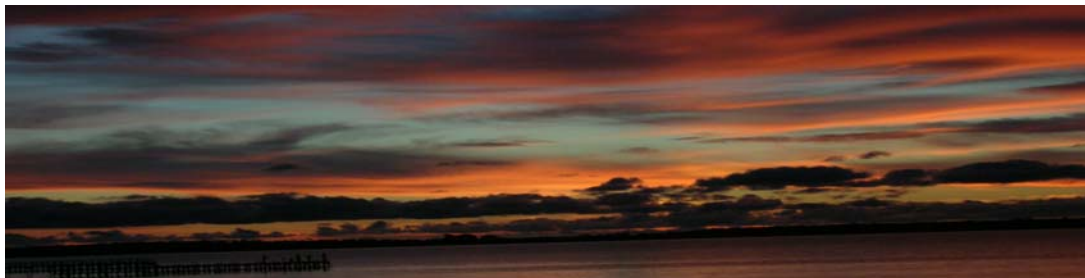


TIDAL TIMES



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Welcome to the fourth edition of the Grantville and District Foreshore Committee (GADFC) Newsletter. Since the publication of the last edition many events, *not all of them good*, have occurred. However, we do have some good news!!!

UP ON THE BOARDWALK!

First and foremost, thanks to a grant from the Department of Sustainability and Environment, (DSE), the Pioneer Bay Boardwalk is now under construction. If anyone has read the local press lately, they will be aware that an unfortunate impasse between DSE and Parks Victoria considerably slowed commencement of this project.

But thanks to the most appreciated efforts of people such as Ken Smith MLA, Zena Benbow and Dennis Gardner and their respective Associations, plus that of Ms Barbara Loach, the good people of Pioneer Bay will soon have their long awaited proper access to their foreshore.



Photo: Completed Pioneer Bay boardwalk viewing platform

GADFC REDUCED COVERAGE AREA

As a result of the negotiations between Parks Victoria and DSE over who actually manages the land The Grantville and District Foreshore Committee was appointed to so manage on DSE's behalf, the area covered by the Committee has been cut back to that between Broome Crt. in the south and the northern edge of Pioneer Bay in the north. Except for an area at Grantville already covered by Bass Coast Shire, the remainder will remain under the jurisdiction of Parks Victoria. They have been the designated managers for many years, however, this fact was only discovered after GADFC had been in existence for nearly twelve months.

This means that maintenance of the Fredrick Drive beach access track that was upgraded via DSE and the Foreshore Com now reverts back to Parks Victoria. Residents affected by this change who wish to contact Parks Victoria with any future problems in this area should contact Mr. Scott Coutts of Parks Victoria at scoutts@parks.vic.gov.au

This change also resulted in the resignation from the Committee of Mrs.

Dawn Powell and will be followed on completion of this newsletter by the Editor and media spokesperson, Mr. Kevin Chambers. In the latter's case, 'tis best to paraphrase the old Football Club phrase, "*they know why Mr. Chambers resigned and they know who they are!!*"

Mr. Thein Tran resigned at the October for personal reasons. The GADFC thanks these people for their most valued contributions to the Committee's efforts and wishes them well for the future.

There is a very strong chance of future further CoM resignations over this issue.

MALCOLM DRIVE SEAWALL.

Any repairs or alterations to this very dilapidated and dangerous structure are on hold until a Coastal Studies project has been completed for this area. Given Parks Victoria manages all Victorian coastline to the high water mark and by definition this seawall falls within their jurisdiction, GADFC is unable to contribute much of substance to this issue for the foreseeable future.

MANGROVES IN WESTERN PORT BAY

Many Grantville and district residents would be aware of the recent debate over the issue of planting 5000 mangroves (1 kilometre stretch by 2 metres wide) in the highly used recreational area between Colbert Creek and the Deep Creek St. storm water pipe, an area which the Foreshore Committee's constitution does not support plantings.

DSE have released a discussion paper on this matter and are inviting comments from the public up until December 18.

Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Ms Leanne Khan at the DSE Leongatha office 12 Peart St Leongatha 3953 PO Box 703, Leongatha, 3953. Phone: 5662 9925 e.mail leanne.khan@dse.vic.gov.au

WEEDS AND INDIGENOUS PLANT IDENTIFICATION

On Saturday the 30th October the GADFC Foreshore Committee members attended a weed and indigenous plant identification training day with an experienced DSE Botanist. The purpose of this training is to assist members with their efforts to remove weeds from our designated foreshore area and replace them with plants that are indigenous to the foreshore reserve.

PLEASE DON'T CUT DOWN THE TREES

It important local residents are aware that the Swamp Paperbark trees and vegetation on the foreshore reserve along Stewart Street and Malcolm Drive protect this area from erosion. The GADFC would like to remind residents that removal of vegetation from the foreshore reserve not only threatens the reserve but it is illegal and anyone who removes or destroys vegetation on the foreshore reserve is liable to prosecution.

Whilst the GADFC committee numbers and the foreshore they have been left to manage have been considerably reduced, residents can be assured that those remaining Com members will continue their best efforts to ensure the remaining area is looked after in a proper manner.

Please direct any enquiries to our Secretary
Dianne Goeman - Phone 5678 8059 or
Email: diannegoeman@yahoo.com