



Frankston Beach Association Inc.

Preserving the beach for all to use

October 2007 Newsletter

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FBA Committee:

President - Frank Hart
Vice President - Graeme Lyell
Secretary - Kath Hassell
Treasurer - David Mumford
Committee - Olwen Bawden
Pat Bentley
Bob Graham
Margaret Grice
George Hassell
Andrew Smith
Eve Welch
Debbie Williams

Contact Details:

FBA Secretary
44 Violet St.
South Frankston, Vic 3199
Tel: 9783 1391 or
fbainc2006@hotmail.com.au

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

FBA web site:
www.vicnet.net.au/~fbainc

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President's Message

The Association's activities during the 2007 winter months have continued to be directed towards preserving and enhancing the quality of the flora and fauna on the foreshore for the long term enjoyment of the citizens of Frankston and visitors to the area.

Our volunteer workers have continued, together with Council employees, with the planting of indigenous plant species suitable for the coastal environment along the foreshore in the area between Olivers Hill and the Mile Bridge. We have also been assisted by volunteers from the Frankston North Rotary Club and Community Service volunteers. Committee members have liaised with Council in planning and maintenance matters of the foreshore area to further advance the aims of the Association.

One Committee member has attended a Habitat Conservation and Management Course conducted by Greening Australia and the whole committee believe that the knowledge gained will be of immense benefit in achieving the objectives of the Association.

Committee members have represented the Association at a number of seminars and panel hearings and spoken at various meetings. We have continued to support public groups in expressing concerns in relation to the adverse environmental consequences that will result from the proposed channel deepening within the Bay, and we have maintained a watching brief over the proposed Olivers Hill Marina development.

Proposed Channel Deepening in Port Phillip Bay



The State Planning Minister has recently announced his acceptance of the Port of Melbourne's proposal to deepen the shipping channels in Port Phillip Bay and in the river Yarra. However, any final decision to proceed is subject to the proposal receiving final approval from the Federal Minister for the Environment. This is not expected to be considered until after the forthcoming election.

This proposal entails dredging 40 million cubic metres of spoil from the shipping channels, including the dredging of toxic spoil from the river Yarra and dumping this spoil in two areas elsewhere in Port Phillip Bay.

To provide some sense of scale of the project, the amount of material to be dredged is more than the equivalent of digging a 2 metre deep by 15 metre wide trench from Melbourne to Sydney, or alternatively covering the City of Melbourne's Hoddle Grid (the CBD area) to a depth of approximately 23 metres, the equivalent of a typical eight-storey building.

We will analyse the Ministerial Assessment in the next few weeks and we will comment further after due consideration of the principle points.

Proposed Marina



Frankston City Council (FCC) has removed the details from the Council website that refer to the proposed Central Boat Harbour (also known as the proposed Oliver's Hill Marina).

Information relating to any progress of this proposal, with particular reference to the development of a business plan, is difficult to obtain from Council. Comments made previously on the FBA website, May 2007 Marina Update Article, remain current and relevant.

The FBA is committed to the findings of the 2003 EES Planning Panel Report. These findings call for both physical and numerical modelling studies to be carried out in order to determine the effects that the proposed marina structure will have on the littoral drift around Oliver's Hill, and to determine the location and quantity of accretion and erosion of sand on nearby beaches to the north and south of the structure. These studies are required by the Panel Report to be completed prior to the approval of any development plans.

The FBA recommends that the Government should have these physical and numerical modelling studies carried out as part of the business plan. The results of these studies would then reveal the effect on the nearby beaches and would allow proper planning, including development and ongoing operating costs of the project, to be properly determined and assessed.

In this regard the FBA will submit these views to Government.

Conclusion

The FBA look forward to continuing to work with Council and other sections of the community in fulfilling our aims and objectives and ensuring that the Frankston foreshore remains healthy and vibrant for all to enjoy, long into the future.

Finally in this regard the FBA would welcome any new members to help swell our ranks and carry out this

important work without which the foreshore would be very much the poorer.

Frank Hart
President

Stability of Oliver's Hill

After many years of procrastination, the geotechnical report commissioned jointly by the Frankston City Council (FCC) and the State Government has been completed. Interestingly, this report was completed more than 3 months ago, and neither the FCC or the State Government has seen fit to make the report available to the community. As published recently in our local newspapers, both parties continue to point the finger at each other, in terms of who carries the responsibility for informing the public. So much for open government!

So what does the report conclude? Information made available to the FBA reveals that remediation work must be carried out urgently due to the risks to the Nepean Highway road surface, as well as to the lookouts. The geotechnical experts have assessed the risks (of a landslide) to both of these as "almost certain" to occur, with the consequences of any landslide described as "catastrophic". The assessment also covers the risk of a landslide affecting housing on the southern end of the hill, as well as the proposed marina at the foot of the hill. The risk to both of these is also described as "almost certain" to occur.



Since the FCC and the State Government continue to be in discussion over the scope and funding of the proposed marina, one wonders whether this has had an affect on the secrecy surrounding the publication of the report.

Foreshore Projects

Our work group decreased in numbers this year through ill-health and other commitments of members. As a result, we had to rely heavily on Parkland Services Officers to carry out the extensive planting beachside of the existing boardwalk and the foreshore reserve at Mile Bridge.

Again we must acknowledge the assistance of Japanese Students from Monash University English Language Centre and students from Chisholm Institute who

assisted us with planting on the foreshore and plant propagation at the nursery. A special thankyou also needs to go to members of the Frankston North Rotary Club for their contribution to National Tree Day, assisting our work group in planting 700 indigenous species on the foreshore.



Volunteers

We urgently require volunteers for our revegetation projects in 2008. Our mid-week work group has diminished considerably. Please consider giving a couple of hours weekly, fortnightly, or monthly - Wednesdays 9.00-11.30am. We will even consider a monthly work program on a Sunday in lieu of weekday programs.

Alternatively, you may wish to assist in propagating plants for the foreshore at Council's Indigenous Plant Nursery, McCulloch Ave Seaford - Tuesday 9.30-11.30am.

If you can help, please contact the Secretary (details on the front cover of this newsletter).

Grants for 2007

Our association has had excellent results in applying for grants during 2007:

- Envirofund 9 for \$16,147 - the project covered the 0.75ha foreshore reserve between Flocchi Ave and Annie Street (Long Island), and involved the purchase of plants, fertilizer etc.
- Envirofund 10 for \$1,650 - to purchase a portable display unit to exhibit photographs of our foreshore projects when we attend community functions, student open days etc.
- Dept. of Families, Community Services etc. for \$2,833.60 -- purchase of a notebook computer and digital projector to assist us in giving colourful presentations.

Membership of the FBA

Existing FBA membership subscriptions expired on June 30, so if you are an existing member and have not renewed your subscription for 2007/2008, please do so by using the form provided with this newsletter.

New members are also required, so if you would like to get involved in supporting the many activities of the FBA, why not join us now. Again, just use the form provided in the newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Frankston Beach Association is scheduled for Sunday 18th November at 11:00am. in the club rooms of the Frankston Yacht Club. The meeting will review the activities of the Association throughout 2007, and importantly, elect the new committee for 2008. If you would be interested in joining the committee, or nominating someone else, then please see the Nomination form enclosed with this Newsletter. Our guest speaker this year will be Debbie Williams, a committee member of the FBA. She will enlighten us all on the diversity of the vegetation along the Frankston foreshore.

So why not bring a friend, and come along to the meeting. A light lunch will be provided afterwards.

Proposed Olivers Hill Marina

The FBA feels that it should respond to the Frankston Business Chamber statements relating to the proposed Olivers Hill Marina found in the publication 'Frankston a City on the Move' and in their opinion piece, titled 'Straight talk about the Frankston Safe Boat Harbour'. These statements show little knowledge or understanding of the public process or the government decisions determining the design, construction or operating parameters for a Safe Boat Harbour at Olivers Hill.

Statements from the Business Chamber suggest that a maximum impact, commercial marina is the only safe boating option. The facts are that three options were considered by two Ministers and two Planning/Advisory Panels. The three options considered were:

Option 1 - Refurbish the existing Olivers Hill Boat Ramp area only.

Option 2 - Provide a boat harbour with a minimum of 30 day/overnight public moorings; 5 boat launching ramps and a cafe/restaurant.

Option 3 - Provide for a boat harbour with a convenience restaurant (up to 80 seats), one restaurant (up to 100 seats), a convenience shop, and a ship's chandlery. The harbour would provide a minimum of 30 day/overnight public moorings, a maximum of 300 permanent wet berths and a maximum of 5 boat ramps.

The two Planning Ministers and Planning Panels have accepted Option 2. They have determined that acceptance of Option 3 is subject to the proposal meeting significant physical, and environmental requirements and to be financially viable.

After 3 years of actively pursuing Option 3, FCC have now announced that Option 3 cannot be financially viable as determined by the Ministers and the Planning Panels. FCC are now circumventing the planning

processes, and are pursuing directly with the Minister a significantly expanded Option 3, tenuously hoping that it may be financially viable.

In December 2006, the Council issued a press release that stated Option 3 was not financially viable and suggested that 'Repackaging' was needed in order to provide an adequate revenue stream to cover development costs.

This 'Repackaging' is defined by Council as:

- Remove restrictions on vessel and berth sizes.
- Increase floor space for commercial facilities – marine retail, restaurants and boat repairs.
- Allow dry-stack boat facility storage.
- Allow residential or short stay accommodation.
- Alternatively seek government funding for the construction of breakwaters and infrastructure.

This 'Repackaging' far exceeds physically and financially, (with no apparent limitations) the approved option, and ignores the extensive planning processes and public consultation that have taken place.

Specifically addressing the statements made by the Business Chamber:

The Chamber states: *"Frankston Safe Boat Harbour has current State and Environmental approval".*

FBA response: Approval is subject to significant physical and environmental requirements and parameters being complied with. The Ministers and Panel Reports made it clear that Option 2 would address the widely recognised need for a safe all-tide and all-weather boat ramp and rescue facilities at Frankston. Option 2 is the only option that the Panels and the Ministers have unconditionally supported.

The Chamber states: *"The fact is scientific evidence proved that an appropriately designed marina would have minimal environmental impact".*

FBA response: No scientific evidence has been obtained specifically to determine what effect the proposed marina will have on the near-by maritime and coastal environment. This includes littoral drift, as well as the accretion and/or erosion of sand from the Frankston beaches and in Daveys Bay. This is why the Panel advised that appropriate studies needed to be undertaken before any development approval should be given.

The Chamber states: *"Objectors are incorrectly stating that the project has undergone no environmental assessment".*

FBA response: The project has undergone environmental assessment, however scientists have expressed differing views as to the effect that the marina will have on the environment. The Minister and Panel state that further comprehensive studies need to demonstrate:

- that coastal processes, particularly sand transport and deposition, can be managed without significant adverse effects on adjoining areas (the 2003 Panel called for Physical and Numerical Modelling studies to be undertaken before any development approvals are given).
- that valuable marine, inter-tidal and terrestrial habitats will not be affected; that water quality can be protected, that noise and traffic impacts on residents and other users can be minimised.
- that significant landscapes are not compromised and that geo-technical risks are recognised.

The Chamber states: *"Information presented at the hearings by a small number of local objectors was only based around casual observations without any scientific evidence".*

FBA Response: Who from the Chamber of Business attended the hearings? Concerned residents presented the views of six Victorian coastal scientists. These scientists have all expressed concerns as to the adverse effects that the proposed marina will have on the beaches. They have also presented clear evidence of damage that similar structures have had in the bay, including Hampton, Brighton and Middle Park. Scientific data presented in the submissions of local objectors was clearly identified, accepted and forms an intrinsic part of the Panel Report.

The Chamber states: *"It is significant that the objector's evidence was not accepted by the Panel or the Victorian Planning Minister".*

FBA response: Many submissions presented by members of the community, often backed by expert opinion, were accepted by the Panel.

The Chamber States: *"Re better sites closer to Frankston Shopping Centre – the fact is these sites were extensively evaluated and rejected by experts."*

FBA response: The Planning Panel Report 2003 found that FCC's rejection of a safe boating facility at the Frankston pier was not well founded. They commented that "the Panel can find no existing material or evidence to establish that a wave attenuator and/or a parallel breakwater could not be used on a pier, if this was in a sufficient depth of water or at a sufficient distance from the shoreline....".

The Chamber states: *"Surveys in Frankston indicate that more than 80% of residents support Frankston Safe Harbour/Marina."*

FBA response: According to a Pulse Survey taken by F.C.C. on the Safe Boat Harbour, April 2003 the figure was 0.07% in favour of a marina/ permanent wet/dry berths. It was the concept of a Leisure/Recreation feature (boardwalk & picnic facilities) that elicited 80% support.

Annual General Meeting

Sunday November 18th

11:00am. 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 2008 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: _____

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 2007 to June 30, 2008)

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