

Community Notices

Upcoming Events

FTCA Book Fair
Saturday March 29th
9am-3pm
At Community Centre

Bushcare
Sunday April 12th
10am-12.30pm
Meet 77 Summerleas Rd

Community BBQ
Sunday April 12th
12pm-3pm
Community Centre

**FTCA ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**
Wednesday April 29th
7.30pm
At Community Centre

Bushcare
Sunday May 10th
10am-12.30pm
Meet 77 Summerleas Rd

Bushcare
Sunday June 14th
10am-12.30pm
Community Centre

Yoga
Tuesdays 5.55pm
At Community Centre

Playgroup Wednesdays 9.30 - 11.30am

New members always welcome—Great indoor/outdoor space—FT Community Centre
Drop in or call: 0439 370 916

These publications by IRENE SCHAEFFER may be of interest to Fern Tree residents. Contact details below.

1. Fern Tree a Very Special Place. (11 pp xA4) colour \$8.
 2. Bush Fires at Fern Tree 1967 and our escape. (7 pp xA4) \$5.
 3. Henry Woods The Old Man of the Mountain, Springs Mt Wellington. (30 pp xA4) colour \$15.
 4. Girl Guides' Mountain Hut, Fern Tree 1934-1956. (48 pp xA4) colour , \$17.
 5. Nature in its Wildest Form, Mt. Wellington 1837-1853 (90 xA4) colour \$35.
- Purchase from Irene Schaffer OAM, 2/5a Marys Hope Road, Rosetta 7010.
Ph 62 722 124, m 0402 220 648,
Website - <http://www.tasfamily.net.au/~schaffer>

Thanks to Andrew Wilkie MHR for assistance in printing this community newsletter

Fern Tree Community Association Inc., 8 Stephenson Place, Fern Tree. GST Registered. ABN 88 577 475 907.
The Fern Tree Community Association is a non-profit group set up to serve and represent the community of Fern Tree. Meetings that are open to all residents elect a committee each year to conduct the association's business.
Address all correspondence to: The Secretary, Fern Tree Community Association, 8 Stephenson Pl, Fern Tree, 7054 or email secretary@ferntree.tas.au. **Community website:** ferntree.tas.au



ferntree.tas.au

Fern Tree Community Association Inc.

NEWSLETTER

 March 2015

BOOK FAIR



Sunday March 29th 9am - 3pm
At the Community Centre.

Plenty of books at very reasonable prices!
DONATIONS of BOOKS may be left at any time in the yellow bin on the back verandah at the Community Centre (preferably by March 22nd, for sorting).

Enquiries 62391206

This is a Community Association fundraiser

FTCA COMMUNITY BARBECUE

Sun April 12th, 12- 3pm at the Community Centre
BYO everything - barbecue available.
ALL FERN TREE RESIDENTS WELCOME
Meet your neighbours and make new friends!

Fern Tree Community Association ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015 7.30pm, Wed 29th April, at the Community Centre.

All residents welcome.

Please consider joining the new committee and being involved in your community - volunteers are always welcome.

Program: 7.30pm Short meeting and election of new committee, followed by

GUEST SPEAKER Dr. Lisa Cawthen
on "The Bats of Fern Tree."

VALE Tom Errey 14/7/1919 – 12/1/2015

On 12 Jan 2015 Fern Tree lost Tom Errey, its longest resident and serving member of the community.

Tom, his wife Nancy and young family arrived in Fern Tree from Adelaide in 1949. Initially they rented a small shack in Summerleas Road, before buying the weatherboard cottage at 98 Summerleas. Over the next few years the Tasmanian-born Errey children arrived and the family grew to five children.

Large families were the norm, it was the post WW2 'baby boom' and Fern Tree was awash with children - with dads like Tom finding themselves having to be handymen as they extended their homes to accommodate their growing brood.

Fern Tree in the 1950s and early 1960s was a strong community (not least because many residents, including the Erreys, did not own a car and the Fern Tree bus and bus stops – together with the local store - provided a great means for locals to meet and get to know each other).

Tom loved Fern Tree, its bush surrounds and the proximity to Mount Wellington. He was a great walker and bushwalker and enjoyed exploring The Mountain when he had the time, often taking one or more of his children along for the walk. Until the last couple of years of his life Tom regularly walked from Hobart to Fern Tree via the Waterworks and Pipeline Track – uphill almost all the way!

The Fern Tree War Memorial Preschool opened in the early 1950s. Tom was a keen supporter of this community facility and a succession of Errey children attended until they were old enough to go to primary school.

Tom was a volunteer with the Fern Tree

Fire Brigade and on 7 February 1967 responded to the call-out for volunteers to fight the bushfires that were threatening Fern Tree. This date came to be called Black Tuesday – at the end of the day the Erreys, along with many Fern Tree residents and thousands of other Tasmanians, were homeless.

In the immediate aftermath of the fire, Tom, along with other men from the neighbourhood, held working bees to clear the rubble on the sites where homes had been destroyed by the bushfire. He subsequently joined the group that formed to help Fern Tree rise from the ashes.

The Errey family spent a year living down in the suburbs until their replacement house (at 86 Summerleas Road, where the family had had a new house built when they eventually outgrew the cottage at 98) was ready.

Tom was the secretary of the FTCA for several years up to 1981, enthusiastically continuing to participate in the community he'd joined in that period of post-War scattering and resettlement. In this and similar roles he undertook with other organisations, his hand-written notes needed little editing – at times the final version was tapped out on the Olivetti typewriter, but Tom showed no sustained interest in conquering the ways of the computer!

Tom's second wife, Robin, came on the scene in the early 1980s, and a few years later Tom was seen with his sixth child, still striding along Summerleas Rd and beyond. By then retired from the paid workforce, Tom spent more time locally or 'devouring' *The Age*, the *Guardian Weekly* or a book, over a long black

coffee – frequently another letter to the press was fermenting within! In the '80s and '90s, he was also pivotal to active local support for Aboriginal rights.

Tom was active with the Fern Tree Landcare Group until into his 80s, when he decided that hauling heavy cut branches up steep slopes was getting a bit much for him!

Increasing deafness afflicted Tom in the latter years of his long life, curbing much of the active social participation he so enjoyed, but individual encounters re-

mained precious, and he resorted more to writing as his hearing shut him out of active social engagement. Despite this, he was still walking and it was only two years ago that he gave up delivering Fern Tree Newsletters, after many years.

It was in wintry Fern Tree weather, that a large gathering farewelled Tom at the Community Centre on 14th February, 2015, celebrating his long life, which seemed like a constant through a period which spanned so much worldly change.

- Catharine and Robin Errey

Quiz Night, October, 2014

This very enjoyable event was attended by 45 people and the proceeds (which exceeded \$800), will be very useful for the ongoing maintenance of our Community Centre. Many thanks are due to Len and Gay Spaans and Gil Duffield for their energy in devising the quiz, to Jeff Keogh the Quizmaster par excellence, and to the committee volunteers who organised the venue, raffle and prizes.

The FTCA also wishes to acknowledge the following prize donors, for whose continuing support the committee is very grateful: South Hobart Capital Chemist, South Hobart Butcher, The Salad Bowl, The Mercury, The Globe Hotel, Plants of Tasmania (Ridgeway), Marilyn Kremmer and Caroline Heard.

The **December Market** at the Community Centre was a success, in spite of bad weather on the day. Think about whether you might like to be involved next December!

Fern Tree Carols by Candlelight, December 2014.

For the first time in several years, the weather was suitable, so the Carols event was held outside! It was an enjoyable evening and the FTCA thanks Gabi Robin and Ray Murphy for taking on the organisation this year, Phil Sansom for announcing, Gregg Ransley of Gr8 Productions for the sound equipment. – and of course, all those who came along to add their voices to the singing!

PIPELINE TRACK CLOSURE

the HCC has advised of part closure of the track until 5pm Sat 28th March, during the upgrade of the Twin Bridges.

There will be no access to the track between Browns Road and Morphett's Road, where there are notices in place. The closure is to ensure public safety.