



Three great announcements in the first week of September made the beginning of this springtime a special one for the Environment Centre – two from State Government and one from the Land and Environment Court.

1.- September 3: Planning Minister Andrew Refshauge announced "...a major environmental study into the entire Botany Bay catchment including the sensitive Kurnell Peninsula – effectively suspending all development and rezoning in the area."

This is good news for the alliance of eight community organisations who make up the Kurnell Regional Environment Planning Council. "We've been campaigning for years, and suddenly so many of our aims have been recognised," says Bob Walshe who chairs the Council.

STUDY ORDERED

"The immediate gains I see are four," continues Bob. "First, the Study will produce a guide to all future land use around Botany Bay; second, it should set strict criteria within which all development applications must comply; third, the proposal by Rocla to mine nearly 5 million tonnes of Kurnell sand is withdrawn; fourth, the proposal by the Australand developer to build 500 homes at the southern end of the sandhills is suspended.

The Government means business – it has ordered an immediate start with the study, allocated an initial \$450,000 to get things moving, and wants completion by the end of next year."

2.- September 6: Transport Minister Carl Scully announces "cancellation of the F6 corridor", a superhighway which would have split the Shire in two and sliced off a section of the Royal National Park. Minister Scully's statement took us by surprise," says Michelle Zeibots who works with the Envi-

BIG VICTORIES IN THREE CAMPAIGNS

THE HON CARL SCULLY MP
Minister for Transport
Minister for Roads

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 6 September 2002

**20 KILOMETRE FREEWAY CORRIDOR
ABANDONED AND DEDICATED TO PUBLIC
TRANSPORT**

A freeway planned since 1951 to run through Sydney's southern suburbs is to be abandoned in favour of public transport corridor and recreational uses.

The Minister for Roads, Mr Carl Scully, said today the 20 kilometre corridor, known as the F6 Freeway corridor, runs from the Princes Highway near the Royal National Park through to Sydney Park at St Peters.

"I have carefully reviewed this corridor and decided that a massive freeway development on this land is not in the best interests of Sydney-siders."

"A massive freeway would take up a swathe of land that is better used for public space, but a public transport corridor, and I have asked the Government to protect the open space at Scarborough Park, Ramsgate."

"This is a huge win for public transport and a great day for protecting open space in southern Sydney," Mr Scully said.

Media contact: Phillip Kelly (92) 9228 4455 or 9419 411 218

*To Michelle
Thanks for prodding
me into action
Warm regards
Carl Scully
Minister for Transport 6/9/02*

Minister's tribute to our campaigner: "To Michelle, Thanks for prodding me into action. Warm Regards, Carl Scully..."

ronment Centre and is President of EcoTransit Sydney, the State's leading public transport advocacy group.

"We are absolutely delighted. This removes the longstanding threat of yet another hugely expensive highway which would repeat the errors and inadequacies of, for example, the M2, M4 and M5.

NEW OPTIONS

"There's a chance now to improve public transport options in the Shire by implementing a multi-modal approach which will include improvement to the Illawarra rail service, better use of buses and cycleways, and light rail (modern trams) like the successful Lilyfield service, which is less expensive than a highway."

3.- September 6: The Land and Environment Court dismisses an application by Terrace Tower Holdings for a huge "bulky goods retail centre" on 5 hectares along the

sensitive shore of Taren Point, declaring it to be "clearly ... adverse to the public interest".

"The Court's decision to dismiss development of a bulky goods centre at Taren Point is an indication that the environment does matter," remarked a Shire planner.

"Council's opposition was not to the development as such but to what it saw as environmental irresponsibility – failure to respect the natural constraints of the site and its relation to adjacent wetlands and birdlife."

Having achieved these wins, Council and the Centre need to remain vigilant while the Botany Bay Study and the F6 corridor Study are proceeding.

"We must embrace what has been promised," advised Bob Walshe, "praise the government for its initiatives, and cast ourselves in the role of – watchful! – partners with Government."

INSIDE

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From the Chair

By Miriam Verbeek, chair of
Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

As the newly elected Chair of the Environment Centre, I thought it might be timely to review the past, present and future.

The coming year shows promise of being a busy one. The move to our new premises has opened up many possibilities, giving us more space for people and facilities to undertake new projects, and enhance support for long-running projects.

In the office, Lorraine has done a great job in managing a constant stream of volunteers to the Centre.

Volunteers have included school children doing work experience, people on "work for the dole" programs, university students volunteering their expertise, retired people offering their services – from helping to man stalls to folding letters for posting to answering the phone to working on computers.

FAREWELL

On Friday September 13, we bid a sad goodbye to Simon Kimberley. He has been with the Centre for six years, as both Secretary and employee. He was instrumental in setting up and maintaining the Centre's website, and played a leading role in a three-year bushcare program at Kurnell.

Simon came to the Centre straight out of



university and will be honing his talents in other spheres.

Equally important, and involving the effort of many volunteers, is the continued establishment of the Centre's Library. Volunteers have been logging books and magazines into the Centre's comprehensive database to enable easier access to topics for library users.

Petranella, our fully qualified librarian volunteer, has provided invaluable advice on cataloguing and on appropriately registering the Centre's library on the public library network. Ruth Turner has been diligently sorting and keeping the Centre's extensive record of newspaper cuttings.

The library is available to all members of the public and is already much used by school pupils, teachers and tertiary students.

This newsletter is also a new project. We want to involve more people in its production, and provide a wider range of news and views relevant to our members. Four people have already volunteered to become members of the newsletter team.

Others are welcome. Welcome, too, are contributions of copy – either reacting to items we publish or giving us new information.

THANKS

I want to close this review with a thank you to the past two Chairs of the Environment Centre, Bob Walshe – who headed the organisation for ten years, and to Neil de Nett (the outgoing chair), and thanks also to the tireless dedication of Management Committee members.

Luckily some have stayed on the Management Committee for this coming year. The vibrant and expanding role of the Centre in the Shire is a tribute to their guidance.

I also want to thank Jim Sloan, the Executive Officer, for all his efforts. The continued smooth running of the organisation is in no small measure a result of his management skills.

Centre news

SAVE BOTANY BEACH

The Environment Centre is joining with Southern Sydney Region of Councils (SSROC) and local community groups to oppose the expansion of the Botany Bay Terminal and to instruct Sydney Ports to develop a proposal in association with Newcastle's new Multi Purpose Terminal.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this campaign, please contact Narelle Towart at The Centre.

AGM

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre's annual general meeting was held on 13th September 2002 at the School of the Arts in Sutherland. AGM papers are available from the Environment Centre.

The meeting unanimously passed a reso-

lution to change the Centre's Constitution, ensuring that the Centre's new premises will only be used to house an Environment Centre. The meeting also accepted the Chair's report, the Executive Director's report and the Treasurer's report. Munro Spaul was re-appointed as the auditor.

Elected to the Management Committee are: Miriam Verbeek – Chair; Anne Long, Don Pagé, Ruth Zeibots, Michelle Zeibots, Neil de Nett, Michael Nancarrow, John Nelson.

ABOUT US

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre was founded to speak for the environment of the Sutherland Shire and its bio-regions. The Centre seeks to bring to its advocacy role, well-researched information, full participation of all stakeholders in debates, inclusion of the needs of fu-

ture generations, and a genuine desire to seek win-win solutions to competing aims for the utilisation of natural resources.

Officially launched on 22 July 1991, the Centre is a totally independent body, open at all times to public scrutiny and public participation. This newsletter is provided to members and interested readers to provide up-to-date information about Centre activities. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are the authors', and not necessarily policy of the Centre. The editorial committee comprises: Miriam Verbeek, , Don Pagé, Narelle Towart. Contact us at:

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NUCLEAR FISSURES

The cracks are showing in reactor approval process

The process which approved a new nuclear reactor for Lucas Heights is under scrutiny, after several studies failed to predict the geological faults found at the site recently, and evidence for their existence was withheld.

Opponents of the Replacement Research Reactor (RRR) have called on the Parliamentary Public Works Committee to review its previous approval, after it was misled by faulty information from ANSTO, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (see panel below).

"The committee which voted unanimously to approve the project should be recalled and told the truth this time," said Councillor Genevieve Rankin, a leading opponent on Sutherland Shire Council of the planned Replacement Research Reactor (RRR).

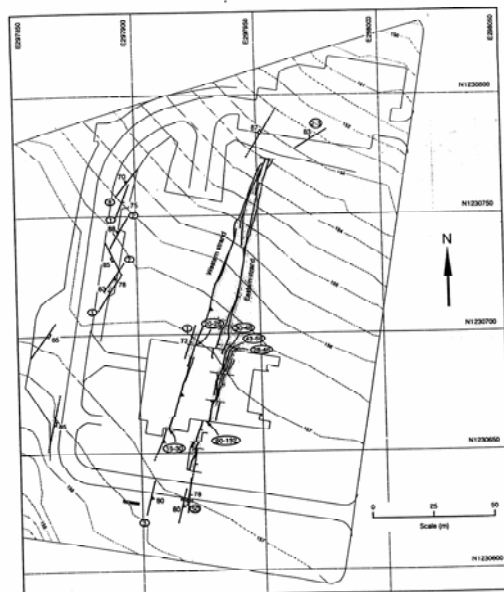
She called on ARPANSA, the nuclear regulatory body, to get tough with ANSTO and to stop acting "merely as a rubber stamp". (see page 5)

Work stopped in April when bulldozers uncovered the faults that PhD consultants had missed.

Several new studies have followed the embarrassing discoveries directly under the proposed \$300,000 million Replacement Research Reactor (RRR).

ANSTO admitted in a new report to the nuclear regulator ARPANSA in September that certain "anomalies" had been found by the high-tech studies, but none of the experts predicted the big fault based on those data.

ARPANSA left itself open to criticism for allowing ANSTO a licence for construc-



tion last April, based on flawed investigations. Sutherland Shire Council, after research done by the Environment Centre, had called on the nuclear watchdog to produce reports on which it based its approval to excavate last April.

ANOMALIES DETECTED

One is a geological study in January 2002 which failed to find the faults; the other is a study of "rockmass quality and stability (site characterisation)" which was urged in a comprehensive seismic hazard analysis earlier (IGNS, 1999), but does not appear in lists of references as such.

No explanation has been given yet by

Two geological faults evident completely across the new reactor site were missed by several specialist studies, commissioned by ANSTO over the last few years.

They cut beneath a concrete slab of a previous structure on the site, merging to the north and under the proposed new reactor building.

A series of core-samples had been drilled across the site to 50metres depth, but found no faults (only metres down).

either ANSTO or ARPANSA as to why the "probable" faults were not followed up. Core-sampling across the site likewise failed to find the geological faulting (1.3m high). A series of other high-tech studies at the time also missed the faults, despite the one report indicating that "fault zones probably occur" nearby (see below).

ANSTO's report to ARPANSA in September played down such major flaws in several high-tech geological studies, instead stressing that the faults eventually found were stable, according to its consultants.

However, ANSTO admitted that there had

(Continued on page 5)

Evidence for faults withheld

Parliament seems to have been misled by assurances from ANSTO that there were no faults near the proposed new reactor site.

The nuclear body had advised parliamentarians that "recent studies found no geological faults in the general area of the site", in evidence to the Standing Committee on Public Works in Canberra on the project in 1999.

Contradicting this was a submission four months earlier, discovered by research at the Environment Centre. It had been

given to the Nuclear Safety Bureau and also to ARPANSA (EIS Supplement).

"Various fault zones, undetected to date, probably occur in the Woronora Plateau region (where ANSTO is sited)," the report said..

"An extensive seepage zone (northern end of the site) ...may in fact be related to the inferred fault zone located in the DM86 borehole."

"Evidence from the above-mentioned borehole indicates the probable existence of a fault in the immediate vicinity (of ANSTO) ...although faulting was unsus-

pected in the general area because of the nature of the sandstone terrain and the lack of adequate drilling information ..."

Reversing its previous no-faults stand in September 2002, ANSTO now dismisses the two new faults as "consistent with the general pattern of extensive faulting that persists in the local region", in its new explanation to ARPANSA.

A series of high-tech studies had relied on powerful techniques such as seismic refraction, resistivity soundings, magnetometry and core-sampling, but missed the faults which were only metres below the surface.

Livable cities: a guide

By MIRIAM VERBEEK

What makes cities livable, and how should planners make them livable?

Professor Dirk Bolt answered these questions in his speech to the Localities Forum in November 2001.

In planning the growth of cities, planners should never forget the need for humans to live in communities, and the necessity for communities to live in urban environments based on the human scale.

Communities are people who live in a given place, who meet each other in the centre of that place, or in a market, people who know each other because they live in the same area.

Human scale means that communities should not be greater than 10,000 people, allow for low densities and be limited to a grid of about 2 x 2 kms. This means that it would take only 30 minutes to reach any part of the community.

COMMUNITY RIGHTS

Rather than making a huge metropolis with one centre and ever-sprawling suburbs, the city should be designed as a linked set of communities.

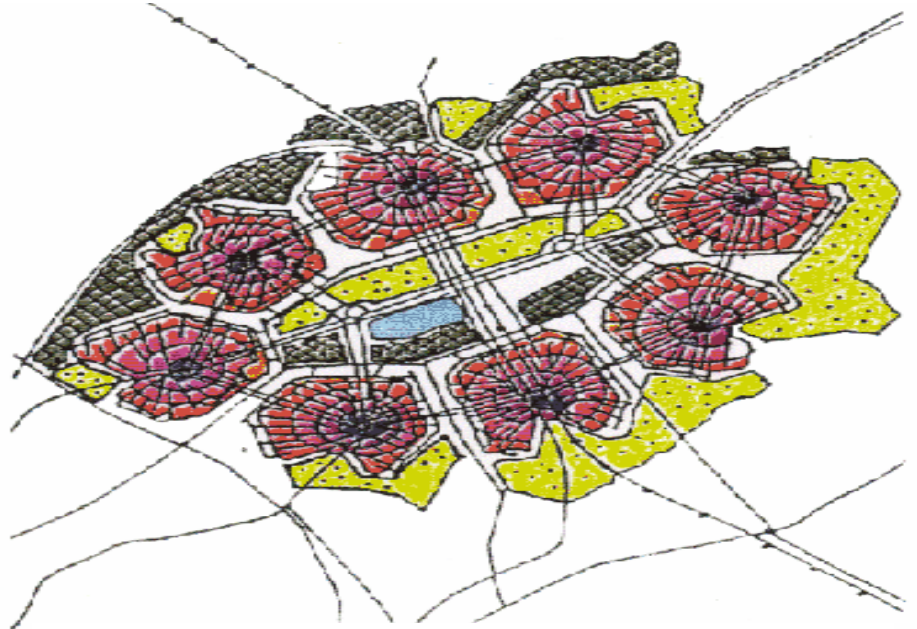
Equity of communities should underscore design. Basic services, such as water, energy and waste removal, access to transport, employment, communication and recreation, should be available to all communities.

Underlying this principle is the acknowledgement that human rights only make sense in the context of a community. There is much attention given to individual rights but not the communities to which individuals belong. Communities, once created, must have rights too.

Public transport should be used to link communities together. Failure to do this means a reliance on private car and therefore high energy bills.

Urban areas must be robust. The events of September 11 demonstrate the vulnerability of highly centralised modern cities.

Planners should follow the following



A recommended pattern of urban settlement for Australia: linked clusters of separate communities, with public transport in walking distance at each centre. Clusters share central features such as lake, parkland, etc.

sequence if developing urban areas:

1. Locate the communities according to the geographical context of the area.
2. Design the pedestrian system – and as an extension - the bicycle system. Answer the question: how will people living in the community walk and cycle to the centre.
3. Design the public transport system linking centre to centre so that people can walk to public transport, get off at the centre of another community and walk to where they want to be.
4. Provide access for private transport on the periphery of the communities. High volumes of car traffic should not cross the pedestrian and bicycle routes, cramming them out.
5. Distribute the land uses with industrial areas where work is performed located in one sector of the community space (this includes office building closed after 5 o'clock, presenting a blank façade to the street, thus losing their meaning to the community) but linked to compatible areas where work is performed (shops).
6. Arrange densities with lowest densities at

the periphery and high densities towards the centre.

7. Consider how best to plan the system to incorporate new technologies and respond to questions such as how best to provide shared energy and treatment of waste to the communities at least cost.
8. Plan for the environment to be accessible to all communities, and consider how the environment might be used to reduce uncomfortable effects of climate.

Retrofitting cities not planned with these design principles will be hard. But cities are always changing and re-development occurs.

The long-term plans for cities – such as the Sutherland Shire Council's current efforts to create a new LEP for the Shire - should consider how these principles can be provided for Shire communities.

For the full transcript of Dirk Bolt's paper, plus the diagrams he used to illustrate his talk, link to: www.ssec.org.au/Localities/content/Dirk/

This is the second part of a Livable Cities series, the first part of which appeared in the last newsletter.

RURAL PROBLEMS, URBAN CAUSE

It's a simple equation. The demands of city populations cause reactions in rural Australia. This is how the equation works:

*Demand for water**: The Sutherland Shire population is approximately 215,000.

Each person consumes approximately 0.2ML per year in direct water consumption, which includes household consumption from drinking water, to flushing toilets, to filling swimming pools and watering the garden.

That works out to be about 550 litres per day per person – or 40,000ML of water for the Shire's population per year.

To provide this much water, we need a catchment of about 800 sq km (5% of Sydney's water catchment). This catchment is isolated from rural, urban or recreational use since it can only be

used for catching and storing water for urban consumption.

This 800 sq km is in addition to the approximate 200 sq kms Shire residents occupy for housing, roads, playing fields, etc.

We could calculate the same spatial demand for energy, for land for the production of food and fibre, disposal of waste, and recreational requirements —as the World Wildlife Fund has done**.

The calculations show that each Australian requires 7.8 hectares of productive land (.078 sq km) for their current needs.

This means that the Sutherland Shire population needs 16,770 sq kms. – or about 84 times more land than Shire dwellers currently occupy – to support their current lifestyle.

The Shire's population is about 1% of Australia's population.

To be self-supporting, Australia's

population needs more than half of Australia's total landmass to support it.

Given that more than half of Australia's landmass is non-productive (for human needs), there seems to be somewhat of a dilemma!

It's only possible because we're literally consuming our capital – borrowing from the future – living unsustainably.

Next time you hear someone say that city people shouldn't concern themselves with rural issues you'd better believe they are wrong.

More importantly, if ever you're tempted to believe rural issues don't concern you, think again.

We're all on this planet together and ultimately we depend equally on its land, air, water, energy and environmental bounty to sustain us.

—By Miriam Verbeek

**. Figures used are taken from public information provided by Sutherland Shire Council, ABS, and Sydney Water, rounded down for ease of calculation. The margin for error in the calculations is rather wide, but the major objective of the exercise is to show the magnitudes of the problem rather than plumb for absolute accuracy.*

*** For the calculations on per capital consumption, read the Living Planet Report (www.panda.org).*

Tail is wagging nuclear watchdog

(Continued from page 3)

been other clues that something was amiss. "These studies did not indicate any significant faults, dykes, etc within the site...", it told ARPANSA.

"Minor magnetic anomalies were detected which may have indicated a feature projecting into the RRR site. Follow-up with a detailed magnetic survey of the site failed to detect any evidence..." Clues to the likely faulting appear to have been ignored subsequently by consultants and by ARPANSA.

However, by September ANSTO had also confirmed several "dykes" uncovered during excavation, which are walls of solidified lava intruding into sedimentary rock. The dykes "do not appear to have seen any significant disruption", ANSTO said.

Disruption could imply seismic movement, but it was not clear how it defined "significant".

Sutherland Council has specifically asked for urgent access for its own geologist to two documents which ARPANSA had relied on to issue a licence to excavate for the new reactor. ARPANSA had been reluctant for some days to release the full reports, issuing instead edited summaries.

Cr Rankin called on the nuclear watchdog to show some independence.

"Suspicions are growing that ANSTO and the Federal Government have known about the significance of the fault lines for some time, but have attempted to cover

this up," she said.

"ARPANSA has not yet demonstrated any independence from ANSTO, but has acted merely as a rubber stamp for what ANSTO wants."

This opinion was echoed by the convenor of the Environment Centre's Nuclear Study Group, Michael Priceman.

"Whatever ANSTO wants, it gets," he predicted. "ARPANSA will continue to dance as ANSTO plays the tune."

He criticised the nuclear regulator for relying "on paper assessments rather than physical checks. It also bases its licence approvals on assurances and commitments from ANSTO."

Useful weblinks for fishing on the Internet

www.iPlan.nsw.gov.au — Planning NSW (formerly DUAP, the State Department of Urban Affairs and Planning) has launched a site expected to “deliver data needed by planners through the state”.

www.johannesburgsummit.org — For a United Nations view of the Johannesburg Summit.

For environmental organisations’ views on the Johannesburg Summit: www.acfonline.org.au/Cvasp/pages/document.asp?IdDoc=800 and www.archive.greenpeace.org/earthsummit

www.abc.net.au/wing/ayowflash.htm A Year on the Wing is a multimedia documentary created especially for broadcast on the internet, taking us on a journey with over two million shorebirds from Siberia to Australia and NZ and back. It started on 5 June 2002. You are invited to track the birds on their journey and con-

tribute. Schools are also invited to join in.

Some of us might despair that anything can be done to change the human race’s increasing vulnerability as a result of the homogenisation caused by globalisation. These two websites tell of initiatives that are attempting to break the link to globally-sourced food: www.sustainweb.org and www.localfood.org.uk.

Australia has 35,700 km of coastline and over 1000 estuaries. 979 of these were recently surveyed. More than 20% of estuaries in NSW are rated severely modified and only 10% classified as pristine. 80% of the population of NSW lives around estuaries. To find out more details about the estuary study, visit www.environment.gov.au/atlas and follow the menu to coasts and estuary assessment or a linked site www.coastal.crc.org.au.

What’s in a word! Is a route for non-motorised use a “track” in Australia and a “trail” in the rest of the world? Are the words interchangeable?

These questions apparently have no easy answer. What’s more, they cause surprising passion!

Bob Walshe, one of the Centre’s word gurus, resorted to dictionaries to discover whether the debate has substance. His investigations led to the adamant statement: “The words are totally interchange-

Poet’s Corner

able in Australia as elsewhere!”

I confess I found the arguments over the words quite amusing. They reminded me of the war, described in *Gulliver’s Travels*, waged between the kingdoms of Blefuscu and Lilliput over which end of eggs should be broken first.

The Blefuscudians were passionate enough about the issue to send an armada of ships to invade Lilliput. The Lilliputians were

no less obsessive about forcing their point of view when Gulliver defeated the Blefuscudians.

I was moved to pen this verse:

*Here’s a call to arms for all
Danger stalks our future walks
Are they tracks or are they trails?
Blefuscudians set your sails*

*Patriotic pedants now to war!
Lilliputians will keep the score
Words define our nation
Like ends of eggs define our station.
—M.V.*

Office Manager position at the Centre

We are looking for a dependable self-starter, with good people, computer and written skills, to support our Executive Officer and become a member of our dynamic and positive team. Age is not a barrier.

The Environment Centre operates out of new offices in Sutherland, within walking distance of the train station.

We provide services to individuals and groups active in campaigning to protect the environment of the Shire, or simply interested in learning more about the environment.

We also manage a number of substantial environmental projects. The good-will and hard

work of volunteers, as well as part-time workers, are essential to our ongoing success – and must be supported by a well-run office.

We would prefer the Office Manager to have qualifications or experience in an environmental discipline – especially in an urban environment, and experience in working with non-government organisations.

Part of the Officer Manager’s responsibility will be to maintain the Centre’s website, coordinate administration and accounts, and stay up-to-date with the many Centre activities.

We are a busy but happy team, aiming to make a positive contribution to the Shire.

Remuneration will be based on a salary package of \$35,000. Contact Jim Sloan at the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre on 9545-3077.

KURNELL CHAMPIONS NEEDED

The Environment centre needs volunteers to champion Kurnell issues.

Can you help?

We have had a long-term involvement in the Kurnell Peninsula, partnering with other interested individuals and groups in the best interests of the local area.

If you can help, or know anyone else who can, please contact Jim Sloan at the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre on 9545-3077.

Remember that without volunteers, things just won’t get done.

A VISION FOR RIVER WALKS

By Miriam Verbeek

A major new project aimed at creating a network of trails along the Woronora and Georges Rivers is underway at the Sutherland Shire Environment Centre.

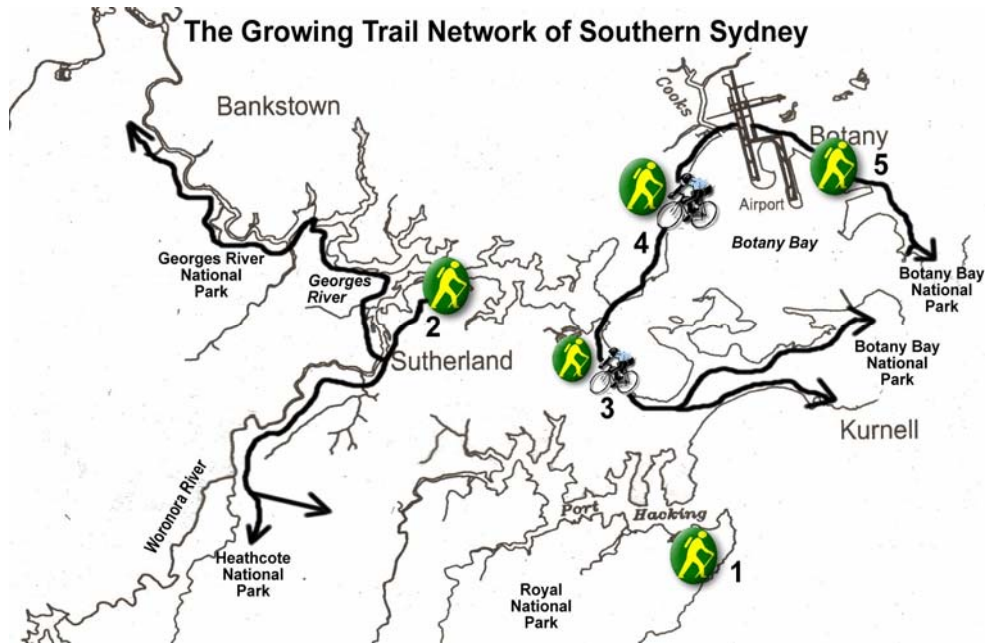
A NSW Government grant of \$145,000 will help to fund the work which will look at putting together a user-friendly network of trails and streets to make our rivers more accessible to walkers and cyclists.

The study will look at tying in with train and bus services.

To look after our natural environment – and know why we should look after it - we need to understand it. To understand our environment we need:

1. knowledge - the type scientific investigation can provide;
2. to involve our senses – to feel, smell, see and hear what surrounds us so we can be aware of the wholeness of the environment, its integrated nature and the way we are a part of it; and
3. we need to hear stories about the past that explain human interaction with the environment.

Leave any of these ingredients out and people are unlikely to manage it in a sustainable way. The natural environment becomes someone else's problem, divorced from the



reality of putting bread on the table and having fun in life.

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre has joined a global movement to provide opportunities for people to discover nature and the past simply by indulging people's desire for recreation and health.

Trails provide a form of recreation that invites people to explore their urban, rural and natural environment along designated pathways.

These paths are signposted with information, are directed and managed to avoid do-

ing damage to sensitive areas, and provide opportunities for everyone to enjoy sounds, views and smells they might otherwise miss.

With the help of a NSW Government Grant (from the George's River Foreshore Improvements Program), the Centre has employed two people to research routes along the Woronora and the Georges rivers.

Nick Benson and Bob Symington are working with Councils, residents, businesses and other interested people to ensure that pathways along these rivers will suit the major-

(Continued on page 8)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION :

I would like to become a member of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre



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 Web http://ssec.org.au

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....

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

 \$66 (3 yr) \$16.50 (concession or student)

Signed.....Date.....

N.B. Fee includes four issues of "The Centre" per year.

Trails forum: models from overseas success

(Continued from page 7)

ity. They are committed to ensuring that the creation of these trails take into account sensitive areas, vandalism, ongoing management, publicity, heritage, links to public transport and transport routes in general, and benefits to the local economy and society.

To launch the project, the Environment Centre and the Botany Bay Program co-hosted a forum on trails on September 7.

FORUM

Staff and Councillors from several Council areas and government departments, bushcare volunteers, others involved in trail building projects around NSW, and interested individuals attended to hear a range of speakers describe the many aspects of trail building.

There were two keynote speakers. Janet McBride heads the San Francisco Bay Trail project in the US (a 600 km trail around the Bay). Gail Adrienne, who has helped to involve communities in many projects in Canada (Nanaimo, BC), presented many good ideas and overviewed

pitfalls to trail creation and urged extensive community involvement.

Les Bursill provided an Aboriginal perspective on the benefits of trails. Ian Napier's perspective on the growth of walking trails and the benefits of walking was interesting, as was Geoff Ross' talk on the need to understand biodiversity better. Geoff gave a particularly good account of the sensitivity of birds to disturbance by trail users. Paul Donnelly advocated greater access for cycling – to fulfil both recreational and commuter

needs. Reece MacDougall gave an account of heritage and trails.

The planned trails are part of other projects around the state. Kevin Rozzoli, MP, spoke enthusiastically about the creation of the The Great River Walk along the Hawkesbury.

The same enthusiasm was echoed by other speakers: Peter Tralagga and Kim McClymont. Gary Blaschke provided a cautionary note about creating trails without properly understanding the management issues involved.

Melissa Gibbs and Nick Benson outlined the Bot-

any Bay Trail and the pre-feasibility study just completed.

Thanks to all who made the forum a success. Particular thanks to Cr Philip Sansom for the welcoming address, and Alison McGarrity, State MP for Menai, who opened the forum.

There was much good information from the Trails Forum and proceedings will be available from the Environment Centre in the coming months.



Nick Benson and Bob Symington working on the Centre's project

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