



Spring 2012 Newsletter

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FBA Committee:

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

Contact Details:

FBA Secretary
PO Box 924
Frankston, Vic 3199
Tel: 0423 766 864 or email to
fbainc2006@hotmail.com.

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

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

Reg. No. A0031686R
ABN 68 874 762 644

Frankston Beach Association Aims to:

Preserve and improve the natural features of the Frankston foreshore, having regard for appropriate and sustainable development, and to support the provision of recreational facilities that are consistent with recognized coastal management principles.

Open Questions for Frankston City Councillors on the Proposed Olivers Hill Marina

Spring is in the air.

Flowers and shrubs are bursting into bud, the grass is growing, colour is everywhere, the roads to the beaches are busy and the September school holidays have just finished.

What a joy when driving down Olivers hill to see so many people of all ages, with the sun shining across the water, playing, swimming and relaxing on the Frankston town beach.

Lurking in the background is the ominous threat that Frankston City Council, with apparent ignorance of the dire environmental and financial consequences, is trying to entice developers to build a 22 hectare marina at the bottom of Olivers Hill.

It is difficult to understand that with so much scientific and engineering evidence to indicate such a marina will result in the total erosion and destruction of the town beach, and Davey's Bay silting up, that Frankston Council is continuing to pursue a policy for this project to proceed.

It is difficult to understand that when Council's financial advisers state that a 15 hectare marina will not be financially viable, Council should advocate building a larger 22 hectare marina, with no evidence to show that the larger marina will be financially viable.

The likely consequences suggest that the developers of this project, which has been estimated to cost well over \$300 million, are likely to go bankrupt and the Owners/Operators of the project will be unable to pay their debts and pay for the ongoing future restoration of the Frankston beaches and Daveys Bay, as required by the Frankston Planning Scheme.

The Frankston Beach Association asks all newly elected Frankston City Councillors the following two questions:

1. If construction of the Frankston marina will result in the loss of the beach between Olivers Hill and the Frankston Pier and/or Davey's Bay to silt up, will you vote for the marina to proceed?
2. If the construction and operation of the Frankston marina will result in the owner or operator not being able to pay for the cost of beach and bay restoration work, will you vote for the marina to proceed?





Annual General Meeting

Sunday 25 November, 2012

11.00am. – 12.30pm.

Venue: Frankston Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: Avril Bradley

Refreshments provided

Registrations from 10.45am.

Guest speaker **Avril Bradley** is a poet who has made her home in Frankston. She has taught extensively in England and Australia from kindergarten to tertiary, run poetry workshops and has published a number of small collections of poetry. She is inspired by her local surroundings, especially the beach and Kananook Creek. Avril will keep us entertained with poetry reading and conversation.

All FBA members and other interested people are encouraged to join us at the AGM.



Annual General Meeting

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes 2011 AGM
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Foreshore Report
7. Election of 2012/2013 Committee
8. Presentation by Guest Speaker
9. Meeting Close, followed by a light lunch.

Nominations for office bearers or general committee should be made on the form below, forwarded to the FBA Secretary, PO Box 924, Frankston 3199, and be received at least 7 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. Further nominations will be accepted at the meeting. So if you, or someone you know might be interested in making a contribution to the running of the FBA, your nomination would be most welcome.

Please note that any additional agenda items must be submitted to the Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM.

Foreshore Planting

The foreshore continues to be a challenge. This year natural events have severely affected the southern reaches of the Frankston foreshore. Uncontrolled pedestrian movement on sections of the foreshore dune continues to cause litter problems and damage to plants.

Dedicated FBA volunteers continued, through winter, to work on the "Mary St. Project" along the foreshore between Mary and Beach St. This weed control and revegetation project is financed by the Australian Government's 'Caring For Our Country' grant programme.

In preparation for the planting of 4500 native coastal plants, woody weeds have been selectively hand removed, followed by herbicide control of ground cover and climbing weeds. The 2012 planting programme finishes in October. The project will recommence planting in Autumn 2013 and is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2013.

In trying weather conditions just north of the Frankston Yacht Club, 10 hardy volunteers planted over 400 tubes on National Tree Day (July 29).

On August 21, the FBA was ably assisted by students from Monash University's Department of Physiotherapy in planting 400 plants along the Mary St. foreshore.

On August 23, 19 Year 8 Toorak Girls College students helped plant 430 tubes at Mile Bridge.

Students from Chisholm TAFE Frankston have happily and regularly assisted in weed removal and planting over the year.

The FBA thanks all volunteers and all those students and their supervisors for the help given throughout the year. **The FBA encourages & welcomes volunteers to participate in beach revegetation working bees. Currently these are being held fortnightly, weather permitting, on TUESDAY MORNINGS 9.30am – 11.30am, followed by morning tea.** Contact details on front of the Newsletter.



South East Water Moves to Frankston

In the last few months Frankston Council has rushed through the sale of a significant piece of **public** land. This is the large block on Kananook Creek from Playne to Wells Streets. This land is currently utilised as open-air parking space. The land was sold without the people of Frankston even knowing it was up for sale. The sale price of a little over \$4million is seen by most as a bargain considering the size and location of the land. Again, there was no public consultation prior to the sale. Furthermore, there was no tender process to let the market decide what was a fair price.

Frankston Council seems to have been so excited about the idea of South East Water moving to Frankston that they have given them total control of what they will build on the site. Currently there are height and design restrictions applying to this area (within the Frankston Planning Scheme) – but Council chose to meet in secret and decided to support a “one off” exemption on all of the key planning restrictions just for South East Water.

The shadow of the Peninsula Centre has hung over the Frankston community for too long. No one would want another large building in the Frankston landscape with the same long term outcome. The Frankston community relies on the Council to use its powers to ensure enthusiasm does not override good sense and good planning. Good intentions and excessive spin aside the Council is letting us down with its management of the South East Water project.

It would be a shame if the 700 employees of South East Water arrived to a hostile community. It would be a shame if we ended up with another blight on the city’s landscape.

✂

Nomination for FBA Committee 2012/2013

I wish to make the following nomination for the 2012/2013 Committee:

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: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Nomination Seconded By:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Nomination accepted by (nominee):

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Date nomination received by FBA Secretary: _____

Wanted – New Treasurer

The FBA's current Treasurer is planning on retiring from the Committee, and therefore we are looking for someone new to join the Committee, and to take on this important role. A basic understanding of accounting is required, and the incumbent Treasurer will be available to assist with the induction of any new Treasurer. So if you think this position might be attractive to you, then please either submit a nomination on the form provided, or contact our Secretary (as per the details on the front of this Newsletter).

Erosion of Frankston's Beach



The beach between the Oliver's Hill sea wall and Frankston pier has suffered considerable erosion into the primary dune area, as shown in this photo. This winter, the total length of the beach has been severely scoured, resulting in the safety fence having to be relocated further back into the dune area, almost on to the boardwalk. The beach has been partly replenished by the dune sand, and a large proportion of this sand is now settled off the beach, forming a large sand bank at low tide level.

The damage to the primary dune has been moving inland in the past 3-4 years. And although the Melbourne channel deepening body deny that the channel deepening is the reason for the recent major damage at Portsea, Davey's Bay and Frankston

beaches, the high tide damage now being experienced was not apparent prior to the channel deepening work.

The high tide mark is noticeably further inland and there have been many days during winter, with strong westerly winds, when much of the Frankston beach is underwater, and it is not possible to walk along some sections of the beach. These new concerns again show the abandonment of the proposed marina is essential, to ensure we do not run any further risk of destroying Frankston's most valuable asset.

Community Engagement

A little over 12 months ago, Council released its policy on Community Engagement. This policy document contains statements like:

“Council seeks to demonstrate transparent, open and accountable leadership and will engage the community's talent, knowledge and resources..... “

“implementation of local area planning..... enabling input from people who have a stake and an interest in issues affecting their quality of life.... “

“Consultation and engagement are essential foundations of a strong community....”.

Despite this policy being in place, we continue to find far too many major decisions being made by Council, where nothing but a veil of secrecy is being applied in the Chamber. We have already highlighted our concerns about the lack of transparency from Council with the South East Water development (above), however readers should be aware that in a similar manner, secrecy has applied to other projects. Our organisation has received advice that for example on the Frankston Yacht Club redevelopment project, community members appointed to the Advisory Committee for that project were required to sign a confidentiality agreement that required all information provided to them be held in strict confidence. Clearly this was intended to guarantee no wider community input being channelled through these community members.

Our community has elected our Council to represent the people of Frankston, and we need to demand that they engage the community in all decisions that have a major bearing on our future.