

Guidelines for Development in Bushfire Prone Areas of Tasmania: Living with fire in Tasmania

Tasmania Fire Service has got together with DPIWE, local government and the building industry following the severe bushfires in many parts of Tasmania in 1998. As the Bushfire Planning Group, they have recently released *Guidelines for Development in Bushfire Prone Areas of Tasmania*.

The *Guidelines* are intended to provide guidance for anybody who already has, or is thinking of building within a bushfire prone area. And this means all of us up here in Fern Tree, Neika and Ridgeway. They describe a range of ways our properties can be protected from bushfire attack, realising that there is no standard formula.

These new *Guidelines* replace the previous *TFS 1995 Planning Conditions and Guidelines* document. They are only guidelines and have no formal regulatory status. Nonetheless, the document includes measures drawn from the design, planning, construction and management phases of development chosen more for their usefulness, rather than regulatory status. The *Guidelines* cover four main development aspects.

1. Defendable Space from Bushfires – produced by separation of the building from the bushfire hazard and minimization of nearby hazards.
2. Roads – planning for road connections, designing and constructing roads and fire trails for emergency use.
3. Water Supplies – provision of adequate and accessible water supplies for effective fire fighting.
4. Building - siting, design and construction to maximise fire safety.

With summer coming up, and again it looks like a nasty dry one in the offing, hopefully you'll want to obtain a copy of the new *Guidelines* from the Hobart City Council's Customer Service Centre and think about how you can live with fire in Fern Tree.

Alderman Eva Ruzicka

Orphaned and injured marsupials

Living and driving in areas such as Fern Tree means we often find animals that have been attacked by a domestic pet or that have been injured on the road. There are dangers associated with these wounded animals including injury to ourselves and diseases we really do not want to catch. There are ways these animals can be caught to ensure the best outcome for both the animal and ourselves. You might also find an orphaned marsupial in or around your property and while these are very cute and it is tempting to keep them, they are extremely fragile and require specialized care.

If you are uncertain how you should approach either situation feel free to call Lone Fishwick on 0412 808 250 and she will come and manage the situation or find someone who can. Alternatively, if you have found an injured marsupial or orphan, you can bring it to Lone at the Fern Tree Store. Please understand, this does not mean that the animal will be cared for here in Fern Tree as it is very important that it is taken to the most appropriate carer for the species.

Thank you, *Lone Fishwick*



Fern Tree Community Association Inc. Newsletter

October 2005

Words from the President

As we move into Spring, we're all looking forward to longer days and daylight saving evenings. We've had a quiet winter – one or two snowfalls (not enough for many, but beautiful while they were here) and a couple of community events that were enjoyed by those who attended.

The Bastille Day dinner was great fun, with lots of French-theme foods and some very gallic-looking dressing. Read more about it elsewhere in this newsletter, and, thanks to Lone Fishwick, Una Harbinson and all those who helped to make it such a great night. If you missed it, look out for our next event, a Trivia Night at the Tavern.

The kids enjoyed the Children's Day – lots of balloons and fun in the Community Centre, even if the weather outside wasn't marvellous. It was good to see so many young folk (and their parents) making friends and enjoying themselves.

Broadband Internet has finally arrived. From what I've heard, the rate of take-up has surprised the providers, and there's now a shortage. Proof of what we've been telling them for some years about the nature and enthusiasm of the people in Fern Tree!

As we move towards Summer – and it looks like being a dry one – one's thoughts inevitably turn to the possibility of bushfires. Now's the time to get into the garden to make sure that you've got adequate clearance around the house and sensible plantings of low fire risk vegetation. If you'd like advice, phone Don Jones or Terry Gill from the local Fire Brigade – they're always happy to help.

Cheers — *Brian Marriott*



FTCA Annual Trivia Night 2005

Come along for the chance to win some great prizes – and have a lot of fun!

WHEN: Saturday 29 October, 7 pm for 7.30 start

WHERE: Fern Tree Tavern

WHO: Groups of 5-8 people (8 is absolute maximum). Organise a group before booking, or join one on the night.

COST: \$15 per person (includes a light supper)

DRINKS: May be purchased at the bar

BRING: Your friends, and lots of small change for a raffle and spot competitions.

(If you'd like to donate a prize it will be gratefully received.)

BOOKINGS: At the Fern Tree Store by Thursday 27th for catering purposes

Want more information? Call Sandi at the Fern Tree Store 6239 1406 or Una 6239 1206

...but wait! There's more!

Some dates for your diary or calendar:

Friday 4 November: Children's Disco, Fern Tree Community Centre, 7pm.

Saturday 19 November: Fern Tree Carboot Sale, 9.30am – noon, Community Centre and Tavern car park

Sunday 18 December: Fern Tree Annual Carols by Candlelight at the Bower, 8pm. All welcome, including volunteer helpers!

When walking your dog...

Since 1993, Wellington Park has been co-operatively managed by the Hobart City Council, Glenorchy City Council, Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, and Hobart Water for cultural, environmental, recreational and water quality values. Wellington Park forms an important water catchment that supplies fresh drinking water to Fern Tree and to the Greater Hobart area. To protect drinking water quality and the experiences of all visitors, permitted areas for dog walking have been established.

Dogs on lead are permitted in the lower eastern foothills of Mount Wellington (below Pinnacle Rd from the Springs to Big Bend, excluding Lost World and the Silver Falls Track). The Pipeline Track from the Fern Tree Shop to the Old School House at Neika is also popular with dog walkers however dogs are not permitted along the Pipeline Track beyond this point, or above the Pipeline Track to Silver Falls. At the Pinnacle dogs are only permitted if confined to your vehicle.

All dog faeces must be picked up. While having the potential to contaminate nearby waterways, deposits also encourage weed growth by enriching the soil and are offensive to other visitors - especially when discovered on the bottom of their boot! Under the Wellington Park Regulations it is an offence not to clean up after your dog, and may attract an on the spot fine, or penalties of up to \$2,000.

Love it or hate it, owners must keep dogs on lead at all times when walking within Wellington Park. No matter how well behaved, a dog off lead has the potential to reduce the quality of experience for other visitors to the Park. Children, the elderly or adults in fear of dogs, may feel intimidated by an unrestrained animal. Dogs off lead may also threaten bettongs, bandicoots, quolls and lizards. Protected in Wellington Park through legislation, these animals are enjoyed by other visitors. Failure to restrain your dog with a lead may attract an on the spot fine, or penalties of up to \$2,000.

For information re off-lead dog walking areas outside of Wellington Park, contact Hobart City Council (03) 6238 2182 or Kingborough City Council (03) 6211 8200.

For information on the management of Wellington Park contact (03) 6238 2176 or www.wellingtonpark.tas.gov.au. And look out for Margie Jenkin, the Wellington Park Awareness and Enforcement Ranger, on the ground promoting good park use!



Fern Tree Kids' Disco

When? Friday 4 November from 7.00 to 9.30 pm
Where? Fern Tree Community Centre
Cost: \$5.00 per child
 Light supper and drinks provided.
Come and join the fun!
 Adult supervision needed — parent volunteers requested.

Family Fun Day

Sunday 21 August

Cold and rain did not deter the families who came along to the FTCA Centre for this community event. There was plenty of food, mostly prepared by the energetic Lone and Chris Fishwick: delicious soups, cakes and biscuits, with hamburgers, sausages and salad.

As well, there were games for the children, indoors because of the bad weather.

All of this happened with a karaoke background of bouncy 60s songs provided voluntarily by local resident Tim, who was much too busy singing to have any food! The aim of the day was fun for the children, with parents meeting for a chat, and so it was an added bonus to find there was a profit as well. Lone was able to hand over \$100 to the Treasurer. Most of the credit goes to the enthusiastic Lone Fishwick, ably assisted by her husband Chris, and a small band of helpers. Thank you all!

Watch out for the next event - Children's disco in November. — *Una Harbinson*

Alderman Eva Ruzicka

FERN TREE 0407 391317
eruzicka@courier.tas.gov.au

I'm proud of Hobart and what we can achieve when we work together. Hobart has a vital edge – our good lifestyle, marvellous environment and safe community. That's why we live here. It's a good place to raise a family or run a business. We've kept our sense of place in a globalised world and held onto important values. Working together, Hobart can succeed on a regional level and internationally.

I was elected as Alderman and Deputy Lord Mayor in 2002 and have two years to serve as Alderman. The Mayor and Deputy term are two years, and I am seeking your number one vote for re-election as Deputy. As Deputy Lord Mayor I will continue to work with government, business and the community to address:

- **community concerns** - residential privacy, noise protection; rights to sunlight; safe streets; enjoyable parklands for visitors and families
- **what business needs to succeed** - pushing for competitive service costs; regional strategies attracting and retaining innovators, talent and investment – such as developing strong Antarctic business and tourism
- **good management of Council assets and services** - clear, consistent policies to ensure rates are minimised over the long term with competent funding to match Hobart's growth; trying to find a way forward with the many competing demands from business and residents
- **promoting our Capital City** - for tourism, heritage, education. If we are to keep what makes Hobart special, we need protection for our quiet green parklands, bush skylines, fragile waterways and our superb built heritage. We need to maintain our reputation for being friendly and safe.

Previous Deputy Lord Mayor, Pru Bonham, encouraged me to run for her position when she

retired. Supported by responses around Hobart, she is endorsing me again to continue. It's a privilege to serve on Council and to work to put Hobart's interests first. I believe I have represented our city with grace and dignity and I seek your vote to re-elect me as Deputy Lord Mayor.

Authorised by Eva Ruzicka 699 Huon Road Fern Tree

Pot Luck Dinner on a French theme

Saturday 23 July

A great evening was had by all who attended this light-hearted fund-raising event at the Fern Tree Community Centre - 39 people in all.

The food was good, all contributed by the diners: there was delicious soup and French bread, mussels, various main courses and desserts, but the real piece de resistance was the enormous croquemouche created and constructed by Chris and Lone Fishwick. It was a veritable work of art, and greatly enjoyed by all - with some to spare!

Hilary Fawcett planned some great activities including a French quiz, some French songs and a very entertaining art competition! In addition, there was a lucky door prize, and a raffle. Lone persuaded several businesses to sponsor prizes for the event, and donations were also made by several locals. Finally, a band of helpers came to set up, and, again next morning, to clean up.

We were delighted to raise \$441.50 in total, giving success all round - a good evening, good food, good fun and a good profit for the FTCA!

Thank you to all who contributed, in any way, including:

Businesses: Café Toulouse, La Cuisine, RAW(Sandy Bay), Dymmocks and Book City.

Individual donors: Lone and Chris Fishwick, Liane Barden, Eva Ruzicka, John Harbinson.

Helpers: Lone, Chris, Robyn, Liane, Eva, Brian, Dave, Caroline, Bette, Sandi, Hilary and Peter.

and - last but not least - **all the cooks!**
Una Harbinson, Coordinator.