

Established 1970 Association No.A0007735M ABN 15 952 521 931

KANANOOK CREEK ASSOCIATION Inc.

Our Aim:

To clean, restore and preserve
Kananook Creek and its environment

Hon. President

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Proud winners of
NAB Volunteers Award for 2005

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Dear Fellow KCA member

The road ahead for KCA; 2017 and beyond

This isn't your usual pre-Christmas wrap up of the year's activities from the Kananook Creek Association. It's more a plea for your involvement so that we can continue to do in the future what we've so effectively done in the past. Yes, it's your chance to be a Santa for the KCA.

As many of you will know the KCA has been in existence for 46 years. In simple terms that's nearly half a century. Over the decades we've achieved many notable and valuable things not only for the immediate Kananook Creek surrounds but also for the wider community of both the City of Frankston and the Melbourne metropolitan area. The Kananook Creek has been transformed from an open drain and rubbish dump into a key community asset and wildlife sanctuary. For example over the last decade we've seen:

1. The reconstruction and extension of the Kananook Boulevard in central Frankston
2. The rebuilding on a like for like basis of several of the creek's footbridges, with Beckwith Grove in Seaford being the most recent.
3. Desilting of the lower reaches of the Kananook Creek below Wells Street.
4. The extension of the Kananook walking trail along the west bank of the creek between Allawah Avenue and Mile Bridge, thereby facilitating a continuous walking and nature trail from Olivers Hill to Eel Race Road and Seaford Wetlands.
5. Planting of over 20,000 indigenous plants by volunteers along the 7 kilometre length of the creek
6. The introduction of more stringent planning and development controls along the creek, especially on the western side.

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7. Ongoing negotiations with Melbourne Water to better manage flow rates into Kananook Creek in a cost effective manner, thereby minimising seasonal changes and improving water quality in warmer months.

On top of that we are now on the cusp of seeing several more very important developments for the Kananook Creek, namely:

1. The establishment of a Committee of Management under a single authority to ensure an integrated approach to ALL activities along the creek, thereby eliminating critical issues falling between the cracks because no statutory body or agencies is prepared to take ownership.
2. Consolidation of the Seaford Park precinct near Seaford Station by inclusion of suitable signage together with the finalisation of a genuine indigenous reserve area with the potential for educational and wider community uses.
3. More Green Army projects along the length of the creek reserve.
4. The installation in early 2017 of a new main pump from Patterson River feeding the creek near Patterson River Secondary College guarantying a sustainable and quality supply of water into the creek for at least the next decade.
5. A much needed revision to the Land Subject to Inundation overlay will be implemented in mid-2017. This will provide a greater level of certainty to property owners undertaking development works along the creek.

Yes, there's a lot of water gone under the bridge, but there's still a torrent more to come. You can rest assured that when the 5 projects listed above are behind us other needs will emerge. The sad reality in amongst all this good news is that it has become harder and harder to source people willing to not only work on the KCA's committee, but also volunteer at working bees along the creek. The totality of the present committee is made up of people who live in Frankston. That is unsustainable and also means that many of the genuine needs within Seaford don't get the priority that they should, or simply go unnoticed.

At least 2 of the existing committee will not be renominating in April 2017. The remainder of us are all on the high side of 60 and starting to feel the years. The committee needs at least 8 people to function effectively and share the load around. Even if all 4 of the remaining committee renominate (and that's not guaranteed given the odd health concern) there will be insufficient people to form a committee under the rules of Incorporated Associations. If we are not an incorporated association the game changes radically and in a negative fashion.

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The bottom line is simple – if we don't have more committee members than appears likely at this stage the Kananook Creek Association ceases to exist in its present format. Those existing committee members who all live in Frankston will just get on with their lives and look after the walking track area between Mile Bridge and Beach Street. There will be nobody to take responsibility for the 5 kilometre section of the creek in Seaford and there will be nobody to lobby for the consolidated interests of the creek. That will only be compounded if mooted changes to the Green Army occur.

Oversight of development along Nepean Highway will become piecemeal; be aware that the Nepean Highway in Seaford is a prime development target for higher density living and will continue that way for many more years. The KCA is aware of at least 5 applications currently with council for triple storey developments along the highway in Seaford.

It's very much over to you, our current member base to decide if you are happy with that situation. If you aren't then here's a great chance to do something about it. Please consider becoming involved in the 2017 committee so that the valuable work of the Association can continue successfully into the foreseeable future.

Thank you and a Merry Christmas to you all.

Paul Davies
President
Kananook Creek Association