

Making Waves

July 2011

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

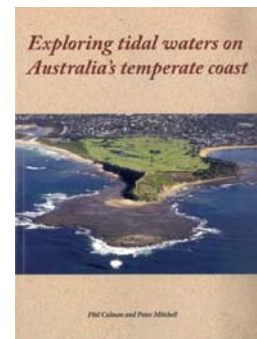
Valuation of Sydney's Beaches Project

The PhD student Dave Anning has now submitted his final PhD for examination. Following the finalisation of his PhD Dave Anning will continue work in relation to the project by providing the SCCG with additional tools and outputs including: 1) online fact sheets; 2) a project launch forum and workshop, and 3) other additional supporting research activities that the SCCG and project partners are currently developing (to be undertaken post completion of the current project via other in-house and external funding sources). More information about this project can be found at:

www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Project/Quantifying_Value_of_Sydney_Beaches

Exploring tidal waters on Australia's temperate coast

Dedicated SCCG Honorary Member, Mr Phil Colman, has recently launched his book 'Exploring tidal waters on Australia's temperate coast'. It is an armchair guide to shore platforms without getting your feet wet and contains over 190 colour illustrations. Visit Long Reef at low tide and find out what makes it tick. This book will be invaluable in helping you and the kids understand just how wonderful, how diverse, and how valuable our coast really is. For more information on how to obtain a copy please contact the SCCG.



NSW Environmental Trust Environmental Education Funding Program

Following the SCCG's success in attaining funding from the Coastal Adaptation Decision Pathways Program in June 2011, the SCCG has been invited to submit to full applications to the NSW Environmental Trust Environmental Education Funding Program for the following projects:

Building Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change (BACCC): This project aims to produce the 'BACCC Community Education Kit'. This kit will provide councils with the necessary guidance to communicate the impacts of climate change to their residents and engage local communities in climate change adaptation through activities such as information sessions and establishing local champions.

Becoming Social: This project aims to work with councils and social media providers to produce information and strategies that assist councils utilise social media tools to engage, interact and respond to residents on issues related to environmental education, policy and programs.

So far this year the Secretariat has worked tirelessly to submit a number of funding applications to undertake projects valued at over 3 million dollars.

SCCG Websites:

In addition to the SCCG website www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au the SCCG has two other websites that may interest readers of the monthly update:

The SCCG Environment Monitoring Page www.monitor2manage.com.au/

The Walking Coastal Sydney Website www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au



Member Council Actions and Issues

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



An International Conference for Environment Centres: 8-11 September, 2011

In 2011 the Manly Environment Centre is celebrating 20 years of environmental advocacy and community education with a high profile, four day International Conference for Environment Centres and Community Activists. The event will focus on the interests and activities of Environment Centres and community activism throughout Australia and around the world. Its objective is for participants to share best practice experiences, establish networks and learn strategies on how to effect change in local communities. For more information: www.mec.org.au/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=6&Itemid=188

Harbour Hike: 4 September 2011

Harbour Hike is a new community walking event for Sydney in support of the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS). The inaugural SIMS Harbour Hike to be held on 4 September 2011 and is an 11km easy to moderate walk from under the Sydney Harbour Bridge around the Harbour foreshore paths on the lower north shore to Clifton Gardens Reserve, Chowder Bay, and Mosman the home of SIMS. It's an opportunity to take your family and friends on one of the best walks in the world past majestic Federation homes, beautiful bays, classic boats, bountiful bushland and spectacular views of the city all the while having fun understanding more about Sydney Harbour's unique marine environment and history and entering to win great prizes. For more information see: www.harbourhike.com

Landcare Week – 5-11 September 2011

Landcare Australia is promoting Landcare Week group activities and encouraging the community to donate themselves to their local group and lend a hand. The web site www.landcareonline.com.au provides information on finding a group or an event in the local area. Councils may wish to check that their groups / events are included. Landcare Australia is also seeking interesting stories for publishing in their Landcare In Focus magazine and for other media opportunities. Please send information about your project or group activities to Melissa.whitelaw@landcareaustralia.com.au

The Biodiversity Calendar

As part of a 3 council partnership project between Pittwater Council, Hornsby Shire Council and Gosford City Council the first NSW online biodiversity calendar has been created. This is an image-based atlas for the coastal communities of Pittwater, Hornsby and Gosford that includes seasonal information on native plants, animals and birds found in these communities. The calendar also includes Indigenous content, information on weed species, weather patterns and community events. To explore the Biodiversity Calendar and learn more about the project visit www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/environment/biocalendar

Lady Robinson's Beach - Ongoing Beach Erosion

In March / April 2010 Rockdale Council, with the financial assistance of the Department of Planning under the Coastal Management Program undertook beach nourishment works at Monterey (7000m³ of sand) and Sans Souci (5000m³ of sand) with sand sourced from the Sydney Water Desalination Site at Cook Park Kyeemagh. Recent storm events have unfortunately washed all the sand away and the beach is back to the same condition as it was pre March 2010. Council have commissioned a report with Worley Parsons to advise on what management options can be used to address the beach erosion problem. For more information contact the SCCG.

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



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SCCG Capacity Building Program Update

This page 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 items of interest.

Recent Activities

Building for Sustainability Forum

The SCCG & UNSW Faculty of Built Environment (FBE) Building for Sustainability Forum held on 14 July 2011 was a resounding success. The event was one of the SCCG's biggest Capacity Building Program events to date and looks to produce some promising outcomes and research partnerships with UNSW FBE. The final report will be released on the SCCG website at the end of August 2011.



LAUNCH: 31 AUGUST 2011

The time has come to launch this innovative and exciting marine education project. Final details of the launch event are currently being finalised, along with the website, but watch the "What's Current" section on the SCCG website for further details. The beautiful imagery of the amazing underwater creatures that inhabit Sydney's waters will definitely impress marine and land lovers alike.

Resources

The Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability: The Coal Loader showcases innovation and best practice, enables hands-on learning about sustainability in every-day life and serves as a community meeting point and hub for North Sydney Council's extensive range of environmental and sustainability programs.

www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/3313-coal-loader-centre-for-sustainability.asp



Grants & Awards

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

Habitat Action Grants (Closes August 2011)

Habitat Action Grants are available in August each year for angling clubs, individuals, community groups, local councils and organisations interested in rehabilitating fish habitats in freshwater and saltwater areas throughout NSW. Successful projects are usually funded for one year. For more information see www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/rehabilitating/ahr-grants-program

NSW Volunteer of the Year Award (Closes 30 August 2011)

The NSW Volunteer of the Year Award recognises the outstanding efforts of the 2.4 million volunteers in NSW and promotes the importance of volunteering to the community. The Award was created by The Centre for Volunteering and in 2011 it is the recipient of \$27,000 in NSW Government funding. For more information see www.nswvolunteerawards.com

Environmental Restoration and Rehabilitation Program (Closes 2 September 2011)

The aim of the program is to facilitate projects to prevent or reduce pollution, the waste stream or environmental degradation of any kind, run by community organisations and State and Local government organisations. Through these projects, we also aim to improve the capacity of communities and organisations to protect, restore and enhance the environment. Grants of \$5,000 to \$100,000 are available. For more information see www.environment.nsw.gov.au/grants/restoration.htm

Events

Urban Biodiversity Forum: 19 August 2011, 9.30am – 3.30pm Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Sydney. Call 9231 8331 or email sophie.daniel@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

2011 Stormwater NSW Conference: 5 – 9 September 2011, Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter Valley www.gemsevents.com.au/siansw2011/index.shtml

Local Government Water Management Conference: 14 - 16 September 2011, Grafton. www.lgsa-plus.net.au/www/html/3577-water-management-conference-2011.asp

NSW Coastal Conference "20/20 Vision for the Coast – lessons learnt and looking toward future improvement": 8-11 November 2011, Tweed Heads NSW. www.coastalconference.com

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COUNCILS CARING FOR THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT