



Frankston Beach Association Inc.

Preserving the beach for all to use

Autumn Newsletter 2021

Vale Kathleen Margaret Hassell OAM 1927-2020

Frankston Beach Association (FBA) mourns the death at age 93 of long-serving and dearly loved and respected member Kath Hassell, who passed away in December 2020.



Kath loved the coastal vegetation and was actively involved in foreshore planting, destructive weed identification and seed propagation, having learned the skills from First Nation people. Over a period of nearly four decades, Kath's successful grant-writing enabled the planting of some 300,000 endemic plants. When she could no longer undertake the physical work, she continued to provide delicious home-made morning teas for the volunteers.

Kath formed relationships with Friends of the Environment groups, the local indigenous community and the local Historical Society and worked together with them on important projects in the local area. She followed the work of Grace Fraser, a horticulturalist with an extensive knowledge of indigenous plants and admired the ideas of esteemed mariner Captain Frank Hart.

It was fitting that her work was recognised by being awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the 2017

Queens Birthday Honours List. Kath also received the following awards:

- Outstanding Individual Achievement Award, Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2013
- Dame Phyllis Frost Award (Keep Australia Beautiful Awards) 2011
- 2011 Victorian Landcare Long Service Honour Roll – Platinum Category to recognise her 25 plus years of volunteering.
- Frankston Senior Citizen of the Year in 2000
- Frankston Council - Environmental Pioneer Award in 2000.

Many attempts over the years to build a marina/boat harbour at the base of Olivers Hill were successfully thwarted; largely due to Kath's skills as an environmental activist, marshalling the local and wider community to fight these attempts.

Kath was a wonderful researcher and networker. She spent days reviewing reports and planning documents and preparing detailed submissions (which remain legendary in FBA to this day). She sought the advice of experts like geomorphologists, coastal engineers and horticulturalists.

Kath was loved and respected by all who knew her. Her family was devoted to her and with their support, was able to remain in her home where she never ceased to enjoy the everchanging seascapes and skies from her front window.

With a lifetime of volunteering, she was still working for the St Vincent de Paul Society until shortly before her death.

Kath's passing has left a huge hole in our hearts and lives. We feel inspired and honoured to say Kath has left this world a better place. She has also left a wonderful legacy - giving us all a blueprint for a life well lived.

**Welcome back
Frankston Beach Association
Working Bee Group**



***Winners of the Environmental
Sustainability Award 2019***

**Keep Victoria Beautiful
Sustainability Awards**

Foreshore Preservation and Restoration

Johan de Bree, FBA Foreshore Coordinator has been working with Frankston City Council staff in preparation for the Working Bee start on Monday April 12.

Our sincerest thanks to those who engage in working bee activity; it is very much appreciated. We wish you well in 2021 and do hope that you enjoy your time with colleagues preserving and restoring our much-loved foreshore.

Please remember to continue COVID safe practices during working bees and maintain 1.5m physical distancing. Face masks outdoors are only required if distancing is not possible. Hand sanitizing is still required. Each working bee member must record attendance by noting time in and time out on the attendance sheet provided by the coordinator at each session.

Weeds Training You may wish to check out Graham Lorimer's weed management training videos available via the Frankston City Council website at: https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Environment_and_Waste/Environment/Biodiversity/Environmental_Weeds

Call for Volunteers

FBA continues to seek further support to assist Frankston City Council Rangers and our Foreshore Coordinator in foreshore weeding and revegetation. Working Bees are held once a fortnight during planting season from April to October. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Johan de Bree 0418 374 981.

Member Engagement

It is understood that some members were unable to renew membership in 2020. Should you wish to re-consider your affiliation with Frankston Beach Association, we welcome your intention to do so from 01 July 2021. In the meantime, an invitation is extended to you to re-join with free membership from now until 30 June 2021. Please complete the attached Membership form.

Active participation with Government

Frankston Foreshore has been a hive of activity over recent months, with increased food and drink outlet business, as well as the normal summer-time sand and water activities. Our attention was drawn to some issues arising and as a result, submissions have been made to Frankston City Council on the following:

- Waves Restaurant mobile food and drink van issues (i) the surrender of carpark spaces for outdoor dining furnishings, (ii) changes to traffic movements and (iii) waste management issues.
- Yacht Club: seeking information re. works being carried out in the public car park area between the Yacht Club and Kananook Creek. The works involved excavation of the dune area, removal of vegetation and extension to the off-road bay with new concrete kerbing.
- Coastal foreshore carparks should be prioritised for the use of members and users of the Life Saving Club and Yacht Club, as well as visitors to the Frankston beach, and not for ancillary café uses.
- Frankston Draft Lighting Plan: re. pier and other boardwalk lighting.
- Feedback to draft Boardwalk Plan, Keast Park, Seaford.

Engagement with other Environmental Groups

Environmental groups have all been through twelve months of change, most with diminished activity due to Victorian COVID19 lockdowns. Frankston Beach Association remains in contact through the Frankston Environmental Friends Network. These environmentally focused groups work together to promote, maintain and restore Frankston's vibrant flora and fauna. We will keep you informed of activities as necessary during the coming year.

Operational Focus in 2021

While FBA aims remain the Committee's operational focus, there has been a lull in community and membership engagement over the past twelve months. In the coming months, we aim to promote FBA and its activities through face-to-face community engagement and interaction.

The Committee is currently deeply affected by the sad loss of long-standing members, the late Kath Hassell and Pat Bentley. Their many years of accumulated knowledge and history of the bay and foreshore is very sadly missed. However, we are thankful for their mentoring, passion, leadership and direction which will guide us into the future. Our aim is to approach environmental wellbeing and community interaction with their same enthusiasm ***to protect the beach for all to use.***



FBA Committee Members

John Maudsley, President
Joan Cavanagh, Secretary
Ash Steegstra, Treasurer & Membership
Johan de Bree, Foreshore Coordinator
Kathy Cooper, Assistant Secretary
Kerry Gilbert, Website Co-ordinator
Bob Graham
Vladas Petrulis
Eve Welch

FBA Reg No. A0031686R

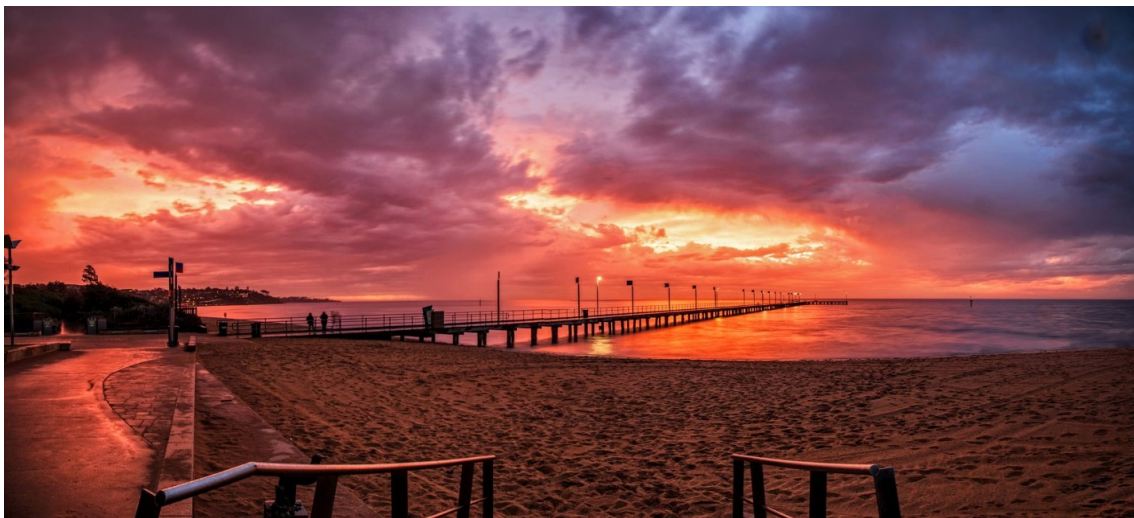
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FBA Website

www.frankstonbeach.org.au

Contact Details

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FBA AIMS: Frankston Beach Association (FBA) aims to preserve and improve the natural features of the Frankston foreshore, having regard for appropriate and sustainable development. We support the provision of recreational facilities that are consistent with recognized coastal management principles.



FBA Membership Application

Free Membership from 10 April 2021 to 30 June 2021

Frankston Beach Association Membership is normally for the financial year period 1 July to 30 June. Applications for the next financial year 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 will be available in May/June.

In the meantime, if you are not currently a financial member and wish to join or re-join the Association, we extend an invitation for you to activate membership immediately on the understanding that this will be at no cost for the period 10 April 2021 to 30 June 2021.

Thank you,

Ash Steegstra
Treasurer FBA



I/we wish to join or renew my/our membership of the Frankston Beach Association and agree to support FBA aims and be bound by its Rules of Incorporation.

Name(s):

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

☐ This is my preferred means of communication

I/we are available to assist with voluntary work (e.g. planting out, research, foreshore maintenance etc.).
My particular interest is:

Payment:

No payment is required for the period 10 April 2021 to 30 June 2021.

Dear Member,

We thank you for your support and look forward to your participation in our Aims and Activities in ***Preserving the Beach for All to Use.***

Yours sincerely,
Ash Steegstra, **Membership Secretary**