

Making Waves

November / December 2008

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. 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

Happy Christmas

The SCCG Secretariat would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas season. If you're looking for something to do in January we recommend discovering Sydney's coastline by participating in the "SCCG Summer Activities Program" events being offered all around Sydney during the month of January. See over the page for more details. See website for details

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/SummerActivitiesProgram.htm

SCCG welcome new staff member Ragnar Haabjoern

In December the SCCG welcomed Ragnar Haabjoern to the Secretariat. Ragnar will be working on capacity building and education activities for the Group. This new position will develop and implement a work program that builds the capacity of SCCG Member Councils to address existing and emerging coastal management issues. To assist with this a steering committee consisting of Member Council representatives and external stakeholders will be established and a comprehensive survey of the issues and needs of Member Councils undertaken.

A Systems Approach to Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Metropolises

The "Systems Approach to Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in Metropolises" project is very near completion with the finalisation and release of the last two project reports due in December. To celebrate the completion of this exciting project an End of Project Forum was held on the 31 October 2008 at LAqua, Darling Harbour. The event provided an opportunity for the Project Steering Committee to present SCCG Member Councils and other interested stakeholders the project background, methodologies and findings from this exciting research project. The event was very well supported by with over 90 representatives from Local, State and Federal Government organisations, research institutions and private industry attending the end of project forum. See www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au for all project information

Groundwater Education Workshops Series

With the assistance of funding provided by the NSW Environmental Trust (via a successful grant application) the SCCG engaged the UNSW Water Research Laboratory to deliver the Groundwater Education Workshop Series in October 2008. The workshops were extremely well received. Staff from 31 councils across Sydney attended the workshops. As well as Representatives from the NSW LGSA, Sydney Metro Catchment Management Authority, Department of Planning, Sydney Water, Sydney Olympic Park Authority, Sydney Catchment Authority as well as a number of consultants attended the workshops. All workshop participants observed that their understanding of groundwater and capacity to manage groundwater had been improved by the workshops. Additionally 80% of workshop participants stated that they would apply the knowledge learnt at the workshops in their work. All project materials will be available from the SCCG website.

Patricia Harvey OAM honoured with life time achievement award

The SCCG Secretariat would like to congratulate former SCCG Chair Patricia Harvey OAM on receiving the Ruth Readford Award for Lifetime Achievement at the recent NSW Coastal Conference. Patricia, a member of the SCCG since its inception and Chairperson for over 10 years between 1996 and 2007 was honoured for her dedication and commitment to improving planning and/or management of the NSW coast.

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.



SCCG Secretariat welcomes new Executive Committee for 2008-2009

The SCCG Secretariat would like to congratulate and welcome the new SCCG Executive Committee elected at the December AGM. Chairperson: Cr. Wendy McMurdo (Hornsby). (Waverley) Vice Chairpersons: Estuarine - Cr. Veronique Marchandean (North Sydney), and Vice Chairperson Ocean - Cr. David James (Pittwater) Treasurer (Honorary): Cr. Wendy Norton (Willoughby), Secretary (Honorary): Lynne Saville (North Sydney) Honorary Members: Cr Cathy Griffin (Manly), Cr Margaret Woodsmith (Randwick) and Cr Lesa de Leau (Rockdale).

2009 SCCG Summer Activities Program

The 2008 Program will run from 9th of January to 8th of February and feature over 65 events. The aim of the program is to coordinate and promote coastal educational activities organised by SCCG Member Councils. It consists of a range of activities run throughout January. The Summer Activities Program hopes to encourage local communities to enjoy the coast and to become involved in the protection, management and rehabilitation of coastal and marine environments. It is anticipated that over 2500 people will enjoy the events being offered. This years program is supported by Coastcare and its life on the edge campaign. For the full list of activities please go to www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au



Mosman Council Stormwater Project - Saving around four Million litres

The Mosman Council Drill Hall Common stormwater project is saving around four million litres of water a year through a project and is barely even visible. Below one of the new netball courts at the Drill Hall Common, is a 500 kilolitres storage tank for collecting stormwater runoff. The water is being treated and then used to irrigate surrounding ovals and landscaped areas. The savings equate to about 80% to 90% of the average water demand for the sites being irrigated.

<http://www.mosman.nsw.gov.au/media/index.php?id=278>

On Monday 12 January 2009, the Sydney tide is predicted to peak in excess of 2.00m (ISLW) at 9.50am.

This presents a wonderful opportunity to photographically document areas/assets currently vulnerable to tidal inundation (and future sea level rise) state-wide. The Department of Environment and Climate Change are looking to have as many sites state-wide as possible photographed on the peak of this king tide event that depict the following:

- The peak water level adjacent to or submerging assets (eg. seawalls, jetties, roads, railway lines, other infrastructure, etc);
- Submerged foreshore areas (private properties, commercial premises, public recreational areas);
- Areas where the tidal waters penetrate back up through the stormwater system;
- Submerged heritage artefacts; and
- Anything else of interest.

If you are interested could you please respond to Phil.Watson@environment.nsw.gov.au detailing any area(s) you would like to photograph to assist coordination and reduce any duplication of valuable effort.

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

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