

News from

# Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

October 2009



[www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au](http://www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au)

7pm Monday November 23  
Upstairs at the Tramshed:

## Forum: Bushfire Threat - Protecting your Patch



Authorities are predicting a tough fire season. Do you understand the threats? Have you a fire plan in place? In 1994, devastating fires swept through Elanora destroying nearly a dozen homes before jumping Narrabeen Lagoon to threaten the retirement village on its southern shore.

*Friends* November Forum focuses on this issue and will provide vital information to help you prepare your property and could save your life.

Expert speakers include George Sheppard, Deputy Fire Control Officer in charge of Community Safety at the Rural Fire Service in Terrey Hills and Chris Grudnoff, Northern Beaches Area Manager, NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service. We will show some dramatic film footage of the 1994 fires.

Adam Burrowes, Team Leader Natural Environment Projects for Warringah Council, will outline how Council manages bushfire hazard reduction. Clinton Dive of Pittwater Mowers will display fire fighting equipment useful in protecting your home. James Brisebois will update us on the major works being undertaken in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

We expect a big crowd so register now by emailing [sydney.educ@npansw.org.au](mailto:sydney.educ@npansw.org.au) Refreshments will be served and entry is free. A donation to cover hall hire would be appreciated.

Our first Forum in 2010 will be February 22 with the theme "**Mountain Bikers and Bush Tracks**". See the world premiere of the new DVD being created about Narrabeen Lagoon catchment by Peter Beeh.

## Officially a Lagoon again now!

Thanks to all of you who made submissions, the Geographical Names Board has announced that the water body is now officially Narrabeen Lagoon!

## What happens when the grant runs out?

The \$1.9m Urban Sustainability Grant, which has funded both on-ground works and community sustainability education in the Narrabeen Lagoon catchment, finishes in April 2011. The grant was initiated by *Friends* and we want to ensure that maintenance of the remediated areas continues and that other locations (eg South Creek) are included in the next round of funding.

We have asked Warringah and Pittwater Councils to allocate funding and we are looking for grants for which either Councils or *Friends* could apply.

## Dredging plans in limbo

*Friends* supports plans to dredge Narrabeen Lagoon for recreational purposes, provided adequate safeguards are in place to protect its ecology. Four years ago, as a result of public pressure, Pittwater and Warringah Councils agreed selective dredging should proceed. Since then studies have been completed, plans prepared and \$900,000 allocated to the project - all to no avail. The budget has recently been reallocated and all plans abandoned.

A new community based organisation, **Narrabeen Lagoon Stakeholders Action** has been suggested by Bruce Wilson to get things moving again.



Peter Beeh filming Narrabeen Lagoon catchment DVD - come to the February 22 Forum to see it!

## Community input needed for:

**1. Plan of Management** Soon a draft Management Plan for the Oxford Falls Regional Crown Reserve will be on public exhibition for you to make input.

**2. Warringah LEP** Please study the Warringah Local Environment Plan that is on exhibition and make comment before Dec 11, 2009. The future of bushland in Narrabeen Lagoon catchment could be at stake! [www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/comment](http://www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/comment)

## In other news ...

At the Beacon Hill Retirement Village on-site Land and Environment Court hearing on October 19, *Friends* presented strong arguments about adverse environmental impacts that would result if the development proceeds. Warringah Council has recommended refusal of the proposal. The decision has been reserved and could take 3 mths.

There is a DA for an adjoining piece of bushland and the WDAP will consider this on Nov 11. *Friends* sent a written submission against this proposal.

Blayne Petrowicz has accepted a promotion within Warringah Council after achieving amazing results as education officer for Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment. A replacement will be appointed soon.

David James, who consistently supports protection for Narrabeen Lagoon catchment, stepped down as Mayor of Pittwater and was replaced by Harvey Rose whom we trust will continue this tradition.

## Summer in the catchment

*Friends* encourages all members and supporters to experience the Catchment with these organised activities. They raise awareness of the environmental challenges to the Lagoon and its catchment and are open to anyone to attend.

**Bushwalk** with Warringah Councillor Conny Harris – Sun Nov 29 at 7am-11am. Catchment traverse from Oxford Falls to Deep Creek Reserve. Spectacular views and interesting commentary by Conny. Grade Medium. Email [conny.harris@warringah.nsw.gov.au](mailto:conny.harris@warringah.nsw.gov.au)

**Tag Along Tour** with Jacqui Marlow – Sun Dec 6. This is the ideal way to experience the catchment if you are less mobile. Prius cars provided by Bill Buckle Toyota. Group meets at the Tramshed and proceeds from there. Email [Jacqui.marlow@optusnet.com.au](mailto:Jacqui.marlow@optusnet.com.au)

**Eco-Paddle** with *Friends* President Tony Carr – Sun Jan 24. Focus will be on the \$1.9m remediation programme. Departs Bilarong Reserve to both Deep and Middle Creeks. An expert speaker will talk about the ecology of the area. Hire kayaks available. No previous kayaking experience required. To register email [tonycarr@ozemail.com.au](mailto:tonycarr@ozemail.com.au) or phone 0417 502 056.

*Kayak trips are operated by a company independent of Friends.*



Local schools received cash awards from Bunnings at our Sustainability Forum in August

If your postal or email address has changed, please tell us.

## Trees or townhouses? Your support makes a difference!

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 membership cheque is made payable to **Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment**. All applications for membership are subject to the approval of the committee.

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**.

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.

www.npansw.org.au

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