

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment

March 2011



www.narrabeenlagoon.org.au

Public Forum:

Candidates' Challenge

7-9pm Monday March 14
Upstairs at the Tramshed



All local candidates for election in the State poll have been invited to speak at our forum and commit to immediate environmental protection for Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment and the establishment of the proposed State Park, which would incorporate the lagoon and its adjacent pristine bushland.

The Liberals have pledged to lobby for the lagoon and nearby crown lands to become a State Park, managed by the Land and Property Management Authority. The Greens claim the Libs have provided no substantive leadership on the issue. Green's candidate for Pittwater Dr Jonathan King, says he strongly supports the concept.

So we're all set for a series of robust presentations – and a fascinating question time, which you can be part of. The new State Parliament will determine the future of our threatened catchment - make sure you are with us to press for a commitment from all the candidates.

On the same night, James Brisebois and Celia Cameron-Smith will review the on-ground and educational work now completed as part of the \$1.9m restoration grant provided by the NSW Environmental Trust.

We had nearly 300 people at our last Forum, so to be guaranteed of a seat, it's essential you register.

Call Jenny Wilson on 0414 735 350 or email [Andy Gough <andygough@optusnet.com.au>](mailto:andygough@optusnet.com.au).

Refreshments will be served. Entry is free to members but a \$5 donation from non-members to help cover hall hire would be appreciated.

Are we politically aligned?

Recent coverage in the Manly Daily may have led to the impression that Friends is aligned to or dominated by one political party or another.

This is not the case. Our volunteer community organisation is strictly politically neutral; no current politician or councillor may serve on our executive. *Friends* does however acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered over the years to our cause by many in the political sphere, on all sides of politics.

Developers encircle catchment

Friends is campaigning to see the crown lands in the catchment protected from development via Narrabeen State Park which will encompass the Lagoon itself as well. But, as you can see from the map below, that will secure only a portion of the remaining bushland. The large expanses of white on the map are privately held lands - currently zoned as non-urban land but owners are constantly attempting to breach this zoning to "realise the assets" of land they see as "ripe" for development.



Crown lands are coloured green or orange. Garigal National Park is grey at the top of the image. Pale grey areas are housing. Note how much bushland is white - ie not really protected.

On Dec 30th, the Land and Environment court ruled that the Lipman proposal to replace hectares of bushland with a retirement village at Red Hill would "improve the environment" - astounding logic!

Sid Londish has declared he will also take his case to the Land and Environment Court. Both these proposals have been refused by Warringah Council and planning committees.

State Govt has STILL not approved the draft LEP and this encourages developers to flout it. The non-urban lands deserve better protective zoning.

Enjoy cooler weather outdoors



Triangle Walk in Oxford Falls Valley

On Sunday April 10, Warringah Councillor Conny Harris will take you on this fascinating wander, where you'll see different vegetation communities and appreciate that the bush remains a very special place. The route is a bit of a goat track, but our hills are only that and not the alps! Conny will focus on her favourite topic – the eucalypts. Start 10am, finish 2pm. Grade Medium.

All attending will receive a free copy of "Caring for our Catchment", the acclaimed new DVD. The bushwalk is free for members and non-members of Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment, but places are limited and participants must register in advance.

Email conny.harris@warringah.nsw.gov.au



Weeds needing removal

Bush regeneration

It is pleasing to be able to tell you that funding has been assured to enable the team from House with No Steps to continue working through until August 2011 but obviously it would be even better if we could tell you that funding could be found for further work after that.

Friends has been most concerned about what will happen when the \$1.9m grant money has all been spent - and this is about to be the case. It is great that some extra funding has been secured from other sources for a certain level of maintenance work and to tackle some areas along Middle Creek that are still awaiting attention.

Come to the forum on March 14 to hear James Brisebois give more details about the ways in which the work will be continued beyond the grant.

Dredging saga continues

Warringah Council announced in the Manly Daily that \$200,000 is budgeted for dredging of Narrabeen Lagoon but this needs to be clarified - we believe the money is probably for clearing the entrance which is a regular (approximately every 3 years) commitment by Pittwater and Warringah Councils together with State Government.

We are still waiting for the completion of the Plan of Management for Narrabeen Lagoon so that restoration dredging, for which extensive studies have been conducted, can begin. Restoration dredging is scheduled to include partial infill of deep holes to make them more productive, establishment of wetlands and restoration of sea grasses.

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! Enrol me as a member. I enclose
 \$85 for 5-yr membership (unwaged \$40)
 \$20 for 1-yr membership (unwaged \$10)
 Please make membership fee cheques payable to Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment or make a transfer to BSB 802 147 Account 43591.

Thank you.

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.
 Make donation cheque payable to **NPA-Narrabeen**.
 Thank you.

Please print - Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone:

Email:

It will be most helpful to have your email address as we often use email to communicate with members.



Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment Inc is associated with National Parks Association. Enquiries: Judith Bennett Phone: 9905 2135 Email: sydney.educ@npansw.org.au