



FRIENDS OF MALABAR HEADLAND (FoMH)

Member Newsletter 7

Autumn 2004

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

Late breaking news! Grant application success!

FoMH has been awarded a grant of \$27,272.73! (This sum is the maximum allowable grant of \$30,000 minus GST). The money comes from Envirofund, and is to be used to fence and revegetate the dunes at Maroubra beach. FoMH and Maroubra Dunes bush regeneration (regen) groups will be working closely with Randwick Council's Bushland Management Unit (Tina, Sally, Danny and Omar) on this project over the next year.

The Council will be matching the grant money, and we will contribute voluntary labour, bringing the total cost of the project to \$85,500. Contractors will erect 2800 metres of dune fencing, and we will plant 1800 tubestock plants grown at the Council nursery in Kensington, from native seeds collected on the Headland, including: *Acacia longifolia*, *A. suaveolens*, *Acmena smithii* (Lilly Pilli), *Allocasuarina distyla*, *Banksia integrifolia*, *Carpobrotus galulescens* (Pigface), *Correa alba*, *Dinaella congesta*, *Eucalyptus robusta*, *Hibbertia scandens*, *Imperata cylindrica*, *Isolepis nodosa*, *Kennedia rubicunda*, *Leptospermum laevigatum* (Coastal Tea Tree), *Lomandra longifolia*, *Spinifex sericeus* and *Westringia fruticosa*.

These plants will help stabilise the dunes and the dune fencing will protect the vegetation from trampling. The area will serve as an extension of bush from the Headland, re-creating and enlarging habitat. Six information signs will inform the community what is happening and who is responsible. Public access to the beach will be maintained!

How lovely it would be if the Headland landholder, the Commonwealth Govt, would give us permission for a similar project on the Headland itself – we can only keep asking.

Note: if you want to obtain plants from the Nursery at Barker Street Kensington, it is open for sales 10am-3pm Monday to Friday (minimum order \$50, cash only). Phone: 9399 0933

If you would like to do some volunteer bush regen, contact Sally at Council on 9399 0683. The Council supervises many groups around the area, including Maroubra dunes once a month, and they provide tools, gloves, plants, rubbish bags, training and morning tea. To do bush regen on the Headland on Thursdays (east bush) call Margaret Vazey (9349 6043), or on Sundays (west bush) call Alan (9661 6323). It's good exercise too!

FoMH community stall at Malabar Beach

Don reports that thanks to the generosity of Malabar RSL, we were again able to set up an information stall in Cromwell Park in conjunction with the annual Malabar Open Water Swim Classic held at Malabar Beach on Sunday Feb 22. We talked to many locals and visitors about the need to preserve the bushland areas on Malabar Headland. Our task was made easier by the impressive display that has been built up, based on maps and photos supplied by Claire and Margaret. Some new members were signed up, a number of plant sales were made and dozens of letters were written to key politicians. A very positive response was obtained from those people we spoke to: a very successful day raising awareness about the Headland.

Clean up Australia Day, Sunday March 7



A small but dedicated group of members turned up on the day at the chosen site in the Western Section, on the bush margin at Pioneer Park at Malabar. A large skip was provided by Collex, which was gradually filled with 10 cubic metres of rubbish, including a substantial number of broken bottles, and the remains of a bush humpy. The group worked with gusto, despite rain showers, and the task was completed on Monday.



A BIG thankyou to all those involved.



Bush recovers after the bushfire in the Western Section

On 1 November 2003, a fire burnt a large section of ESBS* in the Western bushland section, next to units on Broome Street, and was reported widely in the nation's press the next day as a huge blaze with large plumes of smoke. Firefighters attended the fire, and there were no injuries, property damage or evacuations. The bush is now recovering nicely, with a surprising shift in the emergent species. Alan reports that prior



never seen there before. This photo of regeneration (right) was taken in late April 2004. A new fence was erected by the Commonwealth Gov't to protect the area while it regenerates.

to the fire there was only one or two specimens of the spectacular *Eriostemon australasius*, and now there are dozens, and up to 20 seedlings of *Chloanthes stoechadis* which he has



Controlled Burn on Byrne Crescent

On 16 April 2004, the ESBS strip of bush at the back of Byrne Crescent was subjected to a controlled burn by the fire brigade, in a bid to control the rampant tea tree growth, which is shading out the understorey plants. Hopefully we will see some regeneration of ESBS species.

The "Mavan Steps" were repaired in November 2003. Wings were added at the top to funnel the water over the gabions instead of down the sides. Tube stock plants and fibre mesh were introduced recently on the sides of the steps. Now we need a big downpour to test these latest works.

The wetland at the bottom of the steps was filled with a deafening chorus of Striped Marsh frogs in late April 2004. Other animals spotted living in the ponds include a long-neck turtle, moorhens and dragonflies.

FoMH Prizes awarded at Art Show, 14-16 November 2003

The art exhibits were of a very high standard at the South Maroubra Annual Art Competition. FoMH donated a special prize of cash and a CD-Rom for the best representation of the Headland, in adult, boy and girl categories. Many thanks to Walsh Village Pharmacy and Marilyn Jefferies for their support, and congratulations on yet another fabulous art show.

CD-Rom Volume II is in preparation, but is a very large project. Recently we accompanied Fungal Foray members to the Headland, and we now intend to include fungi on the CD-Rom. The headland's diversity really is astonishing. We hope to include mammals, such as the endangered common bent-wing bat, and haven't yet considered the insects: does anyone know an entomologist? To obtain a copy of the Volume I CD "Malabar Headland Beach to Summit" (excellent photo library & computer slide show) call Margaret on 9349 6043.

Murray Matson first Green Mayor

Congratulations to Murray (a FoMH member) on being re-elected to Randwick Council, and on becoming Mayor. Murray has promised to look into installing a gross pollutant trap at South Maroubra stormwater outlet, a project long overdue. He is also strongly behind protection of remnant ESBS vegetation, such as that at Chifley.

Freedom of Information application underway.

We have applied to Environment Australia to obtain copies of various Commonwealth Gov't reports on the Headland under the Freedom of Information Laws.

4WD access to the Headland from the Malabar boat ramp carpark is finally blocked after six months of personal requests

to various councilors and several letters with photographs. In early May 2004 some large concrete blocks were placed there.

Recent rumour of DA submitted for Western Section

An anonymous source warned of secret negotiations to build a retirement village on the Western Section. Letters were immediately sent to relevant authorities asking for confirmation or denial. We received letters of solid support for our efforts from the Premier and from the (then) Mayor Dominic Sullivan, but no reply from the Commonwealth.

Recent letterbox drop by FoMH members

Robert Belleli, (vice president of the Maroubra Chamber of Commerce, newly elected liberal councillor and new member of FoMH) did a fantastic job organising a recent letterbox drop of the FoMH pamphlet in Maroubra and Malabar. We gained many new members (welcome!) and some very generous donations, thank you everyone. Robert likes to quote from Joni Mitchell's song "You don't know what you've got till its gone"; and he is determined not to let "them" "pull down paradise"!

Bob Carr launches his own campaign to save the Headland

The Sydney Morning Herald on May 12, 2004 printed an article stating that Mr Carr is renewing pressure on the Commonwealth to hand over the land to the State Gov't, and to find another range for the shooters. (NB. there was no mention of FoMH) Look out for his brochure in your letterbox.

Bob Carr is invited to walk on the Western Section

A letter has been sent to the Premier inviting him to see first hand how wonderful the western section is and how it is an important part of any future National Park on the Headland. We await his reply.

Pollies and what you can do to help:

Don't forget if you have a minute, write to or call **Bob Carr's** office at **Suite 501, 806 Anzac Parade, Maroubra, NSW 2035, Ph: 9349 6440**. He is the local member here, which means he represents **you** and **your opinions** in parliament! Make particular mention of the Western Section, currently zoned residential, and insist that it be included in the future National Park.

Humpback whales are now heading north to the Great Barrier Reef. The headland offers an excellent viewing location.

**ESBS is Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub – a highly endangered ecological plant community - only 3% remains.*

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, 1st July, 5th August, 2nd September

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

http://homepages.ihug.com.au/~matson/malabarhead_issue.htm

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