

Making Waves

August 2009

The Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au

Welcome to the Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) Monthly Update. The aim of the update is to provide Member Councils and interested stakeholders with a quick and easy to read summary of the Group's recent activities, now including details of the SCCG Capacity Building Program. If you would like more information on any of the projects or issues discussed please contact the SCCG Secretariat on (02) 9246 7702.

SCCG Key Activities

SCCG/CSIRO Project wins Eureka Prize for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change

On 18 August the SCCG and the CSIRO won the Australian Museum Eureka Award under the "Innovative Solutions to Climate Change Category". The Eureka Prize for Innovative Solutions to Climate Change is sponsored by New South Wales Department of Environment and Climate Change. Presented to the SCCG and the CSIRO by the NSW Premier the award recognises work that demonstrates a commitment to pursuing innovative solutions to the challenges posed by climate change. The Australian Museum stated the "pioneering study, brought together social and physical scientists, local governments and community groups, to develop an innovative, transferable method for assessing regional climate change vulnerability in cities.



The project team at the Eureka Awards Dinner

18th NSW Coastal Conference 'Staying Afloat – Rising to the Challenges'

All four papers submitted by the SCCG for the NSW Coastal Conference have been accepted. The titles of the accepted papers are:

- What's the Magic Number - How Council Consider and Plan for Rising Sea Level
- Scoping Study for Extraction of Offshore Sands for Beach Nourishment - Outcomes, Lessons Learnt and Ways Forward
- Assessing the vulnerability of buildings to tsunamis – a Sydney case study
- Economic value of Sydney beaches

Information about the 18th NSW Coastal Conference 'Staying Afloat – Rising to the Challenges' 3– 6 November, Ballina can be found at: www.coastalconference.com/

SCCG Strategic Plan Review

The SCCG is reviewing its current 2005-2008 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan focuses and directs SCCG activities for the period 2005 – 2008. The current plan represents the fifth SCCG 'Business Plan' since 1989 and has combined the existing SCCG BMP with the Sydney Regional Coastal Management Strategy. Both staff and Councillors from SCCG Member Councils as well as external coastal management experts are currently being consulted. The SCCG hopes to have the 2009 – 2013 Strategic Plan finalised by December 2009.

SCCG Presentations

SCCG Executive Officer Geoff Withycombe has recently made the following presentation about the SCCG and its projects at a number of conferences and seminars (presentations available on request):

- Climate Change Adaptation Local Government - Australian Local Government Sustainable Development Conference.
- NSW Council Perspectives - Practical Adaptation to Climate Change on NSW Coasts - Maritime Panel.



Member Council Actions and Issues

Every Month the Sydney Coastal Councils uses this section of the update to provide a summary of some of the actions being undertaken and emerging issues for Member Councils.



Hornsby Council Recognised for its Sustainability Framework

Hornsby Council was awarded runner-up in the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW 2009 Overall Sustainable Council category earlier this month. The award recognised the *Hornsby Shire 2020: A framework for a sustainable future framework*. The Framework has already achieved measurable results including a 29 percent reduction of corporate carbon dioxide emissions from 1995/96 asset levels, over 1,000 trees planted, 1,500 community members engaged in sustainability activities and 1,148 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions saved from businesses. More information can be found at www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/news/index.cfm?NavigationID=214&ArticleID=9427

Better FloodSafe than Sorry

Warringah Council and the State Emergency Service (SES) have developed a new FloodSafe campaign to help local residents and businesses in or near flood prone areas be better prepared. The *Better FloodSafe than Sorry* program provides information on flood issues and advice for residents and business owners before, during and after flooding. More information can be found at www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/environment/stormwater_flooding.aspx

Balmain Tigers & Leichhardt Council Team Up To Save Water

Leichhardt Council and the Balmain Tigers have teamed up to 'Tackle Water Saving' at Leichhardt Oval. The 'Tackling Water Saving' project promotes the water saving projects for both Leichhardt Council and the Balmain Tigers to undertake at Leichhardt Oval and educate the community in water saving at the same time. Funding for this \$250,000 project has been provided by the Australian Government through the Community Water Grants. More information can be found at www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/Media-Releases.html

Sustainability at Botany Aquatic Centre

The City of Botany Bay Council has completed over \$60,000 of retrofits and works to the Botany Aquatic Centre. The works aimed at improving the sustainability of Aquatic centre included the planting of local native species that require minimal watering at the entrance and the instillation of several new rainwater tanks to provide water for the lawns and gardens surrounding the aquatic centre. More information can be found at www.botanybay.nsw.gov.au/mayor/column.htm

Sutherland Shire Council Offers Native Seedlings to Rate Payers

The second day of Sutherland Shire Council's annual plant issue of free native seedlings for ratepayers will be on the Saturday 19 September 2009. For rate payers to collect their two free native seedlings, they should present a voucher distributed with their rates notice at council's Sutherland Shire Community Nursery in GyMEA. More information can be found at: <http://www.sutherland.nsw.gov.au/ssc/home.nsf/ApprovedByHeading/D5108FD910BEA714CA25760E00234080?OpenDocument&Expand=2>

If you would like a copy of the Making Waves the Sydney Coastal Councils Group Monthly Update please contact SCCG Coastal Project Officer, Craig Morrison at: craig@sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au



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SCCG Capacity Building Program Update

Page three of the Making Waves Monthly update is dedicated to providing a regular update of the initiatives of the SCCG Capacity Building Program as well as highlighting upcoming events or grants of interest.

Recent Activities

SCCG Community Climate Change Forum

The Forum held on the 23 August 2009, showcased climate science, case studies and alternative ways of seeing, thinking and acting to address climate change issues and needs. The event also included an opportunity to workshop locally inspired climate change concerns and actions.

SCCG Councillor Climate Change Forum

On Sunday 30 August, Councillors from the Sydney coastal region and as far away as Kiama were in audience for an array of quality presenters. The key note speakers were, Dr Benjamin Preston from the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship and Mr. Ian Dunlop, formerly a senior oil, gas and coal industry executive whom were both very well received.

Final reports for both forums will soon be available online from www.sydneycostalcouncils.com.au

Upcoming Events

SCCG & Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute – GIS Forum: Utilising GIS now and into the future “Bringing Managers & Spatial Professionals Together”

To be held **Tuesday 13 October** this year. The forum will provide presentations for a wide ranging Council audience. Key themes identified for this forum include: risk & hazard assessment, asset management, information management as well as decision support systems and communication.

Resource

Useful resources and tools to assist your Council activities:

The Ocean Conservancy- Guide to Marine Debris and the International Coastal Cleanup

The guide is designed to serve as a reference to standardize marine debris & cleanup projects

<http://www.oceanconservancy.org/site/DocServer/ICCmarineDebrisGuideReadOnly.pdf?docID=5441>

Grants

Upcoming grants available to Councils, environment groups and individuals include:

Green Web Program 2009-10

SMCMA is calling for projects that aim to facilitate on-ground rehabilitation of high priority sites, which promote the enhancement of regional and sub-regional biodiversity corridors, weed control, bush re-gen and habitat restoration. Applications Close 18 September 09. For more information please call Jeanne Thuez on 9895 6223 or email jeanne.thuez@cma.nsw.gov.au

Catchment Protection and Improvement Grants

Aimed to assist community groups to protect and improve water quality through riparian and environmental restoration and educate catchment communities about protecting catchments and water quality. Applications close 01 October 2009. For more information <http://www.sca.nsw.gov.au/the-catchments/grants-and-sponsorships>

Invitation to submit proposals funded from the Recreational Fishing Trusts

Call to submit proposals for small, local or regional projects to enhance recreational fishing. Applications are accepted year round. For more information www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/your-fee

Events

Innovation in Planning & Development Assessment Summit, 21-22 October, Dockside Convention Centre, Sydney, <http://www.halledit.com.au/dap09>

18th NSW Coastal Conference ‘Staying Afloat – Rising to the Challenges’, 3– 6 November, Ballina www.coastalconference.com/

Adapting to Climate Change forum, 26 November, Sydney, <http://www.netbalance.com>

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