

Annual General Meeting of Friends of Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment held 28th August, 2017 at Coastal Environment Centre

President's Report

We have had to say "Good-bye" recently to a valued long-serving member of our committee – Phyll Morris. She and her husband Barry have retired to Lismore. Tony Carr, after serving many years as president or as a member of this committee, has resigned from the committee but is still busy conducting eco-paddles for us. With acclaim we acknowledged his many years of valuable service to this organization.

This has been a busy year – we have conducted four forums, the topics being

1. Narrabeen Lagoon State Park and its future; Managing Crown Lands where Rob Stokes, MP, and Dick Persson told us about plans for Narrabeen Lagoon State Park and Emma Brooke – Maher talked about Crown Land issues across NSW.

2. Threatened animals in Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment where Jacqui Marlow and Joan Reid told us about caring for wildlife.

3. Aboriginal Caring for Country where Aboriginal young people told us about how they are looking after nearby land.

4. And this one where we have been able to Meet some of the Candidates for Northern Beaches Council

The catering at these forums is provided superbly by Jenny Harris, Jo Drewett, Conny Harris, Ann Sharp and Ken Higgs. We do appreciate it.

We have a wonderful committee of people who work on your behalf to organise events, write submissions and speak at hearings – all with the aim of furthering our mission which is to lobby for environmental protection for the remaining bushland in the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon.

During 2016, we held a most successful Narrabeen Spring Celebration where we organised with a range of organisations to present a varied program of 40 activities over 2 weeks in Spring. We remain grateful to all those who participated one way or another during that time and in the lead up to it, particularly to Tony Carr and Marie Quinn.

On Dec 3, some of your committee worked with the organisers from NPA providing support for the Wheely Big Bushwalk – designed to provide outdoor walking activities for people in wheelchairs and their carers. It was inspiring to walk alongside these people and learn how they cope with challenges that present themselves when confined to a wheelchair.

We worked on Clean Up Australia Day around Narrabeen Lagoon walkway in March 2017 and I can see a number of people here who were involved in that – special thanks to Marie Quinn for organisation on that day.

We have conducted a regular program of bushwalks and eco-paddles. Conny Harris leads the wonderful bushwalks and Tony Carr conducts the very popular eco-paddles. Please give a round of appreciation for the fantastic activities supplied by those people.

We have a number of members of this organisation who work tirelessly on protecting bushland by removing weeds and, where necessary, by planting native species in degraded areas.

Here is the list of submissions and letters the committee has written on your behalf this year. Members of your committee have also spoken at hearings concerning proposed developments that are likely to impact adversely on bushland in the catchment.

To State Government or local MPs

To Planning minister - LEP deferred areas

To local council

1. Lot 1113 Oxford Falls Road -70 bed residential care
2. Development at 2 Macpherson St
3. Works at Kimbriki Waste Management facility
4. Northern Beaches Council Strategic Plan
5. Meatworks proposal for expansion
6. 120 Mona Vale Rd proposal
7. Lot 810 and Lot 807 Willandra Rd
8. Additions to Narrabeen Lagoon State Park
9. Northern Beaches Council Compliance Policy

Speaking at hearings

Members of your committee spoke at Land and Environment Court sessions and Planning Panel hearings concerning ...

120 Mona Vale Rd

Lots 810 and 807 Willandra Rd

Lot 1113 Oxford Falls Rd

In addition to the listed letters or submissions, members of FoNLC committee have held meetings with politicians, State Department employees and Local Council staff members. We appreciate the courteous and helpful reception we have received from these people.

Thank you everyone.

Judith Bennett

President, Aug 2017