

Menai Bushland

By Miriam Verbeek

On 30 October 2000, the long-running debate over the location of an indoor sporting complex in Menai marked a turning point. In a Mayoral Minute (No 13/2000-2001), Councillor Tracie Sonda sought Council's approval to hold urgent discussion with the State Government and explore the possibility of locating the indoor sporting complex on the State Government's "police station" site on Old Illawarra Road, Council agreed.

The news was welcome indeed to us at the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre. We have grave reservations about Council's original proposal for the complex. This was on the Allison Crescent site – referred to as the "Menai B" site.

Menai B contains Shale Sandstone Transition Forest (SSTF) which has been listed as an endangered ecological community by the NSW Scientific Committee. According to Sutherland Shire Council's staff and NPWS, the site is the most diverse example of this vegetation type within the Sutherland Shire and is potentially the most diverse example of SSTF anywhere. In addition the site contains other flora of conservation significance (*Tetraheca neglecta* and *Melaleuca deanei*). The proposal was to build on approxi-

mately .75 hectares of the site and actively manage the rest (approximately 3.5 hectares) of the bushland. We believed that, given that the inhouse knowledge of managing bushland sites in Council is still developing, removing a quarter of the site may reduce the viability of the flora in the long-term.

We were also concerned that the impact of the complex on the adjacent community had not been adequately assessed. Traffic studies show that traffic is already well above RTA approved standards for such an access route. The indoor sporting complex would increase traffic pressures, as well as adding to noise levels for extended periods of time.

When it became evident that Council was not swayed by our arguments and intended to proceed with the development application, we engaged the Environmental Defenders' Office to argue the inadequacy of Council's case in the Land and Environment Court. Before the case was heard by the Court, Council surrendered its application, with a resolution that it would be making another development application for the building, but taking into account the technical details found to be wanting in the first DA.

We were sceptical that all the issues could be adequately addressed given the restrictions of the location. Our reservations were not allayed when we reviewed the new DA. We have argued consistently that Council needs to seriously consider alternative locations and we suggested they look into the police station site on Old Illawarra Road.

Among the advantages of this site are:

- it is located further away from residences,
- it has room for expansion, to incorporate other facilities, such as swimming pool, netball courts, etc,
- it will enable above ground car parking (the Menai B proposal required extensive excavation for underground car parking),
- it gives opportunities for synergistic action between local and state government (the police could continue to maintain a presence on the site),
- it is serviced by public transport.

Congratulations to Council for its willingness to look at other options! We strongly recommend that the Menai community support Council in a proposal to move the indoor sporting complex to an alter-

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Jim Sloan, Executive Officer

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

It has been another eventful year at the Centre and I want to thank each of our members for your efforts in keeping us an effective community group. As Miriam Verbeek said at our last AGM, we as members of a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) must remember to value *ourselves*. History has shown NGOs have been able to slow, limit and even prevent many disasters made or *threatened* by governments and powerful corporate decision-makers. It is NGOs:

- who distribute aid and care for people who are affected by wars;
- who campaigned against the increasing number of environmental disasters caused by global warming;
- who run hostels for the homeless and food runs to the needy; and
- who have, through their persistence, brought the world's attention to the crisis in our environment.

Therefore, in my closing message to you this year, I cannot stress enough, how important it is that we each value our role in helping decide the direction of our society, particularly Sutherland Shire. It is only when each of us accepts an active role and responsibility in establishing a sustainable community will we see the Shire on the road to a future that is harmonious with our environment. We are part of a growing and powerful global movement that believes if we are to overcome obstacles in the way of a sustainable global community we have to participate actively in local community.

Our Community

The Macquarie Dictionary describes community as a "Social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government and have a cultural and historical heritage". In the Shire, perhaps a more contemporary description of community is: *a group of two or more peo-*

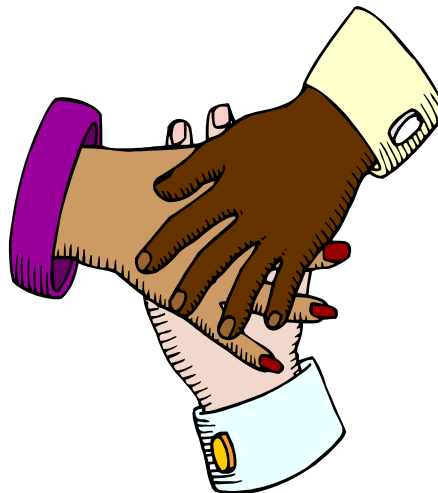
ple who have been able to accept and transcend their differences regardless of the diversity of their backgrounds (social, spiritual, educational, ethnic, economic, political, etc.). This enables them to communicate effectively and to work together toward goals identified as being for the common good.

Described this way, "community" can refer to a specific group of people (geographical, cultural, religious, etc.) or it can describe a quality of relationship based on certain values and principles.

When we as citizens face a crisis like a cyclone or flood, we tend to find we drop pretences, overcome obstacles and reach out to help or emotionally support one another. These are processes that develop strength, tolerance and acceptance within a community. But remember the formation of community is not only by a shared crisis, it is more often through the wisdom, experience and activity of individuals and groups.

Community Building

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre encourages people to discover new and better ways of being together. Today, our community is tackling a host of tough problems: violent crime, drug use, teenage pregnancy, child abuse, budgetary constraints, racial intolerance, crumbling roads, overflowing landfills, slow economic growth, traffic congestion, pollution... the list goes on. The most serious problem of all, however, may be the inadequacy of the current mechanisms we rely on for making



decisions that impact on our community.

The community and government are frequently at odds, trying to overcome external and internal division, and we often feel shut out of the decision-making process. The SSEC feels the following is required for effective community decision-making:

- the general community must have the opportunity to participate;
- discussion should be face-to-face (this type of discussion compels us to recognise our fellow citizens and encourages us to be more accountable to commitments made in the course of reaching a public decision, thus making us more reliable partners to business and government);
- discussions must take place in a safe, respected setting where all citizens will feel inclined to deliberate together; and
- the process must enable a large number of citizens to carry on a sustained discussion.

By promoting tolerance and community, the Centre tries to provide a means of supporting residents to:

- communicate (support in learning skills necessary for effective communication)
 - cope with tough issues
 - relate with compassion and respect
 - make decisions by consensus
 - value integrity
 - bridge differences
 - respect differences (especially when overcoming obstacles of working together)
 - locate useful resources and tools.
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- The Centre endeavours to encourage authentic communication, risk taking and leadership sharing to develop greater awareness, respect and compassion for self and others. To provide a setting in which participants can learn to move beyond differences to full respect and embrace our diversity and provide an awareness of the value of consensual decision making.

Some economic growth can be good – much is bad

It is generally accepted that economic growth is good. But this statement needs qualification. Economic growth is considered to have taken place if the total value of goods and services purchased in an economy increases over the course of a year. However, only the *monetary* value is measured and because the *well-being* value goes unaccounted for, it's possible to have *bad* economic growth instead of good economic growth.

If hundreds of cars smash into each other on icy roads during a cold snap, the resulting damage generates economic growth. Similarly, an oil spill inside Sydney harbour would generate economic growth. Clearly, these are examples of *bad* economic growth.

Less obvious sources of *bad* economic growth are: sound-proofing required to keep out increased traffic noise; fuel consumed during traffic jams; health care given to asthma sufferers living in air-polluted cities; accountancy services

aimed at minimising taxation; gambling; extra police and prisons required to cope with a dysfunctional society . . .

Then there is another type of economic growth, neither good nor bad. This occurs when we employ someone to do things that we used to do ourselves: preparing meals; mowing lawns; washing the dog; minding the children . . .

We can all think of many other types of economic growth that cannot unreservedly be said to be *good*. The point to make here is that unless we are measuring *well-being*, then merely measuring economic growth (without separating the good, bad and the neutral) is fairly meaningless. And probably very misleading.

A growing literature on Green Economics points out that in a largely unregulated market, decisions about which sectors of the economy expand are made by corporations who act in their own interests without any requirement to consider the

public good. Because *all* economic activity is added to the Gross Domestic Product and is given a tick as a benefit, many environmental or social costs ludicrously appear as benefits in the National accounts.

Environmental and natural capital decline caused by economic growth — like forest depletion, soil erosion and salinisation, air and water pollution, global warming and reduction in fossil fuel reserves — are not deducted.

No business-person would accept annual accounts which did not include a value for opening and closing stock. The Taxation Department would not be too thrilled either. Yet, we place no value on our *common stock* of natural capital. Healthy soils, forests, wetlands and rivers are necessary for our survival — for our *well-being* — but economic growth can, and does, degrade them while we foolishly consider that we are making progress.

Save Our Sydney Suburbs establishes website

Save Our Sydney Suburbs is a community group that aims to change NSW planning laws and policies to allow residents to have a real say in decisions that affect their local area.

Through planning policy **SEPP53** the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP) bullies and intimidates local communities to accept its dictates imposing high-density development on our Sydney suburbs.

Key Issues Arising out of Current Urban Consolidation Policies

- Loss of heritage and urban character of our suburbs to gross over-development
- Degradation of Sydney's environment: loss of trees &

wildlife, diminished biodiversity in the suburbs and increased pollution of watercourses caused by increased runoff from paved/hard surfaces

- Traffic gridlock in suburbs
- Increased strain on already stressed infrastructure. For example:
 - Increasing sewer overflows and popping of vents in wet weather due to overloading of old sewerage systems,
 - Lowering water pressure in many suburbs as a result of higher density,
 - Fractured neighbourhoods and loss of a sense of community
- Loss of amenity for existing residents in re-zoned areas, including:
 - Loss of privacy,
 - Reduced sunlight,
 - Access difficulties.

➤ Loss of confidence in the democratic process: rezonings are forced in areas where the overwhelming majority of existing residents oppose it and local governments claim they have no choice because of the State Government Policy (SEPP 53).

➤ Existing residents feeling dismayed about the ad-hoc nature and poor quality of planning decisions and feeling frustrated that that the government is not listening to local communities.

To have any chance of changing Planning Laws, Save Our Sydney Suburbs will have to be able to demonstrate *politically significant* community support. The construction of its Web site is an important part of gathering this community support.

Gordon Hocking



The Save Our Sydney Suburbs' Web site displays – free of charge – contact information (including links to e-mail and Web site addresses) and campaign information for community groups who have similar objectives to Save Our Sydney Suburbs.

A rank amateur, who had no previous experience in web page design, constructed the Web site (www.sos.org.au). Fortunately, SSEC's Jim Sloan and Simon Kimberley were very generous with their assistance, and the site is now achieving its objective: linking up community

There were at least five or six gangsters there all wearing hats pulled down over their eyes, broad ties, white shoes, some carrying guns together with their ladies (molls?), even a member of the Mod Squad was there (he won a prize), so also were Emilene Pankhust (who fought for women's right to vote), flower power and peace and Aboriginal rights activists, an Egyptian lady, a harem girl and a radical great granny (she won a prize too!).

Yes, there were some of the people who entered into the spirit of dressing up to represent some person or issue during the last century. They made up the 93 people who attended the Centre's Annual Dinner in the Bass and Flinders Room at the Gynea Tradies Club on Friday 27 October. Some comments on

the night included "our best dinner yet", "it was a fun night", "the food was really good, so was the Trivia Competition conducted on a team basis from each table".

But clearly there should have been more time for dancing. So next year, our 10th Birthday we must aim to eat at 7.30 p.m. sharp.

Special mention should be made of those great children from Bundeena who sold well over \$100 worth of raffle tickets with so much enthusiasm – thanks kids!

Sincere thanks to the donors of all the prizes for the raffle, the best costumes, the Trivia Competition and the lucky door prize. Also to all the helpers on the night and to the Tradies Club staff – they looked after us very well!

Remember 2001, will be our 10th Anniversary. We deserve a BIG celebration!

*Pat Elphinston,
Fund Raising Committee*

RAFFLE WINNERS

1st prize No.
Maria Mansfield,
Wooloware**

**2nd prize No. 2605
Gordon Hocking,
Oyster Bay**

**3rd prize No. 3431
Wendy Williams,
Oyster Bay**

**4th prize No. 0310
Nigel Pender,
Menai**

**5th prize No. 3441
Don Page,
Woronora**

*** oops, we lost the winning ticket number during the process of notifying winners, but after checking with our scrutineers we can confirm that Maria Mansfield definitely won 1st prize)*



RECYCLED ART COMPETITION

Once again SSEC conducted a Recycled Art Competition this year, attracting entries from Cronulla High School, De La Salle High School and Lucas Heights Community School. Judging was difficult as every entry had its merit. Daphne Howie, Pat Elphinston, and Ruth Turner judged entries at the above schools together with competition co-ordinator Ruth Zeibots.

"Clr Jenni Gormley officiated at our Awards Presentation held at Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, which is the most fitting Shire venue for such an exhibition," said Ruth "as it attracted quite a crowd, displayed in 'The Cottage' Gallery."

Bloomin' Books of Caringbah donated some of the prizes as well as a budget from Sutherland Shire Council. We hope to run it again next year and hope more schools will participate, as some schools felt a bit over-committed with involvement in the Olympic scene.

All participants were presented with a Certificate in appreciation of their involvement. All entries showed great imagination and artistic talent.

We look forward to a bigger and better competition in our Federation year.

Ruth Zeibots

Did you know...?
**Our fundraising team
have raised over \$800 in
the last month at the Gy-
mea street stall.**

"Conversations in Wood"

An exhibition of Wood Sculptures by our 87-year old member, Frank Lindsey, is being held in Hazelhurst Regional Gallery Foyer, Gynea. The exhibition was opened by Laurens Otto, Wood Carver on Saturday, 9 December. Members and friends are warmly invited to attend the exhibition which will continue until 28 January, 2001

A snapshot of the year 2000

Below is a summary of news and a perspective on the Kurnell Peninsula in 2000.



Australand. As reported in previous newsletters, the recent astonishing intervention of DUAP Minister Andrew Refshauge in stripping Sutherland Shire Council of its power as consent authority for Australand's 500-dwelling residential development, and instituting a rezoning to facilitate the residential development, was done with no consultation with either Council or the community. The Minister's action was strongly criticised by Sutherland Shire Council at the recent LGSA Conference. Much community concern has been focussed on existing Green and Golden Bell Frog habitat on the site which is to be filled under the proposal, and also on the likelihood that the size and prominence of a major sand dune will be diminished by about 8metres.

Despite the fact that the upgrade of the **Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plant**, to be completed in April 2001, will lead to significant improvements in water quality, concerns have been raised over the damage to endangered dune forest during pipeline construction, the apparent need for a further upgrade in less than 10 years, and the compromise of existing frog habitat on the site.

The current rate and expansion of **sandmining** has led to concerns about the stability of the sand body separating the Bay from the Ocean. Indeed the Healthy Rivers Commission has recommended that a comprehensive investigation be undertaken to determine exactly how much sand remains on the Peninsula and presumably how much needs to be left. Such a study is long overdue.

In April, the RTA undertook works to transform parts of a deep saline lake on the **'HI' site**

into compensatory wader habitat for wetlands in Rockdale which were 'compromised' by the construction of the M5 East motorway. Under the RTA plan, approximately 2 hectares of wader habitat is being created along the shores of the lake. It will take 3-5 years before we know whether the works have been successful.

The **Sharks Leagues Club** will lodge a DA with Council in the coming months for a development consisting of 300 units, 60 serviced apartments, leisure centres, and commercial premises adjacent to Woolooware Bay and in close proximity to Towra. This development is of concern as it may set a precedent for the rest of Southern Botany Bay. We are urging Sutherland Shire Council to check rigorously the environmental impacts.

A Final Plan of Management for **Towra Point Nature Reserve** has been released and approved by the NSW Environment Minister who has also announced funding of \$1 million for nourishment of Towra Beach. The inclusion of Spit Island into the Reserve and the establishment of a Marine National Park are amongst the other notable actions suggested.

Recent groundwater monitoring of the **Kurnell Landfill** has shown evidence of off-site migration of organic pollutants from the Landfill towards the wetlands in Weeney Bay (Towra). This has confirmed many people's concerns about the potential impacts of this landfill.

At **Taren Point**, proposed large scale residential and retirement village developments with minimal foreshore buffers

are of grave concern and are likely to significantly degrade important migratory bird habitats utilised by an Endangered shorebird community.

In 1999/2000 a number of management actions were implemented to help improve the **Potter Point** area including a successful NPWS crackdown on motor bike activity in Botany Bay National Park, major works to upgrade the Potter Point access road and construction of a new car park. These are welcome improvements but may not guarantee that illegal access will cease.

Boat Harbour's biggest claim to fame is as one of the most polluted beaches in the entire Sydney region due to its close proximity to the Sewage outfall. Boat Harbour is also the location of a 4WD park in which use of Holt's private beach is permitted. Many conservation groups see 4WD, horse and trail-bike activity on the Peninsula as incompatible with Kurnell's cultural and natural heritage values especially given that in many sections it is responsible for severe damage to significant vegetation communities.

In recent times concerns have been raised over the extent of odours detected outside **Caltex refinery's** boundaries. In response, environment groups and residents called on the EPA to establish a new air quality monitoring station in Kurnell. They are currently assessing the feasibility

The Peninsula contains many **Endangered Ecological Communities** including Kurnell Dune Forest (on Calsil Dune), Sutherland Shire Littoral Rainforest (in Towra and in Botany Bay National Park) and the Taren Point Shorebird Commu-

nity. Two further preliminary listings have been made this year: Sydney Coastal Estuary Swamp Forest (in BBNP) and Sydney Freshwater Wetlands (in Marton Park, Potter Point).

Loss of habitat is one of many threats to the **Green and Golden Bell Frog** population on the Peninsula. Much of the habitat occurs outside the Peninsula's prescribed fauna conservation areas and is under threat from development. In the Kurnell landfill site many of the lakes used by the frogs are being filled, thereby forcing the frogs to move elsewhere. Residential development proposals for the Australand site will also involve filling of ponds where frogs have been observed. The frogs are also under threat from the introduced Mosquito Fish (*Gambusia*) which occurs in many ponds on the Peninsula. The *Gambusia* 'feast' on the frog eggs and tadpoles, thereby putting further pressure on the population.

Given the **fragmentation of issues and problems** on the Kurnell Peninsula, a review of the existing Regional Environment Plan (1989) is necessary and/or the establishment of a integrated strategic management plan for the Peninsula.

We would endorse the comments of the Healthy Rivers Commission Report in recommending a review of all sand dune and sandmining areas on the Peninsula to determine preferred end uses. Community consultation would be a crucial component of this.

Simon Kimberley

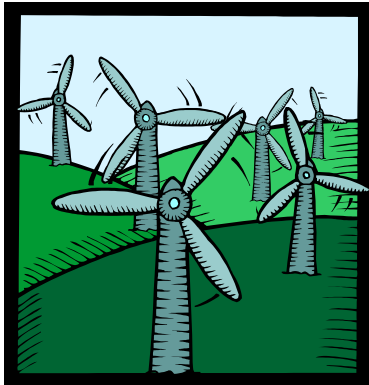
Greenhouse or sustainable living

The reporter filing the story on the Hague Talks (7.30 Report, ABC TV, 27 November 2000), quoted various groups decrying the break down of the Talks on reducing Greenhouse gas emissions. He summed up by noting that while politicians bicker over loopholes in agreements, industry remains uncertain whether or not to spend money on clean technology.

More than anything else in the report, that sum-up made my eyebrows rise. It exemplified what is to me incongruous about most of the greenhouse debate.

We know that the ecology of the Earth is intricately woven. Pull one bit of the weave and unravelling occurs – sometimes in unexpected places. Greenhouse gas emissions at the current dangerously high levels is one symptom (one unravelling) pointing to our unsustainable demand on Earth's environment.

Pitting our energies into debating whether or not greenhouse gases are causing the



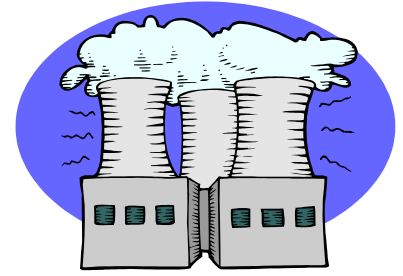
Earth's warming (now an undeniable fact) is pointless. The sorts of remedies that must be put into place for reducing greenhouse gases are broadly the same as those that must be put into place to halt the alarming reduction in biodiversity, water quality and air quality – the very foundation of our ability to exist on Earth.

The 7.30 Reporter and anyone who believes that action to become more environmentally friendly depends on resolution of technical questions hingeing on whether forests can or can't be counted as carbon sinks misses the real point of the exercise: the current conduct of human production and consumption is unsustainable.

Clearly the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD – a coalition of more than 120 international companies with a shared commitment to the environment) doesn't think so. Their website is worth a visit (www.wbcsd.ch). They argue that conducting business in the most environmentally sensitive way possible enhances quality of life AND the bottom line – after a small period of adjustment. There are plenty of case studies to illustrate their point.

It may or may not be important to argue over the fine detail of what to include and exclude in carbon trading. Certainly the question is important to those lining up to engage in the potentially new form of international trading. As a global community hoping to reduce Earth's backlash

by Miriam Verbeek



from humanity's indulgent consumption, the argument should not cause us to pause one second in taking appropriate action.

Recently the Senate Committee on the progress and adequacy of Australia's policies to reduce global warming released its report. The bulk of the Committee's recommendations deal with the need to make a whole range of structural adjustments, from different tax regimes, to changes in subsidies for industry, to appropriate education programs and research sponsorship. Carbon taxes are but one component of economic structures the committee discusses.

The report's conclusions are much the same as those of the Millennium Forum, a meeting of over a thousand non-government organizations and other civil society members in New York in May this year. The causes and perpetuation of environmental degradation are complex and all sectors of society, whether civil, industrial, governmental or international should act in every way possible to halt the degradation, not pin their hopes on the resolution of any one issue.

volunteering...

for life enhancement?

You volunteer to help others; yet while helping others you are, remarkably, helping yourself.

Hard to believe? Here's the proof:

- **Increased Vitality.** Regular volunteer work, 'more than any other activity', dramatically increases vitality. *University of Michigan study.*
- **Longer life.** Those who help others live longer themselves. *Finding of the Universities of both Tecumseh and Michigan*
- **Specific Health Gains.** Selfless acts prove to be good for the heart and im-

mune system. *Two US doctors in American Health (1988)*

- **Meaning in Life.** "You really only accomplish yourself when you get involved in the welfare of other people." *Professor Fred Hollows, Australian eye specialist*
- **Happiness.** Happy people tend to be those who focus as much on the happiness of others as on their own satisfaction. *University of Chicago study*

Thus volunteering, the act of selfless giving, as surely confers benefit on the giver as on the receiver.

Indeed, you'd be perfectly right to conclude that altruism is good for you!

As for me, I've decided on my top New Year Resolution: "In 2001 I'll greet the Year of Volunteers by doubling my hours of selfless volunteering – and thereby strengthen my immune system, reduce my cholesterol level, lift my vitality, increase my happiness, and extend my life expectancy."

The rewards, thank heaven, are not only in heaven but here in the physical now.

Guilty or Not Guilty?

I was reading a very interesting article in the Australian Health Alert that got me thinking. Are we indeed poisoning ourselves and the ones we love most?

The last century has seen the introduction of a chemical revolution of unprecedented volume. This is directly causing a constant, significant reduction in the quality of the human environment. While advancing technology has given us valuable gifts, it has done so at a deadly price. In this first year of the new century, our air, our water, and our food are becoming more and more polluted. Synthesized chemicals and pollutants have been introduced into our environment and into our bodies over the last 90 years. Thousands of toxic killers have invaded our lives, through the air we breathe, the food we eat, the personal care products we use and even what we put on our skin.

Just living an average lifestyle has threats to our well-being. At the turn of the 19th century there was a 1 in 80 chance of developing cancer. Now, a hundred years later, there is a risk of 1 in 3. Two out of five will suffer from heart disease or stroke, and there is an abundance of diseases, disorders and syndromes that never existed before.

Consider the food we eat, is it natural? Not by a long shot! Harsh, toxic industrial chemicals are invading our lives! As stated in the book "Home Brewed Cancer", there are over 75,000 synthetic chemicals, that are used in everyday products. Chemical poisoning is going on in everyone's body, our young ones are at the greatest long term risk, and the genetic effects are passed on to our unborn children.

Take the chance now - check the shelves in your bathroom!! As a guide, here are some of the most dangerous chemicals you may find in your products.

Aluminium: Found in many deodorants and anti-perspirants. Results of many studies conducted by the World Health Organisation, link aluminium poisoning to Alzheimer's Disease. Dr Daniel Perl, Director of Neuropathology at Mount Sinai Medical Centre in New York, suggests, "Avoid aerosol anti-perspirants. Aluminium in aerosol form may be more readily absorbed into the brain through

Are you poisoning yourselves and your family?

nasal passages."

Fluoride: In most toothpastes and some water-supplies, fluoride is labelled as the most active ingredient in dental care. It is true that some studies have shown that it does seem to strengthen teeth up to the age of 12, but even so, other research linked chemical fluoride to cancer, and brain degeneration years ago. This is especially dangerous to children, as they often tend to swallow after brushing.

Propylene Glycol: (also called "Propanediol") is used in Anti-Freeze, Brake & Hydraulic Fluid, De-Icer, Paints & Coatings, Floor Wax, Laundry Detergent, Pet Food and Tobacco. However, you will find it also in most of our Cosmetics, Toothpastes, Shampoos, Deodorants, Lotions, Processed Foods and many more personal care items.

The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) states the following:

Propylene Glycol: Implicated in contact dermatitis, kidney damage and liver abnormalities; can inhibit skin cell growth in human tests and can damage cell membranes causing rashes, dry skin and surface damage.

Acute Effects: May be harmful by inhalation, ingestion or skin absorption. May cause eye irritation, skin irritation. Exposure can cause gastro-intestinal disturbances, nausea, headache and vomiting, central nervous system depression.

The American Academy of Dermatologists, in January 1991, published a clinical review which said: "Propylene Glycol causes a significant number of reactions and was a primary irritant to the skin even in low levels of concentration."

Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS) or Sodium Laureth Sulfate (SLES) Sodium Lauryl Sulfate (SLS) is found in harsh detergents. Also, it is used as a surfactant to break down the surface tension of water. Industrial uses include: Concrete Floor Cleaners, Engine Degreasers, Car Wash Detergents. Sodium Lauryl Sulfate is a favourite ingredient in toothpaste, shampoos, baby wash and body wash.

What can SLS do to your organic tissue? Plenty!

The Higuchi, Araya and Higuchi School of Medicine, Tohoku University in Sendai - Japan, has this to say:

"SLS is a mutagen. It is capable of changing the information in genetic material found in cells. SLS has been used in studies to induce mutations in bacteria."

The Journal of the American College of Toxicology; Vol. 2 # 7 of 1983 stated the following:

"SLS is routinely used in clinical studies to irritate skin tissue. SLS corrodes hair follicles and impairs ability to grow hair. Carcinogenic Nitrates can form when SLS interacts with other nitrogen bearing ingredients. SLS enters and maintains residual levels in the heart, liver, lungs and brain from skin contact. (shampoos?) SLS denatures protein, impairs proper structural formation of young eyes - damage permanent. (The medical study by Dr Keith Green, Ph.D., D.Sc., Medical College of Georgia, called "Detergent Penetration into Young and Adult Eyes, Research to Prevent Blindness" - reveals some of the most compelling and alarming evidence indicating that SLS should be avoided.) SLS can damage the immune system, cause separation of skin layers and cause inflammation of the skin."

In fairness, the manufacturers of these products are not doing anything illegal. They use these ingredients for three reasons. . . .

- 1) *They do the JOB!*
- 2) *They are CHEAP!*
- 3) *They are ALLOWED!*

Think about it. . . What would you do if you were the Big Cheese at Propyl & Glycol with corporate profits to fatten? You wouldn't offer to do a study and you wouldn't change anything without being able to justify additional costs to the shareholders. And if you think Anti-Freeze ingredients in your expensive cosmetics and personal care products is disgusting . . . *IT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG!*

Something is going on! Our bodies are rebelling against this chemical invasion. Will you take ACTION?

Either way you're betting your life!

Louw de Louw

Want to Help or Simply Find Out More?

The Centre has a range of committees dealing with issues in and beyond the Shire. These are listed with the names of their convenors below. If you would like more information about their activities, or would like to help, contact the Centre

Eco-Tourism	John Cox
EMF Radiation	Lyn McLean and John Lincoln
Environmental education	Phil Smith
Fundraising.....	Pat Elphinston, Ruth Zeibots
Hacking River.....	Tim Tapsell
Kurnell.....	Simon Kimberley
Nuclear Issues.....	Michael Priceman
Population.....	Gordon Hocking
Toxic Chemicals.....	John Earl
Transport.....	Michelle Zeibots and Malcolm Cluett
Urban Bushland.....	Miriam Verbeek
Urban Issues.....	Neil deNett
Waste minimisation.....	Jim Sloan

NB: Fee includes membership for one year plus four issues of “The Centre”

I'd like to join the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....Postcode:.....

Telephone:.....

I enclose fee of : \$27.50 (1yr) \$49.50 (2yr)

\$66 (3yr) \$15 concession or student

Signed.....Date:.....

Web <http://ssec.org.au>