

KANANOOK CREEK ASSOCIATION INC

Our aim:

"To clean, restore, and preserve the Kananook Creek and its environment"

Newsletter Spring 2008

PROGRESS REPORT -KANANOOK CREEK RESTORATION PROGRAM - (94% complete)



The KCA is a voluntary organization. New members are very welcome.

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The Kananook Creek Corridor Restoration is now to the city gates at Beach Street - 7km of the 7.5 km (94% of the length of the Corridor) has been largely restored. This has been a long and difficult urban renewal program and completion is a truly wonderful, co-operative achievement by all concerned.

The four key remaining items are:

1. Kananook Creek Boulevard Project - on track for completion for 2010

Keith Rhodes Project Manager advises that by October this year Frankston Council is expected to award the contract for the construction of Kananook Boulevard. The \$9 million Victorian Government funded Kananook Boulevard Project will be completed by early 2010. This presents an exciting opportunity for community celebration as it marks the end of this city's greatest and longest urban renewal challenge and a powerful and inspiring symbol as to what we can achieve as the Regional Capital. The opportunity to showcase and celebrate Frankston's urban transformation should not be missed.

We believe that as the transformation of the Yarra fundamentally transformed perceptions of the Yarra and Melbourne, so too will the Kananook Creek Boulevard project fundamentally change perceptions of the Kananook Creek Corridor and Frankston.

This is what building stronger communities and giving real meaning to the 'I Love Frankston' slogan is all about- we need to celebrate our genuine successes in order to genuinely believe and have confidence in the future!

This complex restoration is a truly wonderful story of co-operation between community, Council and Responsible Authorities over a very long period of time and we excitedly look forward to celebrating completion in early 2010.

KCA WEBSITE

Have you visited the KCA Website? <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~kananook>

2. Silt removal at Beach St and Wells St drains still not yet planned

However, we still have to restore the last 500 metres (or 6%) of waterway from Beach Street to the launching ramps at the mouth. The two key restoration capital items are:

1. Installation of a gross pollution trap at the Beach St drain and 2. Desilting of the Creek at the Beach St and Wells St drains. The desilting would have to be done during the winter of 2009 in conjunction with the Boulevard construction contract. Without alignment of the projects we could have a dysfunctional and embarrassing outcome - great positive publicity in 2010 to the restored Boulevard and Long Island reserves on the banks but negative publicity to the lifeless, unusable, silted 500 metres of waterway- "pity poor Frankston that it couldn't get its act together". This would not be a good image and an unfair reflection on the 94% of the waterway which is navigable and has been restored. Melbourne Water's Chris Chesterfield has confirmed social responsibility for the creek, which specifically included desilting of the major drain outlets. Desilting of the Buna, Overton and Mc Culloch drains was performed last winter and some spoil is still to be removed.

3. Revision of the 1992 Management Plan - nearly four years late

We strongly urge that at the October Council meeting, the final plans for the Kananook Creek Corridor should be approved. Timelines for the Boulevard Project and the remaining elements of the restoration should be aligned for completion in early 2010.

In order to have revised plans before Council and Melbourne Water in October we need to work a project critical path back to the present.

Based on recent experience with deadlines, we will need to take a radically different approach. The update of the existing 1992 Management Plan, commenced in 2004 and over 90% complete, was seen by all parties in the official and only joint press release as no more than a two month project. The one and only press release issued in September 1994 stressed that the three key parties were looking forward to "working together" and made no mention of any compelling reason to change direction or to "re-invent the wheel". No demand for change came from the Community Survey.

The unreasonable delays in updating the management plan is impacting the effectiveness of the KCLC. Further delays create uncertainty and frustration with affected residents.

At KCA'S AGM in April, members saw no convincing case for major change and unani- mously reconfirmed the key management objectives of the 1992 plan. KCA is very concerned. The draft issues and action paper seen in February is focused upon "stream health" and not the recreational waterway envisaged by Council and the Community. KCA has had no access to the Consultant and no response to our major concerns provided in February and March. We have requested direct intervention by our new CEO to get the process back on track.

4. Completion of Policy and Guidelines for Creekside Landowners

This policy covering jetties and edge treatments etc. will be integrated with the updated Management Plan.

Over 50% of creek frontage is comprised of the back yards of private prop- erties. John Curran is coordinating KCA'S landowners working group for the KCLC task force



CELEBRATION DAY-SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2009

Note the date on your calendar for Kananook Creek Celebration Day 2009. The Kananook Creek Corridor restoration is nearing completion. We will celebrate the potential already realized- the wonderful benefits of healthy recreation, a quality environment and a stronger community.

CATHY HOPE -BOOK LAUNCH

KCA member and southern working group volunteer Cathy Hope is author of two recently published Steve Parish books "Amazing facts about Australian Native Plants and "A wild Australia Guide-Native Plants" -due November 2008. Cathy extends an invitation to the book signing on Sunday 14th December 11am -3pm at The Australia Garden,Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, Melway Map:133Ref K10.

NEWS AND UPDATES

Vandalism

There has been significant destruction of the reserve by slashing and construction of a jetty in East Bank Reserve just south of Seaford Rd .

Also there are many broken saplings in Northern reserve.

Fencing at Fiocchi Avenue and Beach Street

Both KCA and the Long Island Residents Group are working with Council about rectification and removal of horrible, unnecessary cattle yard fencing constructed at Fiocchi and Beach Street entrances just before the end of the financial year and without proper community consultation.



Exotic vines and creepers on back fences

Much of the ivy is planted along fence lines to provide privacy and it then rapidly escapes into the nature reserve. This is a serious and persistent problem, particularly behind some Kananook Avenue properties. KCA volunteer weed days remove some exotic weeds but the problem needs to be controlled at source. Some exotics are just dumped in the reserve (lawn clippings, prickly pear, agapanthus, lilies etc) against Local Laws. Council will be issuing a letter to the residents involved. Please help to preserve the integrity of the wonderful natural reserves.

Bikes

Trail bikes and bikes cause much damage to the soft, narrow walking trails north of Mile Bridge. Reserves, walkers and volunteers are placed at risk.

The 1992 Management Plan clearly states that the tracks north of Station St are designed and constructed as nature trails, not bike trails or shared pathways. The soft walking trails are maintained by Council and KCA volunteers. The signs state that this is a walking trail, but there are no signs prohibiting bikes. We have asked council for clear signage and support from local laws.

McDonalds' Fencing

McDonalds were granted a 24 hour license and erected a new pine paling fence to screen the drive thru from residents over the creek. The fence is totally out of touch with stated aspirations for the precinct.



Kananook Creek Canoe Club News

Regular canoeing days are held on the 2nd Saturday of every month, meeting at the Seaford Community Centre launching ramp. The priority issue now is for a permanent clubhouse and canoe storage. A working group has been set up to work with Council through the approval process. A fund raising campaign has been launched.

Seaford / Kananook Creek Walking Group

The group is up and walking. Group aim is "a moderate level walk-which allows walkers to appreciate the natural environment and one another's company". Walks start from the Seaford Community Centre every Thursday morning at 10am. Information can be obtained at the Seaford Council Shop. Leonie Wysman-Ervine from Peninsula Health is assisting in the formal establishment of the group and KCA has funded first aid kits and training.



Reserves Working Bees - Dates and Call for Volunteers

We completed the planting program for 2008 in early August and good rain gives plenty of hope for success. A mighty thank you to all the community helpers. We will now commence our annual weed sweep of the 7.5km corridor of natural reserve. Monthly work days with Corrective Services have concentrated on fire fuel reduction and walking track renewal

Around Our Reserves - Working Bees

1. Southern Group - Beach St - Mile Bridge

Meet: Fiocchi Ave footbridge, Frankston

Contact: Minio 9783 9948.

When: 1st Sunday of month: 9 am - 12 noon

2. Central Group - Mile Bridge - Station St

Contact: Andrew Cooper / Paul Deweerd 9786 4660

When: 2nd Sunday of month Helpers are urgently required

3. Northern Group - Station St - Eel Race Rd

Contact: Allan Sisson / Robert Ingram 9786 8936

When: Last Sunday of month: 9 am - 12 approx

Helpers are urgently required

4. Nursery

Plants are propagated for planting on our reserves.

When: Every Wednesday: 9 am - 12 noon approx

Meet: Frankston Council Indigenous Nursery, McCulloch Ave Seaford.

YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED!
Please come along, lend a hand, and get to know your neighbours whilst helping to care for our wonderful environment!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Southern Group

Next dates

7th Sept, 5th Oct, 2nd Nov

Central Group

Next dates:

Sun 14th Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov

Northern Group

Next Dates:

Sun 28th Sept, 26th Oct, 30th Nov

Membership Renewal 2008

Memberships for 2008 are due from 1 January. The battle for the creek is not over. We hope that you will continue to support us financially so that we can work towards fulfilling our goals. Please join us, we need to retain our strong community base of approx 400 individual supporters within those households. You could help us manage costs by providing your email contact (your privacy assured). Should you also wish to make a voluntary donation, that too would be most welcome. Thank you for your generosity.

KCA Membership Application Jan 1 2008 - Dec 31 2008

Please send to:		Trevor Nock (Treasurer) , 91 Gould St Frankston, 3199	
I / We would like to join		Names:	
I / We would like to participate in activities		Address:	
I / We enclose (\$10.00 per household annual membership)		Phone:	
I / We enclose a donation of		E-mail:	
Receipt Required		Date:	THANK YOU!!