

## Recent acquisitions for Community Centre

Those of you who were not at the Annual General Meeting may not be aware that the Association was successful late last year in gaining a \$2000 grant from the Commonwealth Department of Community Services to buy equipment to help Association volunteers in the work that they do.

The money has been used so far to acquire a dishwasher and an outdoor gas heater, and to replace the volunteer-made trestle tables which have served us well for over thirty years. (The old trestle tables have found a new home at New Town Primary School.)

The remainder of the funds will be used to buy gardening implements for work around the Community Centre. The new acquisitions have already proved to be very effective at several functions.

## Fern Tree gets the good oil on climate change

Long-time Fern Tree resident Peter Boyer is one of two trained presenters for Al Gore's Climate Project in Tasmania. Early in May, Peter gave a presentation to around 25 people at the Fern Tree Community Centre. There were no climate change sceptics in the audience, but the topic being discussed could have been aggravating even for a sympathetic audience. I am happy to say that no such aggravation occurred, and the audience went away thoroughly satisfied by the experience.

A number of aspects of the presentation were impressive:

1 The amount of material and the length of the presentation were just right for the nature of

the audience and the stage of the debate we have reached.

2 The subject matter and its scientific complexity were also just right for the audience and the night. The Tasmanian material fitted in well, and it didn't look as though Peter had made a pathetic but ultimately fruitless attempt to give a global presentation some local 'relevance'. It is clear that he has finely tuned each presentation both to the perceived needs of the audience and to the stage the debate has reached, particularly as Australia's climate change response seems to be 'evolving' rapidly. This meant that the discussion wasn't bogged down in argument over the details.

3 Peter's slightly reticent and far from strident manner allowed the message to be absorbed without accompanying propaganda, and meant that the discussion was free of emotional distress. Peter's ready and fluent answers to questions spoke of the depth of his knowledge and understanding of the issues. He freely gave his opinion, making it clear that he wasn't parroting a party line or giving a pre-digested chunk of factoids that we were simply expected to take on.

4 At the end of the meeting people were keen to discuss 'what happens next'. Involvement in political solutions is beyond the scope of the Al Gore Climate Project remit, and in spite of some good-natured provocation from the audience, Peter resisted the temptation to play politics. It's a problem that personal and even local solutions will only ever be minor players without a national political strategy, but in encouraging individuals to start making changes at a personal and local level, a presentation such as Peter's does ultimately have an impact nationally (e.g. home power generation, local initiatives to buy cheap solar hot water systems in bulk – see separate item this issue). – *Bruce Wilson, with additional material from Brian Marriott.*

*THANKS to Duncan Kerr MHR for assistance in the printing of this Community Newsletter.*

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* or email <secretary@ferntree.org.au>. **Find us on the Web at [www.ferntree.org.au](http://www.ferntree.org.au)**

# Fern Tree Community Association Inc. Newsletter

June 2007

## Get solar hot water!

An invitation to Fern Tree and Ridgeway households

In response to concerns about climate change the Waterworks Road community initiated a project to purchase solar hot water heaters in bulk. This reduced the cost, and 57 solar systems were snapped up within 3 weeks. This is an invitation for households in Fern Tree and Ridgeway to be part of a similar initiative. We need 20 people in order to be eligible for the discount, and we will be placing an order by the end of June. Late-comers may be able to have their orders filled at a later date.

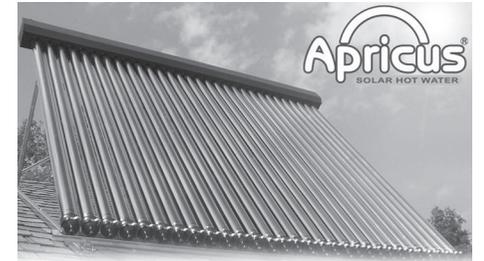
The solar system is the Australian-developed 'evacuated tube' technology which has been found to be more effective in cool climates. It has several advantages over other solar technologies, for example:

- on a cloudy cool day it captures more UV / heat.
- it is effective on roofs that face north-west, north or east.
- as water is not stored on the roof it weighs less. Thus it is suitable for most roof structures, and there is no risk of water in the system freezing in frosty weather.
- the system can be retro-fitted to ordinary hot water cylinders.

Visit [www.apricus.com.au](http://www.apricus.com.au) to find out more about the system.

The approximate cost will be from around \$2,000 if you wish to retro-fit to an existing hot water cylinder, around \$3,000 for a full system (including a new stainless steel hot water cylinder (HWC), a bit more if you need a larger system, or a bit less if you buy an enamel HWC. Allowance also needs to be made for plumbing costs.

Visit <http://ferntree.org.au/> for more information about this offer.



Images from [www.apricus.com.au](http://www.apricus.com.au)

We encourage you to undertake a home assessment of your water use and house (including roof slope and solar aspect) to determine the solar suitability of your home and the size of the system you will require. A self-assessment form can be downloaded from the Fern Tree Community Association website. The form will answer most of your questions. Once you have assessed your home and decided to purchase a system we require you that you register your intention to purchase a system – details are on the website. You must have completed section 1, 4 & 5 of the assessment form for us to contact you and then proceed with your order.

If you want to further discuss technical issues, please email the EcoTasmania trust set up by Waterworks residents, at [info@ecotasmania.com](mailto:info@ecotasmania.com)

Thank you—*Kaylene Allan, Ridgeway.*

## Bus-bike service – a first for Fern Tree

A big thank you to everyone who supported the pilot Fern Tree bus-bike service!

This pilot was a first in Tasmania, and ran 2 days a week at 5.45 pm from town. We needed 10 people per trip (paying \$3.50 concession or \$4 full fare) to make it financially viable. However we averaged about 3 people per trip and at our busiest we had 11 people!!

The overwhelming feeling of participants was that it was great fun and very convenient. The return bus trip also provided a great opportunity to meet new people in the community, share cycling stories and relax after a day at the factory! Interestingly, recreational cyclists often joined us on the bus for a lift up the hill, and then had an adventurous ride back down to town (exploring many of the mountain's great bike tracks).

We are hoping the service will be offered again next season (starting in spring). However we will definitely need to get at least 10 people to commit and pay for the service up-front. Like many things the biggest hurdle is getting into the habit, and involving a friend is the best way to keep motivated. So we want to encourage all those people who participated this year, and those who would like to give it a go, to also sign up a friend for next season. Please contact Kaylene if you are interested.

The venture would not have been possible without Island Cycle Tours and their visionary Sam Denmead! Their flexibility, innovative

## Your FTCA Committee

*President:* Bruce Wilson

*Secretary:* Ann Davie

*Treasurer:* Dave Roberts

*Public Officer:* Dave Roberts

*Committee Members:* Robin Errey, Una Harbinson, John Harbinson, Barbara Tassell, Prue Quarmbly, Gay Spaans, and Len Spaans

*Correspondence:* secretary@ferntree.org.au

*Community Centre:* bookings@ferntree.org.au

*General enquiries:* info@ferntree.org.au

*Website address:* www.ferntree.org.au

bus facilities, enthusiasm and preparedness to give it a go, made the experience a real pleasure! Behind the scenes Helen Burnett (Greens Councillor, HCC) and Stuart Baird (Sustainable Transport Officer, HCC) worked hard to get Hobart City Council to subsidise the service. The Fern Tree Community Association also supported the idea, especially through the Newsletter and extra letterboxing by volunteers. So - a big thank you to Hobart City Council, Sam, Helen, Stuart, the FTCA and to all those who got on their bikes and joined us on the bus! I hope to see you next season! Until then happy and safe cycling!—*Kaylene Allan*  
<ksallan@dodo.com.au>



## Wanted: people with building and maintenance skills.

Your community centre has been undergoing a gradual renaissance over the last few years, as a small but dedicated band of workers have added, upgraded and improved various aspects in their spare time.

This volunteer work has been essential, as we do not have the funds to pay for all the work that is necessary to make the community centre an attractive venue for community events. However we need a new generation of helpers to add their skills to the effort.

If you have building or maintenance skills, please consider offering a little of your time and expertise. If you are interested, please contact John Harbinson <john@harbinson.id.au> or ring him on 6239 1206.

## Fire Brigade Open Day – thanks everyone!

Thank you to every one who came along and supported the above, on the afternoon of 4 February last. We estimate that over the 3 hours, we had around 70 visitors, which was terrific.

We trust that you found the displays interesting and that you each came away with some useful information, about your own home fire defence, equipment available and your family's plan for what you need to do, when a bushfire threatens.

### Get your structures assessed

We received quite a few requests for structure survival assessments in the event of a bushfire. The home visits in response to these requests have been completed, with appropriate advice and encouragement given to each home owner.

This is an ongoing service and if you would like to have an on site structure survival assessment made of your property, please contact Terry Gill on 62391124 to arrange an appointment.

### Winners of our quiz

Congratulations to the following winners of our multiple choice fire safety quiz. The first three correct entries drawn from the box were:-

**1st prize** (household fire extinguisher), Morgan Hart; **2nd prize** (household fire blanket), Simon Benham; **3rd prize** (kitchen smoke alarm), Patti Virtue

For the record, the correct answers were:

Q–If you have a wood heater, when should you clean the flue? A–At least once a year.

Q–Which one of these things should never be used on a fat fire? A–Water.

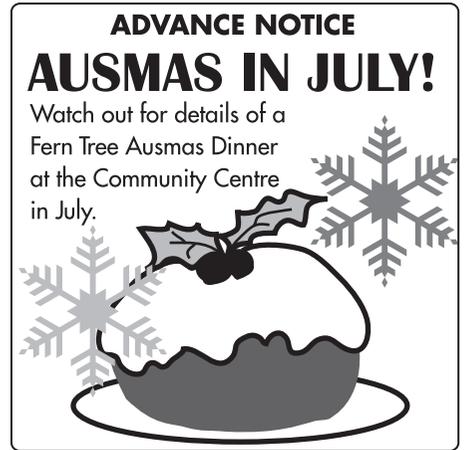
Q–If you are cooking food on the stove top and need to turn away, what should you do?

A–Turn it off, before you turn away.

Q–How often should you check your smoke alarm? A–Once a week (not to be confused with 'once a year' which is for battery replacement).

We look forward to seeing you, when we do this again in the future.

- Terry Gill, acting Brigade Chief



## Election day cake stalls

The Legislative Council Elections on 5 May provided an opportunity for the FTCA to run a cake stall at the Community Centre. Thank you to those who supported on that day: we ran out of supplies at lunchtime, but still raised \$150.

Please note that there will be a **MONSTER CAKE STALL** on the day of the **Federal Election**, sometime later this year. As it might not coincide with a Fern Tree newsletter to advertise it, please mark it in your diary once John Howard names the day, and start baking! Please do not wait to be asked - and don't leave it to the same small group of committee members. And remember, if you would rather not bake, you can help at the stall, or just buy and enjoy!

## Yoga and karate classes in Fern Tree

Do you know that there are **YOGA and KARATE** classes running currently at the Community Centre?. Enquiries to Lone at the Fern Tree Store.

## Use of the Community Centre

The rates are very reasonable, and the facilities are improving steadily. For details and bookings see Lone at the Fern Tree Store.