

2019 President's Report

It has been very rewarding to have been your president for the last 5 years but I have asked to change hats now, as I would rather be the secretary than the president. As you will soon see when we come to vote about the structure of the committee for the coming financial year our vice-president, Ron Patton, has agreed to step up to the plate as president and I am very grateful to him for that. Ron has been involved in writing submissions and attending meetings with Northern Beaches Council staff. With a background in local government, he brings valuable insight into matters to do with planning and anticipates being involved with our submissions concerning the preparation of the LEP.

This committee truly appreciates the presence of members and supporters at our forums and the way in which people willingly renew their membership subscriptions. This all helps to keep the momentum going.

As those of you who are involved in various other environmental groups are aware, it is often a "numbers game" where decision makers like to know how many people a group represents when they are making submissions.

Members of FoNLC committee have organised four forums in the financial year ending June 2019

1. Transport impacting the environment where Richard Michell outlined the changes in transport over the last 200 years and the impacts that has had on the environment. Malcolm Raymond discussed some of the future transport options and the impacts they are likely to have on our way of life.

2. Possums and Gliders in the catchment where Jayden Walsh and Brad Law gave insights into the behaviours and types of these animals.

3. Aboriginal Heritage in the Narrabeen area where Aunty Fran Bodkin, Gavin Andrews and Greg Taylor conducted this forum in the nature of a series of interviews exploring Aboriginal Culture, Knowledge and Lore.

4. And this forum tonight about Planning for the future where we have been able to hear about the work Northern Beaches Council is doing to prepare the Local Strategic Planning Statement.

The catering at these forums is provided superbly by Jenny Harris, Jo Drewett, Conny Harris, Ann Sharp and Ken Higgs. We do appreciate it. Perhaps you could show your appreciation. Thank you to Jo Drewett for efficiently managing our finances and to Tracy Morgan for maintaining all matters to do with membership issues. Marie Quinn has been working to get notifications of our activities in various publications. Stephen Baldwin, our secretary, has been looking after communications and whatever arrives in our mailbox. Ann Sharp is our minutes secretary and also prepares detailed drafts of submission on matters concerning bushland in the catchment.

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.

We have conducted a regular program of outdoor activities in which people have participated particularly in bushwalks led by Conny Harris.

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.

We have some alert members in the committee who keep track of any actions that are likely to have an adverse impact on the bushland in the catchment of Narrabeen Lagoon.

You can see on the screen, 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.

Tracy Morgan has been leading us to examine our succession to ensure that there are people in the wings ready to step in and keep up the momentum if any of our committee members need to pull out for any reason. If you would be prepared to join us and help in any way, we would love to hear from you.

I have been asked to pick one of the issues that we are working on and outline what has happened so far so that you can see the type of activities in which this committee becomes involved. I am going to tell you about an ongoing issue to do with some bushland along Wakehurst Parkway.

Thank you everyone.

Judith Bennett

President, Aug 2019