

News from

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

February 2009



www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au

Say NO to Oxford Falls Proposal - Public Forum Mon Feb 23 at 7pm



Wendy Harmer will address *Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment* Forum at the Tramshed on February 23 and present information about the Sid Londish proposal for a \$100m retirement resort - and the environmental impacts this would have if it proceeds. The site is in the middle of the semi-rural Oxford Falls Valley.

The forum will also feature Warringah Deputy Mayor Conny Harris and *Friends* committee member Jacqui Marlow discussing the plants, the animals and the threatened species in the catchment – which species have increased and which ones seem to be disappearing. You'll also learn what you can do to maintain our plants, animals and biodiversity. Representatives from the Coastal Environment Centre will be on hand to amaze you with the diversity of the local ecology and you'll understand why any further residential development must be resisted.

Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment Education Officer Blayne Petrowicz will give an update on the sustainability programme. The meeting will run from 7 to 9pm and is free to members – we ask non members for a donation to help cover hall hire (\$5 suggested). Help us to cater by registering now. Email sydney.educ@npansw.org.au or call Jenny Wilson on 0414 735 350.

Mayor opposes Koi Fish Farm

Warringah Mayor Michael Regan is pressing council to approach the developers with a view to buying back land proposed for a Koi Fish (feral carp) farm at the headwaters of South Creek. The developers have wanted council to create a length of public road through the bush. If the proposal was to proceed, *Friends* has advocated a gated right-of-way. Support the Mayor's position by writing to him at Warringah Council, Civic Centre Dee Why 2099 before Feb 28.

How to object to the Oxford Falls proposal

The proposal is for nearly 400 self-care units, a 60-bed nursing home, a 100-room serviced housing complex, plus community facilities including a medical centre, sporting and recreational amenities, restaurants and shops - a mini-city resort with buildings up to four storeys in height that would cover a substantial part of the valley.

This is the current character of the area:



This is the extent of the proposed development:



Submissions and letters are due by Feb 27. A petition will be circulated at the February 23 forum. *Friends* joins the Oxford Falls Action Group in objecting to this proposal because of its adverse effect on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, the impact on flora and fauna and the lack of compliance with Warringah Planning policy (LEP 2000), the State Seniors Living Policy and the Metropolitan Strategy. Letters and submissions to: The Director, Urban Assessments, Department of Planning, Box 39 Sydney 2001. Phone 9228-6263, fax 9228-6540 Or email: Catherine.otto@planning.nsw.gov.au

Rehabilitation of Mullet Creek

Friends is concerned with a number of issues relating to Mullet Creek, on the northern side of the lagoon. Lack of water flow is one of the most significant, mainly due to several dams restricting natural environmental flow. The health of the swamp mahogany forests at Irrawong Reserve and Warriewood wetland are effected by fresh water flows from the creek.

The catchment of Mullet Creek accounts for about 18% of the total Narrabeen Lagoon catchment and forms an important natural corridor linking Ku-ring-gai Chase and Garigal National Parks to the west and Ingleside Chase on the Warriewood/Ingleside escarpment, Warriewood Wetlands and Narrabeen Lagoon. Over the years Mullet Creek has suffered from increasing urbanisation and exploitation. According to Pittwater Council, only 17% has been rated as being in "good" condition.

Pittwater Council has commissioned a rehabilitation plan and bush regeneration work in the riparian zone has started, with grant funding from the Sustainable Catchment Project. Flow conditions are being investigated with council working with water extraction licence holders to reduce their demands. *Friends* continues to monitor this work.

Get in amongst it ...

Friends offers a range of great ways to experience the wonder of Narrabeen Lagoon catchment as part of the National Parks Association activities programme. These activities are free and open to everyone but you must register, don't just turn up on the day.

Tag along tour with *Friends* committee member Jacqui Marlow - Sun Feb 22. Be driven to see aspects of the catchment you may not have noticed before. Prius cars provided by Bill Buckle Toyota.
Email to register: jacqui.marlow@optusnet.com.au

Bushwalk with Conny conducted by Warringah Deputy Mayor Conny Harris – Sat Feb 28. Discover the bush tracks at the western end of the lagoon.
Email to register: conny.harris@warringah.nsw.gov.au



Autumn Event on Narrabeen Lagoon - a combined early morning guided birdwalk followed by a return paddle to the Coastal Environment Centre and brief presentation on the ecology of the area. Light breakfast included. No previous paddling experience necessary. Hire kayaks available. Two dates – Sundays March 8 and April 19.
Email to register: tonycarr@ozemail.com.au

New Committee Members

We are delighted to report that Ian Hehir has accepted the position of Vice President of *Friends* and that Angus Gordon has joined the committee. These two people bring great strength and wisdom to our organisation.



Narrabeen Lagoon seen from the catchment

We need your support!

Join Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

To:

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

YES! I enclose \$20 (unwaged \$10) annual membership. 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 donation 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 as we often use email to communicate with members.



Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment is a sub-committee of National Parks Association.
Enquiries: Judith Bennett
Phone: 9905 2135 Email: sydney.educ@npansw.org.au