



FRIENDS OF MALABAR HEADLAND (FoMH)

Member Newsletter 4

Winter 2002

FoMH is a community based group formed in April 2000 to help protect the natural and cultural heritage of Malabar Headland. The Headland contains the largest area of native bush left in the Eastern suburbs.

Our Visions & Goals

- A National park declared for the entire Headland
- Revegetation & preservation of native flora & fauna
- Aboriginal & World War II heritage sites protected, restored and maintained
- Build a strong & active community
- Community access for multiple use recreation, cultural & education activities
- A safe clean site

➤ **News & Recent Achievements**

Senator Eric Abetz, Special Minister of State **is now responsible for management of the headland. You can contact him at Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600, ph 02 6277 7600, fax 02 6273 4541.**

Community surveys - the majority of respondents stated they want: legal access to the headland, declaration of a National Park, provision of community open space, and 95% are opposed to housing or commercial development. The majority of uses include walking, bird watching and dog walking (sample size = 158). *FoMH is currently preparing a community plan of management for the Headland.*

Bush regeneration - welcome news ... the Commonwealth has agreed to fund a 2 year Bitou Bush & Pampas Grass Control Program on the Headland. Sydney Water agreed to contribute funds some months ago. The weed spraying in the weed infested open space areas will considerably reduce the re-contamination rate of the native bushland areas. Once these weed areas are under control, the ongoing voluntary maintenance of keeping the bushland weed-free will be greatly eased (Council and FoMH initiative).

Headland Birds - the count is now up to 176 native species, including 60 sea birds species. The bushland areas and inshore waters provide excellent habitat for birds. The inshore waters off Malabar Headland are of international importance providing habitat for tropical, sub-Antarctic and Antarctic seabirds.

Humpback whales will be heading north to the Great Barrier Reef soon. The headland offers an excellent viewing location.

The most recent **Letter writing stall** was held at Malabar Beach for the annual swim day. Positive community interest was shown by many people, letters were written to politicians, headland user survey questionnaires completed, and sold propagated headland native plants to residents. Plan to hold next

stall at a major local shopping centre to reach a wider audience.

Car and rubbish removal - the Commonwealth recently removed dumped cars and assorted rubbish from the western bushland, a long needed task which FoMH has been working towards since 2000. This work will enhance the bushland value, including the endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. What does the Commonwealth plan to do next ?

Spillway works – Mayan steps ? the Commonwealth has recently constructed large rock-filled gabion steps at South Maroubra. The works are apparently intended to separate surface water flows from contaminated leachate flow. Govt has not consulted the community. Confidence in success of their works is not high ... their 2001 spillway collapsed 3 months after it was built.

Contamination - confirmation via a FOI request has confirmed that the Rifle Range (former landfill site) has been declared a “significant risk of harm” by the EPA since April 2000. The EPA has accused the Commonwealth Govt of failing to contain pollutants seeping from the former landfill site into Maroubra Beach. Government documents show that contaminants which exceed guidelines for protecting marine ecosystems have been identified in surface and groundwater. Senator Abetz, Special Minister of State (headland management responsibility) does not concur with EPAs declaration. *NB. Sen Abetz is unlikely to swim at Maroubra Beach !*

Proposed new Commonwealth Heritage regime Government is reforming heritage protection. It will introduce 3 Bills into the 2002 Winter Session of Parliament to amend the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The Bills will establish the Australian Heritage Council (AHC), which will advise the Minister on the listing and protection of heritage places. The establishment of a National Heritage List will become an additional matter of national environmental significance under the EPBC Act. Heritage places managed or owned by the

Commonwealth can also be placed on a Commonwealth Heritage List. If a proposed national heritage place requires urgent protection, there is an emergency listing provision to protect the place while an assessment of its heritage values is undertaken by the AHC. Malabar Headland is currently listed on the Register of National Estate. FoMH will pursue listing on these new Lists.

Newspaper articles – recent articles worth a read

(SMH) Toxic rock pools putting public at risk: EPA, 20-5-02

(Southern Courier)

"Toxic rockpool allegations", 14-5-02

"The mess on our doorstep" editorial comment, 30-4-02

"Public enquiry is needed" editorial comment, 9-4-02

"Truckie tells of tip's toxic past: a truck driver tells of tip's toxic past", April 2002

"Bid to turn landfill site into park: a major rehabilitation project is on the cards for the Malabar Headland Landfill site", April 2002

"Call for a more united green front", 5-2-02

Grey nurse sharks Draft Recovery Plan - the grey nurse shark is listed as an endangered species in NSW.

➤ What's next?

Biodiversity national exhibition - Malabar Headland will be on exhibit from 4 June 02 (launch) for one month at the Australian Museum in Sydney. Exhibit will focus on headland values and threats, via a professional film documentary, computer display and A3 photo album (ELEMENT and FoMH joint exhibit). Drop in !

Total Environment Centre presentation - Leigh Martin (TEC) will be a guest speaker at the FoMH meeting on 6 June 02 7:00pm at St Marks Church Hall, cnr of Franklin St & Victoria Lane, Malabar. He will talk on campaign experiences. Come along.

Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub Recovery Plan
NPWS have advised a Draft Plan may be released in July 02 (fingers crossed). Public comment will be requested. *This is taking a long time !*

Help regenerate Malabar Headland bush - If you would like to help regenerate the bush and enjoy the scenery on a ... Sunday: call Alan on 9661 6323, or Thursday: call Margaret or Brian on 0412 047 259
Beginners welcome.

Govt has proposed to declare 13 key NSW sites as critical habitat. Magic Point, Maroubra (adjoins Malabar Headland) is one of the 13 sites and the only Sydney site. Written submissions are invited on the preliminary identification of critical habitat (close 28 June 02, NSW Fisheries) ph (02) 4916 3811, fax (02) 4916 3880, mail (Threatened Species Unit - Grey Nurse Shark, NSW Fisheries, Private Bag 1, Nelson Bay NSW 2315), or online.

Aquatic Reserves declared (since 31-3-2002)

The NSW Government has declared six new aquatic reserves to protect sea creatures. The protected areas include rocky foreshores: Bronte-Coogee, Cape Banks (La Perouse), Boat Harbour (Cronulla), Barrenjoey Headland, Narrabeen Head, and Cabbage Tree Bay (Shelly Beach) ... more info contact NSW Fisheries

The coast off Malabar Headland was not included in the declaration. FoMH will continue to pursue the establishment of a marine protected area (MPA) off Malabar Headland which is needed to protect fish and shark nurseries, sea grasses and important shipwreck dive sites.

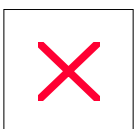
World Environment Day, 5 June 2002 "not just another day" ... theme: give Earth a Chance calls on each and every one of us to contribute to the healing of the ailing planet. In spite of considerable efforts and significant achievements, many of the problems, which plagued the Earth during the 20th Century, still linger. More than ever, we need to take the necessary steps to ensure that the environment remains at the top of the global agenda.

Summit 2002, Johannesburg Sth Africa - the World Summit on Sustainable Development will bring together tens of thousands of participants (heads of State / Government, national delegates and leaders from NGOs, businesses) to focus the world's attention and direct action toward meeting difficult challenges, including improving people's lives and conserving our natural resources in a world that is growing in population, with ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security (from 26 August to 4 September 2002).

And much more action in the community – look out for letter writing stalls, bushwalks etc.



“FoMH” NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO STOP RESIDENTIAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE HEADLAND



Join us at our monthly meetings held on the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm at St Marks Church Hall on the corner of Franklin St and Victoria Lane, Malabar. * * * *Next meetings 6 June, 4 July, 1 August 2002* * * *

Friends of Malabar Headland Annual membership \$10 (or donations appreciated)

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malabar>

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