

News from

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

March 2007



1.9 Million Reasons to Cheer!

The Narrabeen Tramshed was packed and cheering erupted when Chris McIntosh of DEC, representing Minister Bob Debus, announced a grant of \$1.9m to improve the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon over the next three years. It was the good news Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment committee (pictured above with Warringah Council's Dick Persson and Dennis Corbett) had been hoping for.

President Tony Carr thanked everyone who attended the inaugural Forum: "We crammed a bit much into the evening, but will rectify that soon by organising follow up workshops to identify specific issues in the catchment and brainstorm solutions. We are keen to hear your collective observations and benefit from the community's experience and expertise. Reports will be collated and channelled to those who can act on them."

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment will act as a conduit between the public and the organisations charged with restoring this iconic Sydney waterway, ensuring that promises made are kept.

How the Grant was won

An announcement last year by Premier Morris Iemma of state-wide funding for Urban Sustainability works, sent Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment founding member Judith Bennett scurrying back to Pittwater and Warringah Councils to suggest they apply. Judith prepared a proposal with members of the group, outlining how this project could meet the criteria.

Councillor David James took the proposal to Pittwater Council and simultaneously Warringah Administrator Dick

Persson authorised his staff to work with Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment and Pittwater Council on the application. Much consultation followed, which led to the awarding of the largest project approved in the current round of Urban Sustainability Grants.

The Forum: a Night to Remember

Angus Gordon, Chairman of the Narrabeen Restoration Project, outlined the mitigation plans being considered and issued a plea for patience – "We're looking at options and are determined to get it right this time."

Chris McIntosh pledged the Department of the Environment's full support in managing biodiversity, bushfire and feral species issues in the catchment, and Warringah Council's Dennis Corbett detailed the work that would be done with the \$1.9 million grant. It is for restoration work on creeks feeding into the Lagoon. Urgent remediation will be carried out on Mullet, Middle and Nareen creeks. Issues of stormwater pollution, excess siltation, weed infestations and protection of urban bushland and animal habitats will also be addressed. Eight other grants have been awarded in the past year totalling \$500,000 for a variety of projects including walkways, weed control and flood plain management.

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By taking action, we can preserve this glorious part of Sydney for future generations.

Bushland Still Under Threat

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment continues to campaign hard to have the remaining bushland around the lagoon environmentally protected. Outgoing Environment Minister Bob Debus promised in 2005 that 446ha of the Crown Land around the waterway would be protected forever. That promise has yet to be fully realised. We'll be pressing the new minister to opt for trees, not townhouses!

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John Filocamo from the Department of Lands talked about the newly created Oxford Falls Regional Park and promised a plan of management. David Kerr from Warringah Council outlined progress towards a revised LEP, supported by Alex McTaggart, who urged EVERYONE to get involved in its preparation to ensure the best possible outcome for the area. Dr Conny Harris outlined the roadkill problem and measures to reduce its impact.

A spirited question time was moderated by Manly Councillor Judy Lambert and revealed the depth of community concern regarding the area – discussion covered the dredging programme, the possible sale of nearby public land for housing, the threat of high impact developments and the desirability of rezoning the waterway as an aquatic reserve.

The tone of the evening was set brilliantly by Susan Moylan Coombs, an Aboriginal who acknowledged the traditional owners – the Guringai people - and talked of this land being “sick and in need of healing”.

We say - let’s work as a community to heal this land!



Aboriginal Community with us

President Tony Carr (centre) and Judith Bennett met with Allen Madden, Cultural Education Officer of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) to discuss ways and means of involving Aboriginal people in the community programmes that will result from the \$1.9m grant. MLALC wrote a letter of support for the grant application. Some of the project work along Middle Creek will be conducted on MLALC land.

Local History

Phil Colman has 14 scrapbooks of cuttings and memorabilia collected during the life of the old Narrabeen Lagoon Committee. Is anyone with an A3 scanner prepared to scan this valuable history into a computer? We’d like to display the best bits at the follow up workshops.

We Need Your Support! Join Friends of the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

To: Judith Bennett, Friends of Narrabeen
Lagoon Catchment, P.O. Box 845
Narrabeen NSW 2101

YES! I enclose \$20 (unwaged \$10).
Please enrol me as a member.

I also wish to make a tax deductible donation of: \$250 \$100 \$50

other amount – \$

to help the organisation fund its activities.

Total payment: \$

Your cheque should be made payable to
Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment Inc
or you may pay by bank transfer to Manly
Warringah Credit Union:
BSB 802 147 Account Number 43591.

Ensure your name is in the message field and
please return this form to:
P.O. Box 845, Narrabeen 2101.

All applications for membership in 2007
subject to the approval of the committee.

Date of bank transfer (if applicable)

Name:

Address:

Email:

It will be most helpful to have your email address as we are increasingly using emails to communicate with members

Phone:

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon
Catchment is supported by
National Parks Association



National Parks Association
www.npansw.org.au/narrabeen
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