

TIDAL TIMES



'bridging community and environmental needs'

GRANTVILLE & DISTRICT FORESHORE COMMITTEE of MANAGEMENT

ABN 52 216621302

Edition 6

COMMITTEE FORMALLY APPOINTED

Welcome to the latest edition of the Grantville and District Foreshore Committee (GADFC) Newsletter. Since our last newsletter, and some 18 months after the members were originally selected, our slightly depleted committee has been formally appointed as the Committee of Management of the foreshore from Broome Court, Grantville to Pioneer Bay, a much smaller area than the DSE originally specified. This area has been ceded to the DSE from Parks Victoria.

The committee has once again been working hard to preserve and enhance the environmental sustainability of the area at the same time making sure the foreshore is accessible to the community.

DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION DAY

Held at Grantville Hall on Saturday March 5, informed the community of DSE plans to erect a sandbag wall in the area in front of the Grantville recreation reserve, with the intent of protecting mangrove planting and stopping wave erosion of the foreshore. After questioning, the meeting was informed that the sand would come from the beach as the cost of importing sand was prohibitive. The meeting was told that this plan would only go ahead after approval from the Coastal Strategy study currently being undertaken. Since then the committee has been informed that in light of the community's concerns about removal of local beach sand, the DSE is looking at other possibilities.

Denis Cox and Leanne Khan spoke on the planting of mangroves all along the shoreline of Westernport as the only viable way for the area to be protected from erosion in the future.

Several speakers covered re-vegetation, access, fire prevention plans, indigenous plants and animals and the marine environment in the area.

There was a question time after each speaker, but no time set aside for debate on the issues raised.

RE-VEGETATION AT PIONEER BAY

Leanne Kahn and Mick Dortmann of the DSE and Robbie Gray of Bass Valley Landcare met with members of the committee on the foreshore at Pioneer

Bay to discuss re-vegetation following the building of the boardwalk. As plants were seen to be already beginning to colonize the area quite well, Landcare suggested that weed removal would be sufficient with just a few plants added to the ones already established. This work to be undertaken, along with some removal of small gorse bushes that have sprung up in the area since gorse clearing last year.

PIONEER BAY BOARDWALK SIGNAGE

Wildlife illustrator Trish Hart has been working very hard with some of the committee members to produce artwork for the information signs for the Pioneer Bay boardwalk. Three signs with pictures and written information about the flora, fauna and marine life of the immediate area will soon be erected.

Bass Coast Shire has been approached to remove restriction signs from the old foreshore entrance to near the boardwalk.

A wooden sign will direct visitors to the new boardwalk beach access.

RISK MANAGEMENT AT MALCOLM DRIVE FORESHORE

After DSE was informed by the committee of iron rods protruding above the sand near the broken sea wall at Malcolm Drive, the go ahead was given for the committee to apply for a risk management grant to have the rods, some small rocks and illegal structures removed at this location.

FIRE PREVENTION PLAN

Finalization of the foreshore fire prevention plan is on hold as many of the people involved in the formation of the plan have been seconded to the flood areas in the state. The plan will be completed and circulated in future newsletters and on our website at www.GADFC.com.au

ACCESS TRACKS & RE-VEGETATION

Identification of and clearing foreshore access tracks near Malcolm Drive to be undertaken as well as re-planting of areas where vegetation has been illegally removed. A sign erected by the DSE near Malcolm Drive is aimed at raising awareness of the importance of preserving local vegetation along the foreshore to help protect against erosion and inundation.

MANGROVE PLANTING

The Seagrass Partnership has advised the committee that about 5000 mangroves will be planted along 1km of the Grantville foreshore during autumn and spring. Please direct any enquiries to info@seagrass.com.au or leanne.khan@dse.vic.gov.au

OUR MEETINGS

Are held on the second Friday of each month at the Grantville Transaction Centre at 7pm, and interested community members are invited to attend.

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