

TIDAL TIMES



GRANTVILLE & DISTRICT FORESHORE COMMITTEE of MANAGEMENT

ABN 52 216621302

COMMITTEE'S THREE-YEAR TERM COMPLETED NOVEMBER 2012

The GDFC, appointed by the DSE in November 2009, completed its three year term. In 2012 the department called for interested parties to nominate for the next GDFC three year term.

With no interest or nominations from the community, members of the outgoing committee reapplied for a further term to prevent the committee becoming defunct. Eric Hornsby, Dianne Goeman, Roger Hayhurst, Kathleen Hopkins and Glenise O'Dwyer were reappointed. Interested people are still being sought to become members of the committee.

A rundown of some of the committee's positive actions in the three years:

- Website set up.
- Successful grant applications.
- Frederick Drive access track and weed removal.
- Pioneer Bay gorse removal.
- Dead trees removed from beach.
- Boardwalk, viewing platform and educational signs at Pioneer Bay.
- Woody weeds (eg mirror bush) removed from Stewart St, Malcolm Drive area.

- The formulation of a Fire Prevention Plan.
- A Draft Management Plan formulated, posted on website.
- Removal of illegal timber constructions, protruding iron bars and some rubble from Malcolm Drive foreshore.
- Discussions with council about improving the beach access track between 52 and 54 Stewart St.
- Building of a boardwalk beach access at Stewart St.
- Unused road between Bonney Rd and Kallay Dve listed with the council as a future walking track.
- Attended DSE Volunteer Safety Partnership workshops.
- Attended DSE Coastal Forums.
- Met with Seagrass Partnership.
- Attended DSE weed and plant identification forums.
- Regular reports to ratepayers via GADRA meetings and website.
- Tidal Times newsletter.

One of the first actions of the committee, in the interests of allowing complete disclosure to residents, was to set up a website to allow the community full access to decisions, meetings, aims and actions of the committee.

The website address is:
<http://www.gadfc.com.au>

It lists all objectives of the committee, presentations to GADRA, the fire prevention and management plans, meeting times and contact details.

At the time of the appointment of the original committee, the areas of responsibility were from Pioneer Bay to Deep Creek Street, Grantville, and from the south side of the Grantville jetty to Queensferry. Subsequently, DSE reduced the committee's area of responsibility to the foreshore area from Broome Court to Pioneer Bay.

The committee's aim, as stated in its management plan, was to protect and enhance the fragile foreshore environment and to make the area safe and attractive for the wider community.

The committee, after making contact with residents via a survey, identified areas of concern to the community ranging from erosion, access to beach areas, rising sea levels, weeds, dangerous rubble on the Malcolm Drive beach area, and the planting of mangroves near residences.

A grant was accessed for work to be done on the Frederick Drive beach access track. The completed work was very well accepted by residents.

Shortly after that major weed eradication work was carried out at Pioneer Bay on an extended infestation of gorse. Few gorse plants remain in the area.

After residents' complaints on the extreme difficulty of accessing the beach area at Pioneer Bay without damaging sea grass, mangroves or indigenous plants, the DSE, local residents and the GDFC met at Pioneer Bay to discuss the issue. A boardwalk access was mooted

and the committee then applied for and received a large grant from DSE to build an access boardwalk and viewing platform.

After long discussions with the DSE it was decided that a makeshift removal of smaller pieces of the old seawall at Malcolm Drive and the protruding metal rods be cut back to level. This was done and has made beach access somewhat safer and more accessible, but the committee felt more should be done. Some weed removal in the area was undertaken.

A study was conducted on the possibility of the installation of groynes in the bay off the Malcolm Drive area to combat erosion and rising sea levels, both of which are a concern. The study was vetoed by the DSE citing a lack of sand in the area. The committee has been seeking viable alternatives to address these issues, sadly with little success.

The committee will continue to work hard to identify and address issues within the community. The committee's aim of "bridging community and environmental needs" has proved difficult at times, but the aim has always been in the forefront of actions taken.

CHANGE OF DEPARTMENT TITLE

In 2013 the DSE under which the GDFC was appointed became the Department of Environment and Primary Industry.

GADFC MEETINGS

Bi monthly, 2nd Saturday, 1pm
All welcome.
Contact secretary: Di Goeman,
Mobile 0418581816