

Bellarine Times

Tuesday 8 April 2008
VOL 1. No 2

COVERING THE BELLARINE PENINSULA AND SURF COAST
www.bellarinetimes.com.au

FREE newspaper -
published weekly

Dredging begins



As the Queen of the Netherlands began dredging operations at The Heads of Port Phillip Bay over the weekend, a small number of environmentalists from the Bellarine SeaStar group staged simultaneous protests at the Point Nepean National Park and at the Point Lonsdale Pier.

Spokesperson Catherine Jones (pictured here at the Point Lonsdale Pier) said the operation would see world-class diving sites, threatened migratory species and unique coral and sponge gardens "turned into a quarry".

Photos by Cormac Hanrahan



Commuter ferry a step closer

By Mark Farrugia

THE draft master plan for a new harbour at Portarlinton will include a berth for a future ferry to Melbourne.

This was confirmed yesterday by Parks Victoria's strategic parks and marine relations manager Elaine Carbines.

"There will certainly be space designated for a future ferry that could service a Portarlinton to Melbourne route. I am not saying there will be a ferry at Portarlinton, but the draft plan for the safe harbour will include

space for one," Carbines said.

The draft master plan, currently being prepared by consultants Meinhardt Infrastructure and Environment, was due for completion at the end of March but is reportedly still some weeks away.

Confirmation that a ferry berth will be included in the project is a major victory for the Bellarine Ferry Group, a community interest group that has been lobbying for ferry space at Portarlinton for some time.

The group was formed last year as part of the state government's Community Business

Initiative programme.

"This has been a community-driven push and is a major victory for residents of the Bellarine. Having a ferry berth in place creates the possibility of opening up the bay for public transport and getting vehicles off the road," said the group's treasurer Geoff Henderson.

"Commuters from the Peninsula to Melbourne are the key to a ferry's viability. Tourist services may run during the day and on weekends, but we've been pushing for a berth that will accommodate a commuter ferry, rather than solely a tourist service."

In recent months, the Bellarine Ferry Group has met with local shipping experts regarding the harbour project. The group has also met with Major Projects Victoria regarding size restrictions on vessels at Station Pier in Port Melbourne, as well as representatives of the City of Port Phillip in relation to shipping movements.

When released, the draft master plan for the Portarlinton harbour will be open for public comment for four weeks and public information sessions will be held. A final master plan will then be forwarded to the state government for funding consideration.

Bellarine Times website launched

WE have gone electronic!

As of this week, you can read the Bellarine Times and our real estate guide, Coastal Properties and Surrounds, online every Wednesday morning.

Visit www.bellarinetimes.com.au or www.coastal-properties.com.au

We welcome your feedback, e-mail us at editor@surfcoasttimes.com.au



SURF FORECAST

Wed - NNE 2ft - NE 2ft (23°C)

Thur - NNE 2.5ft - NNW 2.5ft (23°C)

Fri - NW 2.5ft - NW 2.5ft (26°C)

Sat - NE 2ft - NW 2ft (24°C)



Resin with 24ct Inlay

Open 7 Days

Very Tempting...

Ian Pattison
JEWELLERS OCEAN GROVE

69A The Terrace 5255 2019
www.ianpattisonjewellers.com.au