

News from

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

August 2007



You're invited to get involved - as the best of Narrabeen lagoon goes on show

A new programme of activities designed to raise awareness of the issues relating to the environmental protection of the Lagoon and its catchment got underway on July 29, when a good crowd enjoyed a tag-along tour led by Friends' founder Judith Bennett. The six main creeks around the lagoon were visited, including Middle Creek, which will be remediated as part of a \$1.9m State government grant announced in February.



Weeds and a wreck on the walking trail adjacent to Deep Creek

A bushwalk through the catchment to be held on Sunday September 9 is just about full and a second Eco-Paddle has been scheduled for Sunday September 23 because of demand. Email tonycarr@ozemail.com.au to book.

The bushwalk will be through parts of the 446ha of Crown Land Friends wants to see permanently environmentally protected. It will be led by well-known environmentalist and Friends' Committee Member Dr Conny Harris, who described the route: "Starting in sandstone ridge-top vegetation, we will cross a hanging swamp, then follow a fire trail to a sidetrack which leads to the waterfall at Deep Creek." The wildflowers are expected to be in bloom. Dr Harris will be assisted by Ken Higgs and the walk will start at 9am and finish at noon. Friends acknowledges the assistance provided by the National Parks Association.

The Eco-Paddles will start from Bilarong Reserve on the Wakehurst Parkway and visit some of those areas of the lagoon that will benefit from the grant. Deep and Middle Creeks are on the agenda and the groups will pull into Middle Creek Reserve to be addressed by Erik Donnachie, who will talk about some of the birds that make the catchment their habitat. The 2-hour paddles will be led by Friends' President Tony Carr, who happens to be the 2006 Men's Health Ocean Racing Kayak Champion. Sit-in kayaks are available for hire and no previous paddling experience is required. Minimum age 15 years.



Help us save this precious bushland – the threat of development is real!

Conservation the focus of our 2nd Anniversary on September 18

It'll be another big night at the Tramshed on Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen at 7pm when we celebrate Friends' 2nd birthday. Diary it now.

What must we do to ensure the remaining bushland in the catchment is permanently protected? That's the question we put to our new Member for Pittwater Rob Stokes - and he'll answer it on September 18. Rob's environmental credentials are well known. In his inaugural speech to State parliament, he spoke about the need to develop a new relationship with our natural environment based on "consciousness" and "justice". Right now he is passionately leading the fight to save Currawong from the developers and has been involved with many community groups facing challenges similar to ours.

Phil Colman, from the former Narrabeen Lagoon Committee, will also mount a display from his amazing collection of newspaper clippings about the lagoon, going back 40 years. You'll discover that history does indeed repeat itself!

There will also be a brief Annual General Meeting during the evening. All committee positions are available for nominations. If you have skills that you believe could be of assistance to us, please nominate for one of the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publications & Media Officer (for this newsletter), Presentations Manager (to prepare submissions to councils etc), Website Manager, Minute Recorder, Membership Officer. There will also be a small number of general committee positions available. For a nomination form call Judith Bennett on 9905-2135.

Forum 2 - Tuesday October 16 7-9pm at The Tramshed

The focus of this evening will be on the Plan of Management for the \$1.9m Major Project. Come and meet the Council staff members who will explain the Project. There will also be an update on the Narrabeen Lagoon Restoration Project and the dredging process.

Meeting with Rik Hart

Friends met with Rik Hart, new General Manager of Warringah Council and outlined our concerns and hopes for the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, ie protection and appropriately funded management of remaining bushland in the catchment. Council advised that we could seek access to the Crown Lands re-assessment documents through Freedom of Information channels.

Metropolitan Strategy

Make a point of sending your personal response to the Metropolitan Strategy www.metrostrategy.nsw.gov.au before the closing date of September 18. The strategy for this subregion is for retention of the bushland in Warringah's part of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, so PLEASE endorse this part of the plan. Some of the planned Ingleside land release is in the catchment. You need to comment on this. Will the planned riparian zones provide adequate protection for bushland?

Bush regeneration

South Creek flows into Narrabeen Lagoon. Friends is supporting an important South Creek rehabilitation program in conjunction with Warringah Council. Many thanks to Ann Sharp, Karen & Bryan Penny, Ken Higgs, Robin Oxenbury, Mike Smith, Ron Brodhurst, Mary Johnsen and Judith Bennett for working alongside local residents in June and July. Next work day is the last weekend of August. Email tonycarr@ozemail.com.au if you would like to join this activity.



Karen and Bryan Penny removing weeds

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

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

YES! I enclose \$20 (unwaged \$10).
Please enrol me as a member. My cheque is
made payable to
Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

I wish to make a tax deductible donation of:
 \$250 \$100 \$50
 other amount – \$to the campaign.
My cheque is made payable to
NPA-Narrabeen.

All applications for membership are subject
to the approval of the committee.

Please Print:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone

Email:

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

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon
Catchment is supported by
National Parks Association



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