

# F o S B R   N E W S L E T T E R

F r i e n d s   o f   S a n d y   B a y   R i v u l e t   I n c .

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## COME AND SEE!

See what has been achieved. Meet with others and discuss the future of the Rivulet. Don Knowler will be present to talk about birds and wildlife in the area.

Parliament Street Reserve  
9.30am Sunday 17th March

### *President's Report      30 September 2018*

Thank you all for attending this Annual General Meeting – it is good to see you all. Our working bees on the Rivulet have continued, usually monthly, concentrating in the area above Fitzroy Gardens, but with some attention to the area in the Parliament Street Reserve. We have now asked the Council for help with maintaining these areas. Unfortunately we have a very small group of regular volunteers, none of whom are getting any younger. No doubt those of you who live in the area will have enjoyed the increased availability of the Rivulet, especially for children. Please consider giving up a couple of hours each month to work with us on this. Tools are provided, so you just need to bring yourselves. If you think you can help every now and then, please provide Julia with your email address so she can add your name to the list of people to be informed of our plans each month.

We've continued our membership of Landcare Tasmania, and this organisation provides us with a grant which covers insurance for our volunteers. Landcare Tasmania has a new electronic newsletter which is free to anyone who wants to enrol in their Dirty Hands Club. More information about Landcare Tasmania can be

found at their updated website at <http://www.landcaretas.org.au>.

Our Treasurer, Beth Harnett, continues as an active participant in the Council of Hobart Community Associations.

The Hobart City Council continues to support our activities, and we are very appreciative of this. We met with staff of the Parks and City Amenity department in November 2017, February 2018, and July 2018 to discuss various matters. The contact with these staff members is very valuable for us, and we thank them for their time. We are assured that the Council is still committed to the Sandy Bay Rivulet Linear Park, though completion of plans for the Hobart Rivulet and the New Town Rivulet are a major focus for the Council at the moment. As land becomes available, Council is proceeding with the necessary acquisitions for the future Sandy Bay Rivulet Park.

Of course the flood of May this year had a great effect on the Council's plans for the Rivulets, all of which require urgent rehabilitation; the Sandy Bay Rivulet suffered some damage with bank erosion and tree debris causing flooding, but we were pleased to note that most of our plantings survived the flood event well,

and many of these plantings may have actually prevented greater damage to the Rivulet.

You may have noticed that the very attractive signage near the fish ladder at Parliament Street was installed some months ago, and it is pleasing to note the number of passers-by who stop and read the information on this sign. Another sign about the fish of the Rivulet is near the Marievale Esplanade end of the Rivulet, where we planted reeds to help the fish spawning in the area.

The area in Parliament Reserve that served as a storage area for HCC machinery while the shopping centre was updated has now been rehabilitated, though we hope that the grass will spread rather more enthusiastically in the next few months.

We do need financial members, so please spread the word about our Rivulet, and encourage your neighbours to join us.

Patsy Jones

## On the Wing.

With Don Knowler

The Friends of Sandy Bay Rivulet are keeping their hopes alive of one day being able to walk the watercourse on a new trail linking city and mountain. Amid all the talk of development in Hobart, from highrise buildings to cable cars, the organisation has been advancing the case for the Sandy Bay Rivulet Linear Park hoping it has not slipped from the Hobart council's radar.

At the Friends' recent annual general meeting, members were assured the plan was still on the council agenda. The council had been acquiring land for the project on the banks of the rivulet adjacent to Waterworks Rd in Dynnyrne and in another sign of progress, information panels had been installed at two locations describing the native fish in the watercourse. These can be seen at the Parliament St Reserve and along Quayle St in Battery Point.

The Friends of the Sandy Bay Rivulet was established 14 years ago to draw attention to a long forgotten and secret part of Hobart's natural environment. The rivulet may be encased in concrete on its final stretch through Sandy Bay and Battery Point to the Derwent at Marieville Esplanade but above Parliament St it follows a course framed by riverine vegetation. It is wild and untamed in the section between Waterworks Rd and Romilly St, but there is no access to this area for members of the public.

I'm lucky enough to live on this section, with the rivulet forming a boundary of my property, and I have been an active member of the Friends from the time the group was established. Like other members, I'm far from being a Nimby (not in my backyard) and I am keen to see the water course open up as a public walkway, even if this trail will cut across the bottom of my garden.

The rivulet and its prolific birdlife have formed the basis of many of the On the Wing columns I have written over the past 18 years so I can hardly justify regarding this precious piece of Hobart greenery as my own. The rivulet and its riparian vegetation are home to 11 of the 12 Tasmanian bird species found nowhere else on earth.

Under the council's plans, the linear park will be built in three phases. The first would follow a natural area of open space between Parliament St and Lynton Ave. The next would follow the rivulet along Waterworks Rd to Romilly St, from where steps would be built to link the trail to the Pipeline rack leading to the Waterworks Reserve and Fern Tree.

The track would be of immense value to the wider community, from a wildlife and historical view. The rivulet forms a wildlife corridor providing homes for endemic birds such as the yellow-throated honeyeater, and follows in part the route Charles Darwin took to climb kunanyi/Mt Wellington on his visit to Hobart in 1836.

This was published in "tasweekend", November 3-4, 2018-11-21

## New signs

FoSBR has cooperated with the Hobart City Council in the installation of informative signs at Parliament St and at Quayle St detailing the type of fish in the rivulet and what is being done to protect them and the associated environment.

Top right shows the sign at Parliament St. and the revegetation work carried out following construction work in the area.

To the right is the sign at Quayle St

Bottom right is a view of the fish ladder at Regent St looking downstream from the bridge. This is based on similar designs used in NZ.

Incidentally, If you or your family are interested in the identification of waterbugs (freshwater invertebrates), "The Waterbug App" is available free on the App store. It is worth a look.

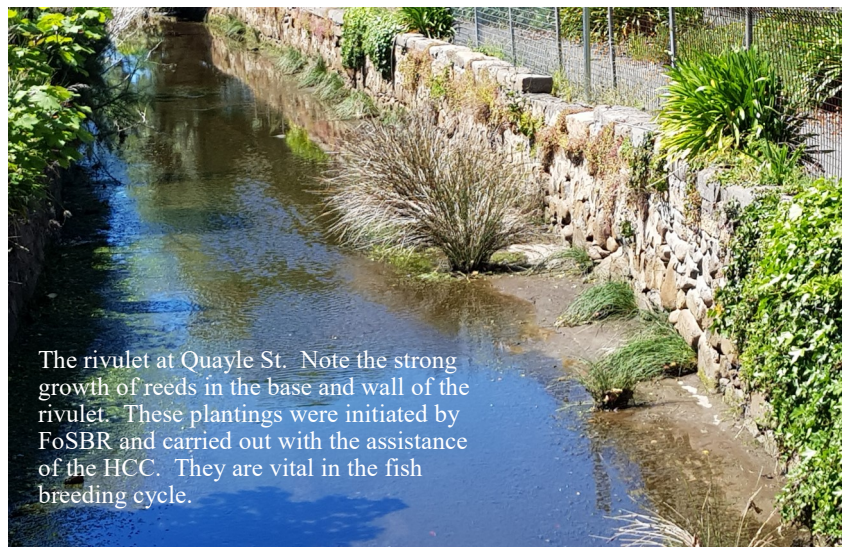
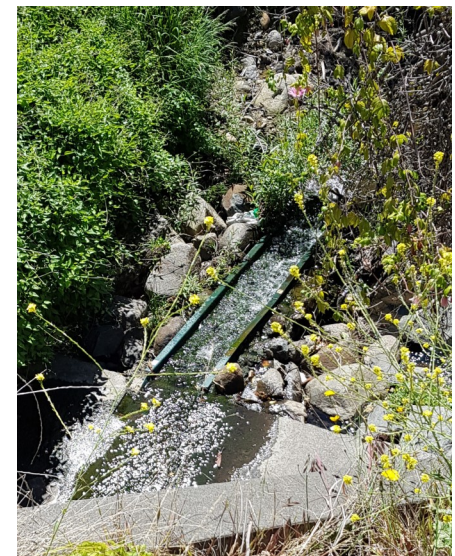
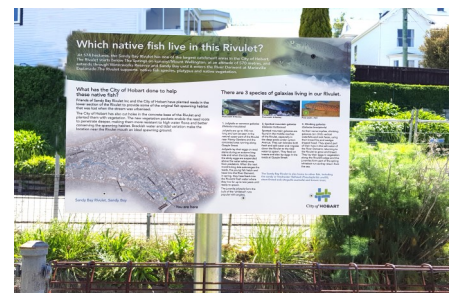
## Office Bearers:

President:	Patsy Jones
Treasurer:	Beth Harnett
Secretary:	Julia Greenhill
Committee Members:	Deb Maeder
	Kate Bowler
	Robert Rands
	Don Knowler
	Penny Parrish

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Web Manager	David Edwards



The rivulet at Quayle St. Note the strong growth of reeds in the base and wall of the rivulet. These plantings were initiated by FoSBR and carried out with the assistance of the HCC. They are vital in the fish breeding cycle.