seep.3

FERN TREE NEEDS YOU!

Hear from our guest speaker about community networking and discuss a Fern Tree vision at the **FTCA October General Meeting** Community Centre, Wednesday 4 October *See pages 3, 7*

Your FTCA Committee

The 2000 Annual General Meeting of residents elected the following Committee to conduct the business of the Fern Tree Community Association for 2000–2001:

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

Vice-president Peter Boyer (6239 1181)

Secretary Bruce Wilson (6239 1028)

Treasurer Brian Marriott (6239 1317)

Committee Trudi Disney, Mike Emery,

Robin Errey, Cynthia Johnson, Melissa McDonald, Karen Phillips, Prue Quarmby, Dave Roberts

Other positions —

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 upper Strickland Ave—Huon Road. The *Newsletter* 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 — 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, with proceeds supporting community projects. Send your contributions, advertisements and offers of assistance with distribution to the Editor, 8 Stephenson Place, Fern Tree 7054.

Coming events

FTCA General Meeting 4 October

Fern Tree Trivia Night 21 October

The Fern Tree Book Fair 26 November

Fern Tree Carols by Candlelight 17 December



Fern Tree Bushcare Group

Fern Tree Bushcare Group has been very active this year, removing feral garden plants in areas such as behind the Church to Pillinger Drive, along the Pipeline Track, and the rear of the shop towards the aqueducts.

Much more could be achieved with a few more helpers for this important task.

Can you spare a few hours on the second Sunday of each month? Look for the Bushcare Trailer at 9.30 a.m. and join Eleric, our coordinator from the Hobart City Council.

For further information and the location of coming work telephone Hobart City Council Bushcare on 6238 2886 or Cynthia on 6239 1656. — *Cynthia Johnson*

Our Centre needs some t.l.c. from its community

Over the summer months we will be renovating our Community Centre. In keeping with a new-look interior we're seeking to improve the entrance to the Centre, using Torquil Canning's valuable landscaping skills.

We need the help of community members to keep this work moving along. On the first Sunday of each month (October to December and resuming in February), we will be having a working bee at the Centre at 8 Stephenson Place, starting at 10.30 a.m.

Come along and enjoy excellent company with free expert landscaping advice thrown in.

Working together for you:

- *Promoting your City*
- *Listening to your voice*
- *Promoting our assets*
- *Managing the people places*
- *Improving your way of life*

VOTE 1

Rob Valentine

For Lord Mayor & Councillor

Ph: (03) 6278 1443 or 0418 127 323

email: rob.valentine@courier.tas.gov.au

Pru Bonham

For Deputy Lord Mayor

Ph: (03) 6223 1990 or 0418 127 325

email: pbonham@courier.tas.gov.au

Authorised by: Eva Ruzicka, 699 Huon Rd, Fern Tree

Working together for Hobart

A vision for Fern Tree

Our guest speaker Jane Foley from Tourism Tasmania generated much interest amongst those attending our last AGM in April. Jane generated much discussion over prospects and parameters for Fern Tree's future development.

From the meeting it was decided to create a Fern Tree Vision Document. This document will be not only a statement of what Fern Tree residents want for Fern Tree's future but also a useful reference tool for dealing with current issues such as parking in Stephenson Place, speed limits on Summerleas Road, roadworks in Pillinger Drive, and so on.

For those who were inspired by the Tasmania Together process this is a chance to have your input into a living document — one that changes with the times — that brings together your visions for the future.

Here's what we have received so far:

Access

- bike racks on Metro buses
- Metro or privately owned walkers buses on the weekend (contact Hobart Walking Club). This could be an opportunity for a "wilderness transport" kind of business that runs mini buses which could stop at drop off points along the way such as Cascades, Fern Tree, Springs and pinnacle. Would need to be well promoted.
- Mount Wellington signposts for cars and walkers from Hobart up.
- Promote drive/walk options; for example, park at Halls Saddle then walk to Fern Tree.
- Promote bus/walk options; for example, walks from Strickland Avenue.
- Competitive bus service to Metro
- Hobart-Fern Tree-Springs-Fern Tree-Hobart bus service.

Stephenson Place

- Angle parking in Stephenson Place
- Reduce the amount of absentee landlords in Stephenson place.
- promote local ownership in this area
- devise a Fern Tree Coop style business structure that locals can invest in and which can

Summerleas: Department to undertake road safety audit

Since August 1999, your Association has been writing to the Speed Zoning Committee and Traffic Standards Branch of the Land Transport Safety Division of Tasmania's Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources (are the lengths of titles inversely proportional to the size of the state?) asking for a reduction in the existing 60 km/h speed limit to 40, together with some carefully targeted road works at specific sites on Summerleas Road between Huon Road and the Browns River bridge.

In each of their responses they have refused to lower the speed limit, stating that Summerleas Road does not satisfy their zoning criteria. In their letter of 20 December 1999, they stated "the posted sign does not mean that every driver should attempt to maintain the speed indicated on the sign." We pointed out that a speed of 60 km/h is not permissible on most of Summerleas Road by any driver.

In their letter of 8 June, they stated "The Tasmanian speed zoning selection criteria are also primarily determined by the road function classification and roadside development density. *The geometry and accident history of roads are secondary considerations.*" (my italics).

Our reply, sent on 27 July, was summarised in our August *Newsletter*.

Early in August speed limit de-restriction signs were installed, covering the road between the HCC boundary and the Summerleas Fire Brigade shed (well past Browns River bridge), effectively raising the speed limit to 100 km/h.

Since then, we have been told the Department has decided to carry out a road safety audit of Summerleas Road involving one representative from the Road Safety Branch, one from the Kingborough Council and one from the Hobart City Council. We have been invited to send them a written submission — which has now been sent — and to attend an on-site visit which will take place on 29 September.

The Kingborough Council has also made a fund allocation to rearrange the S-bend about

1.2 km from the HCC boundary, in this financial year.

1. If people have any concerns that they feel aren't being addressed, or any information that might help us prepare for the on-site visit, please call me on 62 391 518.
2. Please continue to tell me of any car accidents that occur. I am aware of three in the last two months. — *Mike Emery*

Playback Theatre: there's a story in every closet

About 40 locals and guests had another evening of fun and frivolity at the Tavern on 12 August when the Playback Theatre staged their versions of some current urban myths and local stories. Once again the local chefs rallied to the cause and provided a selection of dishes fit for the occasion. Our thanks for a most enjoyable evening are due to the chefs (who shall remain nameless), Susan and Beth from the Tavern and of course the Playback Theatre performers themselves. The evening generated a small contribution to Association coffers.

Playback Theatre is available for hire for seminars and workshops—contact Leigh Tesch on 6234 4009.—*Dave Roberts*

Scene from well known local story "Mystery of the frozen freezer and the missing microwave"



Hear about community networking at 4 October residents' meeting

Alison Wild, the Project Officer for the Hobart Networking for Harmony Project, will be our guest speaker at the half-yearly FTCA general meeting on Wednesday 4 October.

Alison, from the Hobart City Council, will discuss how this Commonwealth government-supported project aims to help individuals and groups in communities such as ours contribute to a more cohesive and harmonious society. Networking for Harmony is supported by the Living in Harmony initiative of the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

We also aim to raise the subject of a vision for the future of Fern Tree, which we began to develop at our April meeting with the assistance of Jane Foley of Tourism Tasmania (see page 7).

The FTCA general meeting is your opportunity to meet with other residents, hear what's going on around you and air any views and concerns you may have about your local neighbourhood. Your attendance will be very welcome.

It's on at the **FTCA Community Centre**, Stephenson Place, on **Wednesday evening, 4 October**. The meeting starts at **8.00 pm**.

It's on again for young and old on Saturday night, 21 October...

Sharpen your wits for the 2000 Trivia Night at the Tavern

The Y2K Fern Tree Trivia Night kicks off at the Tavern at 8 pm on Saturday 21 October.

The Trivia Night has become a community institution over the past four or five years. In each case we managed to attract a capacity crowd, responding with gusto to the challenge set by the questions. The Fern Tree Trivia Night is like no other. Not for us the familiar Trivial Pursuit sets, but original, well-researched questions on topics local and global, ancient and modern, trivial and weighty. Tony Elliott set the standard as our mercurial quizmaster and last year Prue Quarmby and her team matched it with an outstandingly successful night.

The way it works is you organise a group of anything from four to ten people and book your table at the Tavern, OR you can book singly or in

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couples and join others on the night. Each "table" makes up a team. In theory of course, the more heads there are the better your chances of getting the right answer, though it doesn't always work that way.

There are very worthwhile prizes for the winning teams, and even for the wooden spooners. Whether you win or not, you won't go away disappointed. We thank Susan and her Tavern team for once again agreeing to provide her friendly venue for this community event.

Entry will be \$12.00 per head, which will cover setting up costs as well as a nourishing supper. Any extra will go to the FTCA to improve our Community Centre. If you'd like to help, contact Brian Marriott (6239 1317) or Peter Boyer (6239 1181).

See you on the 21st!



Need some cheap Christmas presents? Mark this in your diary...

The Fern Tree Book Fair is on Sunday 26 November
— your contribution will be gratefully accepted



Who can forget the Fern Tree Book Fairs of years past, when a book-lover's paradise was laid on for young and old at the Fern Tree Community Centre and when local and visiting bibliophiles spent hours sifting through the mountains of books gathered together by Judy Sprent and her helpers, searching for that elusive Christmas Present at a bargain basement price.

Well, it's on again this year — on 26 November at the Community Centre, from 10.00 am till 4.00 pm. This will be your opportunity to set yourself up in reading for the next 12 months and beyond. Fern Tree-ites are known for their discriminating reading habits and you can be

sure of a fine selection of contemporary and classical books.

The Book Fair is also valuable to us because it's an excellent fund-raiser for the Community Association. This year we're in more need than ever of the dollar with major renovations to our Community Centre under way.

We need your surplus books. Put them in a box and call Peter Boyer (6239 1181) or any other Committee member (see list page 2) and we'll come round at the weekend or evening and collect them from you for the big event. **We also need help to prepare for the Book Fair.** Call Peter and he'll slot you into the team.

Dogs and cats under scrutiny

A small but productive gathering discussed the problems caused by animals in Fern Tree. A perception that Fern Tree is becoming anti-dog is due only to (1) A history of problems with dog noise and attacks, and (2) dog legislation providing the only channel currently for the community to express any concerns about animals. The core reason for neighbourly problems is not the dogs, but barriers to effective communication between neighbours who these days may not know each other well. The real environmental culprit is uncontrolled cats.

Two major decisions were reached: First, that there should be a community commitment to improving neighbourhood understanding, to back up a pet information campaign. Community mediation may be considered as a last resort. Second, the community express to the Premier, Jim Bacon, its wish for stronger controls on cats, consistent with other states. Come to the General Meeting, 4/10, for more details.



Computer giving you the pip?

Friendly, non-technical computer help.

Independent advice.

Home or small business.

Your premises or mine.

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Computer Help
297 Davey Street
ph 6224 6330

FERN TREE NEEDS YOU!



A strong, vibrant local community is getting harder to find in these times of burgeoning big cities and globalised economies. Among Hobart suburbs, Fern Tree stands out for the strength of its community life. We have an active local organisation that works hard to keep things ticking over and to inform our people about what's happening around them.

What do we do? We lobby on the community's behalf if there's a problem that needs fixing. We organise community meetings, often with a special guest speaker, for general or special purposes. Each year we organise a Fern Tree Festival and the Carols by Candlelight. We organise fund-raising, fun-raising trivia nights and other get-togethers. We raise money for the community centre and other worthy local causes through our book fairs and stalls. We join in with the Bushcare and Clean-up Australia programs, and organise working bees to keep our community centre in good shape. Every two months we put out a newsletter containing all the Fern Tree news that's fit to print.

This doesn't happen by accident. Each year we elect a committee of 12 residents who accept that over the next 12 months they'll be carrying a bit more responsibility than the average citizen for their community life.

They do this willingly because they know it's

important. They also enjoy it — otherwise they'd never accept re-nomination at successive annual meetings. Fern Tree folk tend to be hidden from each other in their leafy surroundings, and FTCA meetings and events are a chance to get out and enjoy some social interaction with some great people.

But committees don't last forever. The goodwill of their members needs feeding. The best kind of nourishment is people out there in the community being prepared to join us in our efforts to make Fern Tree a better place to live.

You can play a part, without worrying about being "sucked in". We're not on a mission here. You don't have to join the committee or even attend meetings. We don't expect people to sacrifice large chunks of their lives. Just the occasional hour or two will do. Whatever you do to help, we guarantee that your time spent with us will be enjoyable and enriching.

What's to be done? Here's a list of coming event which will benefit by your involvement:

- **4 October: General meeting, 8 pm, Community Centre**—all we need is your presence. Guest speaker Alison Wild (see p.3)
- **21 October: Trivia Night, Fern Tree Tavern**—assistance with drafting questions and organising bookings and tickets (contact Brian Marriott on 6239 1317 or Prue Quarmby, 6239 1426)
- **26 November: Fern Tree Book Fair, Community Centre**—assistance with collecting and sorting books, promotion, and sales on the day (contact Peter Boyer, 6239 1181)
- **17 December: Carols by Candlelight**—assistance with organising the program (contact Torquil Canning, 6239 1570)
- **October — December: FTCA working bees** at the Community Centre on the first Sunday of every month (contact Torquil Canning, 6239 1570). **Bushcare working bees** on the second Sunday of every month (contact Cynthia Johnson, 6239 1656)

You can also help by just coming along and enjoying the events themselves. It will be well worth it—there are rich rewards in being an active part of your community.