

Established 1970 Association No.A0007735M ABN 15 952 521 931

# KANANOOK CREEK ADVOCATE

## Our Aim:

To clean, restore and preserve  
Kananook Creek and its environment

## Hon. President

Paul A Davies

E: [padavies.kca@gmail.com](mailto:padavies.kca@gmail.com)



Proud winners of  
NAB Volunteers Award for 2005!

Postal address: PO Box 123

Frankston, Vic, 3199

[www.kananookcreekassociation.org](http://www.kananookcreekassociation.org)

## Spring 2014 newsletter of the Kananook Creek Association Inc.

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## Some thoughts from the president

Welcome to springtime. Yes, that's when plants start to grow. They don't just grow in our backyards; the reserves along the creek also come to life, not just with vegetation, but also wildlife. Springtime brings out the best in the Kananook Creek, so if you haven't been along the walking tracks in recent months now's a good time to get moving. Not only is it warmer, but we have more daylight hours to enjoy the experience. The scent of the bush is more pronounced, the birds are very much alive and active. You'll see flowers and blossoms in bloom. Nature is hard at work after the winter pause. Grab a couple of friends and take time to walk along our lovely walking trails. It's a great way to forget about the stresses of daily life; it's also physically worthwhile. Vary the times you leave home and enjoy nature and the trail at different times of the day. You don't have to walk the length of the track, just a few kilometres and then reward yourself with a coffee in Seaford or Frankston or Carrum. There's a great choice in coffee shops. For what it's worth my personal favourites are Seaford Beach Café, Aum Shanti or Café Vada in Frankston and Coffeekiss near the station in Carrum. So get out there and enjoy it. Become a tourist in your own town, you may just be surprised by what you find. Cheers, Paul Davies

### 1. Committee vacancy

The association has an immediate vacancy for a Secretary. This role probably involves 5 or so hours work per week. The only fixed commitment is the monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month between 5.00 and 8.00 pm. Duties include minutes, some general computer work such as assisting with submissions, newsletters and general correspondence. Anybody with reasonable administrative skills and basic p.c. experience would find the role fairly straight forward. If you're interested give Paul Davies a call on 0413 404 525 for a chat. Otherwise email, [padavies.kca@gmail.com](mailto:padavies.kca@gmail.com)

### 2. Kananook Creek Footbridges

You may recently have seen some of the KCA committee on the front page of the Frankston Leader. Not pretty, but necessary as we were forced to make last minute interventions to the Frankston City Council and its Councillors after we learnt at 4.00 pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August that the Beach Street footbridge was to be demolished and replaced with a near flat lifeless steel structure. This work was scheduled to commence at 8.00 am on the Tuesday! Cloak and dagger stuff it would seem. Worse still was that all bridges were in the crosshairs for replacement with similar structures. Amazingly Councillors weren't even aware of what was happening. Needless to say several of the Councillors were far from

impressed, because rightly so they saw our timber footbridges as an integral part of Frankston's seaside history and character.

By 10.00 am on the Tuesday KCA had managed to have a stop placed on the bridge works at Beach Street. From there meetings were convened with Council offers, Councillors and representatives from such community groups as the Frankston Historical Society, the Kananook Creek Association and Long Island Residents Group. Nobody has ever argued that the footbridges don't need maintenance. What horrified community groups and Councillors alike was the disregard for the history of the timber bridges, the visual amenity they bring to the creek, the character they add to Frankston and the sense of serenity they invoke when we walk across them.

The good news is that the Beach Street footbridge been repaired and reopened. In the next several months it will be replaced with a similar structure which retains the character of the existing timber footbridges. Sense and feel will be retained. Yes, that will involve some short term inconvenience for users, but in the long term we'll retain this bridge and equally importantly all the timber bridges along the Kananook. There's even a chance that the McCulloch Avenue Bridge will be given a facelift and made to look more attractive. This is a great acknowledgement by both Council Officers and Councillors of the important role that the Kananook Creek plays in the public's assessment of Frankston. It's a world class asset and it's very gratifying to see that recognised by our civic leaders.

### 3. Riviera Street Jetty rebuild

In early July the Kananook Creek Association was approached by Melbourne Water canvassing the idea of demolishing both the Riviera Street jetty and the McCulloch Avenue jetty. That idea invoked a very swift no from the KCA. We also contacted Frankston City Council letting them know what was potentially going to happen. We're pleased to say that the FCC was equally unimpressed by the proposal. These jetties represent popular start, rest and finish points along the creek for kayakers, canoeists and other recreational paddlers, especially over the warmer months. The great news is that the Riviera Street jetty has been rebuilt and is now secure for the next generation. Melbourne Water has also agreed to undertake regular maintenance on the jetties to ensure they remain accessible and in safe working order. The McCulloch Avenue jetty will also be rebuilt by November. There are access issues with this jetty and drier weather is necessary to allow the rebuilding works to be carried out efficiently and cost effectively. This jetty has been unserviceable for the last 3 or so years so a few months extra is neither here nor there. It will be great to have it back in function again. This is how the jetty now looks:



### 4. November Fund-raiser Sausage Sizzle

Over the past 3 years KCA has organised Sausage Sizzles at local hardware outlets. This has proven to be a successful move. The sausage sizzle is a good revenue stream. Anyway, KCA's hosting a day on **Saturday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Masters in Carrum Downs. The store is located on the corner of Frankston-Dandenong Road and Lathams Road in Carrum Downs.**

Naturally we're looking for people to help us staff the stall. If you can help by sparing a few hours and know how to bbq a sausage or fry onions we'd love to hear from you. The day runs from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm and it takes about an hour to set up and clean up afterwards. Likewise we'd be happy to see you there just to buy a sausage or 2 to help support our activities. Money used from these days goes towards buying working bee equipment, funding office supplies, helping with the cost of newsletters, venue costs for meetings and similar.

If you can spare 2 or 3 hours to help out with the sausage sizzle please contact: **Paul Davies on 0413 404 525 or [padavies.kca@gmail.com](mailto:padavies.kca@gmail.com)**. Your efforts will be very much appreciated.

## **5. November Clean Up The Creek Day**

Put this date in your diary: Sunday 9th November 2014 for our water based creek clean-up day. Ideally we'd like to have boats leaving from both Fiocchi Avenue in Frankston and the jetty behind Seaford Village shops. We know we'll be able to get numbers for the Fiocchi Avenue site, but we've had significant difficulty in the last couple of years to get sufficient numbers to enable us to run a site in Seaford. As a rule we need around 12 or more people to enable us to successfully run a clean-up site, especially where water based activities are involved. So if you live Seaford and want to put 2 or 3 hours into your local environment and community then we'd love to hear from you. All you need are gloves, suitable footwear, a hat and the ability to walk along a trail or sit in a boat and collect rubbish (generally cans, food wrappers and the like).

So if you live in or around Seaford and can spare a few hours please contact Paul Davies on either 0413 404 525 or [padavies.kca@gmail.com](mailto:padavies.kca@gmail.com). Your support would be very much appreciated and we usually have a few nibbles afterwards. We look forward to seeing you and having a successful turnout. Yes, we'll be having a creek based clean up in Frankston, but having the same thing in Seaford is entirely dependent upon locals getting behind the idea. Sadly, no volunteers, no clean-up.

## **6. Town Planning and protecting our creek**

Over the past 18 or so months KCA committee members have been very much occupied with the Frankston Planning Scheme review. Our concern is to ensure that creek side development is appropriate to a location which not only provides for residential living, but is also used for public amenity and open space. KCA believes there should at most be medium density housing along the eastern side of the Nepean Highway between Mile Bridge and Eel Race Road. In essence this means a maximum of 3 storeys along the creek throughout Seaford. The same principle applies to strip of land on the western side of the Nepean Highway between Beach Street and Mile Bridge. This should also be classified as general residential.

As you will appreciate most of the land around the Kananook creek is environmentally sensitive in that it is coastal, low lying and essentially sand dune based. Instinctively it doesn't seem designed to accommodate high density, higher rise buildings. There is also the added issue of basement car parking. Most of the land is at or near sea level, thus any basement car parks would be subject to flooding and also interfere with water tables. In the opinion of the KCA much caution needs to be exercised with development around the creek and the general coastal fringe. The greater the area of impervious surface the greater the likelihood of flooding in and around the creek and other low lying areas. Maps produced by Melbourne Water dramatically indicate how potentially flood prone many parts of Bayside Melbourne and Westernport are. Up to 20% of the Frankston local government area falls into what Melbourne Water regards as Planning Scheme floodplains. That's no reason to panic, but it is incumbent upon planning authorities at a local and state level to be very cognisant of this fact.

## **7. Seaford area working bees**

Seaford used to be the heart and soul of the Kananook Creek Association. In fact that's where we started out nearly 45 years ago when the Kananook Creek was little more than a foul smelling drain running through the suburbs and out into the bay. Fortunately the world has changed for the better and the creek is now a popular passive recreation area for locals and visitors from around Melbourne. What the Kananook Creek and the KCA needs are able bodied people living north of Mile Bridge who are ready willing and available to put in regular time at monthly working bees to help maintain walking tracks, clear out introduced weeds and generally maintain the unique indigenous nature of the area. Simply put it is too big an area to be maintained by Council staff and a small band of volunteers. Without more volunteer input from the local population the creek reserve will slowly, but surely, return to its former neglected state. Paths won't be maintained and if that happens user numbers drop off and it becomes a progressive downward spiral. The reserve doesn't need to be pristine open parkland, but it does need to be readily accessible to a wide variety of users who can feel safe walking along the pathways and enjoying the experience.

Any readers of this newsletter who are interested in becoming actively involved with the KCA in the Seaford area feel free to call Paul on 0413 404 525 or email [padavies.kca@gmail.com](mailto:padavies.kca@gmail.com). That would be music to my ears.

## **8. The Green Army**

The KCA understands that in 2015 the federal government will be launching several Green Army projects in the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula areas. Activities undertaken locally will be project managed by Frankston City Council. Whilst final projects are yet to be determined the KCA understands that areas like the Kananook Creek, Seaford-Edithvale Wetlands and the Seaford foreshore are all strong contenders. The Green Army will be ongoing so if the creek isn't addressed in the opening rounds it will still be priority.

In addition the KCA and Frankston City Council have both applied for grant money to undertake walking track restoration between Armstrongs Road and the Seaford RSL. For those of you who've been along there recently you'll appreciate

that the track has become increasingly difficult to walk along especially for those people with young children or who may be a little less athletic than the average 20 year old. KCA wants to see the reserve accessible to as many users as possible. That restoration would involve reinforcing track banks, building retaining walls and the like. It's very much beyond the scope of volunteer working bees.

## 9. KCA membership and committee numbers

The Kananook Creek Association currently has 74 paid up members (single or household). The committee would like to double that by June 2015. A strong member base is in everybody's interest. Numbers help us in our lobbying work, they help us get people to working bees and a strong member base provides us with a sound revenue stream to help with newsletters, equipment purchases and similar. If the KCA can represent 30% of households along the creek environs our lobbying work to Frankston City Council has much more impact than if we only represent 3% of households. We especially need members in the area north of Mile Bridge through to Eel Race Road. That covers nearly 5 kilometres of creek and reserve area, yet it many respects it's the most neglected because we struggle to get an active member base in that area.

If you are a member that's great. Maybe you could make it a mission to recruit just 2 new members near your home. If you're not a member and you've got this newsletter via the KCA's letterbox drop then consider joining. At only \$15.00 per year it isn't expensive. The association could profitably use a couple more committee members, especially a Secretary or somebody with well-developed computing and word processing skills. This role involves taking minutes at monthly meetings and assistance with the preparation of newsletters such as this one. It's not hard and it is usually fun.

### KCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL 1 JAN 2015 - 31 DEC 2015

(Please forward with remittance to Andrew Robinson, Treasurer, KCA

410 Nepean Highway Frankston, 3199)

Or direct debit: **Kananook Creek Association, BSB: 083 253 ACCOUNT NUMBER 04790 6424.**

Please make sure you include your name in the details section if you pay by net transfer, but you'll still need to return this form to our Treasurer.

I/We would like to join		Name/s:
or		
I/We would like to		Phone No:
Renew membership		
No of persons in household		Address (residence):
I/We would like to learn more about KCA's activities	yes no	
I/We enclose membership fee of (\$15 per household)	\$15.00	Address (e-mail - privacy rules apply):
Plus donation (if desired)		Date:        /        /        .
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	Paid via internet?    Yes / No

***This newsletter is published with support from Melbourne Water***