



October 2009 Newsletter

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RECREATION

FBA Committee:

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

Contact Details:

FBA Secretary
2A Fenton Cres.
South Frankston, Vic 3199
Tel: 9783 7445 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

Reg. No. A0031686R
ABN 68 874 762 644

Problems With the 'Safe Harbour' at Frankston

Below is Part 1 of a multi-part discussion on the problems surrounding the marina. Part 2 will follow in the next newsletter (in 2010) and will review the financial and environmental implications.

Q. *Who are the current proponents of the proposed Frankston Marina?*

A. The current de facto proponent is the Frankston City Council. The FCC is supported by the Department of Sustainability and by Tourism Victoria.

Q. *Is Frankston a suitable location for a marina?*

A. An experienced yachtsman who has cruised the Victorian, Tasmanian, New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand coasts for more than 40 years and stayed in his boat at some 30 marinas and visited many more, poses many questions as to the suitability of Frankston as a safe and protected location for a marina.

This man claims that none of the marinas at which he has stayed are built projecting out from the coast and exposed to the prevailing winds and seas. He advises that all the marinas where he has stayed are located on those parts of the coast where there is primary shelter from the prevailing onshore winds and seas. These marinas are situated in sheltered bays, in river reaches and behind headlands and promontories where there is natural land protection from the elements.

Q. *What effect will the weather have on the proposed Marina at Frankston?*

A. The onshore winds at Frankston throughout this winter (from the north and back to the south west), have been very strong and persistent.

Residents living on the side of Olivers Hill have complained about the ferocity and persistence of the wind over the winter months and those residents living at the base of Olivers Hill are having increased problems with erosion of their land caused by unusually large waves and increased tides. The car park at the foot of Olivers Hill is untenable during the times of the strongest onshore winds due to constant sea spray.

Wind tables produced by the Bureau of Meteorology for the Frankston area reveal the following wind conditions to date this year:

March	Onshore wind:	62% of the time	Max gust:	WSW	87 km. per hour
April	Onshore wind:	72% of the time	Max gust:	WSW	93 km. per hour
May	Onshore wind:	56% of the time	Max gust:	W	69 km. per hour
June	Onshore wind:	50% of the time	Max gust:	N	100km. per hour
July	Onshore wind:	88% of the time	Max gust:	WSW	72 km. per hour
Aug.	Onshore wind:	90% of the time	Max gust:	W	96 km. per hour
Sept.	Onshore wind:	89% of the time	Max gust:	WSW	78 km. per hour



Look what the Wind and Wave Action did earlier this Year!

- Q.** *Who would want to operate or patronise a retail outlet, a commercial business or a hotel located in such a marina and be only 2 metre above sea level and within 100 metre of waves breaking on the marina walls for months on end? Who would want to keep a boat in a marina exposed to such onshore winds and spray?*
- A.** Very few persons - if any.
- Q.** *Is the skipper of a yacht acting in a safe and prudent manner if he/she decides to seek refuge in bad weather in a marina that is situated on a rocky coast on which the winds are blowing and the waves breaking ie. in a marina on a lee shore?*
- A.** Many scholarly writings on this subject from experienced yachtsmen clearly indicate that a decision to run for shelter in bad weather to a marina on a lee shore is unsafe – Adlard Coles writes about an ocean going yacht reduced to matchwood within 1 hour of grounding on a lee shore, Des Sleightholme writing in ‘This is Cruising’ describes how the slightest error can be fatal, while the authors of ‘Yachtmaster’ write, ‘In rough weather there is always the danger of a lee shore on which the wind is blowing and the sea breaking. Particularly dangerous is a gradually sloping beach. In strong winds you should keep well clear. The prudence of approaching a lee shore must be carefully considered, it may well be safer to remain at sea and wait for the weather to abate. In the event of engine or gear failure, it can be difficult to get away from a lee shore and difficult to enter what appears to be a safe harbour. The consequences of grounding on a lee shore may be the loss of life and the loss of the vessel. These opinions are generally supported by professional and prudent seamen.
- Q.** *Are there more suitable locations in Port Phillip Bay to establish a marina?*
- A.** The western half of Port Phillip Bay, the river Yarra and Queenscliff provide sheltered coastal areas where marinas would be better located.

It is clear that a marina at Olivers Hill in Frankston cannot be considered a ‘Safe Harbour’ in bad weather. In fact Marine Safety Victoria in their safety brochure show Olivers Hill as being the most exposed and dangerous part of Port Phillip Bay.

Public patronage of a marina at Frankston and the attached commercial facilities is likely to be low.

Planners would be well advised to understand that money will not solve fickle environmental problems. Planners must rethink their position with regard to developing marinas in Port Phillip Bay. Intelligent understanding and realistic decision making is required. (Part II of this discussion on the marina will follow in early 2010).

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Frankston Beach Association will be held on Sunday 22nd November at 11:30am. in the upstairs function room of the Frankston Yacht Club. The meeting will review the activities of the Association throughout 2009, and importantly, elect the new committee for 2010. If you are interested in joining the committee, or nominating someone else, then please see the Nomination Form at the back of this newsletter.

Our guest speaker this year will be Cath Stutterheim. Cath is a consulting landscape architect and is co-director of Stutterheim/Anderson Landscape Architecture. She is a part-time lecturer at RMIT and has taught on three continents. She understands climate change which has been a focus of her practice and teaching. She has addressed numerous groups on the effects of climate change and sea level rise around Port Phillip Bay. Cath is engaged as a member of the FCC Design Review Panel.

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

Foreshore Projects

The FBA, under the initial guidance of Debbie Williams (who has now moved to Inverloch), and now Kath Hassell and Graeme Lyell, together with Frankston City Council staff have continued with the ongoing foreshore flora restoration and preservation programme.

We have completed Envirofund Grant 9 (\$19,068.00) to remove woody weeds and succulents and plant 5,600 indigenous plants between Fiocchi Ave and Annie St, off Gould Street during 2008/2009.

Included in the volunteers were 35 Japanese students from Monash University, students from Naranga Special School, members of the Rotary Club of North Frankston, members of the Frankston Indigenous Nursery, Peninsula Field Naturalists’ Club, Monash Residential; students, National Tree Day volunteers and of course our own FBA work group.

Our contribution to revegetation of the Frankston Foreshore for 2009 also included a number of areas either side of the boardwalk between the Pier and Somme Avenue (towards Olivers Hill).

In total, our programmes for 2009 have involved the following statistics:

Indigenous species planted	5,000
Volunteers	115
Man hours worked	320

Our association always provides morning tea for our volunteers – all provisions are home made. The following are some statistics re our contribution in sustaining the efforts of our hard working volunteers:

16 dozen sausage rolls	22 dozen muffins
20 dozen jam biscuits	8 large date cakes
3 large chocolate cakes	9 dozen pikelets

Grants for 2009

Our association again was successful in obtaining a Commonwealth Government Caring for our Country Grant of \$23,304.00, covering the purchase and planting of 12,000 indigenous shrubs and ground covers and 150 metres of windbreaks to repair the dune system along the Frankston Beach.

Another storm surge in April 26, 2009 removed any hope of using these funds to manually repair the damage to the South Frankston Beach. Advice from Dr. Wayne Stephenson, Geomorphologist was to defer any restoration work in this area until nature had taken its course and replenished much of the lost sand. Therefore a decision was made that over the next twelve months, the grant will be used on the revegetation of the front dune between Frankston Yacht Club and the Life Saving Club. Planting will commence May 2010 and be completed July/August 2011.

Our work group will also be concentrating on propagation of indigenous species to assist residents of Long Island to plant these species on the dune adjacent to their residences.

Volunteers Wanted

We urgently require volunteers for our revegetation projects in 2010/2011. Times are Tuesday or Wednesday 9.30-11.30am. either planting or maintenance on the foreshore from March 2010, or propagation at the Indigenous Nursery, in 2009 (October and November) and 2010 (March onwards).

Please consider giving two hours fortnightly or monthly. We will consider a monthly work programme on a Sunday in lieu of a weekday.

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

Membership of the FBA

Existing FBA membership subscriptions expired on June 30 2009, so if you are an existing member and have not renewed your subscription for 2009/2010, 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 this newsletter.

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

Recreation off Our Beaches

One of our supporters in opposing the marina is local veterinarian, 65 year old Bill Robinson, who has a very high profile in the sport of kayaking. Bill has kayaked the length of the Murray River in 2005 and across Bass Strait to Tasmania in 2007.

He trains on Port Philip Bay daily throughout the year and knows the marine environment of the proposed marina area better than almost anyone else. He is opposed to the marina development and his first hand description of the marine treasures we have in our "Frankston marine park" are worth communicating to a wider audience.....

"Every year as the weather gets colder, the numbers of pilchards in the Bay increases and it is usually in June, July and August we see the wonderful interaction of the pilchards and the birds and animals that prey upon them. Port Philip Bay has a large colony of gannets, at the Pope's Eye sanctuary between Sorrento and Queenscliff.

On most mornings in winter, I observe those majestic birds with their wingspan of over a metre, making their way north to feed on the pilchards. Often, for days on end it is possible to see hundreds of gannets diving into the schools of pilchards in the waters off Olivers Hill. Often large flocks of little penguins will surround the pilchards at the same time, and my research has told me that some of these birds come from the rookery at St Kilda Pier and also from the Philip Island rookery.

At times I have been privileged to be present when a school of Australian Salmon has joined in the feeding frenzy only to be herded and eaten by the members of the dolphin pod, which we regularly kayak with, in the waters between Frankston and Mornington. I consider that in all my thousands of kilometres of kayaking, that being able to sit quietly on the edge of a feeding frenzy of gannets, penguins, salmon and dolphins at Olivers Hill, has to be one of my most memorable experiences."

These feeding grounds will be put at risk if the marina development goes ahead.





Annual General Meeting

Sunday November 22nd, 2009

11:30am. at the Frankston Yacht Club

Nominations for office bearers or general committee should be made on the form below, and forwarded to the Secretary, at 2A Fenton Crescent Frankston South, before the date of the meeting.



Nomination for the FBA Committee for 2010

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 2009 to June 30, 2010)

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 once-off donation of \$ _____

Please detach this application form and send with payment to:

FBA Treasurer
PO Box 5004
Frankston South, Vic 3199