



Change afoot at the Western Port Biosphere

The Board of the Biosphere is broadening its skills base, with the recent appointment to the Board of David Cross, a very active member of the Frankston community.

“The community is created by those that turn up”, said Board Chair Duncan Malcolm, “and David Cross is one who always turns up”. David has been Chair of Council of Frankston High School for many years; he Chairs the Frankston Environmental Friends Network and he convenes the Frankston Nature Conserve Reserve Guardians.

“The strong background in governance that he brings, along with his broad networks across the Frankston community, will be of great value as the Biosphere strengthens its role in seeking to balance conservation and development in the Western Port region”, Duncan continued.

David will join a Board that comprises ex-local government leaders, a farmer, senior Public Service staff, strategic planners and people with considerable experience in Not-for-Profit organisations. In another change, recently appointed Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire, Cr David Gill is standing down to concentrate on performing his mayoral duties. He will be replaced by Frankston lawyer, Cr Quinn McCormack.

“Quinn will add extra clout to the Board with her background in local government and the law,” Duncan said.

Biosphere Chair Duncan Malcolm concluded, “There are only nine biospheres in Australia – and we have one. We should take great pride in having stewardship over such a wonderful piece of the nation and these changes to the Board place us in a good position to do our job well.”

In a staff change, Executive Officer Greg Hunt commenced with the Biosphere three months ago. He is representing the Western Port Biosphere at the forthcoming conference of Australian Biospheres, hosted by Great Sandy Biosphere in Maryborough, Qld, under the auspices of Canberra’s UNESCO National Commission.

“Representatives of Australia’s nine biospheres will be in attendance. We plan to develop a stronger collaboration across the network and establish a more formal relationship with the Australian Government. After all, they endorsed our being granted a charter by the Paris-based organisation. In recognition of the work we do, UNESCO is sending an observer from Paris to this conference”, Greg reported.

“We have been established by one of the most authoritative organisations in the world,” Greg said, “and it is our responsibility to do the best we can in showing how we can live on this planet with minimal environmental impact. How we do is what our projects set out to explore.”

Details about the Western Port Biosphere Foundation and Biosphere projects can be found at biosphere.org.au and on the Biosphere’s Facebook page.

For further information, contact Executive Officer Greg Hunt at eo@biosphere.org.au or 0400 948 546.