

### FUTURE MEETINGS :

#### CLEAN-UP AUSTRALIA DAY.

Please note the date in your diary - Sunday 1st March, from 9.00 - 12 noon. Wear sensible footwear & gloves. Bags are provided. Register at the on-line site, with the convenors, or turn up on the day.

**SITE 1:** Parliament St Park Rivulet Site, Parliament St oval, Sandy Bay 7005 from 9.00 - 12 noon. Meet by the giant slide.

Convenor: Deborah Maeder  
(04 39958385, [deborah.maeder@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:deborah.maeder@education.tas.gov.au))

**SITE 2:** Sandy Bay Rivulet at Quayle St. Meet at the bridge beside Marieville Esplanade.

Convenor: Patsy Jones  
(0409 950327, [patsycj@ozemail.com.au](mailto:patsycj@ozemail.com.au))

#### GENERAL MEETING.

Sunday, 1st May at 4.00 pm. The guest speaker will be Ruth Mollison of the Understorey Network.

We will keep you advised on the venue. The subject is of importance to all those who are interested in increasing the native vegetation bordering the Rivulet and in its neighbourhood, to encourage wildlife and also to reduce weed growth. Landowners whose gardens adjoin the Rivulet will also be interested in learning about native plants suitable to our area. The meeting is open to all members and the public.

#### GREETING FOR THE NEW YEAR

This is the first Newsletter for the new year 2009, and the year is already well underway! Late last year we were concerned that our main contacts with the Hobart City Council, Ed Kleywegt and Matt Willis, were both moving on and leaving their positions with the HCC. We have appreciated the relationships which we developed with Ed and later Matt, and the help they have given to our group. We wish them both well in the future.

#### MEETING WITH NICK HEATH, NEW GM HCC

Because of the changes in staff and the restructuring within the HCC, and the appointment of a new General Manager, Nick Heath, your committee wrote to the General Manager offering our congratulations and asking for a meeting. The President, and the Secretary, have since met with Nick Heath and have discussed a number of issues which were concerning us and looked at ways in which we can move forward. This meeting was most valuable.

Of particular interest was the information that the HCC will retain control of the waterways, such as the Sandy Bay Rivulet, under the new structure.

#### OFFICE BEARERS:

President	James Bowler
Secretary	Julia Greenhill
Treasurer	Beth Harnett
Committee	Patsy Jones Deb Maeder Penny Parrish
Public Officer	Julia Greenhill 62 341516 or <a href="mailto:juliag@inet.net.au">juliag@inet.net.au</a>
Web site	<a href="http://www.fosbr.org.au">www.fosbr.org.au</a>

We acknowledge and thank the following organisations for their support:

#### **SHIPPIES**

Shipwrights Arms Hotel  
29 Trumpeter St, Battery Point

#### **HOBART CITY COUNCIL**

Town Hall, Hobart

We also acknowledge the help provided by the Office of Senator Eric Abetz in the production of this Newsletter.

#### JOINT MEETING WITH THE SANDY BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On 23 November we had a joint meeting with the Sandy Bay Historical Society in the form of a barbecue followed by an exploration of the rivulet. The history of the Waterworks was briefly covered as was the walk up Mt Wellington by Charles Darwin. At Fitzroy Gardens Jennifer Brain gave an interesting commentary of her happy childhood in the area when the Rivulet was in far better condition than it is now. Penny Parrish wound up the event at Marieville Esplanade with a marvellous summary of the history of that area. A great time was had by all. Our special thanks to the President and members of the SBHS who attended and helped make this an enjoyable meeting.

#### COUNCIL OF HOBART COMMUNITY ASSOC'S

The CHCA is a peak body representing Hobart based community organisations such as FoSBR. They would like our views on whether voting at local government elections should be compulsory. Apparently this issue is again doing the rounds in the halls of power. If you have a view on this matter please pass them to Beth Harnett (62231106 or 0418 231105), our CHCA representative.

## SANDY BAY RIVULET –NATURE NOTES

The Friends of Sandy Bay Rivulet have recently looked at ways of identifying and reporting on the wildlife of the rivulet area. We have held bird walks and walks to look at and identify the scats and tracks left by animals.

We recognise that the Sandy Bay Rivulet is an important wildlife corridor through our suburb, linking the Mount Wellington Park with the Ridgeway and Waterworks Reserves, and running all the way through our suburbs to the Derwent Estuary. We know that several species of fish live and breed in the rivulet and we now want to collect information about what birds and animals occur in our area, and to monitor changes as our suburbs grow, noting how increases in traffic and changes in the climate effect the wildlife in our area.

### How you can help.

If you are interested in helping, perhaps you could keep a diary or notes on anything of interest that you notice. These notes could be on the computer or in a notebook, but should have the date of the observation, where it was seen, and any other information of interest such as the time of day and whether it was seen in a garden, in trees or bushes or in the rivulet. Photos are always of interest, but need to have information attached. Every six months or so, or each year, we will collect up information from you through our newsletters or our website, to get a picture of what is happening in the world of animals and birds.

### Examples

You can record quite simple things which can build a valuable picture:

- *This summer we have had magpies in my area of Queen Street for the first time, and they have nested and produced two baby magpies somewhere nearby.*
- *Sometimes there is a white goshawk seen in the area - have you seen it?*
- *Do you ever see ringtail possums?*
- *One of our members recently noted young jollytails (Galaxias) in part of the rivulet, showing they had been breeding successfully.*
- *Do you ever see blue tongue lizards or echidnas in your gardens?*
- *Have you seen a platypus in the rivulet? (Remember that male platypus*

*have a very poisonous spur and shouldn't be handled.)*

This could be a useful project for your school class or group. We know children are wonderful observers of nature.

We would also be glad to help with identification of animals and birds from photos and to help identify any plants (native or garden) which you notice particularly birds or animals.

If you want to contact the FoSBR with information, or to let us know you would like to help, the contact numbers are Julia Greenhill (62 341516 , [juliag@iinet.net.au](mailto:juliag@iinet.net.au)) or Penny Parrish (6223 7001, [pennyp@gardener.com](mailto:pennyp@gardener.com)).

## WHAT IS RIPARIAN LAND

This is a question often asked and the English dictionary definition leaves something to be desired so we have searched further.

We find there are many definitions, each being somewhat dependent on the purpose for which they were developed but all are essentially the same. The definition from Fact Sheet No. 1 "Managing riparian land" an excellent Land & Water Australia publication probably sums it up simply and well.

*"Riparian land is any land that adjoins or directly influences a body of water. It includes:*

- *the land immediately alongside small creeks and rivers, including the river bank itself;*
- *gullies and dips which sometimes run with water;*
- *areas surrounding lakes; and*
- *wetlands and river floodplains which interact with the river in times of flood.*

*It is important not to think of riparian land as just a narrow strip along each riverbank. Depending on the nature of the land (floodplain, gorge or valley) and the adjacent land use (national park, farming, forestry, urban housing), the width of riparian land that needs special management will range from very narrow to a wide, densely-vegetated corridor."*

Note that the riparian land will vary considerably in width depending on the size of the river and the local features, in some instances being a wide flood plain and in others thinning

down to a narrow gorge.

You might like to think of a river crossing a desert. The river and the green strips on both sides are the riparian zone or strip.

It is also necessary to consider the zone as a corridor in which vegetation and fauna exist and where the river may vary in flow and level. When looking at development plans it is easy to be fooled into thinking only in two dimensions. Or even into thinking that cantilevered structures impinging over the zone have no impact.

For convenience some regulatory bodies, particularly in urban areas, define a riparian strip by dimension from the stream or river. Other regulatory authorities use the flood plain for defining planning requirements and flood control.

The Hobart City Council uses the former system specifying 30m width from the stream bank for bush land situations and 10m for urban situations. However it allows some discretions which, when inappropriately applied, makes the 10m requirement a complete nonsense.

The Kingborough Council classifies waterways according to size. Indeed there is a wide range of different practice across Tasmania. Perhaps there should be one definition and planning requirement for the State? Next issue we will look at the function and importance of riparian zones.

## WATERWORKS VALLEY LAND-CARE GROUP

### Meeting schedule

The group meets between 10am and 12.30 am on the 1st Sunday each month. Scheduled meetings:

- Sunday 1st March. Clean-Up Australia Day. Meet at Old Quarry on Waterworks Road. BBQ to be held at the quarry afterwards.
- Sunday 5th April. Weeding below the Lower Dam - next to 196 Waterworks Rd.
- Sunday 3rd May. Riparian restoration workshop. Details to be announced later.

Contact S. Lockhart or check :

[www.waterworksvalley.com](http://www.waterworksvalley.com)