

Your FTCA Committee

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Treasurer: Dave Roberts

Public Officer: Dave Roberts

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Website address: www.ferntree.org.au

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Joy and Ted invite you to visit their garden in spring. Enjoy 1.25 acres of hundreds of rhododendrons and other rare plants and trees, with views of Mount Wellington.

SATURDAY 10 am to 5 pm

October 14, 21, 28; November 4, 11.

DIRECTIONS: Travel past the Cascade Brewery along Strickland Avenue (or down from its junction with Huon Road) to Marlyn Road. Turn left opposite Avon Road and follow the signs. Park in Marlyn Road. You can get there on the Metro Marlyn Road bus.

Hello from your Alderman

A very dry winter has left its mark in Fern Tree. I hope by now our collective thoughts are bent towards wildfire-proofing our homes and bushland properties. The local fire brigade was called out the first day of Spring and that can't be a good sign. A weekend spent cleaning the eaves and raking up the fallen bush debris away from our homes leaving the ground clear for at least 20 metres has to be a priority now.

It's also time to think what you and your family will do in the event of wildfire. Will you all stay at home or will the younger members and the pets leave? Will you talk with your neighbours and find out if you can share resources? Do you have enough hoses, rakes, a stand alone pump for the water tank if you have one? Are there tree branches hanging over your house? If you have questions like these, I'm sure our Fern Tree Fire Brigade will be most happy to give the right advice to keep your family alive.

The Hobart City Council will be hoping for the right weather so it can carry out its program of management burns from September to January. Six burns are planned for this time in 1) Bicentennial Park, 2) and 3) in Knocklofty-McRobies Gully, 4) Wellington Park and 5) and 6) in Ridgeway Park. These burns will be for hazard reduction and to contribute to the long term ecological integrity of these bushland reserves. Keep an ear out on the local ABC 936 radio for when the burns will be taking place.

And while we're on the subject of cleaning up, Council has recently moved to replace the black recycling bins with wheelie bins. A welcome move because that will mean a lot less recyclables being blown about on collection day in the high winds we get up here in Fern Tree and around the City.

If you have any queries about council issues, e-mail me on eva@ruzicka.id.au or phone me on 0407 391317.

All the best, *Alderman Eva Ruzicka*

Fern Tree Community Association Inc. Newsletter

October 2006



Come and enjoy a ripper of a night at the **Fern Tree Tavern**, 7.15 for 7.30, **Saturday 7 October!**

Cost? \$ 15 per person.

How? Book at the Fern Tree Store. Form tables of 6 - 8, or join a table on the night.

What? Raffles, spot prizes, team prizes, nibbles at the table (supplied by the Tavern), drinks from the bar.

Support your **community**, **meet** some **neighbours**, and give yourself a **chance to win our huge raffle.**

And put these dates in your diary!

28 October: Hallow E'en Party for the children. Further details soon at the shop.

A Sunday afternoon in November: Another **concert** in the Wellington Series, at the Community Centre (date to be finalised).

11-12 November: Quilt Exhibition, Fern Tree Community Centre, in aid of the Menzies Centre.

Sunday 17 December: The annual **Fern Tree Carols by Candlelight**, 8 pm at the Bower, to include the FERN TREE ART RAFFLE. All welcome, including volunteer helpers!

Your Community Association needs your support

A plea from Bruce Wilson, President of the Fern Tree Community Association (FTCA).

Greetings. One of the things that attracted me to Fern Tree was the feeling of being slightly isolated from surrounding suburbs, yet at the same time being connected to the Hobart metropolitan area. The combination of climbing the hills on the few roads that lead to Fern Tree, entering the bush that surrounds us all, and discovering the village perched on the side of Mt Wellington, was quite exciting, and it is still exciting after nearly 10 years. When I realised that many of my fellow residents felt the same way, and that few of us regarded Fern Tree as 'just a suburb', it seemed only right that the next step should be to join together with my fellows in community activities.

Unfortunately, community activities do not organise themselves. They take some cooperative effort by motivated people, and that is why I am writing this to you. Your community association needs the active involvement of a larger number of people than we currently have. We want you to join the Executive of FTCA.

Many people volunteer to help out with community events, and their involvement is hugely valuable on the day, but we would also like to see a few more people involved with the planning and organisation of events. The regular commitment is quite small, only a couple of hours for a meeting once a month. Some events are annual occurrences like the Quiz Night (this year on Saturday October 7) and the Carols By Candlelight, while others are collaborations with other organisations, such as the Mountain Cabaret held in April, and the Music on the Mountain concert in June. Late this summer we are planning another Fern Tree Festival, which has been held occasionally for several decades. This is a major event that will require a lot of planning.

All voting-age residents of Fern Tree are members of the Community Association, so there is nothing special you need to do to "join" except live here. We have a significant asset in the Community Centre located at the end of Stephenson Place, which serves as a base for many

activities but which also requires a lot of money to maintain and insure. The newsletter you are reading this in is the usual method of communicating FTCA matters, though we also post notices at the Store and the Tavern.

If you want to help by joining the Executive of FTCA, please contact me, Bruce, on 6226 7848 (day) or 6239 1028 (evening), or by email at bewilson@utas.edu.au We would love to work with you.

Regards - Bruce Wilson.

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Our lethal roads

Tasmania is unique. Nowhere else in Australia can you see small marsupials so close to urban areas. But this proximity, while it is wonderful for us, can be lethal for those animals.

The problem is us. We drive too fast at night and can easily kill or maim them. The longer roads in Fern Tree (Huon, Menuggana, Summerleas Roads and Pillinger Drive) encourage higher speeds and are regularly littered with new carcasses. PLEASE SLOW DOWN AND WATCH OUT FOR SMALL CRITTERS.

Join Pip and Rick Ruthenberg at the **FERN TREE TAVERN**

Lunches from 12 noon, dinner Wednesday to Saturday from 6pm.

Devonshire Teas,, Pizzas, Takeaway meals.

Join the **SOCIAL CLUB!** Members get a 15% discount off all meals and pizzas.

EVENTS: Four per year, Calcuttas and Can Castle.

The Great Fern Tree Artwork Raffle, 2006

The main prize in our 2006 Artwork Raffle is a large framed **photograph by Peter Dombrowskis**, *Hobart from the Summit of Mount Wellington, Tasmania* – a view of icy Mountain slopes, the Derwent, Storm Bay and Tasman Peninsula. This real photographic print, worth \$1200, is framed by Luke Wagner, Hobart's leading art framer (and a neighbour, in Ridgeway). Other prizes are:

- a framed collection of 10 rare and unusual examples of barbed wire collected from the lower slopes of Mount Wellington by Andrew Davie, valued at \$400;
- a framed pen drawing of native flora by botanical artist Kris Schaffer, valued at \$300;
- a framed soft ground etching by Suzi Tyson of hares tail and kangaroo grass, valued at \$100;
- a selection of books by Fern Tree authors with a combined value of \$60, each signed by its author. The books are: *Passionate Friends* by Sylvia Martin; *The Alphabet of Light and Dark* by Danielle Wood and *The Longest Climb: Back from the Abyss* by Paul Pritchard.

Tickets are available at \$2 each from the Fern Tree Store, the Tavern and committee members. We encourage all residents to buy tickets and, more, to sell some to their friends and colleagues. Small books will be available, to make it easy to sell a book or two. The raffle will be drawn at the annual **Carols by Candlelight on 17 December.**

All proceeds will go towards the refurbishment of the Community Centre, to make it an even better venue for your next function.

Keep your dog on a lead!

Dog walking is permitted on designated tracks in Wellington Park, but dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. Recent reports from local neighbours and visitors indicate that many dog walkers are not complying with this regulation.

Dogs off lead have the potential to reduce the quality of experience for other visitors to the Park. Children and the elderly may feel especially intimidated by an unrestrained animal. Wildlife may also be threatened.

Recently a dead platypus, a young female, was found at the bottom of O'Grady's Falls, near Fern Tree (pictured below). Expert advice was that its injuries, including crushing of the chest, were consistent with a dog attack.

Even well behaved dogs off lead can run ahead of their owners and inadvertently injure or kill wildlife. Please respect our native neighbours. Keep dogs on lead at all times. Offenders will be fined or prosecuted.

Dog walkers are also reminded to pick up all faeces, and to ensure they walk where dogs are permitted. Over 20% of Hobart's drinking water is sourced from Wellington Park. Restrictions to dog access in the Park are designed to protect water catchment quality.

For more information on where dog walking is permitted see the Wellington Park Dog Information sheet at the new Wellington Park website, www.wellingtonpark.tas.gov.au, or contact Wellington Park Ranger, Margie Jenkin on 0408 517534.

Reports of illegal activity or interesting sightings in the Park are also welcome.

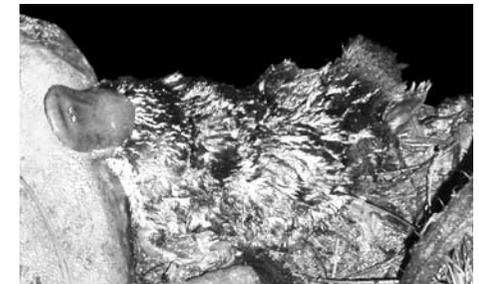


Photo by Dave Obendorf, O'Grady's Falls, July 2006