

Minister Craig Knowles Launches the Great Kai'mia Way Feasibility Report and Project



Above, Minister Craig Knowles and Alison Megarrity MP plant a Gymea Lily next to the first waymarker of the Great Kai'mia Way at Casula Powerhouse, Casula. MPs Paul McLeay and Barry Collier look on. Each guest planted a seedling in the 'Way Marker Garden' to commemorate the event.

For the full story, go to page 3.

Below, Bob Symington and Nick Benson, project officers of the Great Kai'mia Way Feasibility Study, with certificates of appreciation from the project partners.



Botany Bay Moving Forward: Action and Research Forum!

By Miriam Verbeek

With this challenge clearly stated, researchers and interested people gathered at the University of NSW for a one-day workshop on Saturday, February 28, at the University of New South Wales.

The forum was the initiative of the Botany Bay Studies Unit (BBSU) and sponsored by Sutherland Shire Environment Centre, Sydney Coastal Councils Group and Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils. The Centre worked in partnership with the forum organiser, Assoc. Professor Alberto Albani, to make the day the success it was. One hundred and twenty people attended and many others were turned away because of lack of space. The level of interest is a welcome sign that the plight of Botany Bay may finally have become an issue of widespread concern.

The Botany Bay Studies Unit (BBSU) is a multi-disciplinary network of researchers from within universities and other Australian and international research organisations. The University of NSW sponsored the establishment of the BBSU two years ago as a result of recommendations from the Botany Bay Program Report, *The*

Tide is Turning, which called on scientists to work together with government, industry and interested people to stop the environmental degradation of Botany Bay.

BBSU decided an initial step should be to gather the known scientific facts about Botany Bay and to clarify the administrative regime governing the Bay. The workshop started this process as well as providing an opportunity for people to generate innovative ideas and practical tools for effective Bay management.

The morning session of the forum dealt with Botany Bay's natural environment and the afternoon session discussed the human environment. No speaker could avoid discussing the worrying, highly toxic groundwater plumes that are slowly making their way from the old Orica industrial site towards the Bay. The less toxic of the plumes is already seeping into the Bay waters and the most toxic of the plumes is expected to affect the Bay in a few years time. Apart from these plumes, scientists also pointed out that there are numerous unlined, old tip sites continuing to leach pollutants into groundwater—entering the Bay.

A number of scientists talked about their studies of particles in the Bay

waters. The Sydney Airport runway and Port Botany intrusions as well as the natural landforms of the Bay affect the level of flushing, with some parts of the Bay flushed frequently and others hardly at all. Wind is as much a factor in moving particles as tide.

The legacy of human modification and administration of the Bay came under significant scrutiny in the forum's afternoon session. Jim Colman, Manager of the Botany Bay Program, stressed the fragility of the Bay, and the importance of protecting what is left of its natural features. Bob Walshe, speaking on behalf of the Bay community, gave a well-received summation of the social and environmental impacts that the proposed Port Botany expansion would have on the Bay and its catchment.

Professor John Black, BBSU Director, in summing up the day's deliberations, noted that he was struck by the passion with which participants put forward their ideas. He promised to provide a summary of the many suggested future actions as soon as possible.

The Centre will continue to work closely with BBSU. A first task will be to transcribe the proceedings and make them available.

Elections are always interesting times!

I heard a good story the other day in which George Bush died and had to choose between going to heaven or hell. To ensure he made the correct choice, God told him he had to spend twenty-four hours in each. In hell he found all his old mates, golf courses, martinis and mansions. In heaven he found lots of forests, people he didn't know who drank water and were pretty serious. He chose hell, but when he stepped out of the one-way lift he was flabbergasted by what he saw: a wasteland, his friends in rags, everything on the verge of collapse. "What happened?" he asked the Devil. "Twenty-four hours ago this place was perfect!" The Devil put his arm around him, smiled slyly and said: "Yesterday we were in election mode."

Twisting the truth and making promises that can't be met seem to be the way many candidates run for election. I confess to knowing how flabbergasted George must have felt on his return to hell when I read recent pamphlets from some candidates in the upcoming council election. How far can people sail away from the truth without actually telling a lie?

It might be good to reflect on what the last council has achieved.

I don't mind being among those who say that we, the people of Sutherland Shire, are lucky to have the Council we have. I am grateful to staff and councillors who are dedicated beyond the call of duty; who strive to deliver on visions and aspirations articulated in documents like Council's "Our Shire Our Future". I feel privileged to be able to work with them.

BUT, it is a shame that these people – and people in the Shire – often find themselves frustrated by the mixed signals, not to mention outrageous decisions, resulting from Council resolutions and from Council's senior managers.

For example, three years ago, the Integrated Environment Management (IEM) Committee of Council decided to investigate what could be done to halt the continued loss of trees (without replacement) in urban areas. Council staff rewrote policies, introduced the Greenweb, and Council voted in a reasonable budget for environmental programs. Yet, little has been achieved to encourage or compel people to stop cutting trees to "open up views" or establish lawns, swimming pools, paths, etc. Council's Tree Preservation Officers mete out the occasional fine after exhaustive and costly investigations but still there are many instances of environmental vandalism that simply are not investigated because of lack of "hard" evidence.

Those of us who have been campaigning

for some time for more creative methods of discouraging bad behaviour wonder why Sutherland Shire Council does not systematically take action like that of other councils. Why not replace a felled tree with a big sign that says: "A tree was removed from this site"? Why not insist that vegetation of the same type be planted and bonds held till they have achieved good growth? Why not support Council officers who strive to implement creative ways to safeguard the environment rather than overrule their decisions?

Last year, with much fanfare, the Council released a "People's LEP". Its environmental goals were visionary and I remember thinking; "People have put a lot of thought into this and there's a real chance that at last we can not only halt the decline of the Shire's environment as we know it, but also pass it on to our children in good shape." But, over the Christmas/New Year period, a much-altered version of the LEP was re-exhibited. Rather than holding fast to the principles so carefully enunciated in the preamble, some Councillors and Council staff have made significant concessions to those who are doing well under the current regime and aspire to continue to do well – and damn the future problems that the rest will have to deal with! For example, what benefit does the rezoning of the area above Shackels Estate have for society? This land is steep and unsuitable for development. It should be kept undeveloped if the Shire wishes to continue to enjoy the environment of the Woronora valley. Don't be fooled by the defence that the zoning only enables "light" development. High on the list

of anti-environment development is *incremental development*: a house here, a lawn there, an orchard in another spot, a shed, a track, a road, a patch of land for the horse/sheep/goat/cow. In ten years time there will be another decision to rezone because, really, the land no longer has high environmental value, so why not?

And so, what future does the election really promise us? Will we, the people of the Shire, get more of the same? The relentless march of development, loss of foreshores to the mansions of the wealthy; small concessions on urban bushland with dedicated bands of staff and volunteers desperately trying to preserve biodiversity; feel-good visions; infighting and caucusing between Councillors; and the continued machinations of a bureaucracy whose component parts don't always mesh comfortably?

Unfortunately there's every chance we'll get much the same judging by some of the dubious claims in the current round of candidate politicking. I wonder if we, the voters, will be smarter than George to see through the Devil's *election mode*.

The Centre has written to all the candidates to ask them to tell us about their environmental objectives for the Shire. We'll post their responses onto our website as they come in. Log on to www.ssec.org.au.



A special thank you to Joan Flowers!

After many years of faithful volunteer service to the Centre, Joan is scaling back her activities at the Environment Centre. We wish to thank her for all her efforts in the past. We are pleased she's decided to continue to her work with us by "working from home"!

Joan, we'll miss your weekly visits...



About SSEC

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre was founded to speak for the environment of the Sutherland Shire and its bioregions. The Centre seeks to bring to its advocacy role: well-researched information, participation of all stakeholders in debates; inclusion of the needs of future 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 supply up-to-date information about Centre activities. Opinions expressed in the newsletter are the authors', and not necessarily policy of the Centre. For information on the Centre's policies, please visit the Centre website or call the Centre. The editorial committee comprises: Vicki Simpson, Miriam Verbeek, and Jo Pajor-Markus.

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Minister Craig Knowles Launches The Great Kai'mia Way

The Hon Craig Knowles, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Natural Resources, officially launched the Great Kai'mia Way Project by "planting" a ceremonial waymarker in an especially prepared garden next to the riverside walkway at Casula Powerhouse on Friday 20th February 2004.

The event was kindly hosted by the Casula Powerhouse and Liverpool City Council. Guests were invited to plant native seedlings in the garden, including Gynea Lilies, the spectacular red flower which has been adopted as the symbol for the project. Kai'mia pronounced *Ki may* is the Aboriginal Dreaming Story of the Dharawal people – traditional owners of the region.

Robyn Williams, Chairperson of the Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land council, welcomed the assembled to Tharawal Country and George Paciullo, Liverpool Mayor, added words of support for the Great Kai'mia Way project and its environmental aims.

The Great Kai'mia Way project is the vision of Sutherland Shire Environment Centre and the Georges River Environmental Alliance. For 18 months, the two groups, with funding from NSW Government under the Georges River Foreshores Improvement Program, have been investigating the feasibility of a 250 km network of routes for enhancing sustainable access to river foreshores and creating opportunities for environmental education. The routes connect existing tracks along the foreshores of the Georges and Woronora Rivers, and, wherever possible, to public transport nodes. The minister commended the excellence of the report, a sentiment echoed by one of the project's Parliamentary champions, Alison Megarrity MP, the Minister's Parliamentary Secretary.

Other Great Kai'mia Way parliamentary champions present at the launch were: Kevin Greene MP; Paul McLeay MP; and Barry Collier MP. The Great Kai'mia Way passes through the electorates of these MPs, as well as the electorates of other Members unable to attend the launching ceremony.

Highlighting his faith in the future of the project, the Minister presented the project partners with a cheque for \$45,000 to help cover the costs of co-ordinating the implementation of the Way for the first half of this year. The Minister also presented a cheque for \$220,000 to Liverpool City Council, for the Georges River Corridor project, an integral part of the proposed Great Kai'mia Way.



Above, Minister Knowles presents Miriam Verbeek and Sharyn Cullis (GREA) with a cheque for \$45,000.

Liverpool is one of 12 local councils, as well as 10 state agencies, 15 user groups, over 30 community and environment organisations, and many individuals who participated in the Great Kai'mia Way feasibility study.

The proposed Way network links foreshore reserves, parks, schools and public transport and leisure facilities. It aims to:

- Encourage the culturally diverse community of approx 1.5 million people in the Georges and Woronora catchments to connect to the natural

world around them - on foot, bicycle or even canoe.

- Protect the Georges and Woronora Rivers, their catchments, flora and fauna, and water quality for future generations and promote active involvement in environmental management of the River.
- Promote ties between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups and cooperation between community and government.
- Contribute to improved health, and provide employment opportunities.

Celebrate World Environment Day on the Great Kai'mia Way

Enjoy a guided walk along the *Woronora Way*, a section of the *Great Kai'mia Way*. It is a unique opportunity to experience the beauty of the Woronora first-hand and learn about its Aboriginal heritage.

When: Sunday 6th June (Environment Day weekend)

Duration: 4 to 6 hours

Meeting point: To be announced

Cost: \$10 per person (includes morning tea)

Bookings: contact Nick or Jo at the Centre on 9545 3077



Beachwatch report

Compliance and Ranking of Sutherland Beaches for Summer 2002-2003

(Source: NSW EPA (October 2003), *Beachwatch and Harbourwatch: State of the Beaches.*)

Site	Compliance Faecal coliforms	% Entero- cocci	Out of 21*
Boat Harbour	100	81	8
Greenhills	100	100	1
Wanda Beach	100	100	1
Elouera Beach	100	100	1
Nth Cronulla Beach	100	100	1
Sth Cronulla Beach	97	69	16
Shelly Beach	100	100	1
Oak Park	100	100	1
Silver Beach	100	100	1
Gunnamatta Bay Baths	100	100	1
Lilli Pilli Bay Baths	100	100	1
Gynea Bay Baths	100	100	1
Horderns Beach*	100	100	1
Jibbon Beach	100	100	1

*129 beaches in Sydney monitored with many sites ranked equally

In October, the EPA (Environment Protection Agency) released its *Beachwatch and Harbourwatch: State of the Beaches Report.*

Generally, the level of compliance with swimming guidelines during summer 2002-2003 was good for both faecal coliforms and *Enterococci* (see accompanying table), except for Boat Harbour and South Cronulla Beaches. Boat Harbour achieved 100% compliance for faecal coliforms, but 81% compliance for

(Continued on page 7)

Strong report from the NSW Government Inquiry into the Transport and Storage of Nuclear Waste

By Michael Priceman

The Inquiry was set up following the announcement by the Commonwealth Government of a site in South Australia for a national waste repository (dump) for low and short-lived radioactive waste. It also considered a separate plan for a 'temporary' store for long lived intermediate level waste that would come from the processing of spent nuclear reactor fuel. Eight sites have been 'identified' but Minister McGauran refuses to name them.

The all-party committee received 500 submissions and held several public hearings – including one in Sutherland. Most submissions opposed the proposal on the grounds of it being neither safe nor necessary. The majority of the waste, by volume and radioactivity, would be that produced at Lucas Heights. Communities along potential routes were alarmed that potentially dangerous truckloads would be passing by without their knowledge or approval.

The unanimous report was issued on 17th

February and contained 22 surprisingly strong recommendations including:

- The current Federal Government proposals for the Repository and Store and the transport to them, were unjustified and should be abandoned.
- Lucas Heights should continue to act as a waste facility, subject to a public inquiry into the storage facilities on site to identify operating conditions that will ensure world's best practice.

Note: Whilst ever a reactor operates at Lucas Heights the site will remain a waste dump/store. If the Commonwealth moves some of the existing waste to someone else's backyard, waste will continue to pile up and refill the empty spaces. Whatever the outcome the good folks of Sutherland Shire are faced with a 'lose – lose' situation: another half century of waste production followed by the decommissioning of 3 reactors. A gloomy outlook!

- A public inquiry should be instigated by the Federal Government to consider alternative technologies and sources for radioisotope provision.

- That the operating licence for the new reactor be deferred until issues such as, security, whether an effective solution to the final management of nuclear waste has been identified, emergency management and response implications were clarified.
- The Federal Government should accept liability for radioactive waste and indemnify State and Local Government and the public against the impact of any radioactive waste incidents.

If the Federal Government failing to adopt these recommendations, the NSW Government should amend the Uranium Mining and Nuclear Waste Facilities (Prohibition) Act.

To download the full report:

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/web/phweb.nsf/frames/committees>

Or refer to the SSEC Website for a copy of the Executive Summary and recommendations.

Sharks Development Peer Review Voices Concern Over Proposal

By Vicki Simpson

The recent independent 'peer review' of the Sharks Club's proposal to build five blocks of units 4-7 storeys high on the edge of sensitive Woollooware Bay has delivered good news for the environment.

The review, supervised by the NSW Dept of Industry, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), has found that serious environmental issues beset the proposed development—for example, acid sulphate soil contamination, stormwater threats, groundwater dynamics and ambient noise, light and visual impacts.

Despite the fact that DIPNR considers the site capable of supporting *some* redevelopment – which would be required to better manage and protect bayside areas and improve public access to foreshores – it has concerns about the physical scale of the development, intensive use of the site, and strong potential for impacts to outweigh benefits.

The Sharks Club and Sutherland Council must now work to prepare a draft master plan which will address the many concerns of DIPNR.

DIPNR wants a minimum 40m buffer zone, then a footpath and cycleway, between the bay and the development; as well as adequate groundwater and stormwater measures to avoid pollution of Woollooware Bay.

Had this proposal not been encouraged by the incautious support of a majority of Shire councillors in the early stages of the development application process three years ago, the Sharks Club would not have been encouraged to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in consultants' fees to prepare the development proposal, and the ecology of the Woollooware Bay aquatic reserve and the Towra Point Ramsar wetland would not have been threatened in this way in the first place.

The fortunes of the Sharks Club have improved considerably since this massive development was originally conceived as a financial saviour. We now look to Sutherland Council to be vigilant in its future negotiations regarding the proposal.

For details of the Sharks Club's proposed development go to:
www.ssec.org.au/sharks/index.htm

Como Pleasure Grounds Upgrade put on hold

Residents of the Como area have raised concerns over violation of heritage values during construction work on the Como Pleasure Grounds. Intervention by the NSW Heritage Office has put a halt to these Council works until these concerns can be resolved.

Major concerns centre around the amount of concrete used, the number of trees removed, and the type of stone used for landscaping. There are also claims that the actual works bear little resemblance to the original masterplan that went on display.

Below, one of the new picnic areas at the Como Pleasure Grounds is a sea of concrete.



“Sutherland Shire”

Entrypoint for Modern Australia

By Les Bursill, Tharawal Anthropologist & member of the Centre's Board

Sutherland Shire is fast becoming a showplace and location for a very pleasant living style. We residents of *the Shire* appear to make an impact throughout NSW. I know this because I travel extensively throughout NSW as a part of my work in the NSW Public Service.

I know that I can be in Glen Innes, Moree, Gilgandra, Orange, Goulburn, West Wyalong or even Batemans Bay or Bega and mention “the Shire” and people know from whence I came. Cronulla is as well known as Bondi and whilst individual suburbs of the Shire are less well known, the entity of “the Shire” is talked of with respect and envy.

When we look at our shire what do we see? Wonderful shopping, great entertainment, high technology, good food and restaurants, leafy green streets and a friendly and relatively crime free environment.

I wonder how many of you also see the evidence of the first inhabitants of “the Shire”? In my other work, my hobby work, I travel throughout the shire looking for evidence of those original inhabitants. They would not have referred to this place as Sutherland Shire, instead probably referring to the major part they inhabited as Djeeban (Jibbon), for that is what a

large part of Port Hacking was called.

We call those first inhabitants the Tharawal or Dharawal. They referred to themselves by their clan names, Gwegal, Cadigal, Bidegal, Nor-noregal, Cobragal and many other Clan names now lost forever.

Interestingly enough, those Tharawal people probably also shared a very rewarding lifestyle in this area. My research, and the research of my wife Barbara, tended to show that people lived very well in Djeeban (or Sutherland Shire).

Our studies and field work showed that hundreds of areas, perhaps even a thousand places, were regularly used as camping spots. Dozens of rock shelters still bear the marks of ochre and charcoal drawings and paintings, and the depths of the rubbish heaps at camp sites often exceed a metre and occasionally two metres, demonstrating a long time use of the camp sites. One archaeological study found evidence of 8000 years of occupation at some sites.

When you consider that the Tharawal only came into this area during spring and summer, and moved back inland during autumn and winter, the resources in the Sutherland-Port Hacking region must have been substantial. I believe, as did my wife when she was alive, that this region of the Sydney Basin was one of a few very



Aboriginal men sharpen their axes on one of the Shire's many sandstone outcrops. (posed photo c/o Mitchell Library collection).

resource-rich places where Aboriginal populations exceeded the rather small numbers that some Anthropologists propose.

It is only with the arrival of European settlers that the great stands of Redwood, Cedar and Oak trees were cleared and our abundant native wildlife and fish stocks reduced to below visibility levels. The Aboriginal people of Sutherland – Port Hacking truly lived in a paradise of abundant plant, animal and marine resources. Indeed, there is some evidence to indicate that the locals here in Djeeban had sufficient leisure time to produce prodigious numbers of songs and corroborees, and that these entertainments were then traded up and down the coast of NSW and into the interior of the continent.

Shelly Beach Re-Development

Some of you may be aware that Council has decided to upgrade the children's playground at Shelly Beach. The old children's area was removed some time ago. As part of the general upgrading(?) of the park, Council has proposed a number of dramatic changes including moving the entrance pathway to a new location and removing the existing Phoenix Palms. There has also been mention of moving the seaside promenade and replanting the park.

The Council Heritage Committee has raised objections to this plan and asks Council to have a Heritage Study done on the Park. There is a strong likelihood that there will be an Aboriginal camping place under the turf at the seaside end of the Park and there is also strong evidence that there will be the remnants of a Tramway terminus foundations and rails to be recovered.

Shelly Beach: then and now. *Top right*, the Promenade during the 1930s-50s, and *right*, present day Shelly Beach park.



2004—Year of the Built Environment

By Josephine Pajor-Markus

The Federal Minister for the Environment, David Kemp, has announced that 2004 will be the *Year of the Built Environment*.

With the majority of Australian cities threatened with energy overloads, and water restrictions in place, a close scrutiny of the built environment is long overdue.

According to the website www.ybe2004.nsw.gov.au, the aim of this year is to “encourage Australians to understand how the built environment makes a difference to their quality of life and to foster a sense of community and purpose by setting directions for a positive and sustainable future”. Hopefully, what this means is a revolution, of sorts, in the way Australians design and use buildings, maximising the employment of clean, renewable energy sources, while minimising the built environment’s impact on the natural environment.

On the 1st January 2004, Archicentre, the building advisory service of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, called for governments around Australia to create a national research budget of \$1 billion to research and develop Australia's SMART SOLAR and WATER TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES. Managing Director, Mr Robert Caufield, asserts that the research and design of a low-cost roof panel, which heats water, provides insulation and generates energy, should be one of the first projects to be funded by such a budget.

“Hot water makes up 50% of the average electricity bill and the use of solar hot water can save between 50% to 95% of this... Australia, a country with a large

amount of sunshine, should be in a position of leading the world in solar energy development instead of pouring billions of dollars into outdated coal fired generators polluting the environment. Millions of hectares of rooftops exist in Australian suburbs and industrial estates that should be productive fields of efficient and non polluting energy.”

And rooftops, it appears, may be valuably utilised in other ways. An episode of *Earthbeat*, broadcast on Radio National on January 10th 2004, aired a discussion around the integration of nature and the built environment in the form of rooftop gardens. Worldwide there has been serious research into the benefits of rooftop gardens and the types of soils, plants, surfaces and structures which are suitable. A lot, it seems, can be said of the virtues of ‘rooftop greening’ – the conscious practice of restoring vegetation to the upper surfaces of cities.

In recent years, the City of Port Phillip in Melbourne has researched the practicalities of vegetating urban walls and rooftops “as a way of gaining access to valuable open space while making urban environments healthier, more attractive places in which to live and work”. Their study, among others, has identified a significant number of benefits of rooftop greening: retaining water, creating open space, providing habitat, improving air quality, insulating roofs, providing social benefits, providing economic benefits, and growing food.

Throughout this year, hundreds of events and initiatives are being organised by government agencies, businesses, community organisations and individuals to raise awareness throughout the general community of such work already underway with the aim of achieving a more sustainable future for Australia.

One such initiative is a proposal by *EnviroMission*, an Australian company, to build a one-kilometre-high solar tower power station 25 kilometres north of Mildura in NSW (*The Age*, 4/2/2004). It would generate 200 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 200,000 households. A pre-feasibility study has shown that the tower is financially and

technically viable. An independent third party is to undertake a detailed examination of the financial structuring of the project. It will also be interesting to hear what the local community think about the enormous tower, which would look very similar to a 1km-high stick of rock candy...



Artist's impression of the solar tower proposed by EnviroMission

Credit: EnviroMission

Also on the event list for the year will be a forum, held in April, that will look at ways of designing more energy efficient, better quality housing. As of July 2004, all new dwellings will be required to reduce water use by 40% and greenhouse gas emissions by 25%.

Closer to home, Sutherland Shire Council is planning to develop one of its properties in Sutherland into a demonstration sustainable house. They are looking to retrofit the building so that it utilises renewable, non-polluting energy sources, and minimises waste production. The Sutherland Community Garden is situated on this property, and it is foreseen that the house and garden will work in tandem to demonstrate a complete picture of domestic sustainability. The Council is currently investigating funding and partnering opportunities with government agencies and local businesses.

For more information, check out these websites:

www.ecocentre.com

www.abc.net.au/rn/science/earth/stories/s1005653.htm

www.enviromission.com.au

www.ybe2004.nsw.gov.au

www.archicentre.com.au/media/archinews_archive.htm



A familiar built environment—the Sydney skyline as seen from Darling Harbour

Credit: Kim Gilmour Photo Gallery

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When you join SSEC-ISP and nominate us as your preferred supplier, we will be rebated \$4.00 per month per paid connection, while you pay a very competitive rate for your internet. Want to know more? See below, or call the Centre on 9545 3077.

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 Regional 1: \$18.95/month,
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Note : Each plan comes with 3 pop email addresses. Your email address will be "(yourname)@ssecmember.org.au".
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 Sydney Metro: **256/64K** \$79.95/mth,
512/256K \$99.95/mth,
1.5M/256K \$229.95/mth
 1: Account activation and Service setup costs are \$295.00 (includes modem) on-site visit extra.
 2. Setup costs are and monthly fees are payable in advance.
 3. Does not include telephone line rental.
 4: Minimum Contract period for connections is 6 months

(Continued from page 3)

Enterococci. South Cronulla had 97% compliance for faecal coliforms and 69% for *Enterococci*⁺⁺. And the monthly beach-watch report (December 2003) noted that Horderns Beach in Port Hacking failed the enterococci standard for one sample.

Beachwatch Programs, with the assistance of the EPA and Sutherland Shire Council investigated Boat Harbour Beach for sources of bacterial contamination, sampling groundwater at the high tide mark in the middle of Boat Harbour Beach and water from Boat Harbour Creek approximately five meters above the high tide mark. Water samples were collected every six days over the 2002-2003 summer season. It would appear that beach groundwater at Boat Harbour is not affecting the beach water quality, but elevated bacterial levels in Boat Harbour Creek may be.

Sutherland Shire Council has prepared a management plan for Bate Bay to attempt to ensure good water quality at all beaches. The plan identified stormwater pollution as the greatest threat to recreational water quality in the area. Sewer overflows and leachate from a former landfill site in Wanda Reserve are also potential pollution sources.

⁺⁺*Faecal coliforms are mesophilic bacteria that inhabit the intestines of humans and other warm-blooded animals. They are abundant in bird and mammal faeces and have a relatively short life span in marine water. Their presence indicates relatively recent sewage contamination.*

Enterococci are a subgroup of faecal streptococci bacteria. They have the ability to survive in marine waters under conditions that are unfavourable for most other faecal micro-organisms. They indicate longer-term contamination.

WANTED Plants for our 2004 Fund-raising Stalls at Gynea. Agapanthus, Clivias, ferns and any other interesting plants. Will pick up if necessary.
Phone Ruth on 9543 1857

ON SALE Copies of *The Great Kai'mia Way Feasibility Study Report*, 330pp. **Prices:**
 Community members \$100
 Businesses \$150
 CD with pdf version \$10
Ph. Nick or Jo 9545 3077

HELP Can you spare some time to help the Centre with typing? We have a large amount of transcribing work to do and any assistance would be gratefully accepted.
Call Jo on 9545 3077



DID YOU KNOW that the Environment Centre has resources you can use? We have photocopying facilities, internet access and an environmental resource library. Members of the Environment Centre enjoy reduced rates.
Call Jo on 9545 3077 to book a time to come in. We're open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION :

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



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Address.....

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code.....Telephone.....

I enclose fee of: \$27.50 (1 yr) \$49.50 (2 yr) \$66 (3 yr)
 \$16.50 (concession or student)

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

Words of Wisdom from the Web...

IF... we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, there would be:

57 Asians
21 Europeans
14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south
8 Africans
52 would be female
48 would be male
70 would be non-white
30 would be white
70 would be non-Christian
30 would be Christian
6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States
80 would live in substandard housing
70 would be unable to read
50 would suffer from malnutrition
1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth

1 (yes, only 1) would have a university education

1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent.

The following is also something to ponder...

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation...you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death...you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes

on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish somewhere ... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married ... you are very rare, even in the UK.

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Someone once said:

What goes around comes around.

Work like you don't need the money.

Love like you've never been hurt.

Dance like nobody's watching.

Sing like nobody's listening.

Live like it's Heaven on Earth.

From an anonymous email.



USEFUL WEBSITES

The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida has put up a very interesting Java applet on their site. It begins as a view of the Milky Way Galaxy viewed from a distance of 10 million light years and then zooms in towards Earth in powers of ten

of distance. 10 million, to one million, to 100,000 light years and so on and then when it finally reaches a large Oak tree leaf. But that's not all . It zooms into the leaf until it reaches the level of the quarks viewed at 100 attometers. We recommend a look at this to see how the vastness of the universe and the infinitesimal world of the micro level merge and become very similar.

<http://micro.magnet.fsu.edu/primer/java/scienceoptics/powersof10/inde>

If you enjoyed Les Bursill's article on page 5, check out his website www.tharawalart.da.ru for more information on Sutherland Shire's archaeological riches.

Sustainable Population Australia presents a free talk by Dr Paul Collins

"The Churches and Population"

Paul Collins is well known as a commentator on the papacy. He also has a strong interest in environmental and population issues, and his book "God's Earth" has been made into a major TV documentary by the ABC. He is a member of the Australian National Committee for the Earth Charter and he was one of a thousand world religious leaders invited to attend the United Nations Millennium Peace Summit in August 2000. Nowadays he works as a freelance writer, speaker and broadcaster on environmental issues, social ethics, theology, history and communications.

Time: Sunday 2nd May, 11am-12 noon

Venue: Theatre, Australian Museum, 6 College St, Cnr William St, Sydney (enter by the College Street entrance).

Bookings: Free, but places are limited, please call 9337 5246 and leave your name and the number of attendees . www.population.org.au



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