



Boora Point

FoMH is a community group formed in April 2000 to help protect the natural and cultural heritage of Malabar headland - the largest remaining area of native bushland in the eastern suburbs.

Our vision and goals

A national park for the Headland

Revegetation and preservation of native flora and fauna

Aboriginal and WWII sites protected, restored and maintained

An interested, strong and active community

Public space for multiple complementary activities

A safe, clean site

What progress towards a national park and a public space?

Friends of Malabar Headland - and others - have been busy for years trying to get state and Commonwealth governments to preserve the Headland as a park. Hundreds of letters have been written to relevant Ministers and to pollies of all persuasions. Many meetings have been held and submissions written. People have worked to rehabilitate and preserve parts of the Headland, including the special plants and places. Is there any real progress towards a government decision about preserving this exceptional site as a public space?

As with many issues involving government, it's not always easy for the average punter to find out what's going on and who exactly is responsible. For example, there are many signs around the Headland admonishing the public about 'fireharms'[sic] but no signs advising them about who to contact in case they want to ask questions or comment. No signs explaining the history or ecology of the area. No signs warning that the Headland is itself under threat from possible development. No signs about what we will lose if the Headland is sold off or split up.

FoMH has always expressed willingness to be involved in any matters affecting the Headland. Visitors to the FoMH website www.malabarheadland.org.au can see the Draft Plan of Management created by FoMH in 2002. There has been inadequate government response yet to this well-researched, detailed and carefully thought out plan. As can be seen from the box at right, a *Facility Management Plan FMP* has been in preparation for some time by the Department of Finance, but government refuses to consult directly with the community. The FMP is in draft form and FoMH is so far only able to provide some input to this draft via Council.

Are we 'parked' but not progressing? How can we get results?

Peter Garrett MP, federal member for Kingsford-Smith, has proposed holding a Community Forum to give people an opportunity to exchange information and comment on the future of the headland. State member for Maroubra, Michael Daley MP and Ted Seng, Randwick Council Mayor, agreed to join Peter Garrett in hosting the forum: date and details to be advised. FoMH will be there, of course!

Please let us know if you are interested in attending and if you have any particular issues that you think should be raised.

FoMH contact details are on page 4.

Flowers on the Headland

www.malabarheadland.org.au

Extract from House Hansard: Special Minister of State's answer on 24/5/05 to Peter Garrett's Questions in Writing 15/3/05 Malabar Headland

(1) On behalf of the Government, the Department of Finance and Administration (Finance) and its contracted property managers, United Process Solutions (UPS), have undertaken numerous specific measures to ensure that the Malabar Headland site is adequately administered. Numerous studies have been undertaken and actions performed to ensure that the property is appropriately managed, with particular reference to the environmental and heritage aspects of the site.

A **Facility Management Plan** (FMP) for the site is being prepared in consultation with relevant State and local government agencies. The FMP, currently in draft form, provides an integrated approach to management of the entire site by identifying relevant environmental and landuse issues and other site constraints and providing guidance on management actions that need to be taken.

(2) The Australian Government has already recognized the environmental and heritage significance of the Malabar Headland site, as evidenced by its dual listings on the Register of the National Estate and the Commonwealth Heritage List. The process of heritage registration under the State's legislation requires that the owner of the land be given the opportunity to object to the proposed listing. The Commonwealth has not objected to the listing.

(23) The FMP is in draft form and will be finalised when all of the relevant property management issues have been comprehensively addressed. The community's representatives on the Interagency Group have access to the FMP in its current draft form. The final version of the FMP will be made available to the Interagency Group, which will then be able to discuss the most appropriate forum and timing for any wider release of the document.



FoMH achievements and contributions in 2005 via direct or indirect action

The headland was listed on the State Heritage List, giving greater legislative protection.

The NSW Scientific Committee, established by the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* (TSC Act), has made a Final Determination to list "*Themeda grassland on seacliffs and coastal headlands in the NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin and South East Corner Bioregions*" as an ENDANGERED ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

Fed Govt released Part 1 of 2 of a "Facility Management Plan" for the headland. This is the first document voluntarily released by them, a good result for the headland. FoMH submitted comprehensive comments on the Plan.

DASCEM (Fed Govt contractor) removed bike jumps and ramps from bushland

FoMH received a grant from Brigidine Sisters to assist in general FoMH functions

FoMH walked on headland with David Ingrey (Sites Officer for La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council) and archaeologist Mary Dallas

FoMH assisted "Malabar Headland Bush Regenerators" remove weeds and rubbish

Boronia ledefolia has been refound in Byrne Street bush (only site within Council area), had not been sighted for 18 years.

New fencing was installed at South Maroubra dunes (joint FoMH/Council funding)

Sydney Water cleaned-out and relined sewer mains across the headland.

Fed Govt 'rangers' commenced patrols of the headland perimeter

Bob Carr agreed to be our 'first' patron

FoMH sponsored prizes in a local art show for paintings of the headland.

FoMH held several successful community/letter writing stalls

FoMH met the "Anzac Range Users Committee" to discuss range user and conservation issues

Good media (local and Sydney) coverage for headland issues, including the State Maroubra by-election

Peter Garrett mentioned Malabar Headland in his maiden parliament speech. Met with Peter G to brief him on headland issues prior to him asking questions in Parliament. Questions were asked and responded to. FoMH sent follow up questions/material to Peter G for further parliament questioning

Development pressures – Vesca Corporation had plans to

mine the old landfill on the rifle range/destroy heavy metals on headland, and develop the land for residences. FoMH communicated directly with Vesca and others (eg. Southern Courier, gov't representatives). Vesca proposal thankfully did not proceed.

FoMH declared its opposition to a desalination plant in Sydney (including Malabar Headland)

A FoMH rep. met with Jeff Solomon (headland WWII researcher) in Tasmania, and obtained valuable information on headland WWII heritage

Thank you to all who have helped in any way with the above achievements!!

What is FoMH doing today?

FoMH has written to DEC requesting critical habitat listing of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub which was due in February 2005. The critical habitat listing recommendation is being reviewed, and will then be passed on to the NSW Environment Minister – a slow process!

FoMH has contributed to Randwick Council's Plan to rehabilitate their portion of the Headland between the Malabar sewage treatment works and Long Bay

FoMH representatives participated in discussions with Council and GHD (Council contractor) concerning the proposed rehabilitation. The site is to be planted with local native plants. It is hoped that enough of the current habitat will remain to house the flocks of finches, blue wrens and other small birds now living there and also that it will prove feasible to plant native grasses on the proposed mound. The position of buried Aboriginal rock drawings is known, but the Aboriginal Land Council prefers they remain buried. Council is not intending to expose a buried midden. Council intends to provide access for prams, strollers and wheelchairs, therefore cannot guarantee establishment of an effective barrier against trail bikes.

Council claimed it was not feasible to align paths with the proposed coastal walkways on Malabar Headland due to lack of a decision as to where those walkways will be located. However, FoMH drew attention to 1988 public documents showing locations of two still relevant walkways.

FoMH fair goes! Coral Sea Park Fair and family day on 28 May 2006 was very successful in raising awareness of Malabar Headland and of the Friends. People admired the photos, bought plants generated by Don, and signed letters to politicians.

Randwick Eco-living Fair on June 4, 2006, was also very successful – although the weather was windy and the site exposed to the elements. At both events, many intrepid souls stopped by to sign a total of 190 letters which FoMH mailed to an array of state and federal politicians.



Spring flowers near Magic Point

Birdlife

Among the many varieties of birds seen around the Headland in the last 3 months: a White-bellied Sea Eagle, Grey falcons, Nankeen kestrel, blue wrens, honey eaters, finches, quails, and herons

New growth continuing

Alan Hall reported that seedlings were still appearing after the fire at the back of Byrne Crescent. Particularly pleasing is the reappearance of *Boronia ledifolia*, *B. rigidus*, and *Platysace ericoides* in this area.



What fresh hill—or hole—is this??

A number of humps and hillocks have appeared over the past few months—they look like the work of gigantic moles or wombats but apparently they relate to efforts to fill in some of the eroded spots. Serious subsidence has been appearing in the ground according to Frank Leake, the Commonwealth caretaker and owner operator of Malabar Riding School. This subsidence results from some areas, including the rifle range, being based on land fill which came from the days when the Headland was just a communal tip. As Frank explained, there are often large bits of wood which rot away leaving holes large enough for a horse to fall into. These holes have been filled up for safety reasons but unfortunately heavy rains have already eroded much of the soil deposited on the surface. Such subsidence may have implications for a future ‘public park’!

“There is no doubt that the Malabar Headland deserves consideration for listing as a National Park for all Australians to enjoy” Mr Baird said ...”

Extract from media release issued by **The Hon Bruce Baird Liberal MP** Federal Member for Cook 10/09/04

Orchids of Malabar Headland

Among the many treasures that Friends of Malabar Headland are striving to preserve on the headland are its colonies of native orchids. At last count, at least twelve species had been recorded by bush regenerators. These include *Acianthus*, *Caladenia*, *Calochilus*, *Cryptostylus*, *Microtis*, *Orthoceras*, *Pterostylus* and *Thelymitra* species, which are distributed fairly equally between the eastern and western sections of bushland. Most of these orchids follow an annual cycle comprising a ‘rest’ period as underground tubers over summer, the appearance of leaves following autumn rains and flowers in winter or spring. Their general lack of size is more than compensated for by the beauty and intricacy of the flowers. What a tragedy it would be if their habitat were to be destroyed by development of Malabar Headland for housing or any other reason!

Left *Calochilus paludosus* Right: *Pterostylis concinna*



Malabar Minister responds in 2006

Letters received by FoMH included a reply from Gary Nairn stating that there were no plans develop the Headland. There were many stakeholders to consider, and no decision had been made as to its future. He also stated that Council's 1988 proposal to rezone the western bush from Residential to Proposed National Park was inconsistent with the current use of the site and its status as a Commonwealth Place. **IMPORTANT note: FoMH supports Council's 1988 rezoning proposal.**

Hon Gary Nairn Commonwealth Special Minister of State—
extract from letter dated 16 June 2006:

“The Australian Government has no plans to develop the site and I can assure you that no decision has been taken on the future use and ownership of this property...”

Achieving an appropriate balance between the competing operational requirements of authorized users, general public access, public safety, and environmental/heritage protection is a complex, ongoing task for the site's managers.

The Department of Finance and Administration (Finance) actively manages this property and has developed a plan to protect and conserve its environmental and heritage values.

The Facility Management Plan (FMP) is being developed for Finance in consultation with relevant NSW government agencies including the Department of Environment and Conservation, and Randwick City Council representing the local community...”

[fulltext available from FoMH]

We're calling on the Government to ...

DECLARE the entire Headland a National Park

This would allow protection of all native vegetation, animal habitat and heritage sites, and must include the eastern and western bushland and a bush corridor on the north and south sides

REZONE the Rifle Range as public open space

COMPLETE the Malabar Headland section of the Eastern Beaches Coastal Walk

CLEAN up the pollution in Malabar Beach, and the children's pools at South Maroubra Beach.

What Can You Do?

You can help to protect and open up the Headland for future generations: Write to one (or more) **members of parliament** and ask them to act immediately to protect the Headland.

- ◇ Hon Gary Nairn, Commonwealth Special Minister of State, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
- ◇ Hon Ian Campbell, Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
- ◇ Hon Michael Daley, MP, Member for Maroubra, Suite 501 Level 5, 806 Anzac Parade, Maroubra NSW 2035
- ◇ Hon Frank Sartor, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney 2000
- ◇ Hon Peter Garrett MP, AM, Federal Labor Member for Kingsford Smith, PO Box 249 Maroubra NSW 2035
- ◇ Write to your **local and daily newspapers**.
- ◇ Call up **talk back radio!**

Tell your friends and neighbours about this beautiful place!

Join us at our monthly meetings held on **the first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm at St Marks Church Hall (downstairs room)** on the corner of Franklin St and Victoria Lane, Malabar.


Meetings dates for 2006

2 November

7 December

Join Friends of Malabar Headland (FoMH) ...

Fill in the form and post it with your cheque to:
PO Box 6023, Malabar NSW 2036

Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
Annual Membership	\$
\$10.00	
Donation	\$
Total	\$
<p><i>Safeguarding the nature and history of Malabar Headland for all to enjoy</i></p> 	



Magic Point beauty

NOTE! 85% of respondents to a Southern Courier poll were against residential development on the Headland

Who's who in FoMH ?

The following members were elected to office for the year: July 2006 – July 2007:

Chair: Peter Ryan

Bushland Officers: Brian Vazey, Alan Hall

Treasurer: Claire Bettington

Secretary: Barbara Tooth

Media/Newsletter Officer: Peter Ryan

Membership Officer: Roger Verkerk

Research/Archive Officer:

Fabian Lo Schiavo

Community Liaison Officer: Don Kerr

Thanks to all of the above and to all the members and other people who work with us for Malabar Headland. *Ariel Marguin (Ed.)*

Contact: Friends of Malabar Headland:

Chair: Peter Ryan Ph: 02 93112334

pjrhino@yahoo.com www.malabarheadland.org.au

Future FoMH

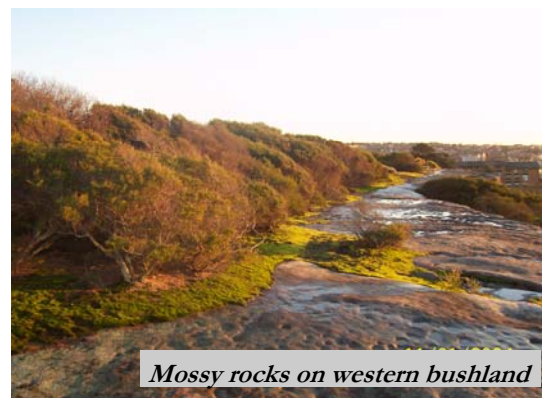
FoMH is aiming to initiate formation of an Alliance Group to help save the Headland. FoMH will send letters/support statements to various groups and we are glad to hear that the Federal MP for Kingsford-Smith, Peter Garrett, and Randwick Council along with state MP, Michael Daley are aiming for a community forum to be held in the near future.

Development prohibition?!

Abridged from a media release by the NSW Minister for Planning, 6/4/2006

Frank Sartor today announced the Iemma Government has moved to prohibit future construction of a hotel on Malabar headland in Sydney's east. Minister Sartor has approved an amendment to the Randwick Local Environmental Plan to remove tourist accommodation as a permissible land use on the Malabar Rifle Range. Mr Sartor said the 177-hectare headland, which is owned by the Commonwealth, is a major open space asset for the people of Sydney. Member for Maroubra

Michael Daley welcomed the decision to strengthen protection of the site as it boasts one of the best remaining patches of native bushland in the Eastern Suburbs; it is listed on the National Estate and is home to a range of fauna and flora, including the rare Eastern Suburbs Banksia scrub; and it is adjacent to a national park.



Mossy rocks on western bushland