



August 22

Dear Members,

We have reached that time of year when member fees become due and it is an opportune time to give you a brief update as to the state of affairs. Monitoring has been a bit sporadic during the last few months largely because of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program funding issues which have now been resolved. The issue was that the current State Government 3 year funding for the Program (managed by Deakin and Melbourne Universities) had run out which had cause problems in maintenance. It transpires that the funding structure has been revamped and the whole program will now be managed by the DELWP (Dept. of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.) This could be pretty disruptive to the universities who have created research position for graduates doing master and doctorate degrees. It also means that the supervisors will be physically moving from Deakin to DELWP, but fortunately for us, this will still be Warrnambool and not Melbourne. However funding does look secure for the next few years.

One of our problems is securing enough core members who are able to be part of the team that actually conducts the monitoring. Naturally, it is work, weather and tide dependent but we can usually agree on a time to suit. Drone training has been provided by Deakin (but now probably DWELP) and we will to continue with the laser monitoring on parts of the beach not covered by the drone. During my morning beach jaunts I have taken to asking people walking on the beach if they would like to be a part of it and I have had some interest.

Every now and again we are approached by visiting groups who want to know more about what we do. Recently The Williamson Foundation brought 30 participants to Port Fairy and district. They came from a wide variety of government, university, health, and business departments to enhance their leadership skills.

We had an hour to tell everything about our group and what we do, and the reasons for our motivation, before they moved on to a wind farm tour!

Our website is currently being revamped by one of our members so it will soon become more interesting to read.

Below are 2 photos of interest which illustrate why we are monitoring. They are both of post 12 which is in front of the golf course. In the top one (31-3-20) it is just visible in the centre and we added a pipe extension. The second was taken on 1-7-.21. The power of the ocean!!!

Best wishes. Nick Abbott (Chairman)

