

# LAKE ILLAWARRA AUTHORITY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



December 2003

**The Lake Illawarra Authority plans to issue regular newsletters giving details of significant activities occurring on the lake. This issue covers 2 projects-the proposed entrance works and exciting developments at Hooka Point (at Berkeley). Future newsletters will give details of other projects.**

## WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE LAKE ENTRANCE?

During 2002 the Lake Illawarra Authority commissioned specialist coastal engineers to give technical advice about the benefits that would arise from a second breakwater at the entrance to the lake. The Authority also asked the Minister for Land and Water Conservation to establish an expert Independent Review Panel to verify the sufficiency of the consultant's report covering lake entrance Issues.

The Panel subsequently reported to government that the advice being followed by the Authority was sound. One of the 9 design options explored by the consultant and the Authority was accepted as appropriate (Option 9). On 29 June 2003, following receipt of the Panel's report the NSW Government announced support for the construction of a northern breakwater and major channel dredging at a cost of \$4 million.



*Option 9 – The Preferred Option*

**Note: Yellow hatching shows area of possible dredging and red lines indicate position of proposed breakwaters**

## ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARD ON DESIGN

Although the NSW Government has indicated its support for the chosen option to modify the lake entrance, the

Authority believes it desirable to place a new (but smaller) technical review committee in a position to oversight the design. The review committee is made up of one representative from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources as well as representatives from Wollongong City Council and Shellharbour City Council.

## GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR PREFERRED OPTION

The Authority anticipates that with the support of the State Government, Wollongong City Council and Shellharbour City Council, the design phase and necessary statutory environmental and planning studies can be completed within 12 months.

Once the Authority has obtained the necessary environmental and planning approvals for the work, and accurately analysed and verified the benefits that will flow from the works, construction is expected to take up to 2 years to complete.

## WHAT WILL BE THE BENEFITS OF THE WORKS ?

The proposed northern breakwater will not alone solve all the problems of the lake but there may be some in the community who believe that it will. Advantages of the works are to be detailed by the newly created Technical Review Committee.

### The major benefits of the entrance works will be:

- ◆ Improved discharge of floodwaters.
- ◆ The water area downstream of Windang Bridge will be improved.
- ◆ Minimisation of periods of closure thereby reducing periods of low lake levels.
- ◆ Pollutants in the lake will be flushed to sea more quickly.

Anticipated benefits will be subject to review before entrance works proceed.

## A PICTURE FROM THE PAST

Many people still talk of their belief that there was a second natural entrance to Lake Illawarra. Comprehensive checks on air photos and other sources verify this not to be the case. During World War 2 however, 2 anti tank ditches were constructed to halt the forward movement of enemy tanks and wheeled vehicles in the event of the Japanese forces attacking Port Kembla Steelworks. One was constructed at Kemblawarra from the eastern edge of the lake between Old Shellharbour Road to the landward edge of Perkins Beach sandhills. It seems that the ditch never penetrated the formidable sand dune system however observation of the western side of this ditch may have led some residents to believe the ditch was a second entrance.



*1948 photograph showing Kemblawarra Tank Trap*

## REHABILITATION OF HOOKA POINT

Hooka Point is a large waterfront public space located where Hooka Creek discharges into the Lake. The point is a wonderful location to observe the water birds of the Lake or to take a quite stroll. In recent years the Authority has completed a number of projects to improve the area. Projects include:

- ◆ 1.4km concrete shared pathway which loops around the point.
- ◆ Construction of a 15m high bird observation tower.
- ◆ Habitat reconstruction areas.

At the present time there are 2 projects underway at Hooka Point: The Green Corps project and the Community Partnership Project.

## GREEN CORPS PROJECT

The latest project at Hooka Point is being carried out by 10 Green Corps volunteers aged between 17 and 20.



The work being carried out with the guidance and support by the LIA includes:

- ◆ Protection of existing vegetation.
- ◆ Removal of invasive weeds
- ◆ Regeneration of native plant species (4000 plants)
- ◆ Construction of access pathways.
- ◆ Provision of public amenities such as seats, tables and shelters.

The Authority is providing funding, site supervision, technical expertise, programming of activities, materials, tools and equipment.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

The Authority is part of a Working Group established to create a special place on Hooka Point, (near the Hooka Creek footbridge) under a theme of healing and well being.

The project is also supported, by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, Wollongong City Council, the Berkeley Development Association, Illawarra Health, Healthy Cities and Camp Quality.



*Hooka Point – A Place of Well Being & Healing*

The idea for the project was inspired from an event two years ago called Bright Lives, when children with cancer and their families gathered in the park for a Sunday picnic to celebrate the lives of these children.

Work on the site will include construction of a water pavilion, boardwalk, stone and decorative seating, platform mosaic and decorative bridge handrail. Landscaping will also be undertaken to make the area attractive to visitors.

## Glimpses of Hooka Point

