



Frankston Beach Association Inc.

Preserving the beach for all to use

October 2008 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 email to
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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ABN 68 874 762 644

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Frankston Beach Association will be held on Sunday 23rd November at 11:00am. in the club rooms of the Frankston Yacht Club. The meeting will review the activities of the Association throughout 2008, and importantly, elect the new committee for 2009. If you are interested in joining the committee, or nominating someone else, then please see the Nomination Form enclosed within this newsletter. In particular, we are seeking someone to join the committee who has an interest in assisting with secretarial duties.

Our guest speaker this year will be Jeff Weir, founder of the Dolphin Research Centre. He will enlighten us on the work of the Dolphin Centre in Port Phillip Bay, with special reference to the Olivers Hill area.

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

Proposed Olivers Hill Marina

On the 18th September the Acting Minister for Planning advised that the Government supported the April 2008 Priority Development Panel recommendations to approve a significantly larger marina than that allowed under the existing Frankston Planning Scheme.

The reason given for this approval is that the smaller marina would not be financially viable.

FBA are critical of the Priority Development Panel recommendations and the Frankston City Council proposal, since no financial cost estimates and no cost benefit studies for the larger marina have been completed, and no environmental effects of the proposed larger marina have been examined.

The Government and Frankston City Council could be accused of being financially and environmentally irresponsible should this proposal proceed before full studies are carried out and a financial and environmental risk analysis is undertaken.

FBA remains concerned that the people of Frankston risk losing their beaches, and Daveys Bay will silt up. The ratepayers of Frankston will once again stand by helplessly, as Council becomes financially responsible for Frankston beach restoration, sand bypassing and dredging costs. Millions of ratepayers' dollars will be squandered on another financially unviable 'bottom of the harbour scheme' and an unfinished project. Naive and misguided investors will unwittingly lose their money as one developer after another follows each other into bankruptcy.

We will continue to advise of any further news of this proposal.

Erosion of the Beaches

Throughout the month of September, the beaches to the north and south of Frankston Pier experienced severe erosion, during a period of sustained westerly gales and very high tides. This loss of sand from the dune system placed parts of

the boardwalk in danger.



Erosion Damage South of the Coast Guard

Aware of the frequently flawed methods used to correct beach erosion in other coastal areas that often create more extensive problems, the FBA sought advice from Dr. Wayne Stephenson, a geomorphologist from the University of Melbourne. Dr. Stephenson has studied the Frankston and Seaford beaches for many years and has advised the Beach Association on previous occasions.

Dr. Stephenson, in a comprehensive statement, advised that the beach would repair itself in time if left to recover, provided that nearby developments such as marinas do not interfere with the ability of the system to recover, by locking up sand or preventing it from moving around within the system.

We are presently witnessing some improvement in the condition of these beaches.

Foreshore Projects

Frankston Beach Association members and volunteers under the guidance of Debbie Williams and Kath Hassell, and in co-operation with Frankston City Council staff, have continued with the ongoing foreshore flora restoration and preservation programme.



Volunteers Hard at Work on National Tree Day

Three main areas along the dunes were targeted for restoration, with over 3,000 indigenous shrubs, trees and ground covers being planted. We express our

appreciation to the many volunteers who assisted in this work, including the Peninsula Field Naturalists Club, Frankston North Rotary Club, Japanese Students from Monash University, staff from the Body Shop, members of the FBA and members of the public. Their help and support in this work is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Further details on the foreshore work is provided below:

July 17/18 - Japanese students from Monash University and volunteers from The Body Shop planted 750 indigenous plants on the foreshore between Fiocchi and Annie Street (off Gould Street).

July 20 - 7 Peninsula Field Naturalists and our FBA work group planted 320 indigenous plants south of the disabled entry to the new Boardwalk (north of the Frankston Yacht Club).

July 27 (National Tree Day) - 32 volunteers (11 from Monash University, 7 from Frankston North Rotary Club and 14 individual volunteers who responded to an advertisement by Planet Ark). Together with our FBA work group, the volunteers enjoyed planting 750 species on the seaward side of the boardwalk, just opposite the Caltex service station. All of the hard work was then followed by a well earned morning tea supplied by members of the FBA committee.

August 20 - 7 volunteers (3 Council officers and 4 of the community volunteers from the nursery). Together with the FBA work group, the volunteers planted approx. 840 species between Fiocchi and Annie Street (off Gould Street).

Beach Award

Frankston Beach was nominated for an award in the 2008 National Cleanest and Friendliest Beach Competition. The outcome was a win of the Culture and Heritage Award and an Encouragement Award in the Cleanest and Friendliest Beach category. The awards were made in Sydney on 16 September where the Beach Association and Frankston Council were represented.

Water & Climate Change Expo

In August, the FBA provided a stand at the Frankston Water and Climate Change Expo, held at the Frankston Arts Centre. The expo was well attended by the local community, as well as representatives of both local and State government.

FBA also attended the Western Port Landcare Awards and celebration held at Federation Square during September.

Volunteers

We urgently require volunteers for our revegetation projects in 2008/2009. Our mid-week work group has

diminished considerably. Please consider giving a couple of hours fortnightly, or monthly – every second Tuesday 9.30-12.00pm. We may 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 – alternate Tuesdays 9.30-12.00pm.

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

Grants for 2008

Our association has had excellent results in applying for grants during 2008:

- Envirofund Grant 9 – Funding of \$19,068 to remove woody weeds and succulents, and plant 5,600 indigenous plants. The grant covers 0.75 ha on the Frankston Foreshore Reserve between Fiocchi Ave and Annie St. (Gould St. area).
- Community Grant from Melbourne Water for \$500 for the purchase of a banner that will display the FBA name. This will prove very useful for example, when our volunteers are working on the foreshore reserve.

Application for further environmental grants has been put on hold until the severe erosion of the main beach shows further signs of recovery and decisions relating to necessary work can be better made.

Kananook Creek

Given that Kananook Creek is a major feature of Frankston's main beach, we thought it would be worthwhile writing about water levels, both in Kananook Creek, and along the beach generally.



Pedestrian Bridge Over the Mouth of the Creek (circa 1940)

Kananook Creek is a coastal estuary which is at sea level for its entire length. The Creek flows along a shallow valley between two parallel coastal sand dunes for its entire length. North of Mile Bridge, the Nepean

Highway is on the primary sand dune, and south of Mile Bridge Gould Street is on this same dune. There are also many residential and commercial properties on these two dunes. Because the Creek is at sea level, sea water enters the Creek at the mouth at high tide and discharges at low tide. Since the early 1980s, the water authority has been pumping sea water from Patterson Lakes into the upper part of the creek. The other source of water for the Creek is stormwater run-off from neighbouring streets. All of the water entering the creek finds its way to the mouth, discharging into the sea during a "normal" low tide.

In high winds (which are prevailing winds from the north-west through west to south-west), the water level in Port Phillip Bay rises on the east side of the Bay, and the level of the low tide can be much higher than "normal". So what happens? The water authority turns off the pumps from Patterson Lakes, and hopes that it doesn't rain significantly in the creek's small catchment until the tide levels return to "normal" and excess water can again leave the Creek.

For many years, properties lying within the catchment have been very lucky to avoid significant flooding. With global warming and impending rises in sea levels, this situation with the Creek is more likely to have a serious effect on these properties. This will of course depend on how high the sea level rises. In turn, this will impact our lovely coast with its sandy beaches, the various structures like piers and breakwaters, and the clubs and restaurants situated on the coastal strip.

Membership of the FBA

Existing FBA membership subscriptions expired on June 30 2008, so if you are an existing member and have not renewed your subscription for 2008/2009, please do so by using the form provided with this newsletter.

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

Our membership numbers do count when we apply for grants, so please consider renewing your subscription or joining our association.

Book Launch

Cathy Hope, a Frankston resident and member of the FBA, is the author of two new Steve Parish books:

“Amazing Facts About Australian Native Plants”, released in September and

“A Wild Australia Guide – Native Plants” due for release Nov. 2008.

There will be a book signing by Cathy on Sunday 14th December from 11:00am. to 3:00pm. at the Australian Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne (Melway Map 133 Ref K10).



Annual General Meeting

Sunday November 23rd

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.



Nomination for the FBA Committee for 2009

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: _____

Phone: _____



FBA Membership Application

(July 1 2008 to June 30, 2009)

I/we wish to join, or renew my/our membership, of the FBA for an annual subscription of \$10 per household (concession \$5).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Receipt of payment required? Yes/No

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:

FBA Treasurer
PO Box 5004
Frankston South, Vic 3199