

News from

# Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

December 2006



## Narrabeen Lagoon Summit

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment was established following the April 2005 Summit at which various challenges facing the Narrabeen Lagoon were discussed. Two main strands emerged – one was the Lagoon itself and the need for dredging, the other was the quality of the catchment and the challenges of retaining the remaining bushland within it. The Narrabeen Restoration Project is addressing the first issue and our organisation is concerned with the bushland issue.

## Oxford Falls Crown Reserve

The Department of Lands announced on 25th August, 2006, the establishment of Oxford Falls Crown Reserve incorporating 520ha of Crown Land in the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon between Cromer and Belrose. Hopefully, this will provide for better management of that bushland but the remaining issues are:

- Who will manage the Reserve?
- Will there be a Trust established to manage the Reserve?
- Will Dept of Lands sell any land in the Reserve?
- Will the community have a voice in decisions made about this Reserve?
- So far, just over 300ha of the Reserve has been designated "Environmental Protection" – what has happened to the Minister for the Environment's promise at the Narrabeen Lagoon Summit that 446ha of Crown Land would be "protected for ever".

## Kayaker involvement

Kayakers are keen to protect and improve the water quality of Narrabeen Lagoon and are aware that retaining natural bushland in the catchment is a key factor along with reducing impacts from the already built environment. Pro-Kayaks supports Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment by prominently displaying our information brochures. The Narrabeen Lagoon Restoration Project, led by Angus

Gordon, is steadily moving towards dredging sections of the lagoon providing more uniform depths. The Project team is mindful of ecological factors such as the importance of sea grass beds. The proposal is to create a moving "island" from which the dredge will operate.



Kayakers are major users of the lagoon

## Bicycles

There are several reasons why people ride bicycles in bushland. Some have a relatively low impact but others who are seeking physical challenges and excitement are causing havoc. They are slashing bush to make tracks, importing materials to construct jumps and ramps and riding fast down steep slopes. Bike shops are actively promoting these activities because the riders need to purchase expensive bikes to partake in the sport. It is a healthy sport (except for those who come off their bikes) but as the numbers of "adventure riders" grow, so does the erosion and destruction. We need to set aside an area where this sport is managed including regular track management work and ensure that these riders stay out of the rest of the bushland. There has been a suggestion that, with the rehabilitation of the Belrose Tip, this steeply sloping land would be ideal for cyclists to create a stunning and challenging adventure area.

## Local Environment Plans

The State Government is requiring all Local Governments to rewrite their Local Environment Plans using a prepared template. Diligence will be required to ensure that the outcome for Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment is the provision of more secure environmental protection for the remaining bushland in both Warringah and Pittwater.

## Urban Sustainability Grant

Warringah and Pittwater Councils prepared a combined submission for nearly \$2million to work on Middle, Nareen and Mullet Creeks. The results are due to be announced shortly. Here's hoping ....

## Ingleside development

A number of years ago, the State Government announced their intention that, when the Warriewood housing area was 70% complete, work would commence on Ingleside. This area, in the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon, has been used for agriculture but there are swathes of bushland remaining there as well. The development will have significant impacts on Narrabeen Lagoon. Just a few of these impacts in developing this area for housing are:

- Increase in hard surface areas changing the hydrology of the land.
- Decrease in agricultural fertilisers and animal waste but increase in domestic fertilisers and exotic plants.
- Increase in traffic and resultant pollution.
- Increased load on the Warriewood Sewage Treatment Plant, causing more sewerage overflows.
- Loss of biodiversity including the endemic flora and fauna.
- Degradation of water quality from waterways running into Narrabeen Lagoon, unless riparian zones are rehabilitated.

What do we need?	
Permanent Environmental Protection	Legal protection to ensure bushland is permanently conserved.
Incentives	Incentives for private landowners to protect bushland.
Road kill mitigation	Traffic calming and animal bypass measures.
Management Plans	Plans to protect and manage remnant vegetation including pest species control measurements.
Bushfire Plans	Plans to cover all bushland regardless of tenure.
Weed and feral species control	Funding for owners to control weeds and ferals.



Narrabeen Lagoon from Red Hill

## Road Kill

For nine months, Dr Conny Harris (pictured) recorded wildlife fatalities on the Wakehurst Parkway and Morgan Rd. Jacqui Marlow assisted in presenting the findings to the Warringah Forum which received huge publicity from the Manly Daily. With support from Warringah and Pittwater Councils, a public meeting was called and over 100 people attended. As a result, there has been a working group established which includes Alex McTaggart MLC, Dick Persson, Administrator of Warringah, RTA, NPWS, Dr D Ramp zoologist UNSW, WIRES, SMWS, Police and Conny Harris and Jacqui Marlow (both committee members of Friends of the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment) as community representatives. Updates to follow.



## South Creek

The Management Plan for all the reserves along South Creek has been prepared by Warringah Council and is due for public comment. These reserves are important open space for our community. Some are currently badly weed-infested and impassable but the Plan is to address those problems and provide walking or cycling paths along all these reserves.

## Join Friends of the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

P.O. Box 845  
 Narrabeen NSW 2101  
[www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au](http://www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au)

If Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment is important to you, we would value your membership or your donation, so please contact us:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership annual fee  
 \$20waged \$10unwaged \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment is supported by  
**National Parks Association**



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