



Reclaim East Beach Port Fairy

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to:

info

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Hide Details

From: <sharon.lee@vmad.org.au>

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1 Attachment



VMAD's Reclaim East Beach Campaign.pdf

Dear Jenny and Team

Thanks for the brief chat on last night at Sunshine regarding my concerns with East Beach, Port Fairy.

Attached is a PDF with our description about what has been happening at East Beach and the concerns we have.

As discussed, after extensive meetings with local politicians, council, DELWP, coastal groups and residents, we have concluded that the local community cannot afford this massive \$30million clean up cost (cost tabulated by Moyne Council in Nov 2012). Having met others in the Waste Management industry, we are aware that there are innovative methods of removing and disposing the legacy waste that will be more cost effective. However, we will need an over-arching agency, like EPA, to bring this new technology to councils and DELWP, to give these organizations the impetus to explore what is out there in the bigger world.

It is imperative that the State of Victoria recognises and acknowledge that when people in government make wrong, untimely decisions regarding landfills and their myopic perception of "best practices", the results are catastrophic.

And while we understand that this inquiry cannot directly help us get the funding we need, we are hopeful that this inquiry will be able to shine the light on how we need EPA to come to the party and recognise that there are effective and efficient technologies to clean up this mess.

Warmest regards

Sharon Lee

Director – Secretary

Victorian Marine Animal Defence Conservation Society

Mobile: [REDACTED]

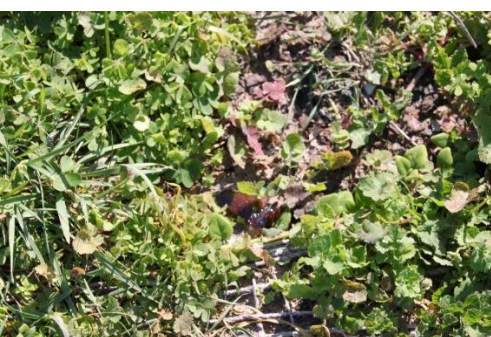
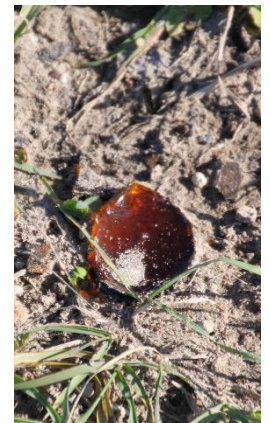
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Come walk with me along this idyllic stretch of East Beach, Port Fairy, The Jewel of The South Coast, the Summer Playground for holidaying Melbournians.



As we stroll pass the last house on East Beach... we fill our lungs with fresh sea spray and notice glittering sparkles on the beach and sand dunes...but all that sparkles is broken glass and metal "bits"





In June this year, VMAD was made aware of an environmental and social, public health and safety catastrophe that exists on East Beach, Port Fairy.

The debris photographed here is from an old night-soil waste dump, an abandoned bottle & tin recycler and the municipal landfill (1950s-1990s) being wind and wave eroded onto this stretch of beach and into the ocean.

This problem stretches across two sites, one belonging to Moyne City Council and the other is Crown Land that comes under the management of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

Following a few visits to the beach, VMAD launched a campaign to **Reclaim East Beach, Port Fairy.**

In early August, VMAD Directors James Brown and Sharon Lee, along with a couple of local residents, met with Moyne City Council engineer () and DELWP Landcare managers () to understand what had been previously undertaken to combat the hazards on East Beach.

After paying close attention to the constrains and considerations expressed by each of them, with regards to the best approach to eradicate the hazards, it is obvious that the most vital question for all the stakeholders regarding this stretch of land has not be asked: **“Can we afford the liability of a health and safety incident happening on the beach or in the water, as a result of the debris from these landfills?”**

Without a doubt, VMAD is of the strong opinion that State and Local governments should be extremely concerned with the **public’s health and safety on this public beach and in the water.** There are among other hazards:

- Broke glass pieces
- Metal scraps & straps
- Medical waste canisters
- Trip hazards (barrier materials, barbed wires, zinc sheets, ropes, cables)
- Toxic compounds (asbestos, lead, battery, medical waste)
- Toxic landfill gas emissions
- Toxic leachate from the landfill
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Environment Impact

- Poison to marine and bird life
- Choking & strangling hazards



In May 2015 East Beach was hit by a strong tidal activity.

These pictures were taken by a local resident who made a video of his finds on the beach that afternoon. His video can be found on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dy_hABZI-0

VMAD and the local residents are coming together to offer collaboration work with Council as well as the State and Federal governments to clean up this environmental and social catastrophe.





Community Effort: Since October 2013 local residents John and Joan have collected over 633kgs including 194kgs this calendar year. Here's a collage of the herculean clean up that has fallen on the shoulders of the local residents.

