



November 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

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

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www.vicnet.net.au/~fbainc

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Frankston Beach Association is scheduled for Tuesday 28th November at 7:30pm. in the club rooms of the Frankston Yacht Club. The meeting will review the activities of the Association throughout 2006, as well have a screening of 2 short films. The first is part of our Save the Beach Campaign and uses aerial views of our beautiful coastline to show how a marina has the potential to destroy the recreational values of Daveys Bay and Frankston beaches. The other film is entitled "Bayside Reflections".

Importantly, the meeting will also elect the new committee for 2007. So why not bring a friend, and come along. A light supper will be provided.

Marina Proposal– Numerical & Physical Modelling

What are the 'marine geotechnical and numerical and physical modelling studies' that have to be undertaken by any proponent of the marina, and why are they required?

The Panel/Advisory Committee Report dated 28 February 2003 and the Minister for Planning Assessment dated October 2003 determined that 40 recommendations included in the Panel Report had to be complied with, and that the 40 recommendations formed a package. If the package of recommendations could not be responded to, then the proposal to develop a marina at the foot of Olivers Hill should be abandoned.

The recommendations included requirements for harbour design testing and numerical and physical modelling to:

- Demonstrate the safe operation of the preferred design option in adverse wind, weather and sea conditions.
- Subject the preferred design to coastal process impact evaluation. This would enable any sand bypassing requirements to be predicted with reasonable accuracy, and for the cost of bypassing to be calculated.
- Determine environmental performance of the preferred design.
- Assess the capacity of the site to accommodate a particular harbour design, where a harbour basin and breakwaters could be located and the extent of the enclosed harbour areas.
- Test and recommend the optimum location and dimensions of any breakwaters or wave attenuators and the appropriate location, orientation and dimensions of an entrance channel.
- Integrate marine geotechnical studies with land based geotechnical studies.

The FBA has consulted with coastal engineers and geomorphologists on the methodology required to complete these studies. Our focus has been on the importance of obtaining the data and statistical information necessary to drive the modelling. This includes data relating to wind, waves, currents and the littoral drift and movement of sand along the coastline. The success and reliability of the results of the physical and numerical modelling studies depend largely on the accuracy, adequacy and reliability of this data. Inadequate, inaccurate and insufficient data will result in flawed and faulty results emerging from the modelling.

The FBA has established that the grains of sand on Daveys Bay beach and on the western part of the Frankston beach are closely related, affirming that the movement of sand from one side of Olivers Hill to the other is taking place.

The importance of rigorously carrying out the physical and numerical modelling study requirements and using accurate and adequate data cannot be over stated. The FBA has raised a concern with Frankston Council that the timeline proposed for the marina development does not appear to provide sufficient time for adequate modelling input data to be gathered.

We plan to go into greater detail of the accepted principles and technicalities in relation to these studies as related to the proposed Olivers Hill marina, in our next Newsletter (early 2007).

Long Island Development Plan

One of the elements of the Development Plan, the 320m coastal dune boardwalk has progressed to the stage where according to the Mayor (Frankston Leader, October 23, 2006) "Council will call for tenders for the boardwalk in the next few weeks." One of the justifications given was that a boardwalk would "improve safety in the area and reduce hidden places for potential offenders." It was stated that this was particularly relevant following the unfortunate dumping of a murdered woman (who happened to live in Brunswick) in the Frankston foreshore coastal scrub.

Criminal or Undesirable Behaviour

One of the main reasons being given for building a coastal boardwalk in the development area is that it will get rid of the undesirables who congregate in the bushes. Are we to sacrifice the coast, and ultimately the beaches, by removing vegetation because of this? This view is very short-sighted. Local Law Officers and the Police should take a hard look at this problem, which both organisations ignore – the vegetation is not to blame.

An Important Natural Asset

According to the Kananook Creek Association, "we cannot stress enough that the foreshore of the Frankston City is its most important, and most fragile, natural asset. It is a natural asset of environmental significance and of high heritage significance. These natural reserves are Frankston's "national parks" and we are custodians for future generations. The national parks approach, with its principles and processes, should be borne in mind at all times – we should not be swayed by current fashions for what may appear to be attractive activities. We must carefully manage access to the coast to appreciate its beauty and to introduce compatible recreational uses – but above all to make sure that it does not deteriorate as a result of our intervention."

Coastal Vegetation

The boardwalk site has been highly modified and degraded over the years, despite the fact that it has an

Environmental Significance Overlay 1 (ESO1). This designation is a most important safeguard for conservation, and is vital in protecting the foreshore's vegetation. However this designation appears to have been given little attention in positioning the planned boardwalk.

FBA strongly believes remnant vegetation is not expendable, and any amount of revegetation as part of the proposed development will not replace species that might be lost.

Experts consulted by the FBA have advised that the dune boardwalk on such a limited site will have a detrimental effect on the remnant vegetation. Furthermore, they have advised that any arguments put forward for a boardwalk could be applied just as appropriately to protecting the dune by fencing.

A good example of what the experts predict for the project area can be seen along the present boardwalk. Here the coastal vegetation has become extremely sparse on the beach side dunes.

Foreshore Plantings

Planting season is now complete. FBA's work group, Neranga Special School students and Council officers have planted a total of 5,600 indigenous species. The lack of rain is a real worry though – watering of the recently planted species has commenced and will continue through the summer. We are concerned about all the species planted over the last two seasons. Already many have died, and species like the Banksias are suffering from stress.

Tree Vandals

Recently a beautiful healthy fifteen year old Banksia was mutilated on the Frankston foreshore and we congratulate and support Frankston City Council for reacting strongly to the vandalism by posting a sign offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to a conviction. We should all become extremely watchful for these vandals to our environment!

Commonwealth and State Grants

FBA has received its 8th Envirofund Grant for \$12,190. Most of the funding will be expended on the primary dune that has eroded severely and placed the existing boardwalk at risk from the encroaching seawater. We anticipate planting 1000's of the indigenous coastal Spinifex to halt the erosion.

We recently applied for a State Government Grant amounting to \$6,000 to supplement the Mile Bridge foreshore revegetation program.

Volunteers

We need volunteers to work at the nursery or the foreshore during 2007. If you can help in any way,

please contact our Secretary (contact details on front of this newsletter).

And a special thanks to the 4 volunteers who responded to our call for help in our previous newsletter.

New Web Site

Want to know more about the Frankston Beach Association, and our many activities? Check out our new web site at www.vicnet.net.au/~fbainc

Monash Students Clean-Up Day

On October 14, Monash University students, as part of their environment studies, worked with the FBA to clear litter from the dunes and foreshore, from the Frankston Yacht Club to Fiocchi Ave. (off Gould St.). The students

were horrified at the amount of rubbish collected - 18 large bags, most of it recently dropped litter, comprising empty alcohol cans, bottles, 5 syringes, 2 bongos, takeaway drink containers, baby napkins, cigarette butts, hundreds of chocolate bar wrappers and heaps of plastic bags. The experience has not deterred the students, and with the help of the FBA, are considering making the beach clean-up an annual event.

Nursery Update

Thanks go to Liz Hassell and her students from Chisholm TAFE who continue to propagate species at the Frankston Indigenous Nursery for planting on the foreshore.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday November 28th

7:30pm. at the Frankston Yacht Club

Nominations for office bearers or general committee should be made on the form below, and forwarded to the Secretary, 44 Violet St, Frankston before the date of the meeting.



Frankston Beach Association Inc.

Preserving the beach for all to use

Nomination for the 2007 Committee

I wish to make the following nomination:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please circle the position for which the person is being nominated:

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

General Committee

Your Name & Contact Details:

Name: _____

Telephone AH: _____ BH: _____