

# COASTAL CURRENTS SUMMER 2012

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SYDNEY COASTAL COUNCILS GROUP ED 66



## FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to our summer edition of Coastal Currents. At our AGM early this month, Delegates were elected to the Executive Committee and I was appointed Chairperson. I would like to congratulate and welcome the 2013 Committee Members.

I am sure that you're all looking forward to our Summerama program ([www.summerama.com.au](http://www.summerama.com.au)) in January with over 70 coastal activities scheduled by our Member Councils. With events such as kayak tours, bushwalks, wildlife shows and recyclable arts and crafts there will be something for everyone.

We have achieved a great deal in 2012 including the launch of the Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation project, finalising all three Coastal Adaptation Pathway Projects, facilitation of three capacity building events: Economics, Management and the Coastal Zone, Building for Sustainability, and Boundaries and Barriers: Managing the Intertidal Zone. We have also undertaken a range of advocacy activities addressing the NSW Stage One Coastal Reforms, Marine Parks Audit, Planning Review, and the Local Government Review. There will

be much more to come in 2013 such as new grant projects which will explore emergency risk management in local government and examine management of Sydney Harbour on a whole-of-system basis.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holidays.

Clr Cathy Griffin

SCCG Chairperson

2013 SCCG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
<b>Chairperson</b>	Clr Cathy Griffin (Manly Council)
<b>Vice Chairperson Estuarine</b>	Clr Wendy Norton (Willoughby Council)
<b>Vice Chairperson Ocean</b>	Clr Geoff Stevenson (Randwick Council)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Clr Peter Towell (Sutherland Council)
<b>Secretary</b>	Clr Jacqueline Townsend (Pittwater Council)
<b>Member</b>	Clr Lynne Saville (Willoughby Council)
<b>Member</b>	Clr Irene Doutney (City of Sydney Council)
<b>Member</b>	Clr Leon Goltsman (Waverley Council)

## SCCG PROJECTS UPDATE

### Climate Adaptation Projects

The Climate Adaptation Projects are almost finalised. The SCCG assumed a large responsibility by conducting three of the 13 projects awarded nationally by the Australian Government. As soon as we have satisfied the DCCEE acquittal requirements, the final deliverables will be launched early in the New Year.

We have uploaded revised Project Newsletters (available at [http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/sites/default/files/newsletter\\_A3%20size\\_web.pdf](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/sites/default/files/newsletter_A3%20size_web.pdf)) and final reports will all be available as soon as they have been approved. distributed to Member Councils after approval by the Minister.

We are developing activities to evolve each of the projects in 2013 and we will update you in the next newsletter. Updates for each project can be found below.

### Demonstrating Climate Change Adaptation of Interconnected Water Infrastructure Project

This project is a robust, structured approach to decision making in complex environments and suitable for all infrastructure managers and planners. The key outputs are a *User Guide* and an *Adaptation Resource Centre* for establishing and developing programs to deal with existing and future climate threats.



Sydney Tank Stream

We undertook five case studies and a consistent finding across all of them was that infrastructure is under threat! We modelled future climate changes and the model demonstrated that changes will only make the problem worse.

A Paper on the project was presented to both the National Coastal Conference in Brisbane and the NSW Coastal Conference in Kiama and was received with interest.

### Prioritising Coastal Adaptation and Development Options for Local Government Project

This project has developed information (based on both NSW and QLD case studies) on the range of available adaptation strategies for Local Governments and asset managers.

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The SCCG was established in 1989 to promote co-ordination between Member Councils on environmental issues relating to sustainable management of the urban coastal environment.

The Group consists of 15 Member Councils adjacent to Sydney marine and estuarine environments and associated waterways in Sydney; Botany, Hornsby, Leichhardt, Manly, Mosman, North Sydney, Pittwater, Randwick, Rockdale, Sutherland, Sydney, Warringah, Waverley, Willoughby and Woollahra. The Group collectively represent over 1.4 million Sydneysiders.



## SCCG PROJECTS UPDATE (cont.)

This exciting project provides a holistic assessment of adaptation options. In addition to technical information on individual properties and coastal hazards, it provides an interactive framework to engage managers and the community in a discussion about what kind of future the community wants. The multi-criteria analysis at the core of the project is used to consider options rather than to deliver solutions.

Forums for partners and stakeholders, outlining progress on the project, were held in September with good participation and feedback on the project.

The Monitoring and Evaluation component of the project is a tool to assist Local Government in analysing their own plans and organisational ability to implement effective solutions to climate challenges, as well as evaluating the effectiveness of individual actions or programs.

As partners apply the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to their organisations, opportunities will be provided to develop and refine the process.

The SCCG will continue to investigate opportunities for funding to continue this innovative approach to promoting informed conversation around development in the coastal zone.

### Assessment and Decision Frameworks for Seawall Structures Project

This project assists Local and State Governments to evaluate the robustness and condition of existing small seawalls against current and future coastal climate events. It also provides possible options for upgrades.

The project looks at undocumented and often buried seawalls and how to obtain information on these walls, and to provide improved management as part of Council's asset management.

Case studies of existing estuarine and coastal seawalls show how walls can be investigated and proposals for future management developed, based on climate event triggers.



A workshop on the project was run at the National Coastal Conference in Brisbane, and a paper on the geotechnical aspects of the project was delivered to the NSW Coastal Conference in Kiama. The paper was well received with a lot of interest in the outcomes.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Local Government Excellence in the Environment Award for 2011 – 2012: Local Government Association and the Shires Association

These awards, presented on Tuesday 4 December, recognised outstanding achievements in managing and protecting the environment. We'd like to offer congratulations to our Member Councils who received awards, namely:



Leichhardt Council - Local Sustainability and Overall Winner category, Acting on the Vision – Working Together for a Sustainable & Liveable Community award.



Mosman Council - Sustainable Procurement Processes - Most Improved Council

## NEWS IN BRIEF (cont.)



North Sydney - Highly Commended, Sustainable Procurement in Practice with the Best Project in 2012.



Warringah Council - Waste Free Lunch Challenge for Schools and the Highly Commended, Love Food Hate Waste Award.

### Summerama 2013

Ready to dive into 2013? Join fellow

Sydneysiders and

reacquaint yourself with our coastal, wetland and bushland treasures during Summerama - the Sydney Coastal Council's Summer Activities Program. Landcare, Coastcare and Be Natural have kindly sponsored the event once again.

There are over 70 family-friendly Summerama activities scheduled for January across Member Councils stretching from Hornsby and Pittwater in the north to Sutherland in the south.

Activities focus on activating and cultivating interest and passion on environmental issues such as plastic pollution and the importance of fragile intertidal ecosystems, such as wetlands.

Activities and workshops include Dr Rip's Science of the Surf, surf lessons, kayak, snorkel and rockpool tours, educational talks on the habits of migratory seabirds, sustainable arts and crafts, boat tours and coastal walks. This year, Leichhardt Council partners with OXFAM to exhibit photos at Balmain Library showcasing the innovation and determination of communities of the Pacific Island nations of Tuvalu and Kiribati against climate change impacts. We also have a new educational talk "Beaches @ Risk" conducted by Waverley Council describing beach hazards and the different management approaches.

Visit [www.summerama.com.au](http://www.summerama.com.au) for details on each event. You can look at the calendar for an overview of all events and select the activity you would like to know more about.



Summerama on Facebook



@SydneySummerama for Summerama news and updates.

We are running an "I love Sydney's coast" photo competition through Facebook again in 2013, so be sure to take your camera with you when you head to one of our activities. You can upload your happy snaps to our Facebook wall with a status message starting with 'Summerama Photo Comp', add the title of your photo and include this link (<http://facebook.com/summerama>). The Details and Terms & Conditions will be available on the Summerama website



## SCCG PROJECTS UPDATE (cont.)

### SCCG Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation Project

Three detailed and groundbreaking reports were produced in this project

## SCCG PROJECTS UPDATE (cont.)

(launched in October – see our Spring Newsletter) addressing the effects of climate change on sea level rise, the projected impacts on infrastructure, and information and engagement strategies to assist Councils in communicating these effects to their Communities:

- 1) Effect of Climate Change on Sea level Rise and Extreme Sea Levels
- 2) Incorporating Coastal Inundation and Sea Level Rise into Local and Regional Planning Responses
- 3) Supporting Local Government to Communicate Coastal Inundation

These are available at

[http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Project/Mapping and Responding to Coastal Inundation](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/Project/Mapping%20and%20Responding%20to%20Coastal%20Inundation)

### Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation (COVERMAR) Project

The Coastal Vulnerability to Multiple Inundation Sources Project is fortunate to be guided and informed by an Advisory Committee comprising a range of stakeholders including Geoscience Australia, Bureau of Meteorology, NSW SES, Red Cross, Insurance Council of Australia and various research organisations. The Committee's inaugural meeting was held last month where Dr. Dall'Osso presented the project in detail and his comprehensive Literature Review Report (available on the Project webpage: <http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au/node/106>). The Committee has prioritised a range of case study selection criteria which Dr. Dall'Osso has transposed onto an evaluation matrix to identify the most appropriate tsunami and inundation research locations. Information will be gathered on building and infrastructure exposure which will be incorporated into the model along with state of the art building fragility curves. This project is shaping up to be an outstanding contribution to information on the vulnerability of coastal communities to inundation.

### MATTERS OF INTEREST

Our Winter Newsletter discussed the Gillard Government's proposal for the World's largest system of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). There have been further developments and we are now happy to report the MPAs have been formally established. Maps and details of the applicable level of protection offered are available on the web (see <http://www.environment.gov.au/marinereserves/index.html>).

## SCCG SUBMISSIONS, ADVOCACY, GRANTS & AWARDS

### Coastal and Estuary Management Grants

OEH is offering these grants to support Local Government in managing the risks from coastal hazards. Funding of up to 50% of project costs can be sought. Grant applications are invited in relation to projects including:

- preparation (or updating) of coastal zone management plans and associated technical studies (including coastal hazard assessments)
- action to manage the risks from coastal hazards
- action to implement environmental repairs, including habitat restoration and conservation projects
- development of management tools (such as education projects).

## SCCG SUBMISSIONS, ADVOCACY, GRANTS & AWARDS (cont.)

**Closing date: 14 February 2013**

**Details:** <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/estuarygrants.htm>  
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/coasts/coastalgrants.htm>

### National Awards for Local Government

For more than 26 years the National Awards for Local Government have provided an avenue to celebrate and highlight the effort of individuals within councils. By submitting an entry, your project has the opportunity to receive promotion and recognition.

Entries are now open for the following categories:

- Asset and Financial Management
- Youth Engagement and Participation
- Regional Collaborations
- Strength in Diversity
- Women in the Community
- Excellence in Road Safety
- Excellence in Tourism
- Active Arts
- Innovative Infrastructure Development
- Promoting Reconciliation

**Closing date: 15 February 2013**

**Details:** If you're eligible, you can enter any of these categories via an online entry form available at <http://www.regional.gov.au/local/awards/index.aspx>.

### SCCG advocates continued funding for the EDO NSW

EDO NSW is a community legal centre specialising in public interest environmental law. It empowers the community and serves as a communications conduit between the community and the three elements of government by providing access to and assisting in navigating and understanding legal, policy and other complex systems and administrative processes. It educates and gives capacity, making submissions and actively participating in reviews and inquiries.

The NSW Government assists fund the EDO NSW and is considering withdrawing such support. Concurrently, its major source of funding, the Public Purpose Fund of the Law Society of NSW (PPF), has been cut from a three-year funding agreement to three months and reduced by a quarter. If the PPF funding is not restored then EDO will be unable to continue providing the current level of services to the community.



We have sent a letter in support of continued funding to Minister Barry O'Farrell, the Attorney-General Greg Smith (who is required to give concurrent approval for funding to be provided to the EDO through the PPF) as well as the Member for Sydney. We believe EDO's role is a valid, constructive and a necessary part of the political process. It assists to shape debate and promote discourse. If you would like to support the EDO, go to [http://edo.org.au/edonsw/site/save\\_your\\_edo.php](http://edo.org.au/edonsw/site/save_your_edo.php).

## SCCG SUBMISSIONS, ADVOCACY, GRANTS & AWARDS (cont.)

### Ocean Care Day

Where would you go to be honoured with a smoking ceremony, good music, local artists painting live and a range of environmental and conservation campaigns, all on a beautiful beach front? Manly Council's 19th Ocean Care Day, that's where! Council runs a free community event each year to spread environmental awareness about local and global marine and coastal issues. This year's event was held on Manly's foreshore, we were there promoting our activities in sustainable coastal management. It was very rewarding to meet some of the local residents and international visitors who are passionate and concerned about our coastline.



SCCG  
Information  
Booth

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COASTAL NEWS

### Did you see the King Tide Friday 14 December?

Green Cross Australia made a call to all those living on the coast to take a photo or two of the King Tide.

King Tides occur twice a year and extend above the highest water level reached at a high tide on an average day. They occur when the orbit and alignment of the Earth, moon and sun combine to produce the greatest tidal effects of the year.



Photo: Stephen Summerhayes. Low-tide and King Tide 1.96m, 14 December at Darling Harbour.

Due to the high-pressure system present on 14 December, the King Tide did not reach its expected peak but still measured 1.96m. The June King Tide (see Winter Coastal Currents) was almost 30cm higher due in part to the addition of a low-pressure system.

The aim of these photos is to capture the impact of high tides and form a mosaic of how our coastline will be affected by the heightened reach of tidal systems.

There are some incredible snapshots - visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/witnesskingtides/> to take a look.

For more information on the initiative, visit [www.witnesskingtides.org](http://www.witnesskingtides.org)

### South Australia Marine Parks

Subsequent to the announcement of the Commonwealth Marine Protected Areas, the South Australian Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources established

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COASTAL NEWS (cont.)

a network of 19 Marine Parks in the seas off South Australia, in an effort to protect animal breeding and feeding areas. The SA Marine Parks comprise about six per cent of State waters and provide protection to nurseries and other critical habitats resulting in stronger, healthier fish populations in the long term, benefitting both the environment and recreational and commercial fishing.

Changes to commercial and recreational fishing, trawling and mining will be phased in, accompanied by an education campaign. Trawling restrictions become effective in March 2013 and other fishing restrictions on October 2014.

For more information visit <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/About>

### Developer pleads guilty to unauthorised clearing of remediated native bushland

In December 2012, the Land and Environment Court convicted Mr Bonanno of clearing sensitive and protected sand dune vegetation on the north Narrabeen beachfront. The vegetation that Council had spent considerable time and money on restoring, included the beautiful and protected Sydney Golden Wattle and coastal Banksia. Bonanno was fined \$37,000 and costs.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

### Coasts and Ports Conference: 11-13 September, 2013

This conference provides an opportunity for professionals to discuss and focus on the technological, scientific, policy, planning and design issues related to our diverse and developing coasts. It will be hosted in Manly with the theme "acclimatising" to reflect established policies, planning and research for effective climate change adaptation.

COASTS  
& PORTS  
2013 SYDNEY

11-13 September 2013  
Novotel Sydney  
Manly Pacific



Visit [www.coastsandports2013.com.au](http://www.coastsandports2013.com.au) for further information and to register.

### Coastal Processes Conference: the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Physical Coastal Processes, Management and Engineering. 9-11 April, 2013

The coastal zone occupies a small strip of ocean and land within the global context, but plays an immensely vital role. With an increasing population and the varied impacts of climate change, there is an increasing demand on coastal areas and a greater understanding of all aspects of biophysical processes and their interaction is required to defend their use. This conference will be held in Gran Canaria, Spain and will focus on the exchange of ideas and research from a range of fields, including hydrodynamic and ecosystem modelling, hard and soft defence management, sediment transport processes, socio-economic factors, pollution and water quality.

For full details, please visit:  
<http://www.wessex.ac.uk/images/stories/pdf/cfps/2013/coastalprocesses2013cfp.pdf>

### SCCG Web Sites

[www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au](http://www.sydneycoastalcouncils.com.au)  
[www.summerama.com.au](http://www.summerama.com.au)  
[www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au](http://www.walkingcoastalsydney.com.au)  
[www.monitor2manage.com.au](http://www.monitor2manage.com.au)