

**Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
President's Report
September 2007**

As our American friends would say, Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment has had a "banner year"!

The highlight was the awarding of the \$1.9 million Urban Sustainability Grant for remediation work on Middle, Nareen and Mullet Creeks. While the application was lodged by Pittwater and Warringah Councils, it was based on a proposal prepared by our Founder and Public Officer Judith Bennett. It is fair to say that without Judith's initiative, this state funding would not have been forthcoming. Eight other grants have been awarded totalling \$500,000 for a variety of other projects in the catchment including walkways, weed control and flood plain management. Narrabeen Lagoon is at last to receive the attention it deserves and so badly needs.

Our role in all this is to act as a conduit between the public and the organisations charged with restoring this iconic Sydney waterway. We are monitoring progress to ensure promises made are kept. The \$1.9 million grant was announced at our public forum in February. Next month, on October 16 we'll stage Forum 2 here at the Tramshed, when Warringah Council will present the 3-year Plan of Management for the project.

A number of other issues relating to the catchment have occupied us in the last 12 months. We continue to campaign hard to have the remaining bushland around the Lagoon environmentally protected. State Government's aggressive agenda for residential development represents a real threat. We're for trees, not townhouses! We want to see Narrabeen Lagoon declared an Aquatic Reserve.

169 hectares in the Oxford Falls Crown Reserve remains in limbo following the failure of the former Minister for the Environment to declare the area environmentally protected. This needs to be fixed.

And on it goes.

During the past 12 months we have also -

- Launched a newsletter and mailed decision-makers and the media on a regular basis,
- Surveyed residents to identify their concerns and held a public workshop,
- Become heavily involved in roadkill mitigation surveys and programmes on the Wakehurst Parkway and other roads,
- Organised bush regeneration groups,
- Prepared submissions on a host of State Government and Council initiatives,
- Launched a series of bushwalks, tag-along tours and Eco-Paddles to raise awareness of the issues and
- Developed an excellent working relationship with the local aboriginal community.

I salute our dedicated committee members who have made all this possible.

I thank the two councils for encouraging us to work co-operatively with them.

I welcome former members of the so called "old" Lagoon committee to our group.

I appreciate the assistance we've received from the National Parks Association of New South Wales.

Finally and importantly I acknowledge the encouragement and support we receive from you and other members of our rapidly expanding membership.

We know you have high expectations of us. We won't let you down.

Tony Carr

September 18, 2007