

News from

# Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

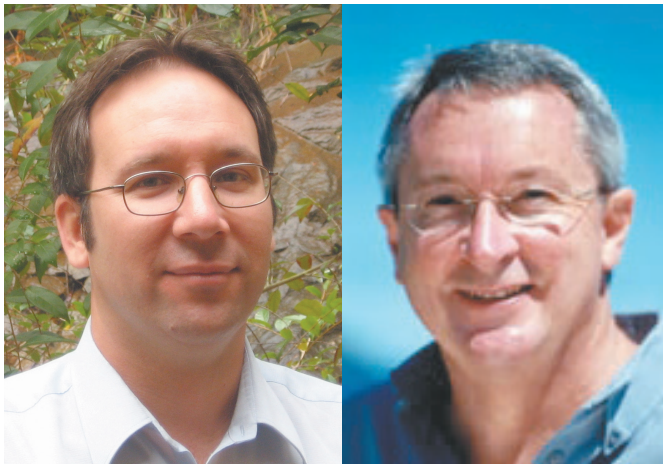
April 2008



7pm May 29 upstairs at the Tramshed

## Forum 4: Creating a Sustainable Catchment

It's time to have your say: work is at last about to get underway to remediate the key feeder creeks leading into Narrabeen Lagoon. James Brisebois, the council officer overseeing the project, will explain exactly how the \$1.9m grant secured at the instigation of *Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment* is to be spent. Middle, Nareen and Mullet Creeks are polluted by siltation, their embankments an impenetrable mass of exotic weeds, including bamboo, morning glory and lantana. However, the most invasive weed of all, particularly along Middle Creek is Ludwigia. Weed mapping for Middle Creek has been completed and these maps will be presented at the Forum. A separate grant has been secured for Deep Creek.



James Brisebois and Brad Hazzard will speak at the Forum on May 29.

State Member for Wakehurst, Brad Hazzard will present his perspective on the need for catchment protection and remediation.

During the evening you will also be brought up to date with other actions *Friends* is undertaking in the catchment. The meeting is open to members and non-members.

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](mailto:Sydney.educ@npansw.org.au) or call Ian Hehir on **0423 278 980**. Other dates for your diary: August 25 – Forum 5 and our AGM, November 6 – Forum 6.

## Dept of Lands ignores their Minister

In October 2007, Minister Kelly in Parliament stated in relation to land in the Oxford Falls Crown Reserve, that **“No action will be taken over these lands pending the finalisation of this review by way of a plan of management”**. The tender has not yet been let to prepare this Plan of Management and yet Greg Foster of Dept of Lands advertised in the *Manly Daily* on April 10, the degazettal, then sale or lease of one portion of this Reserve. At our suggestion Brad Hazzard has undertaken to write to Minister Kelly and *Friends* has sent letters to Premier Iemma, Minister Kelly and the media.

## Action taken on many fronts

The price of democracy is eternal vigilance! Your committee takes this to heart. On March 3, we were invited to attend a pivotal meeting instigated by local member Rob Stokes with other MPs and decision makers in councils, concerning the completion of the path around the lagoon through land occupied by the Academy of Sport.



From left: Brad Hazzard, Sports Minister Garry West, Warringah Council Administrator Dick Persson, Rob Stokes and *Friends* Founder Judith Bennett and President Tony Carr.

We have also on your behalf prepared submissions, made suggestions and attended meetings on the Plan of Management for South Creek, Pittwater's 2020 Strategy, Action Plans for Nareen and Mullet Creeks and the Plan of Management for Bilarong Reserve. We have been unsuccessful in lobbying Warringah Council to notify us of Development Applications that could impact the catchment. This is an important aspect of transparency, which Council claims to espouse. *Friends* has representatives on the Project Reference Group for the \$1.9m Government Grant Catchment Project. The group meets this week to monitor progress and ensure set milestones are being achieved. It's an important role for us.

We also salute active *Friends* member Owen Spencer, who has proposed starting a catchment monitoring programme to collect and collate data on the effect the rehabilitation programme has on the water, flora and fauna. Those who would like to assist should contact Ian Hehir at [ian@ans.com.au](mailto:ian@ans.com.au) or phone **0423 278 980**.

## Bad decisions impact bushland

Wheeler Creek Valley retirement villages (Maybrook Village and Willandra Bungalows) were both built close to their boundaries without allowance for bushfire via Asset Protection Zones (APZ) in their properties, even though the need for this was clearly understood at the time. Remember the 1994 bushfires that swept through the catchment? This month Maybrook Village, through the Land & Environment Court, gained permission to build a further extension even closer to the bush, by modifying bushland in Oxford Falls Crown Reserve and on Warringah Council land as their APZ. A bad ruling from 1985 (about which Department of Lands was unaware) was quoted as the justification for this.

## Have you signed up yet for a Walk or Paddle?

There's no better way to get to know the catchment and appreciate its unique values. You'll have some fun, too!



*Fiona van Dort from the Coastal Environment Centre talks to paddlers about the ecology of the catchment.*

Blayne Petrowicz, Warringah & Pittwater Councils Project Officer, working in partnership with *Friends* has put together an outstanding activities programme. These are all free and can be booked on a first come first served basis:

**Sun May 18 - Aboriginal Heritage Walk**

**Fri June 6 & Fri June 20 – Spotlight Walk**

**Sat June 7 & Sat June 28 – Breakfast with the Birds Walk.**

To register phone **9942-2580** or email [blaynepetrowicz@warringah.nsw.gov.au](mailto:blaynepetrowicz@warringah.nsw.gov.au)

Well known environmentalist Conny Harris will lead bushwalks through the catchment on Saturday May 31 and Sunday June 22. To register phone **9451-3231** or email [conny.harris\\_1@bigpond.com](mailto:conny.harris_1@bigpond.com)

Two further tag-along tours with Jacqui Marlow are scheduled for May 11 & June 22 (both Sundays). Cars, drivers and passengers welcome! To register call **9913-8031** or email [Jacqui.marlow@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Jacqui.marlow@optusnet.com.au)

Eco-Paddles led by *Friends* President Tony Carr are scheduled for May 18, June 15 and July 13 (all Sundays). These last for just over 2 hours and kayaks with comfortable seats and rudders for easy steering may be hired (discounted rate for *Friends* members). Includes brief talk on the ecology of the area by Fiona van Dort. The paddles start and finish at Bilarong Reserve and explore Deep and Middle Creeks. No previous kayaking experience required. Email [tonycarr@ozemail.com.au](mailto:tonycarr@ozemail.com.au) or call **0417 502 056** to register (don't just turn up on the day).

## 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:

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Address:

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Postcode:

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Phone

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Email:

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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](http://www.npansw.org.au/narrabeen)

Enquiries: Judith Bennett,

Phone: 9905 2135 Email: [sydney.educ@npansw.org.au](mailto:sydney.educ@npansw.org.au)