

**Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment
President's Report
August 2008**

Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment is the brainchild of Judith Bennett and we came into being after the Lagoon summit of 2005.

Our primary objective is to achieve total bushland protection for the catchment.

A survey of 400 residents carried out in December last year confirmed earlier findings that the environment, specifically the bushland and beaches, are the most valued attributes of this area.

The previous Minister for the Environment Bob Debus promised that 446 hectares of Crown Land in the catchment would be protected forever, but so far only 305 hectares has been gazetted for environmental protection. Our suspicion is that the balance – 141 hectares or one third of the area – is slated for sale by the Department of Lands for housing and commercial development. The removal of this bushland and the resulting sediment flow would have a devastating impact on the health of the lagoon.

We are determined that this will not happen.

In the past year we have met with and lobbied politicians at both Federal and State levels. We have carefully monitored the plans and actions of Pittwater and Warringah Councils and have written over 20 submissions. *Friends* is also heavily involved in the remediation of the catchment and we chair and have representatives on the Project Reference Group, set up by the two councils to ensure the objectives of the \$1.9m Urban Sustainability Grant are met in a timely fashion.

Since my last report to you we have initiated an ambitious programme to increase resident awareness of issues relating to the catchment. Our bushwalks, tag along tours and kayak trips, all run by committee members, have been in enormous demand and without the help of Catchment Education Officer Blayne Petrowicz, would have totally overwhelmed us. We have run up to 5 of these group activities a month. I am very proud of the fact that our comparatively small group achieves so much. This is due in large measure to the quality of people we have on our committee and the time they are prepared to devote to the cause.

Committee, please stand so that you can be recognised and thanked for your efforts. Particular thanks goes to our Founder and den mother Judith Bennett, whose passion for this exquisite part of Sydney is our inspiration.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the enthusiasm and strong support of you, our members and supporters. A month ago I sent you an email asking for help in some specific areas. We got a wonderful response and filled some key positions. Thank you so much.

So we head into our 4th year in a very robust position, with clear objectives and strategies and an even stronger determination to achieve total environmental protection for Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment.

Tony Carr, August 25, 2008