

Kananook Creek Association news update - autumn 2015

As you can see from the reverse side our Annual General Meeting is just around the corner, so this news update will be used to highlight what's happened over the past 12 months and some of the things that the KCA is hoping will happen over the next 12 months or so.

Looking back:

Jetty repairs – The 2 jetties at Riviera Street and McCulloch Avenue in Seaford have both been rebuilt. That's great because they both look good and now provide safe launching and landing points for recreational craft. During these warmer months it's not unusual to see several kayaks or canoes paddling along the creek on any day. Let's hope that continues.

Creek Footbridges - The KCA in conjunction with other community groups successfully intervened and ensured that our iconic timber footbridges remained in place. Council agreed that these bridges are an important feature of Frankston's and the creek's unique character. Tenders have recently been called for the replacement of these bridges with "like for like" timber structures. Work is expected to commence after Easter, with Beach Street and Fiocchi Avenue being the first 2 structures for replacement.

Pre-Election Campaign – Prior to the state election in November 2014 the KCA approached candidates in both the Carrum and Seaford electorates in order to gain commitments from them regarding Kananook Creek. Whilst we won't claim full credit, we are pleased to say that the Labor Party government was very supportive of the needs for a proper management structure for the creek. They are close to making an announcement that involves both the Planning Minister and the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water. (The second portfolio appears to sit very nicely with the creek's circumstances). Let's not get too far ahead of ourselves, but at this stage things are looking promising. As the saying goes, there's a lot of water still to go under the bridge before we celebrate.

Creek cleaning activities – Again we've hosted 2 successful water based creek cleaning days. The first in November 2014 at Seaford and the second at Fiocchi Ave, Frankston in early March, 2015. These days were both well attended and it's encouraging to see a continuing reduction in the amount of rubbish collected. Even routine working bees along the walking tracks produce reduced amounts of litter. It appears that more and more of those who use the tracks pick up rubbish while out walking and hopefully don't drop it in the first place.

Planning – This continues to be a challenge for the KCA committee. Understandably developers along the creek try and push the envelope in terms of setbacks, car parking, height limits and other areas. They are keen to maximize their returns, but often to the long term detriment of the environment, surrounding properties and the community generally.

Looking forwards:

Desilting - The KCA is still pushing for this to be done to at least Beach Street. The local member appears to support this and some positive comments have also come from Frankston City Council. There is also a clear need for spot desilting around some of the storm water drains along the creek. We will continue to pursue these matters with State government, local council and Melbourne Water.

Water quality and flow rates – The KCA is currently holding discussions with Melbourne Water about improving flow rates and quality of water in the creek. Technically there is nothing wrong with water quality. It is the same as the water in Patterson River; however as part of improving flow rates there is an opportunity to improve quality. KCA works positively with Melbourne Water and they appear to be increasingly aware of the recreational value of the creek.

Green Army – There are several projects commencing over the coming months along the creek reserve. These projects will include path restoration, plantings near Seaford Station, mulching and improved track access via removal of overhanging vegetation. The path north of Mile Bridge to Eel Race Road will not become like the section south of the bridge. It will, however, become more accessible and an easier family walk. There is an opportunity to put in additional rest areas to the north. It is a popular walking trail and we want its use to grow.