



# Frankston Beach Association Inc.

*Preserving the beach for all to use*

## Autumn 2011 Newsletter

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE FBA

### FBA Committee:

President - Graeme Lyell  
Vice Presid. - Bob Graham  
Secretary - Trish Cooper  
Treasurer - Trevor Paganoni  
Committee - Olwen Bawden  
Pat Bentley  
Johan de Bree  
Margaret Grice  
Frank Hart  
Kath Hassell  
David Paterson  
Helen Priestley  
Eve Welch  
Trevor Nock

### Contact Details:

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Frankston, Vic 3199  
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fbainc2006@hotmail.com.au

For enquiries about voluntary work on the foreshore or in the nursery, please contact Johan on 0418 374 981.

FBA web site:  
[www.vicnet.net.au/~fbainc](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~fbainc)

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ABN 68 874 762 644

### New Boating & Swimming Zones in Port Phillip

Parks Victoria are the Waterway Manager for the waters of Port Phillip Bay, excluding those parts under the management of the Port of Melbourne. Transport Safety Victoria (previously Marine Safety Victoria) also manage recreational boating across other parts of Victoria.

In 2010, Parks Victoria undertook a review of existing boating zones, with the intention of creating new zones that will be safe and easy to comprehend for all users.

The functions and powers of waterway managers include the management of recreational vessel behaviour in accordance with the Marine Act 1988. The primary role of the Marine Act is to ensure a safe environment for vessel operators and other waterway users whilst on the water, and includes enforcing speed restrictions, safety distances, and safe operation.

Significant concerns are held nationally and internationally in relation to the safe operation of personal water craft or jet skis. These concerns particularly relate to the safety of swimmers and small boats in waters where the jet skis operate and unacceptable noise levels and adverse ecological impacts.

The number of jet skis operating off the Frankston beaches increased dramatically over the summer of 2010/2011. This was due to the recent increase in the numbers of these vessels in the community and to the ease of access of Frankston Beach to the north and eastern suburbs of Melbourne, following the opening of the Eastlink freeway in 2008.



The operation of jet skis amongst swimmers in the same waters is incompatible and dangerous. This has been recognized and accepted by all, except by some in the jet ski industry and by some jet ski owners and operators.

Authorities have already determined that a speed limit of less than 5 knots applies to all powered water craft within 200 metre of the shore of Port Phillip Bay. They have also determined that restricted zones for water craft are to be introduced in many areas around the Bay.

The introduction of these restrictions is being opposed by some in the jet ski lobby. However unless these restrictions are introduced and enforced by Authorities in the near term, serious accidents are likely to occur, and many persons will continue to be inhibited from swimming at, and using the bay beaches.

Although the intent is to introduce these restricted zones in many areas around Port Phillip (including Frankston, Seaford and Carrum), so far only one additional restricted boating zone has been introduced (at St Kilda).

The advice given by Parks Victoria is that the remainder of the restricted zones around the Bay will be phased in over several years when funds become available. In the meantime Parks Victoria claim they have, 'a high priority in patrolling both the Carrum and Frankston area, due to increased numbers of jet skis and vessel activity, targeting these areas on good days of good boating weather'.

Until facts and figures are produced, this motherhood statement is meaningless. This policy has not prevented jet skis repeatedly approaching within 200 metre of the shore and exceeding the speed limit of 5 knots. Great concern and fear is being shown and expressed by members of the public who wish to swim in safety at these beaches.

Restricted Zones being phased in over several years is not acceptable. These problems will increase if appropriate action to separate these craft from bathers and other small sailing boats is not taken sooner.

Frankston Beach Association call on the Government to expedite the gazetting of the proposed restricted zones off Frankston, Seaford and Carrum, before the summer of 2011/2012 and ensure the restrictions are policed and enforced.

*References and Recommended Reading:*

*Parks Victoria. 'New Boating and Swimming Zones 2010 and 2011.*

*Port Hacking Protection Society. 'Jet ski issues 2001'.*

*Goliath Business News. 'Skimming the surface of safety: the personal watercraft industry has done as little as possible to address well-known hazards of these popular vessels, and government is steering a slow course to regulation. 2006.'*

*Julia Layton. 'Are personal watercraft destroying the planet? 2006'.*

*Presentation to the Senate Committee Ottawa from coalition of Provincial Cottage Associations on 'The Personal Watercraft Act 2003'.*

*Robert B. Brock 'A Proposal Addressing Issues of Safety and Personal Watercraft' 2000.*

## Recreation on the Beach



Over the summer months, there has been a significant increase in beach usage by sporting teams, gyms and individuals seeking to improve their levels of fitness. This has included intensive exercise programs in and out of the water, as well as recuperation routines (typically this involves prolonged wading through the chilly waters).

## Foreshore Planting

Over the 2010/2011 season the planting by the FBA, assisted by the Council, totalled some 7,000 plants. This number was made up 6,600 plants from the Caring for our Country project and approx. 400 from Alison Kuitert, (Carrum Indigenous Nursery) and the Frankston Council Indigenous Nursery. The planting focused on the area along the foreshore reserve between the Yacht and Life Saving Clubs. Planting involved 148 volunteers and almost 500 man hours. This effort equated to an "in kind" labour contribution of about \$14,000.

Johan de Bree (FBA's foreshore project coordinator) has prepared two new planting plans for the 2011/2012 season - Project 1, the foreshore reserve between Fiocchi to Annie Street on Long Island, and Project 2, the foreshore reserve in the Mile Bridge area. The two projects will require a total of 6,000 plants. Johan reports that for Project 1, the toe of some of the dunes need stabilizing. He makes the point that stabilization is important for local residents, as well as the native flora and fauna. The 6,000 indigenous plants have been ordered from the Frankston Indigenous Nursery and planting will commence after Easter.

Our other commitment for the 2011/2012 planting season is the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the Caring for our Country project – a further 6,000 indigenous plants will be introduced along the foreshore reserve between the Yacht and Life Saving Clubs.

Indigenous species require watering for the first year, and recent photographs indicate that in most areas the plants are thriving, due to regular rain. However, our work group with the assistance of 19 teenagers from Maccabi Junior Sports spent 3 hours on Sunday 23



January, 2011 watering and applying saturaid to 4,000 small plants.



## Planting Volunteers

There are a total of 12,000 plants to be planted between April and September 2011. This requires a good number of regular volunteers, but casual volunteers are also welcome. Our regular planting day is Tuesday, 9.30am. until noon, and planting is scheduled to commence on April 19. Morning tea is supplied on each planting day.

There is also National Tree Day coming up on Sunday 31 July, and this is a great opportunity for people with mid week commitments to get involved in the planting program, on the weekend.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of our planting activities, just contact Johan and he can provide further details, such as the location of the work, dates where volunteers are required, what to wear and just what the work will entail.



## Grants

Due to our heavy workload for 2011, our association has decided not to apply for any revegetation grants for 2011/2012 year.

FCC has conducted an archeological assessment of Frankston/Seaford Foreshore. One of the outcomes is that the FCC Natural Reserves Team has asked our association to consider applying for a community grant to preserve and manage a significant midden at Gulls Way in Daveys Bay. This request is currently under consideration.

## Passing of Rhoda Green

Rhoda Green was a great Gunai woman from the Gippsland area, and a member of the FBA. Rhoda was involved in getting the Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Island flags raised in Frankston. She was involved in the Buluk Arts program, LIN, and many other programs around the area. Rhoda was instrumental in setting up a women's health program in the Gippsland area, as well as many other projects. Sadly we have lost this great woman who passed away on 19/02/2011 at the age of 58. Rhoda Green will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

## KCA Celebration Day

The Kananook Creek Association (KCA) Inc. reports that all the stars were in the right alignment for the very successful public Celebration Day in Seaford on Sunday 27 March. The weather was mild, no rain, no wind to blow the displays over, and lots of families present to watch their kids' little ducks sail in the Kananook Creek Cup (won by Seaford Primary School).

The KCA sends its grateful thanks to the volunteers from the Frankston Beach Association who manned a stall beside the Creek, and were able to discuss various current issues, and to display the very interesting old photographs of the coast at Frankston in years gone by.

## New Secretary

With the retirement of Frank Hart from the position of FBA Secretary, the Committee is happy to welcome Trish Cooper to this position. Trish comes to the FBA with a wealth of experience in community volunteering.

Frank Hart will continue to serve on the Committee.

## Membership of the FBA

Existing FBA membership subscriptions expired on June 30 2010, so if you are an existing member and have not renewed your subscription for 2010/2011, 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 the Association 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.



# FBA Membership Application

(July 1 2011 to June 30, 2012)

I/we wish to join, or renew my/our membership, of the FBA for an annual subscription of \$10 per household (concession \$5). In the event of my/our admission as a member, I/we agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Hours/days available to assist in the areas described above: \_\_\_\_\_

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 924  
Frankston, Vic 3199

Receipt of payment required? Yes/No