

# F o S B R NEWSLETTER

## Friends of Sandy Bay Rivulet Inc.

Newsletter 17 — September 2012

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

The AGM will be held at “Shippies” at the Shipwrights Arms Hotel, Battery Point on Sunday 30th September commencing at 4.00pm.

All residents and interested parties are invited to participate in the discussions on the “WAY FORWARD” for the rivulet. We believe there is a need to set some clear future directions. We are lucky to have present Lynda Bonar, Environmental Scientist with the HCC Environmental Engineering Unit. Lynda has kindly worked with us for some time now and ensures we have an excellent working relationship with the Council.

#### **AGENDA**

- 1) Confirming minutes of previous AGM
- 2) Annual report
- 3) Financial report
- 4) Election of Officers and Executive Committee
- 5) Appointment of Public Officer and Auditor
- 6) General discussion on strategic plan for the rivulet.

### **WORKING BEES**

Our Working Bees are generally held every second Sunday of each month, from 9.30 – 11.30 am, and we meet at the picnic table in Fitzroy Gardens nearest to the corner of Pillinger St and Fitzroy Crescent. If the weather is bad give our Secretary a call.

Future dates are: 9th September, 14th October\*, 11th November and 9th December 2012:

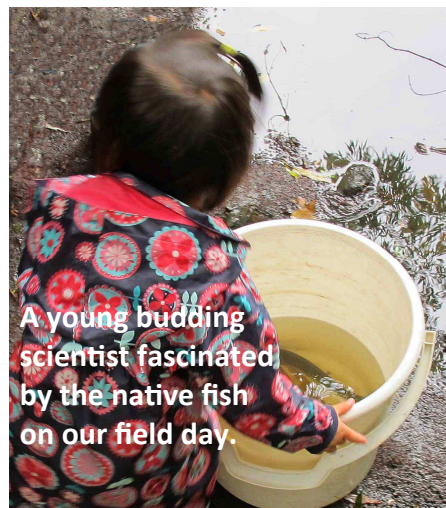
If anyone can spare an occasional hour or two, please turn up and we will make you very welcome, and there are always different grades of work to do to suit different abilities. We have a comprehensive volunteer insurance which covers our community based activities.

### **OFFICE BEARERS:**

President	James Bowler
Secretary	Julia Greenhill
Treasurer	Beth Harnett
Committee	Patsy Jones Deb Maeder Penny Parrish Robert Rands
CHCA reps	Beth Harnett Jim Bowler Julia Greenhill

Public Officer     Julia Greenhill  
62 341516 or [juliafg@bigpond.com](mailto:juliafg@bigpond.com)

Web site            [www.fosbr.org.au](http://www.fosbr.org.au)



A young budding scientist fascinated by the native fish on our field day.

### **FOSBR SETS GOALS**

FoSBR is developing targets and goals, both short and long term, in an attempt to ensure that the Sandy Bay Rivulet is left in good shape for future generations. Your input is essential.

Topics that need to be considered are wide reaching and include for example:

- 1) the need for better planning provisions to ensure protection of riparian zones
- 2) further work on the linear park proposal and commencement on the section between Fitzroy Gardens and Linton Ave
- 3) careful development of the Quayle St—Maryville Esp area. More reed planting at this site to facilitate fish spawning
- 4) ways to maintain the important

estuary to mountain corridor provided by the rivulet

- 5) Fish ways or ladders at Regent St, Parliament St and Linton Ave
- 6) AND MUCH MUCH MORE

We Need your views. Please contact Jim Bowler (03) 62255124 with suggestions or ideas. Better still come and join the discussion at the AGM

### **ACTIVITIES BY OTHERS**

It is good to see that other communities are recognising the importance of keeping their local streams healthy and a vital part of their local environment, and are offering invaluable support to the Council officers tasked with the care of our Rivulets and Waterways.

As the Friends of Sandy Bay Rivulet Inc continue into another year of activities, it is good to hear that a community group

in South Hobart has begun the Adopt-A-Waterway Hobart Rivulet project, and has obtained Commonwealth funds for their work.

Their Adopt-a-Waterway group has similar aims to our own, and their project is particularly focussing on improving the water quality of the Hobart Rivulet and educating and inspiring the children in the community, especially working with South Hobart Primary School and the CSIRO Scientists in Schools project.

The New Town Rivulet Catchment Care group is another community group which has for some years obtained grants and has achieved impressive results along their Rivulet and its riparian zones.

Similarly the Waterworks Valley Land Care Group does great work in the Waterworks area catchment.

## **GREAT NEWS — FosBR awarded a new grant from Natural Resource Management (NRM) South's Naturally Inspired Grants program. The project is titled "Riparian Zone Rehabilitation and a Fish Information Leaflet".**

The aim of the project is to extend the riparian zone restoration successfully undertaken previously.

This will involve clearing a further section of the rivulet, planting native vegetation, and by containing and managing weeds infesting the area.

In addition we will produce a leaflet providing information to the community on the five species of native fish found in the Sandy Bay Rivulet. This will highlight the importance of maintaining breeding areas and preventing decline of water quality in this significant habitat.

The brochure will be similar in style to our previously issued leaflet "Living with Sandy Bay Rivulet". 1,000 copies of the leaflet will be distributed by our members to the local community, the Hobart City Council and other interested organisations.

Initially we will use contractors experienced in working in riparian zones to help clear the major weeds in the project area. Due care will be taken to avoid erosion or damage to the banks as detailed in our Management Plan.

During and after the major clearing, volunteers will continue with weeding and preparation for planting when the

weather is suitable.

Our group has had regular contact with Prof. Peter Davies, including a recent excursion examining the native fish of the Rivulet. We also have members experienced in the study of the biology of freshwater fish. The leaflet will be professionally designed and printed from text and illustrations provided by our group.

Initial work will include clearing of the site and removal of a large dead tree. Our regular working bees will continue throughout the period.

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FosBR members at work on the newly established fern glade on the rivulet bank upstream of Fitzroy Gardens. Native plants have been replanted in the area.

### **GREAT FIELD DAY**

Dr Peter Davies AM, a freshwater ecologist working in both research and applied environmental problems, conducted a field day for members and visitors.

Working down the rivulet from Overell St to Quayle St he showed us and talked about the various fish species in the rivulet

His research group designed and built baffles to help native fish swim through concrete culverts, and organised their installation under the Parliament St and Regent Street road crossings, and has worked with the Hobart City Council to design restoration works for the stream beds below these crossings to further help the fish.

It was a great event for adults and children—enjoyed by all.

The photo below shows Dr Davies catching fish using an electronic fish catcher in the rivulet



### **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE**

#### **WE NEED YOU !**

Please support our community effort to look after the Sandy Bay Rivulet and its catchment by renewing your membership or joining and, if possible, participating in our activities. We welcome new members, and the cost is **ONLY \$10 PER YEAR.**

Your membership helps us continue to our work to improve the rivulet and its environs and enables us to apply for government grants and Council support in progressing these programs.

We also try to inform the local community about rivulet issues through these Newsletters, which are distributed to local householders, and by Email to interested people and to Aldermen at the Hobart City Council.

The aim of the Friends of the Sandy Bay Rivulet is to conserve, restore, improve and celebrate the cultural, historical, social and environmental values of the rivulet and its immediate environs. It is a stream with a great history. It is also an important ecological corridor from the estuary to Mt Wellington

We work co-operatively with Hobart City Council, government agencies, industry, land owners, schools and the community in the interests of the catchment area. We are part of the HCC's Adopt a Waterway program.