

News from

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

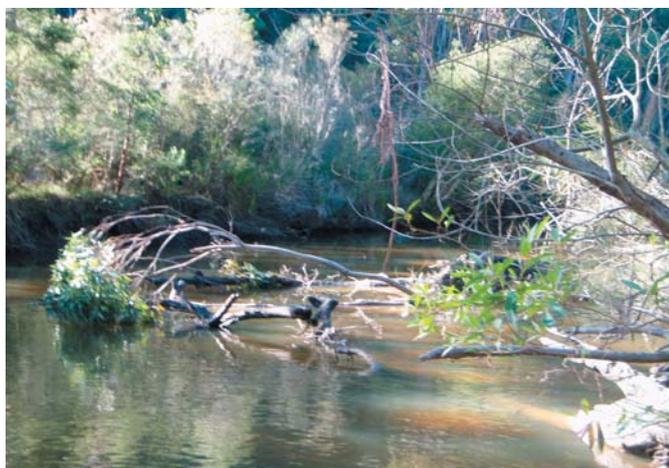
February 2008



Not to be missed – Public Forum, 7pm
February 28 upstairs at the Tramshed:

Your lagoon, your catchment: can they be conserved?

If you feel as passionately about the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment as we do, you won't want to miss our next get together. Georgina Woods, Crown Lease Project Officer for the National Parks Association, will review successful Crown Land conservation elsewhere in NSW. You'll hear how the Hunter Community Environment Centre got substantial areas transferred to National Parks last year. Georgina says, "Public lands have always formed the backbone of the conservation estate, and has been used by governments as the first option for permanent protection of habitats and ecosystems." We'll be looking for practical advice from Georgina.



The ecology of the Lagoon is changing

There is dramatic news from Angus Gordon, Chairman of the Narrabeen Lagoon Restoration Project, who was to present the approved plans for the essential dredging and other remediation works on the waterway itself. "We have unveiled a catch 22 that will impact on our plans," Angus told us. "New seagrass has appeared which means it's unlikely NSW Fisheries will permit the dredging." More from Angus on the night.

Admission will be by donation to cover hall hire (\$5 suggested). Light refreshments provided. Help us to cater by registering now – email Judith Bennett at Sydney.educ@npansw.org.au or call Ian Hehir on **0412 460 565**.

Forget laundry and lawns...

Come walking and paddling instead! Blayne Petrowicz, Warringah & Pittwater Councils Project Officer, working in partnership with *Friends* has put together an extended selection of walks, workshops and events that, as Blayne says, "Will expand your mind, increase your appreciation and allow you to explore the catchment with a number of experts in all the fields of ecology, botany and catchment education." The full programme will be revealed at the Forum on February 28. You'll be impressed!

In the meantime, here's a sample. Sunday March 9, from 7 to 9am - Breakfast with the Birds at Warriewood Wetland, Saturday April 12 from 8.30 to 10.30am – *Walk your Dog* at Narrabeen Lagoon and Sunday May 18 from 1 to 3pm - Walk and discover the *Lagoon's Aboriginal Heritage*. The walks, workshops and events are all free and can be booked on a first come first served basis, so get in now – phone the Education Officer on **9942-2580** or email blaynepetrowicz@warringah.nsw.gov.au



Friends walk from Oxford Falls

This month's walk from Oxford Falls to Deep Creek, led by Friends Vice President Conny Harris, attracted a record 29 participants. This is such a popular route that Conny is going to repeat the walk on Saturday March 15, starting at 8.30am and finishing around noon. It involves some hilly bits. Register by calling Conny on **9451-3231** or emailing conny.harris_1@bigpond.com. Pre-registration essential.

Our enormously popular Eco-Paddles continue, led by Friends President Tony Carr and including a short presentation each time on the ecology of the area by

Fiona van Dort from the Coastal Environment Centre. These last for 2 hours and are scheduled for March 8, April 13, May 18 and June 15. Kayaks with comfortable seats and rudders for easy steering may be hired. They start and finish at Bilarong Reserve and explore Deep and Middle Creeks. No previous paddling experience required. Email tonycarr@ozemail.com.au or call **0417 502 056** to register (don't just turn up).

Pittwater Council initiatives

The plans for the rehabilitation of Mullet and Nareen Creeks are due to be presented to Pittwater Council as we go to press. A Plan of Management for Bilarong Reserve on the northern shore of Narrabeen Lagoon has been developed and is currently available for public comment. It includes suggestions for a large restaurant, extra parking, a boat hire facility and a pedestrian bridge. *Friends* knows the Reserve well as it's our base for Eco-Paddling.



Bilarong Reserve – let's upgrade with care

There is community concern that this beautiful area, already well managed by council, may suffer from overdevelopment and would be better left as is. Your committee is actively involved with council to ensure the plans are prepared with sensitivity. Have your say – www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au

Warringah Council plans

Council advises that the new draft LEP is currently with the Department of Planning and the expectation is that it will be available for public comment during the first half of this year. It is basically a translation of the current LEP into a new format, but we do need to check that the same levels of environmental protection are in place.

The South Creek/Dee Why Open Space Plan of Management is available for public comment through to February 26.

Oxford Falls Crown Reserve

NSW Department of Lands is about to engage consultants who will prepare a Management Plan for the Oxford

Falls Crown Reserve. This process will include community consultation during 2008.

Friends ring wedding bells

In addition to helping people appreciate the unique value of the Narrabeen Lagoon area, and to become more aware of the threats posed by inappropriate residential development or lack of maintenance, *Friends* seek to promote friendship and fun within the group. Local Narrabeen resident, Bob Stubbs sat next to committee member Rosemary McCulloch at Forum 2 in October and a shared love of Narrabeen Lagoon was the attraction that proved too strong to resist. They celebrate their marriage in February.

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
Enquiries: Judith Bennett,
Phone: 9905 2135 Email: sydney.educ@npansw.org.au