

Established 1970 Association No.A0007735M ABN 15 952 521 931

KANANOOK CREEK ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2016

Our Aim:
To clean, restore and preserve
Kananook Creek and its environment



Proud winners of
NAB Volunteers Award for 2005

Hon. President
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NOTICE OF 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Resident,

Kananook Creek Association is holding its 2016 Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 6th April at 8.00pm** at the senior Citizens' Rooms ("Talbot Hall"), Broughton Street, Seaford.

Even though you may not be a Member of the Association (although you could always join at the door: membership fee is \$15.00 per family/household) you will be most welcome to come along.

If you live alongside or close to the Creek, this meeting gives you the perfect opportunity to find out what the Association has been doing over the past twelve months and what plans it has for the year ahead, including ongoing work in the Reserves, our advocacy against unsustainable development, our relationships with outside organizations; and for socialising afterwards..

We are also keen for neighbours of the Creek (that means you!) to either join or re-join the Association; a healthy membership group enables us to lobby the politicians and bureaucrats (at all levels of government) from a position of strength and this has never been more important than now, with the increasing burden of Regulations and property development pressures being thrust upon us. So, if you can't come to the meeting you might like to use the form below to send us your details and membership subscription for 2016.

Otherwise I look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Wednesday 6th April 2016.

Paul Davies – President

18 March 2016

I/We would like to take up membership or I/We would like to renew membership	yes ----- yes	Name/s:..... Phone number:
Number of persons in household ----- I/we would like to learn more about KCA's activities	yes/no	Address (residential):..... Address (e-mail): (privacy rules apply)
Direct Credit: Kananook Creek Association (Westpac Bank) BSB: 033 179 Acc: 313381 Please place your name in the description area of the transfer	\$15.00	Or pay by cheque: I/we enclose membership fee (per household) of \$15.00 Add donation (if desired) – mail to The Treasurer, KCA, 410 Nepean Highway, Frankston, Vic 3199
TOTAL:	\$.	Date 2016.

Kananook Creek Association news update – autumn 2016

As you can see from the face sheet our Annual General Meeting is just around the corner, so this news update will be used to highlight what's happened over the past several months and some of the things that the KCA is hoping will happen over the balance of 2016. We've been doing a lot and here is a summary of the key issues:

Creek Footbridges - The timber footbridges at Beach Street and Fiocchi Avenue have been replaced in recent months. Frankston City Council has done a great job of preserving the character of the bridges and future proofing them for the next decade and probably longer. The new bridges look as iconic as ever and have been designed to accommodate current regulations and building standards. You can now stand on these bridges and look along the creek safe in the knowledge that the views and tranquility of the creek are there to enjoy for years to come. It brings a smile to my face to see young children with their parents or grandparents standing on the bridges looking at birds or fish swimming along the creek.

The footbridge at Allawah Avenue is about to be replaced. It will again be done on a like for like basis incorporating current standards. The profile may be slightly different and the bridge will be wider, but like the other two bridges it will retain the same iconic status of our footbridges. This bridge should be completed by May 2016 at a budget of \$181,000.

Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) - As part of the November 2014 state election the KCA was successful in having the Labor government commit to a Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) to recommend ways of better managing the Kananook Creek and the adjoining reserve. This will also include protecting the creek from inappropriate development by ensuring the establishment of relevant planning controls. This will be a real bonus because it will protect the creek and its environs for future generations. It will also help prospective developers better understand what they can and can't expect to build along the creek. These controls won't just apply to larger apartment type dwellings but also to homes and any commercial activities along the creek.

For its part the KCA has made several recommendations to the MAC.

A State Planning Policy Framework for the Kananook Creek with monitored performance standards.

An ongoing desilting programme along the creek. This would not necessarily cover the entire creek but would certainly require regular desilting around major drain inlets to the creek (e.g. Beach Street, Benton Avenue, McCulloch Avenue).

Clear accountabilities amongst the various agencies (e.g. FCC, Melbourne Water) which are involved in day to day management of the creek.

Provision of recreational boat moorings in the lower section of the creek.

Kananook Creek Association news update – autumn 2016

The **MAC** is working through an extensive community and government agency consultation process. It has been encouraging to see the public interest and input. Recommendations will go to the Environment Minister in the next few months. The **KCA** is optimistic that this process will produce a management body that will help effectively and accountably guide the future of the Kananook Creek. There have been many reports in the past which have produced some action but haven't achieved a long term overarching and adequately resourced management group for the creek. **KCA** will do its bit to make sure 2016 is different.

VCAT matters - The **KCA** has a huge issue on its plate at the moment fighting an application to construct 157 apartments at 78-83 Nepean Highway in Seaford. We are scheduled to attend a compulsory conference at **VCAT** on Wednesday March 23rd, 2016. If the matter can't be settled at this mediation session there is a 2 day hearing set down for 2nd and 3rd June 2016. The **KCA** and one other party have appealed the decision by Frankston City Council to grant a permit for the construction of 157 units on this site. The area is clearly designated medium density in state and local government regulations. This proposal is inarguably high density - medium density allows up to 80 units per net residential hectare.

There are numerous other concerns that the **KCA** has with the proposal. We will be presenting these in detail at the **VCAT** conference. The fact that there were over 30 objectors to the original proposal should have sent a clear message to Frankston City Council. It is interesting to note that a proposal of similar relative density at 290 Nepean Highway, Seaford was rejected by council recently.

The **KCA** wants to see the site at 78-83 Nepean Highway suitably developed. The present situation is an eyesore and does nothing for the general image of the area. There are design and development overlays in place which set guidelines. These are the agreed standards and it shouldn't be impossible to come up with a development which fits in with the character and needs of the area, whilst still allowing the developer to make a sensible return on funds invested.

If the matter progresses to a hearing in June 2016 the **KCA** will be in a position to seek support from members and local residents at this hearing.

By the time the **AGM** comes around we should have a better idea of where this matter is at. The **KCA** is spending a considerable amount of its funds on this appeal. It is pivotal to the future development along the creek and character of the Seaford. Stay tuned for further information.

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Level Crossing Removals - There are 2 level crossings near the creek which are earmarked for removal. The committees assessment at this point is that the crossings involved (Eel Race Road and Seaford Road) are sufficiently removed from the creek so as not to pose a risk. There may be issues with groundwater or acid sulphate soils to be managed but they are unlikely to impact on the creek. We will, however, be taking a keen interest in proceedings. Options such as a sky-rail have also been suggested. Again, the KCA's position would be that the amenity of the creek and its reserve need to be protected. There would also be a range of other considerations which go beyond the charter of the KCA. In this situation we would work constructively with interested parties to achieve an appropriate outcome. There is no doubt that as Melbourne grows level crossings become increasingly outdated and counter-productive forms of infrastructure.

The Green Army - The KCA in conjunction with Frankston Council has been able to have the Green Army carry out several projects along the creek reserve. In particular the Green Army sprayed extensive areas of weed along the walking trail between Beach Street and Fiocchi Avenue. They have also laid fibre matting near the creek and on the downslopes from neighbouring properties. This included cleaning a large "camp site" of

debris and understory in the same area. The area is now both more visually attractive and hopefully more secure for track users in the longer term.

A large area of track restoration was carried out north of Mile Bridge towards Boonong Avenue. This included weeding, mulching and some spraying. In addition one septuagenarian KCA volunteer removed to large bags of rubbish from along the Overton Road/Benton Avenue area on Clean-Up-Australia Day. This was a mammoth effort, but it shouldn't have fallen to one person. Further along the Kananook Creek near Armstrongs Road the Green Army has also been engaged in removing non-native vegetation.

The future of the KCA depends on volunteers, particularly when it comes to active track maintenance such as weeding, rubbish removal and general upkeep. Councils generally don't seem to have the resources to do all the traditional parks and gardens work. The creek and the reserve have come a long way in 45 years since the KCA began. There's still another 45 year journey ahead of us. If you're a local please get actively involved.