

Christmas greetings from your local alderman

Dear Folks,

Summer is a coming on, time to cut the long grass around the house, clean out those gutters and get the firebreaks in order. Time too, for those lovely evening walks along the Pipeline Track and in and around the Mountain.

Which, sadly, brings me to a perennial problem. Mountain bike riders. It appears that Spring and Summer sees the emergence of this particular species of visitor to Fern Tree. Don't get me wrong. Not all mountain bike riders hare along the tracks at top speed two or more abreast. Just enough of them to pose a real danger to those who walk or play on the tracks. Currently the Wellington Park Bike Strategy allows bikes to be ridden on roads, fire trails and on only three walking tracks - Radfords, Silver Falls and the Pipeline. The problem is with the Pipeline, particularly between the entrance at Fern Tree "central and along past the Grays Road crossover. These are the flattest bits and the opportunity to ride at speed is proving too much for some riders.

Having warned the Trust and the Council of this problem, the response has been to take an "educative approach" — signs and notes in bike

shops and the like. The problem is that it's not until someone is hurt that the Wellington Park Trust and Council will properly listen. The most recent near-miss incident involved a two year old! It's very frustrating to be told that all that will be done is signage until a near miss becomes an injury! If you see mountain bike riders going at speed on walking tracks, especially the Pipeline, please let the Council know (phone 6238 2711 or write in, or give me a call on 62391317).

I hope to see a good number of you at the Community Association's Carols by Candlelight. This annual event is something I always look forward to. Yes, we sing the same carols and read the same words, but each year the magic of it all never fades as dusk falls, candles light up and children's singing floats around the Mountain. It marks for me a proper start to the real meaning of Christmas.

Thank you all for your continuing support and I wish everyone a safe and pleasant Christmas and holiday season.

Best regards, *Alderman Eva Ruzicka*

Town Hall, Macquarie Street, HOBART TAS 7000. Telephone (mobile): 0407 391 317. Fax 03 6239 1738

Wellington Park catchment plan launched

The Wellington Park Drinking Water Catchment Management Plan is under way. The plan (its title is a mouthful in itself) will help provide us with a long term supply of high quality drinking water.

I attended the inaugural meeting of stake holders on 2 November at Hobart Water's office in Goodwood. The management plan follows the implementation of the Lake Fenton/Lady Barron Creek water supply.

The Wellington Park catchments supply up to 20% of drinking water for Hobart. The Mountain's high quality water only needs chlorination to make it suitable for human consumption; also the cost of supplying water is 700% cheaper than water pumped and treated from the Derwent. Our best quality water comes from melting snow - due to its low turbidity.

The plan will address:

- the multiple-use nature of Wellington Park
- the problems arising from human activity such as bushwalking, bike riding, campfires, use of fire trails.
- catchment deterioration through fires
- domestic animals causing unacceptable E.Coli levels at intakes.

The draft management plan will be available for public comment in July next year. The FTCA will as always submit comment on the plan so your feedback will be required. — *Torquil Canning, President*

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.*

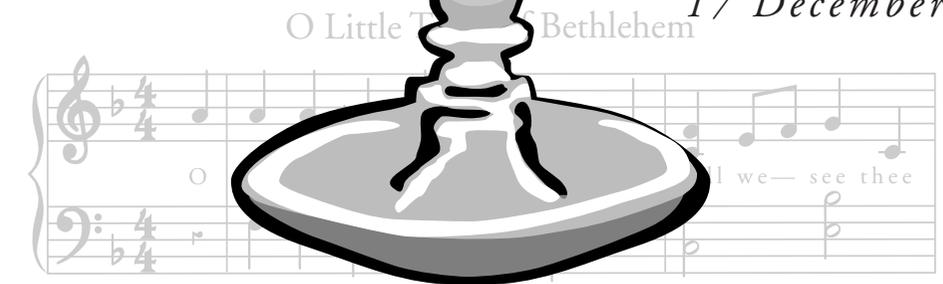
Find us on the Web at <http://www.tased.edu.au/tasonline/ferntree>

Join us this Christmas for the ...

2000 FERN TREE CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Bower Park,
opposite the
Fern Tree Tavern

8.15 pm
on Sunday
17 December



HELP PUT OUR HERITAGE ON DISPLAY!

2001 Residents Meeting to feature Old Fern Tree photographs

See page
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. In 2001 the *Newsletter* is being published in:

—March (submit material by last Saturday in February)

—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: \$30 for a full page, \$15 per ½-page, \$8 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

*Community Centre Working Bee.....*3 December

*Fern Tree Carols by Candlelight.....*17 December

*FTCA Annual General Meeting*4 April 2001

Community Centre facelift: your help welcome on 3 Dec.

The renovations our Community Centre needs to make it a more useful venue for a variety of community purposes are now well under way. In preparation for the main part of building work a small band of volunteers has removed unwanted bits and dug holes in readiness for plumbing.

Over the next couple of months building work will be on in earnest, under the watchful eye of our own site architect John Harbinson, who has already generously given much professional time to this valuable community project. FTCA Committee members have given much weekend time to help out. We'd love to have a bigger group of helpers to share the load.

On Sunday 3 December we will hold another working bee at the Community Centre, starting at 10.30 am. We need the help of others in our community to keep the momentum going. If you aren't able to help with the renovations, we'd welcome your input into making our outdoors more presentable (see following item).

SOS: volunteers needed to help maintain our Centre

We're after volunteers to mow the lawns and otherwise maintain the grounds of our Community Centre.

A small roster of say 3 people who own lawn mowers and/or whipper-snippers needs to be formed. You can take it turns to mow the lawns, which would mean mowing only two to three times a year each. Easy stuff!!

Please ring Torquil 62 391570, or while you are at the shop leave your name and contact number with Melissa or Doug, or drop a note in our letterbox at 8 Stephenson Place (just to the right of the shop fence). — *Torquil Canning*

Road junction. If I have interpreted the drawings correctly, the realignment is aimed at improving the access/visibility for vehicles entering Summerleas Road from Gryce's Road. I do not question the need for that work, but it does not appear to address the needs of motorists driving along Summerleas Road and simply passing the junction. Their problem is the unexpected combination of a sharp bend with a marked crest superimposed on it. The problem specifically occurs when a car travels northwards, either too fast or not keeping to the left (or both), they are caught by surprise by the sharpness of the bend, they end up on the wrong side of the road immediately after the junction and either run off the road or collide with an oncoming car. While I don't have much sympathy with drivers who know the road and drive too fast, it is a real problem for locals driving southwards with due care who are then hit by a car driving the other way. I have just been talking to a resident who suffered a head-on collision in exactly those circumstances. I can only see two possible solutions - either raising the level of Summerleas Road on both sides of the intersection to remove the crest, or bulldozing the crest and completely rerouting the access to Gryce's Road. Both will be expensive. There is a 'bend' warning sign at the southern end of the intersection, but it does not warn drivers of how sharp the bend is, nor of the complication of the crest.

2. One of our concerns is the very narrow stretch of road immediately south of the corner pictured in the lower photo on page 8 of your submission to the Audit, and it is not specifically mentioned in either document. The road is so narrow that two large cars can barely pass, and the narrowness is made worse by deep drains on either side. One of the local residents has been forced into the gutter and grounded his car on the road edge several time in the last two years.

I hope these comments are of use to you. We intend to continue pushing very firmly for the early imposition of lower speed limits, but we will be delighted if the improvements listed in your two documents can be implemented over the next few years.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy

of a letter we are sending to the Traffic Standards (copies to Ms. J. Laker, Secretary, Summerleas Residents Association)

Trivia Night has its rewards

The Year 2000 Fern Tree Trivia Night on 21 October turned out a roaring success, both financially and for the good times enjoyed by all.

As always, the questions were challenging and the discussions, intellectual and otherwise, full of gusto and good cheer. It was a tight affair till the last round or two, when the Black Cockatoos (a noisy bunch) pulled away to take the main prize.

The biggest winner was your Association. The night raised around \$400, which will help alleviate the big spending ahead on renovations for the Community Centre. Many thanks to Brian and his quiz team and to Susan and her staff, who put on their usual splendid supper.

Old Fern Tree in photographs

Fern Tree residents will be able to see how Fern Tree has changed over the years—with help from people with old photographs—at our next general meeting on 4 April.

Many of you enjoyed Gwenda Sheridan's lively presentation on the Cultural Heritage of Fern Tree at the Draft Local Area Plan meeting in 1998. Gwenda has kindly agreed to be guest speaker at our April residents meeting, talking about the history and heritage of Fern Tree.

In conjunction with Gwenda's talk we are tracking down old photos to display on the night. Whether you've lived in Fern Tree for 5 decades or 5 minutes this will be a great night!

We would love to see any of your old photos of Fern Tree, Neika, Mt Wellington or Ridgeway. Maybe you have photos taken just after the 1967 bushfire; or Fern Tree under heavy snow — if so do bring them along on the night.

As part of her continuing research into the heritage and history of the Fern Tree area, Gwenda Sheridan is keen to locate any sources of information: such as oral history, letters and particularly photos. If you can help her don't hesitate to ring her on 6229 6765 or contact any committee member. — *Torquil Canning*

Summerleas Road update

Report by Mike Emery, FTCA Committee

A Summerleas Road Safety Audit held on 29 September involved state and local government representatives, with three FTCA executive members and one Summerleas Residents Association representative, driving the length of the road and back. We explained our concerns, pointing out individual danger spots, and a video was made of the trip together with our comments. We then retired to the Community Centre and had a discussion that probably lasted an hour.

The government representatives were Mr. W. Lok (A/Chief Traffic Engineer from the Traffic Standards Branch), Mr. S Kaczmarek (Manager, Technical Services, Kingborough Council) and Mr. M. Broadley (Hobart City Council).

Mr. Lok indicated that he would consider all the information then produce a report and recommendations. (My impression is that it may be months before this report appears.) Mr Lok said that his department had not raised the speed limit by installing the new speed de-restriction signs but had merely replaced old signs with ones conforming to the current standards. (But there have not been any de-restriction signs there for many years, if ever!) He reiterated his Department's reluctance to impose low speed limits — the lowest they might consider imposing was 50 km/h and not necessarily for the entire length of the road.

Mr. Broadley suggested that after all relevant matters had been considered, it may be that a 40 km/h limit would be the only viable option, and that option should at least be kept open.

Mr. Lok said that reducing speed limits could attract adverse public criticism as had happened over speed signs at Campbell Town recently. He expected that lower Summerleas Road speed limits would bring in a flood of motorists' complaints. We said that we would be pleased to offer support to the Department in this case.

Mr. Kaczmarek gave us a copy of Kingborough's submission to the Audit and an earlier Strategy Report pinpointing almost all of the places we consider dangerous on the Kingbor-

ough section of Summerleas Road. The Audit submission contained rough costings but no timetable.

After the meeting, the FTCA wrote to Mr. Lok to say that we were going to continue pressing for a 40 km/h limit and his Department is already facing criticism for its position on this. We corrected him on the matter of the de-restriction signs being replacements.

We also wrote to Mr. Broadley and Mr. Kaczmarek (see text of letters below). The FTCA executive will probably do nothing further for a month or two, then start pressing for completion of the report.

[Editor's note—Re Mike's comment about the S-bend in the letter to Kingborough Council below: since he prepared this report the Council has begun reconstruction and re-alignment work at the site.]

To: Mr. M. Broadley, Technical Services, Hobart City Council, GPO Box 503E, Hobart 7001

On behalf of the Committee of the Fern Tree Community Association, I would like to thank you for your assistance and participation in the Safety Audit of Summerleas Road, on the 29 September. While we continue to be concerned about pedestrian safety on the HCC section of the road, we appreciate that there is no simple way of providing a safe route for pedestrians. We will continue to push for a low speed limit, and we enclose a copy of a letter we are sending to the Traffic Standards Branch to that effect. If, in the meantime, you can find ways of improving pedestrian safety just on the worst corners, we would be very grateful.

To Mr. Steven Kaczmarek, Manager, Technical Services, Kingborough Council.

Dear Mr. Kaczmarek,

On behalf of the Fern Tree Community Association, I would like to thank you for your assistance in the Road Safety Audit of Summerleas Road that was initiated on 29 September, and for providing us with copies of your submission and the earlier Strategy Report on Summerleas Road.

I would like to make two comments based on those documents.

1. The Strategy Report includes engineering drawings of a proposed realignment of Gryce's

(continued next page)

Carols by Candlelight are on again on 17 December

Fern Tree's alternative to the St David's Park Carols by Candlelight has proven a real magnet to family groups wanting to get back to the simple pleasures of carol singing in the kind of natural, intimate surroundings for which Fern Tree is so well known.

This year we are continuing the tradition in the Bower Park (opposite the Tavern). While we have some solo presentations, including Christmas readings, the evening focuses on audience participation. It's your opportunity to sing some familiar, much-loved Christmas tunes as loudly as you like without fear of surprising anyone.

The program starts at 8.15 pm on Sunday 17th. (Donation \$1; candles and carol sheets provided.)

Thanks to all for Book Fair success

Book-lovers and bargain shoppers turned out in their droves at the Community Centre on Sunday 26 November to make our 2000 Book Fair



one of the most successful ever.

The day earned around \$xxx for the Community Association. The money will help to fill a big hole in our finances caused by the renovations to our Centre now under way (see p. 2).

The Fair's success owed much to a dedicated team of volunteers who put in a lot of personal time to ensure a maximum amount of reading matter on offer to customers when our doors opened. Una Harbinson, Cynthia Johnson, Bruce Wilson, Sam Boyer, Torquil Canning, Sandy Boyer, Gael Moffat, Brian Marriott, Eva Ruzicka, and organiser Peter Boyer deserve our thanks.

Thanks also to all you out there in our community who dug deep into your bookshelves to come up with a wonderful range of reading matter for all tastes. A fine job all round.

Give for the Brigade Lolly Run, and tell the kids... Watch out for the Firemen!



Donations of lollies for the 2000 Fire Brigade Lolly Run Appeal will be welcome at the Fern Tree General Store as usual. This year, Susan Fitzgerald at the Fern Tree Tavern will also be accepting financial donations, which she will then use to purchase from Melissa's and Doug's great selection. Many thanks to Susan and staff, Melissa and Doug.

On Christmas Eve, listen for the siren in your street for the big lolly drop. The Brigade will be visiting Ridgeway, Strickland Avenue, Fingerpost Track, Curtis Avenue, Pillinger Drive, Bracken Lane, Summerleas Road, Cleg Road, Reids Road, Grays Road, Westringa Road, Menuggana Road and all Huon Road from Strickland Ave. down to Wolf's Road, some time after 6.00 pm.

We're seeking your feedback

Do you find getting along to meetings difficult? Do you find it intimidating to put your views at a meeting? Do you have any good ideas, or a recipe, a poem or some words of guidance?

Now there's no excuse not to contact us. At the Fern Tree General Store you'll find Residents' Feedback Forms, which you can then post right next door in the green letter box.

From time to time the FTCA Committee is required to represent this community to state and local government, media etc. We need your feedback on issues such as road safety, Springs development, Local Area Planning and local events. So get your Feedback Form now and start scribbling.

OBITUARIES**Alex Sklenica, died 1/11/00, aged 78 years**

Alex Sklenica, a native of Slovakia, from which he fled to escape oppressive rule in 1949, had since his childhood set his eyes on an adventurous life in the wilds of North America. Australia was intended to be a staging post to that goal, but instead it became his permanent home, with his yearning for Canada expressed in the naming of his property in Summerleas Road ("Dakota Camp") and the totem figures mounted on its entrance posts.

Before settling in Tasmania, Alex had seen more of outback Australia than most of us: it was in Mount Isa that he met Lucette (Jackie), of French-Swiss origins. In Tasmania they were ardent bushwalkers, taught their children bushcraft, and after those children had made their own homes no couple tramped the tracks of our Mountain as much, and in all weathers, as the elder Sklenicas.

A notable solo feat by Alex began on the beach of Lake Pedder years before its inundation. His goal was Macquarie Harbour, and his route took him over the Frankland Range and across several tributaries of the Gordon. This enterprise very nearly came to grief when by mischance his sleeping bag caught fire eight days into the trip. Resourceful Alex salvaged about half of the bag, sewed parts of his wardrobe into it, and endured some very chill nights to emerge on the lower Gordon eleven days later to a rendezvous with a tourist launch.

The funeral service held at St Raphael's Church drew numbers of former migrants from eastern Europe, old stalwarts of the Hobart Walking Club, and present and former members of the Fern Tree community. Thus were brought together strands from the different phases of the Sklenicas' interesting lives.

Fern Tree still seems to appeal to singular characters, and Alex was not the least of these.

Brian (Ted) Mollineaux, died 27/10/00, aged 70 years

Ted Mollineaux, who built a house and lived in Summerleas Road for around thirty years, was a gentle and compassionate man, not hungry

for status or possessions, although as a surveyor he might have attained those badges of worldly success. His wife, Coralie, bred and kept many Siamese cats, but their demesne was notable also for its broader collection of domestic animals including chooks, ducks and goats. Both Coralie and Ted were active in the scouting movement: she ran a Wolf Cub pack and Ted was a Scout leader.

After Coralie's death Ted's kindness was extended to assisting several single parents and their offspring, in non-exploitative relationships. After he himself had left the district he allowed two young mothers and their children to occupy the house as non-paying tenants.

Our society tends to be rather uncharitable towards members who live in the way Ted Mollineaux chose to. Nonetheless, landowners both locally and farther afield gained advantage from Ted's surveying services at lower than professional rates. Walkers along Summerleas Road with heavy schoolbags or shopping burdens also benefited from Ted's unfailing practice if he hove along of offering lifts.

Untidy, unhurried, anything but house-proud, but fond of animals, a friend to cast-offs and the afflicted – this was Ted Mollineaux, not one for show, but still close to the heartbeat of humanity.

Jurri (John) van Geytenbeek, died 13/11/00, aged 92 years

John was a young radio officer with the Dutch Navy when he met Margaret during his ship's visit to Melbourne in 1943. More visits ensued, courtesy of the Dutch navy, and the pair married in 1944 with John leaving the Navy shortly afterwards. The couple lived in Melbourne for several years and began a family. They 'saw the light' and moved to Tasmania in 1957, and have remained on the southern side of Bass Strait ever since.

From his skills in radio-telecommunication, John turned in Australia to mechanical engineering and was widely respected for his skill in the workplace and around his and others' homes.

The family purchased land in Summerleas

OBITUARIES

Road following the 1967 bushfires, and moved to live in their new home in 1973. Extensive and attractive gardens were a hallmark of both their homes in Summerleas Road, and hospitable and good humoured natures were hallmarks of John and Margaret.

When circumstances allowed a return trip to Holland in 1974 (John managed seven such trips in all), John discovered that Australia still listed him as an 'enemy alien' as he had not become a naturalised Australian, once our law instituted Australian citizenship in 1949!

In 1997, needing a more convenient and level home and surrounds, John and Margaret moved downhill to Strickland Avenue, but ties with their 24 years in Fern Tree remain, and David and his family are Fern Tree residents.

Ralph Ryland, died 1/11/00, aged 83 years

Ralph was reared in Hobart's northern suburbs, was a keen sportsman and worked throughout his adult years as a member of the highly-respected joinery firm of B. J. Ryland Pty Ltd. Property sales of earlier decades would often quote "joinery by B.J. Ryland" as a selling point.

His sporting prowess was keenly sought by the Minister of the tiny New Town Presbyterian Church (which had an extensive youth program with sport a prominent part of that), and there he met Vera and they married in 1952.

Ralph and Vera and their family moved to Fern Tree in 1969, living next door to a home built by Ralph's father in Pillinger Drive — as his 'holiday shack'! The outstanding garden surrounding their home of 31 years has frequently been the venue for large gatherings of people, testimony to Ralph and Vera's love of people. Ralph's love of 'his' Mountain was a strengthener even in his last days. Jeanette and her family have remained Fern Tree residents.

By 1979, Ralph was beginning to experience heart problems and he moved into semi-retirement. Nevertheless, his workshop at home produced many dolls houses and other intricately crafted pieces.

Ralph Ryland was a quiet person whose

word was absolutely his bond. He had strong organisational skills and believed strongly in the personal approach.

Ralph was a man of unswerving faith in God – despite man's failings Ralph was very aware that his God never deserted him.

Chris (Pi) Butler, died 10/11/00, aged 73 years

Many Fern Tree residents were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Chris Butler in a road accident on 10 November.

Pi Butler moved to Fern Tree as a lad of 8 or so and lived here for the rest of his 73 years. He was known as either Chris, Pi or Kebab by his numerous family and friends.

A successful surveyor and public servant, (he became Deputy Surveyor-General while still in his thirties), Chris ended his public service career as Tasmania's Surveyor-General. His active professional life was carried over "out of hours", especially in his much-loved workshop.

Chris will be fondly remembered by many for his contribution to the Fern Tree community in various capacities. He was an active member of the Progress Association as it was then called. Some locals still recall his expertise at calling the chocolate wheel at the local fairs.

Chris was also a member of the original (pre-1967) fire brigade. Each member had a phone which alerted them to the need to get to the fire truck stationed where the shop currently stands. Chris was in charge of the siren for the Bracken Lane and Pillinger Drive area, known locally as "Snob's Hill".

It is not possible to describe in a few words such a full life. Chris's enthusiasm, vitality and enjoyment of life involved him in so many activities. He was an active member of ski clubs, motor bike clubs and the Royal Tennis club. Most of all, he was a successful husband, father and grandfather.

Those who knew Chris well will greatly miss his boyish laugh and love of life. Our sympathy goes out to his family — June, Helen, Sue, Bill and their families.

The above tributes were prepared by Tom and Robin Errey and Garl Moffat.