



# *Curl Curl Lagoon Committee*

## The First Five Years 1980 - 5.

The Curl Curl Lagoon Committee (C.C.L.C.) was formed in 1980 as a result of an article which appeared in the Manly Daily on Friday, 20-6-80. The headline read, "Eyesore could be 'blue lagoon' again", and the article outlined a scheme being investigated by the University of N.S.W.'s Water Research Laboratory at Manly Vale. The scheme involved dredging the lagoon, disposing of the dredged material through pipes into the ocean near the rock pool, and installing a permanent piping and pumping system to flush the lagoon periodically with salt-water.

Many residents felt that while the lagoon probably should be dredged, this scheme seemed to have several drawbacks, and could cause other problems to the lagoon & beach ecology.

Word spread quickly amongst concerned residents, and within days Lynne O'Connell, Diana Lindfield, Tony Cullen, and a few others, had collected, 325 signatures on a petition urging Councillors to consider the following:-

- \* the possible serious risk of spreading the pollution from the lagoon to the sea and nearby beaches.
- \* the logic in spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on a project which does not guarantee to eliminate the pollution in the lagoon, but merely to reduce it.
- \* more research, concern and diligence be directed to the causes of the pollution.

A public meeting was held at Nth. Curl Curl Surf Club on 15-7-80. The meeting was chaired by 'Snowy' Huston, who was responsible for drumming up a great deal of interest in residents, so that about 120 people attended this meeting, including local M.P. Tom Webster.

Lynne O'Connell, Tony Cullen, David James (founding member of the Narrabeen Lagoon Committee) & Dr. John Laxton (Environmental Consultant & Marine Biologist) addressed the meeting & after a general discussion from the

floor, it was decided to form a committee and a steering executive was elected:- Lynne O'Connell, Diana Lindfield, Charles Way, Tony Cullen, Mike McIlvain, Jack Benson, and Tony Selmes.

A further meeting was held the following week at Nth. Curl Curl Surf Club on, 22-7-80 to adopt a name, constitution and executive for the committee. The steering executive was re-elected & the committee was called the Curl Curl Lagoon Committee.

Over the years membership has been approximately 100 families, with membership fees being \$2 per family per year.

The objectives of the C.C.L.C. are:-

- (a) To preserve the Curl Curl Lagoon, Beach, and Headland areas and to seek to reduce pollution and desecration of these areas.
- (b) To gather scientific and other information relating to the past and present condition of the Curl Curl Lagoon system.
- (c) To study in detail the sources and types of pollution entering the lagoon, and to press for measures to control and alleviate such pollution.
- (d) To use this information to consult and co-operate with all relevant authorities in all matters affecting the welfare and beauty of the lagoon system.
- (e) To develop and have implemented a comprehensive management study and plan for the improvement and continued care of the lagoon system.
- (f) To raise a greater public awareness of the need to clean and maintain the lagoon in a healthy state.
- (g) The Committee will seek affiliation with other environmental protectionist organisations.

In October, 1980, executive members of the C.C.L.C. began attending the Narrabeen Lagoon System Advisory Committee (NALSAC) meetings which were held bi-monthly at the Council Chambers.

On 2-3-81, NALSAC was replaced by the Warringah Lagoons Advisory Committee with representatives from the Narrabeen, Dee Why, Curl Curl, & Queenscliff Lagoons Committees, meeting with Councillors, Council

Staff and other advisors at the Council Chambers, bi-monthly.

The Warringah Lagoons Advisory Committee provided a direct channel through which C.C.L.C. members' and residents' needs, complaints, requests and ideas, etc., could be passed on for consideration by Councillors at their monthly meetings.

In September, 1981, the report from the Water Research Laboratory, 'Curl Curl Lagoon - Method of Improving Water Quality' was released. After much discussion, the controversial proposals to dispose of the dredged material through a pipe with its outlet near the N.C.C. rock pool, & to periodically mechanically flush the Lagoon with salt-water, were opposed by the C.C.L.C. Due to the costs involved the W.S. Council decided not to go ahead with either the dredging (\$720,000 estimate) or flushing (\$920,000 estimate) proposals.

Now that the C.C.L.C.'s time and concern was not dominated by the dredging & flushing proposal, the committee devoted itself to preparing a landscape plan for the lagoon areas. The plan was divided into three stages:-

- Stage 1 : Landscape improvements to the southern side of the lagoon.
- Stage 2 : Landscape improvements to the northern side of the lagoon.
- Stage 3 : Landscape improvements to 'The Glen' and Surf Club areas.

Thousands upon thousands of trees and shrubs were planted by W.S. Council, residents, and various community groups, including the C.C.L.C., Rotary Club, Lions Club, Apex Club, Ryde School of Horticulture Students, students from local schools and Brookvale Technical College, local Scouts and Brownies group. Local residents were involved in the watering and maintenance of the trees, and as a result, an exceptionally high percentage of the trees survived and thrived.

Pedro Lopez was largely responsible for the success of the landscape improvements. He voluntarily spends time almost every day working on the reserve, cleaning-up, watering the grass & trees, maintaining and caring for the area in general.

Now that the landscape improvements are almost completed, the C.C.L.C. finds that its attention is drawn more & more to the ever-present, disturbing and worsening problem of the siltation and pollution of the lagoon itself. While most residents feel that the lagoon should be dredged, the question remains unsatisfactorily answered as to how to dispose of the unpleasant, unsightly, & unuseable dredged material.

For my part, I look back with satisfaction on the achievements of the C.C.L.C. over the last five years. It gives me great pleasure to walk around the lagoon or up over the headland & see the tremendous improvements which have been made, because the people of Curl Curl made it known that they cared about their environment & were prepared to make an effort to improve it for themselves.

Lynne O'Connell.

August, 1985.

CURL CURL LAGOON COMMITTEE 1980 - 5.

MAIN EVENTS

- 15.7.80 : Public Meeting at N.C.C. Surf Club.
- 22.7.80 : Inaugural meeting of the Curl Curl Lagoon Committee.
- 14.9.80 : Walk around the Lagoon with various experts.
- 24.11.80 : C.C.L.C. Successful in preventing B.M.X. Bike Racing Track approval on lagoon banks.
- December '80 : W.S. Council allocated \$7,000 towards the drawing up of a management plan for Curl Curl Lagoon.
- 2.3.81 : First meeting of Warringah Lagoons Advisory C'tee at W.S. Council Chambers.
- February '81 : Two Bird Signs erected on northern banks of Lagoon.
- March '81 : Distribution of public awareness pamphlets throughout Curl Curl Lagoon catchment area.
- 3.5.81 : Clean-up campaign - Harbord Rd. to Youth Club foot-bridge.
- June '81 : Drift-bottle drop experiment off N.C.C. Headland - by Pedro Lopez - to ascertain ocean current flow patterns. (most ended up on local beaches one bottle went as far as Lord Howe Island.)
- 19.7.81 : Clean-up campaign - Youth Club footbridge to Griffin Rd. Bridge.
- 20.9.81 : Clean-up campaign - Griffin Rd. bridge to the beach.
- September '81 : W.S.Council decided not to go ahead with the costly & controversial plan to dispose of dredged material through an ocean outlet & to flush the lagoon with with salt water.
- 23.11.81 : W.S.Council adopts Stage 1 of the Landscape Plan for Curl Curl Lagoon (southern side of lagoon) (\$50,000 allocated to this project.)
- 4.4.82 : Pampas grass control by C.C.L.C.
- June '82 : New footbridge near Youth Club.
- September '82 : Earthworks on southern side of Lagoon, part of Stage 1 of Landscape plan.
- 19.9.82 : Tree-planting on southern side of Lagoon - a community activity.
- 26.9.82 : " " " "
- 14.11.82 : " " " "
- 21.11.82 : " " " "
- January '83 : Two more Bird Signs erected (on southern side of lagoon)
- February '83 : W.S.Council allocated a further \$50,000 for Stage 2 of the landscape plan - on the northern side of the lagoon.
- March '83 : Tree-planting on northern side - community & council involvement.

- 1984 : Tip for builders' waste established on Education Dept. land opposite Manly High - some objections by local residents.
- 31.8.84 : W.S.Council asks National Trust to prepare a report on weed infestation and eradication on N.C.C. Headland.
- 16.9.84 : Public viewing of landscape plan for 'The Glen' area (Stage 3).
- January '85 : Erosion damage repaired on Headland.
- April '85 : National Trust report recommends the 'Bradley Method' of weed eradication for the N.C.C. Headland.
- 2.6.85 : Tree-planting at 'The Glen' - community activity.
- August '85 : Council plants trees in protective enclosures at N.C.C. Beach car-park area.

CURL CURL LAGOON COMMITTEE OFFICE BEARERS 1980 - 5.

JULY 1980

CHAIRMAN : Charles Way (resigned, replaced by Alec Gow)  
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Tony Cullen  
SECRETARY : Lynne O'Connell  
TREASURER : Diana Lindfield  
CO-ORDINATOR : Tony Selmes  
Other Exec. members : Mike McIlvain & Jack Benson (resigned & replaced by Max Osborn)

JULY 1981

CHAIRMAN : Alec Gow  
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Tony Cullen  
SECRETARY : Lynne O'Connell  
TREASURER : Diana Lindfield  
CO-ORDINATOR : Michael McIlvain  
Other Exec. members : Allan Hoy, Max Osborn

JULY 1982

CHAIRMAN : Allan Hoy  
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Alec Gow  
SECRETARY : Nance Holloway  
TREASURER : Diana Lindfield  
CO-ORDINATOR : Lynne O'Connell  
Other Exec. members : Max Osborn, Don Doe

JULY 1983

CHAIRMAN : Allan Hoy (resigned on election to Council, replaced by Reg Tetstall)  
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Reg Tetstall (replaced by Tony Cullen )  
SECRETARY : DIANA LINDFIELD  
TREASURER : Max Osborn  
CO-ORDINATOR : Lynne O'Connell  
Other Exec. members : Nance Holloway, Tony Cullen (Sue Weymark: new executive member).

JULY 1984

CHAIRMAN : Reg Tetstall  
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Alan Wild  
SECRETARY : Diana Lindfield  
TREASURER : Max Osborn  
CO-ORDINATOR : Marie Taylor  
Other exec.  
members : Lynne O'Connell, Sue Weymark

JULY 1985

CHAIRMAN : Alan Wild  
SECRETARY : Diana Lindfield  
TREASURER : Max Osborn  
Other Exec.  
members : Sue Weymark, Marie Taylor, Thelma Hobday,  
Jack Tilburn.