



Frankston Beach Association Inc.

Preserving the beach for all to use

June 2006 Newsletter

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FBA Committee:

President - Frank Hart
Vice President - Graeme Lyell
Secretary - Kath Hassell
Treasurer - Rob Thurley
Committee - Olwen Bawden
Pat Bentley
Bob Graham
Margaret Grice
George Hassell
Helen Priestley
Barry Priestley
Andrew Smith
Eve Welch
Debbie Williams

Contact Details:

FBA Secretary
44 Violet St.
South Frankston, Vic 3199
Tel: 9783 1391 or
email: kath.h@bigpond.net.au

For enquiries about voluntary work on the foreshore or in the nursery, please contact the Secretary via the details above.

Marina Update

Council at their 22 May 2006 meeting passed recommendations to proceed with market sounding and appoint a Probity Auditor and Probity Advisor to implement the market sounding phase and later phases as required with respect to the proposed Olivers Hill marina.

At this meeting, the Combined Frankston Residents Group (a group associated with the FBA) and the Frankston Business Chamber were each given 5 minutes to address Council.

In their address to Council, the Combined Frankston Residents Group referred to:

i. the written statements of concern, from six Melbourne scientists and geomorphologists that construction of the proposed Olivers Hill marina would have serious adverse effects on the Frankston beaches;

ii. that there is clear evidence from similar structures both in Port Phillip Bay, at Glenelg in South Australia and elsewhere, where beaches had been totally destroyed and necessary consequential maintenance dredging and beach restoration work was costing the community millions of dollars each year to alleviate the problems, with only limited success;

iii. that for 24 years, the proponents of the proposed Olivers Hill marina had been unable to demonstrate financial feasibility or net community benefit. That developers will sequentially go into liquidation. That Council will find themselves in a weak bargaining position with any replacement developer, and the Frankston public will be left to bail out the project and carry the cost of ongoing maintenance dredging and beach restoration;

iv. that with the loss of the beaches, the 120,000 residents of Frankston, plus many visitors and day tourists, will lose their principle and long cherished public amenity and be required to subsidize the big toys of 300 'out of town' berth holders in the marina.

The CFRG are concerned that Frankston City Councillors are being briefed by the de facto proponents of the proposed marina, i.e. the Frankston City Council officers, who are conveying information favourable to the proposed development and who are failing to follow the internationally accepted 'Precautionary Principle', and advise Councillors of the probable environmental and financial adverse consequences.

One Councillor was absent from the meeting. Motions at the meeting relating to the Proposed Olivers Hill marina were passed with the casting vote of the mayor.

If you require further information on the status of the marina development, then please contact the FBA Secretary via the details listed on the front of this newsletter.

What Lessons Have We Learnt? Build The Marina - Lose The Beach

Hampton Beach - That Was!

Following the construction of the breakwater and the Sandringham marina, Hampton Beach has all but disappeared. Notwithstanding the millions of dollars that has been spent on restoration works over the last 30 years, with pumping thousands of cubic metres of sand ashore from offshore sand banks, what was once a magnificent stretch of beach, over 1 kilometre in length, no longer exists. The local community now have no beach.

Middle Brighton, the Beach That Was!

City of Port Phillip Newsletter, dated May 3, 2005 read:

"The City of Port Phillip has welcomed the State Government's decision to allocate \$3-\$5 million in its 2005-2006 budget to restore Middle Park Beach.....sand erosion at Middle Park Beach has been a problem since St. Kilda Pier breakwater was built for the 1956 Olympics.....The 300 metre Middle Park Beach was listed as the worst eroded beach in the Government's 2001 Beaches at Risk Report.....

The last few months, without a real beach at Middle Park, have left everyone high and dry. At high tide, there is literally nowhere to sit or walk the dog. Now with the State Government commitment, it will be there to give pleasure to new generations of beachgoers".

How long will this beach restoration last?

Glenelg and West Beach South Australia – the Beautiful Beaches That Were!

In 1997 a marina was constructed at West Beach, and 2 km. south the groins at the entrance to an inland marina at Glenelg, were extended 100 metre seaward. Within two years of the commencement of these projects, accretion of sand was taking place adjacent to the south side of these man made structures, and major erosion of beaches was taking place to the north, between and further south of the structures. The entrances to both marinas were silting up necessitating continuous dredging. By-passing and trucking of between 50,000 to 100,000 cubic metres of sand, from the areas of accretion back to the eroded areas was carried out annually. This beach restoration work is costing approximately \$1.9 million per year. In certain places it has not been possible to replenish the beaches that have disappeared.

Frankston BEACH – the Beach that ?

The Frankston Planning Scheme requires that a proponent for the Olivers Hill marina, **undertakes physical and numerical modelling studies**, to determine what effect the marina structure will have on the beaches and the amount and cost of sand bypassing and dredging that will be required to alleviate problems of erosion and accretion of sand at Daveys Bay and on the Frankston beaches, before being granted any development approval.

Why, in their recent Press Release, setting out the necessary Environmental Impact Assessment, does Frankston City Council fail to acknowledge these prescribed physical and numerical modelling studies, that have to be undertaken and be completed before any marina development is approved ?

Marina Fight Needs Your Help

The fight against the marina development is reaching a crucial phase. Right now we need those who support our stance against the marina to become members of the FBA and to volunteer to help us recruit further members. We especially need volunteers to help us get 8500 ratepayers to sign a petition for a "poll of voters" against the intended marina development. There is some urgency now to significantly boost our membership in order to demonstrate community opposition to the marina and to build the strength of numbers to fight a campaign that can decidedly win. Donations to the fighting fund are also urgently needed.

Long Island Reserve Development Plan

This reserve occupies an area of just under 4 hectares and is bounded by a high foredune to the west and by Kananook Creek to the east, and the mouth of the creek to the south and Well Street to the north. Frankston City Council has put together a development plan for this reserve, and this document has been on public display for a large portion of March/April of this year.

The development plan provisionally proposes the following developments:

- consolidation of the yacht and angling clubs, together with car parking.
- Various changes to the route of the roadway.
- Removal of the central toilet block.
- Replacement of the brick pathway along the creek with a timber boardwalk.
- Removal of the majority of indigenous shrubs bordering the creek pathway.
- Construction of a boardwalk running north/south over the dune, with two look-out points.
- Two major pathways crossing the Reserve in an east/west direction.
- Development of a large family picnic, playground and activities zone near the Life Saving Club – includes a timber deck, all weather shelter, feature pathway, large BBQ deck, water themed playground with rubber asphalt, all weather shade structure and a formalised walk to the beach.
- Development of a Passive Zone – this area sits in the middle of the Reserve, is designed for small gatherings and passive recreation, and incorporates timber decking within a grassed amphitheatre, information deck, sandstone retaining walls and various feature pathways.

- An informal recreation zone abutting the yacht club and car park, a timber viewing deck and roofed all weather shelter.

FBA's submission to Council on the Development Plan challenged the following areas:

- proposal to connect the Life Saving and Yacht Clubs via a shared usage boardwalk along the dune area.
- the impact upon and removal of remnant indigenous vegetation.
- significant over development of the Reserve.

The dune and the remnant vegetation between the Yacht and the Life Saving Clubs is unique because it is the only significant dune on the Frankston foreshore. Ecology Australia, 2005 reports that the "*native vegetation is highly modified and degraded*", but also recognised that the vegetation was "*species rich and diverse and some sectors are considered representative of the original vegetation.*"

FBA's recommends realigning the boardwalk so it sits closer to the grassy parkland, rather than imposing on the dune area.

Recreation Along the Beach

The FBA is committed to improving the beaches of Frankston, not just on environmental grounds, but also to maximise the enjoyment for recreational users. As a result, the FBA is in the process of approaching recreational groups to ascertain what facilities they would like to see incorporated into foreshore amenities.

Groups to be approached are likely to include the following:

- Frankston Lifesaving Club
- Frankston Yacht Club
- Anglers Club
- Canadian Bay Canoe Group
- Sea Scouts
- Dog walking groups
- Swimming groups
- Diving and snorkeling groups.

Members of these groups will also be invited to join the ranks of the FBA, in order to ensure that recreational use of the beach continues to be given the appropriate level of attention.

Indigenous Nursery

Our plant stock has increased considerably by the contribution of two groups:

- 16 Naranga Special School students and 3 teachers propagated 2,000 shrubs and ground covers.
- 10 Chisholm TAFE students and their horticulture teacher propagated 1,200 shrubs.

The Naranga students and teachers also assisted the FBA work group and 3 council officers to plant 750 indigenous species on the Frankston foreshore, and will continue to assist for many weeks to come.

A big thankyou needs to go to both of these groups for all of their hard work.

Foreshore Projects

Preparations have begun for planting on the foreshore between June & September 2006. The key projects that will be tackled in the next few months include the following:

- Envirofund Site 4 - 3,000 trees, shrubs, grasses & ground covers.
- Assisting Frankston City Council to plant 5,000 trees, shrubs, grasses & ground covers.
- Replanting Envirofund Site 3 – 500 shrubs and grasses.
- Revegetation of Crown Land where African Boxthorn has been removed (Gould Street area).

In order to continue our commitment to the revegetation on the foreshore we require volunteers. Please consider joining our small group on a Tuesday at the Plant Nursery between 9.30 - 12 noon, or Wednesday on the foreshore between 9:30 - 11:30am. If you are interested in joining, contact Kathleen Hassell on 9783 1391 or email: kath.h@bigpond.net.au

Grants

The FBA recently received a grant from Frankston Council for the purchase of a digital camera. The camera will be of great assistance in capturing a record of existing flora and landscapes along the foreshore reserve.

Also the FBA has applied for a further grant under the Natural Heritage Envirofund (an amount of ~\$13,000) in order to carry out further revegetation along the foreshore.

New Members

We need readers to **show their support** and become members of the FBA. We especially need volunteers willing to **help the committee fight the marina**. So why not join the FBA and get involved on one of our many causes/activities. Just complete the Membership Application overleaf or contact our Secretary (contact details appear on the front of this newsletter).

Existing Memberships

Existing FBA membership subscriptions expire on June 30, so current members need to renew their subscription for 2006/2007 **now**. Just use the form provided overleaf.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

OR

JOIN THE FBA

NOW!



Frankston Beach Association Inc.

Preserving the beach for all to use

Membership Application

(July 1 to June 30, 2007)

I/we wish to join, or renew my/our membership of, the FBA for an annual subscription of \$10 per household.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone AH: _____ BH: _____

Email: _____

Areas of Interest (eg. propagation, planting out, foreshore maintenance):

Hours/days available: _____

I/we wish to assist the Association's activities, and enclose a donation of \$ _____

Please detach this application form and send with payment to the Secretary:

FBA Secretary
44 Violet St.
South Frankston, Vic 3199