

## 2018 President's Report

2018 has been a busy year – we have conducted four forums, the topics being

1. **Amphibians and Reptiles** where Jayden Walsh gave a fascinating presentation of these creatures he has seen in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.
2. **Protecting Powerful Owls** where Georgia Cameron and Michael Bianchino told us about their campaign for conserving the habitat of powerful owls in Byles Creek Valley.
3. **Local Aboriginal History** where Neil Evers and his family members told us about how life used to be for Aboriginal people in this area.
4. **And this forum tonight about Creeks in the Catchment** where we have been able to hear about the work Northern Beaches Council does to manage the creeks in the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon.

The catering at these forums is provided superbly by Jenny Harris, Jo Drewett, Conny Harris, Ann Sharp and Ken Higgs. We do appreciate it. Three of those people are absent tonight – two are overseas and Ken is in hospital where we hope a solution is being found for his debilitating back problem.

Thank you to Jo Drewett for efficiently managing our finances and to Tracy Morgan for maintaining all matters to do with membership issues. Marie Quinn has taken up the task of publicity and has been making a great success of this – getting notifications in various publications. Stephen Baldwin, our secretary, has been looking after communications and whatever arrives in our mailbox. Ann Sharp is our minutes secretary and also prepares detailed drafts of submission on matters concerning bushland in the catchment.

We have a wonderful committee of people who work on your behalf to organise events, write submissions and speak at hearings – all with the aim of furthering our mission which is to lobby for environmental protection for the remaining bushland in the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon.

We have conducted a regular program of outdoor activities. Conny Harris leads the wonderful bushwalks so many people have participated in, Jayden has led some interesting wildlife walks and spotlighting activities and Tony Carr conducts the very popular eco-paddles from time to time. Please give a round of appreciation for the dedicated effort contributed by those people. We have a number of members of this organisation who work tirelessly on protecting bushland by removing weeds and, where necessary, by planting native species in degraded areas.

We are conscious of needing to ensure that there are people in the wings ready to step in and keep up the momentum if any of our committee members need to pull out for any reason. If you would be prepared to join us and help in any way, we would love to hear from you.

You can see on the screen, the list of submissions and letters the committee has written on your behalf this year. Members of your committee have also spoken at hearings concerning proposed developments that are likely to impact adversely on bushland in the catchment.

### **To State Government or local MPs**

Issue:

1. Changes to clause 24 of Seniors housing SEPP
2. Greater Sydney Commission Northern Sydney Plan
3. Master Plan for Sydney Academy of Sport
4. Issues concerning the Deferred Areas of WLEP 2000

### **To local council**

Issue:

1. Reporting bulldozer clearing disputed land at Beacon Hill
2. Submission re expansion proposal for Meatworks
3. Objecting to rezoning in Garden St Warriewood
4. Meeting with NB Council staff re land clearing and creeks
5. NB Councillors re Management Plan for State Park
6. Reporting illegal bike track construction
7. Issues concerning the Deferred Areas of WLEP 2000
8. Request for a meeting with Mayor Regan (pending) to discuss process for Deferred Areas of WLEP 2000 and issues concerning Narrabeen Lagoon State Park

### **Speaking at hearings**

Members of committee spoke at Land and Environment Court sessions and Planning Panel hearings concerning ...

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Thank you everyone.

***Judith Bennett***

***President, Aug 2018***