

# Harbour plan applauded by locals

By Martelle Love

THE draft master plan for the Portarlington safe harbour, released last week by Parks Victoria, has been warmly welcomed by the Bellarine community.

Member of the Bellarine Bayside foreshore committee of management have congratulated Parks Victoria on the release of the plan, with chairman Peter Kenny commenting that it "brings to the heart of Portarlington, the flair and zing that the town needs and deserves".

The committee's chief executive officer, Tim Page-Walker, agreed saying Portarlington's foreshore and harbour needs a major facelift and the draft master plan was a tremendous start.

Secretary of the Bellarine Ferry Group, Geoff Henderson, said everyone was "rapt" with the plan, which has provided for two ferries with the capacity to carry 300 passengers each. He said this had brought a Bellarine to Melbourne commuter ferry service another step closer.

With the ferry proposal moving ahead, Henderson said they

visualise having a cross-peninsula ferry bus service to enable commuters to use the service without parking at Portarlington for the day.

Mussel farmer Lance Wiffen of Sea Bounty said from his perspective, the draft plan was "fantastic".

"The separate place for the ferry operations and commercial side of business, which will give the public access without having to mingle with commercial operations, is great," he said.

With more boat berthing facilities included, Wiffen said there will be a lot of berths available for visitors who could stop and enjoy Portarlington for the day.

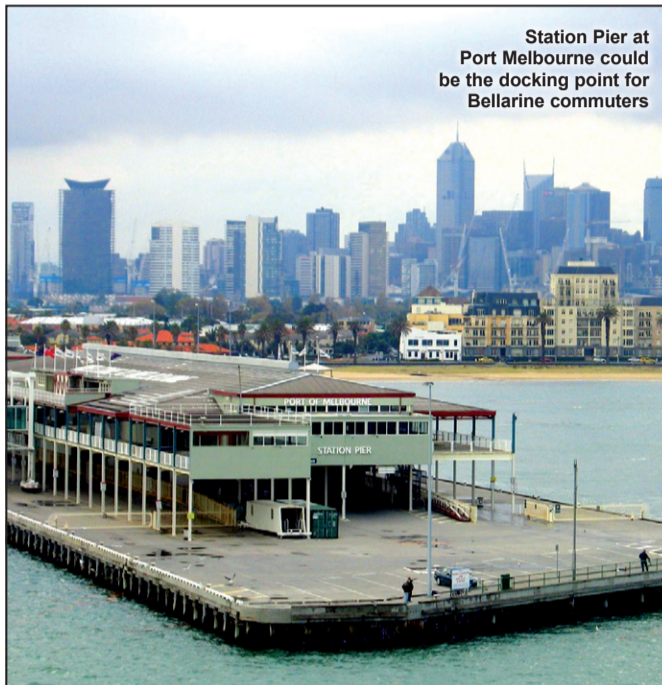
Portarlington Community Association president Monica Hayes said the residents had waited for the harbour for a long time and it was "way overdue". The association will hold an extraordinary meeting on 23 September to discuss its response to the draft plan.

Grand Hotel Portarlington co-owner and Bellarine Ferry Group chairman, Grant Hutchins, described the development as a

"key potential economic driver" for the town and the Bellarine peninsula.

"The key to its success, ongoing relevance and usability is the establishment of the

commuter ferry service, with it's success dependent on attracting comparable fare and diesel subsidies to rail to ensure its competitive status as a transport option," he said.



Station Pier at Port Melbourne could be the docking point for Bellarine commuters

# Local youth restore peninsula

FOUR Green Corps participants graduated at a ceremony held at St Leonards yesterday (Monday) after successfully completing 26 weeks of work helping to restore the indigenous flora and fauna of the area.

Green Corps is a federally-funded programme for young people aged 17-20. Each project consists of a team of young people, learning new skills and establishing links with their communities.

"This project gave these young people the valuable opportunity to carry out environmental restoration at sites including the Ramsar wetlands," said Federal Member for Corangamite Darren Cheeseman at the ceremony.

Cheeseman made use of the opportunity to announce that under a new federal employment services system, which begins on 1 July next year, Green Corps activities will continue as part of work experience for job seekers.

"Their work included revegetation of private land, propagation of local indigenous species, monitoring of water quality and bridal creeper progress, undertaking a flora and fauna survey and carrying out a community education and awareness programme," he said.

"Team members have also learnt many practical skills through their training and exposure to real work situations. That will certainly help them when they are looking for paid employment. This project will bring direct and immediate benefits to the local community by improving the ecology of the sites and contributing to their cultural heritage values."

specializing in: •lingerie  
•leisurewear •swimwear •sleepwear

## METALICUS

New stock in store now

You've got the body, We've got the Style...

### Body & Style

LINGERIE & LEISURE

1 GILBERT ST, TORQUAY, PH: 5264 8771

Locally Owned and Operated

# FRITH

Aesthetic and Functional Wares

stocks cushions, throws, toys, cards, soaps, handbags, wallets, floor rugs, art, bed linen, clocks, furniture, travel items, jewellery, gardening gloves, nursery items, 'On Your Bike' designer recycled children's clothing, body products, stationery, stylish casual wear for women, photo frames, candles, towels, homewares, kitchen items and more.

58 Hitchcock Ave T 5254 1811  
**BARWON HEADS**  
Open 7 Days

# PIONEER ORCHID FARM

AUSTRALIA'S MOST SPECTACULAR ORCHID DISPLAY AND SALES

Sizes and prices to suit all buyers

BRILLIANT NEW VARIETIES THIS SEASON

**ORCHID SEASON NOW OPEN**

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

735 Portarlington Road, LEOPOLD PH: 5250 2058 MOB: 0409 355 388  
www.pioneerorchidfarm.com.au e: pioneer@pipeline.com.au

**Breezair**

**FUJITSU**

Labour 6 YEAR GUARANTEE Workmanship

A family business servicing Geelong, The Bellarine and Surf Coast for the past 25 years

So Cool "It's like Being at the Beach all the Time"

Ducted cooling specialists

**24 Months Interest Free**

**NORTHWEST AIRCONDITIONING**

5277 1111

\*Conditions Apply

Visit our newly renovated showroom  
3 Separation St, Geelong Nth  
www.northwestairconditioning.com.au

Torquay & Anglesea 5277 0785 Ocean Grove 5277 1752 Belmont 5277 2354