

To
Ted Baillieu
Premier
State Government of Victoria

URGENT INTERVENTION NEEDED IN THE RESTORATION OF THE KANANOOK CREEK CORRIDOR IN FRANKSTON'S WATERFRONT

Kananook Creek Association Inc. (KCA)

3rd August 2011

Hon. President - Robert Thurley

Hon. Vice President - John Curran

Correspondence:

72 Gould Street
FRANKSTON, VIC 3199

Email: robert.thurley@gmail.com

Telephone: 0414446749



Dear Premier,

PREMIER'S INTERVENTION NEEDED

We are delighted that our State Government has committed to desilting works due in winter 2012 which will remove 20 years of accumulated silt build up thereby restoring the working small boat harbour in Kananook Creek in Frankston's Waterfront.

However we are very concerned about the request to Melbourne Water to do more silt studies when they have no charter of responsibility for recreational activity in Kananook Creek. For 20 years, successive State Governments have continued a bureaucratic "black hole" which has frustrated efforts to finalise this wonderful community project.

We believe that your urgent intervention is needed to resolve official status, management responsibility, accountability for outcomes and overall coordination - otherwise sub standard outcomes will continue to be delivered to the community together with sub optimal returns on investment.

We plead that you don't just pass this issue off to Melbourne Water for comment as the previous government did- **Melbourne Water cannot resolve this**. Coordination and allocation of responsibilities lies higher in the structure.

Interventions urgently needed are;

1. **Officially recognize Kananook Creek as a recreational waterway**, so it is managed in the same way as the Yarra, Maribynong and Patterson streams, and thereby resolving continued uncertainty on development goals for Kananook Creek.
2. **Clearly assign responsibility for recreation and navigability of the waterway**. Both Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria continue to deny responsibility for recreation and navigability of the waterway. With the Department of Infrastructure now heavily involved in the Frankston Waterfront transformation, continued bureaucratic neglect of Kananook Creek cannot be sustained.
3. **Clearly assign overall coordination and accountability for outcomes**. There are numerous authorities with various responsibilities identified already along the Creek Corridor, each having their bit to say, each with limited focus and potentially conflicting aims - but there is no overall coordination and accountability for outcomes. Both State Government and Frankston Council have committed to triple bottom line community outcomes but have not implemented processes that make it work. Whole of Government coordination and oversight on the Frankston Waterfront Transformation Program is needed.

We respectfully submit this report for your personal consideration and action.

Yours Faithfully

Robert Thurley
Honorary President Kananook Creek Association Inc
72 Gould Street
Frankston 3199

BACKGROUND

HUGE POTENTIAL - STILL NOT BEING REALIZED-SAME OLD REASON!!

“The Creek offers a huge potential as a recreational and environmental resource, however this potential is not being fully realised due to lack of clear development goals and strategies. There is a need for **a coordinated approach and a plan** which recognises the controls, restraints and potential of the corridor.”

Introduction Kananook Creek Management Plan February 1992

STRATEGIC CONNECTION TO FRANKSTON’S URBAN RENEWAL

“As the transformation of the Yarra fundamentally transformed perceptions of the Yarra and Melbourne so too will the Kananook Creek Boulevard project **fundamentally change** perceptions of the Kananook Creek Corridor and Frankston”.

KCA Community Celebration Day 2004

LIBERALS COMMIT TO FIGHT TO SAVE KANANOOK CREEK

Liberal candidate for Frankston, Geoff Shaw has secured a \$2.5m commitment to help restore Kananook Creek.

Making the announcement at a public rally organised by Kananook Creek Association, Geoff Shaw said a future Coalition Government would restore the area for the benefit of all Frankston residents.

“This funding commitment is just what the creek needs,” he said.

“For over 40 years various government departments have not accepted responsibility for the upkeep of this local tributary and the results are clear to see – a neglected, underutilized resource.”

“A Coalition Government will remove those layers of bureaucracy and rejuvenate the Creek.”

“It will go along way towards **changing the perception of our wonderful city** – the jewel by the Bay”

“The Creek needs to be clean and navigable especially from its mouth, past the boat, ramps to Beach Street”.

“It’s not uncommon to see fishermen at certain times of the day walking their boats from the ramps”.

A Coalition Government is committed to making the investment necessary to rehabilitate the tributary and surrounds.

The announcement of the \$2.5 million for Kananook Creek will see the **removal of 20 years of accumulated silt build up from Beach Street to the entrance** and will bring life back to the waterway.

Geoff Shaw commended the Kananook Creek Association for the work they have done to highlight the issue.

“I look forward to working with the Association and all local residents on cleaning up the Creek and making it an asset for the whole community.”

Geoff Shaw Press Release 23 October 2010

DETAILED REPORT

1. CLEAR DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND FORMAL RECOGNITION

It can no longer be denied that Kananook Creek fully deserves to be officially recognised as a recreational waterway.

The management of the waterway depends on the official recognition. Until this is rectified the Creek will continue to be managed as just a healthy drain.

Frankston Council unanimously moved to officially recognise Kananook Creek as a recreation waterway but this was not acted on by Council officers.

2. REPOSIBILITY FOR RECREATION ASSIGNED

We continue to have a bureaucratic stand- off while silt is choking the life out of the creek (see photographs on page 5).

“Parks Victoria currently have no waterway management responsibilities within Kananook Creek. Canoeing may be an appropriate recreational use; however it is unlikely that Parks Victoria would play a major role in managing this activity”.

Parks Victoria 1 October 1997

“Melbourne Water considers that the provision of navigable waters is beyond its charter and would only undertake dredging of the waterway should it be first proven that the silt and sand was affecting the level of service from a drainage and flood mitigation point of view”.

Colin Reiter Manager Dandenong Valley Operations, Melbourne Water 15th July 1997

We request the Premier to break through this bureaucratic stand off and assign the responsibility clearly.

3. KANANOOK CREEK/FRANKSTON WATERFRONT TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

The actual outcomes of the \$9 million already spent by the Department of Infrastructure on the Kananook Creek Boulevard Project bear little resemblance to official concept plans and community expectations and certainly do little to inspire private investment. This wastage of taxpayer funds cannot be allowed to continue.

Inappropriate intervention in agreed design outcomes, while the Kananook Boulevard Project was under construction way, severely compromised wider community benefits .This failure by the then State Government to supervise and ensure due process on a major project has created widespread cynicism and frustration in the community.

The continued neglected state of the Creek in this precinct highlights disconnects on the project between the various State Government Departments and with Frankston Council and the lack of clear overall project accountability, identified 20 years ago.

KANANOOK CREEK HARBOUR 1966 - WHAT FRANKSTON HAS LOST.

A working waterway and a valued community asset. About 130 boats permanently moored in Kananook Creek between the mouth and the Wells Street Bridge. Hire boat businesses, private moorings, boat builders, chandlers. Managed by the Dandenong Valley Authority and Council.



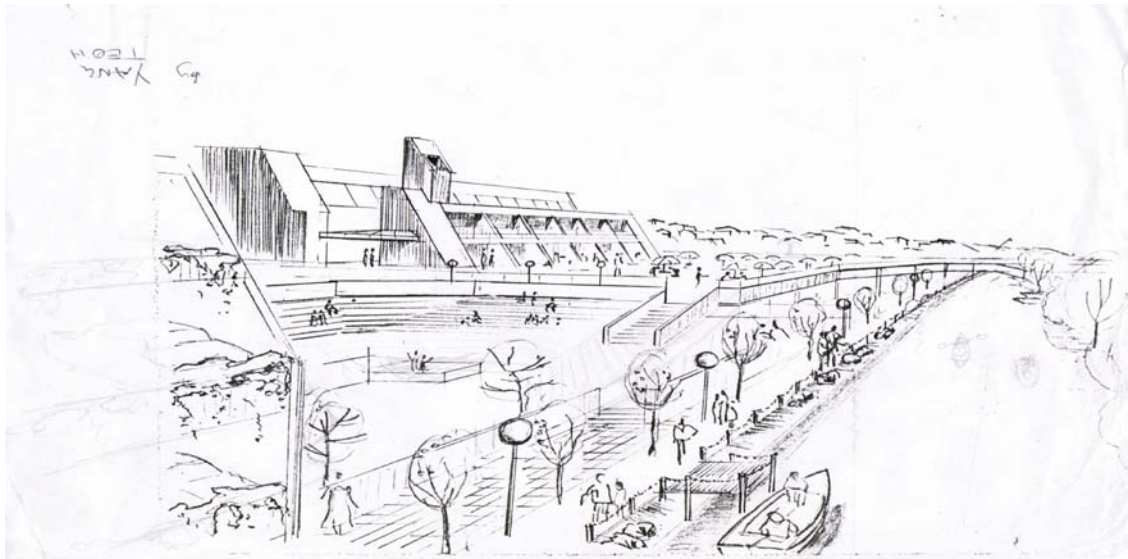
THE SITE NOW –CHOKING SILT- NO BOATS!

For twenty years Melbourne Water has denied responsibility for creek waterway recreation. The harbour is so badly silted from storm drains that it is no longer navigable. No one is responsible.



FRANKSTON WATERFRONT PROJECT- A BOULEVARD OF BROKEN DREAMS!

1980-CONCEPT



Kananook Creek –a case for enterprise -June 1980 -31 years ago- A vibrant community space for markets, outdoor music, outdoor plays, performances and events.

2004 – CONCEPT



Proposed Public Plaza Frankston Structure Plan Workshops 2004

2008 APPROVED CONCEPT-WITH BUILDING ENVELOPE



Kananook Creek Boulevard-Public Plaza - Council concept 2008 -supported by the community
A community meeting space with a building envelope.

An area for;

- Markets
- Outdoor cafes, street food vendors
- Outdoor music, street music
- Outdoor plays performances and events

Accessible to the waterway.

Boating and other recreational uses of the waterway.

A general greening, softening, human scale to the precinct.

AND NOW - AFTER THE TRANSFORMATION!!!!





\$9million later-the revitalization outcomes.



South East Water Sewer pumping Station- where the Public Plaza should be!



A catalyst for urban renewal? Car parking dominates- car parks were to be relocated as part of the project – subsequently half the Boulevard has been resumed for all day car parking - clear double dipping.

MORDIALLOC BOAT HARBOUR



In 2011 - a thriving Mordialloc Creek - a model for activating Frankston's Kananook Creek waterfront.

Kingston Council, as Committee of Management, has delegated powers to issue boat mooring permits in Mordialloc Creek

CONCLUSION

After 130 years of restoration efforts by the community, we hope the new State Government will end the bureaucratic quagmire which has frustrated the completion of the Kananook Creek Corridor Restoration Project.

There still is no clear, integrated implementation plan and timetable which addresses the remaining Creek Restoration goals; no coordinated design; no Major Project Manager has been appointed; no Major Project structure in place (unlike the Southbank and Docklands Projects in Melbourne and not to mention Ringwood and Dandenong); no supporting oversight structure (the Liaison Committee has been dismantled) and responsibility is still being disputed by the responsible authorities.

For the past 40 years there has been a massive, continuous and debilitating change of people, governments, councils and responsible authorities. The remarkable constant has been the enduring clarity of Creek Corridor Restoration goals and the determined will of the KCA and the Community who have stayed with this major restoration throughout that time and have done all that they physically can. The Community still believes that exceptional outcomes can be achieved in Frankston.

We have watched the transformation on the Yarra in Melbourne started and completed many years ago and the renewed confidence this transformation brought to Melbourne.

We have seen how professionally Major Projects can be run.

It is time to translate the end vision into an implementable plan and to set up the Project structure to complete the last remaining structural components of the Kananook Creek Corridor Restoration Project - particularly the transformation of The Kananook Creek Precinct in Frankston's City Centre.

THE FRANKSTON COMMUNITY DESERVES BETTER



Dedicated KCA Volunteers and Melbourne Water maintenance staff joins forces in March 2010 Clean up Australia Day working bee.