

"Friends" support group now formed to boost GreenWay chances



One of the two tracks of the Rozelle goods line has already become disused. What is the future of the corridor? Photo BA

An important step in the future of the Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay vision was the formation late last year of the community group "Friends of the GreenWay".

According to the group's new convenor Jud Agius, "this presents a big boost to achieving the GreenWay vision of an environmental corridor from the Cooks River at Earlwood to the Iron Cove at Leichhardt" He said "it also gives impetus to the community's idea for adaptive reuse of the Rozelle goods line corridor for cycling and walking trails and bush corridor".

For the last two years or so the State Government has been very quiet on what it intends to do with the corridor. Direct approaches to get some sort of response on the fate of the corridor from the office of Minister John Watkins, and indirect approaches through local MPs Verity Frith and Linda Burney have so far drawn a blank. Hopefully with Friends now up a running there will be more chance of getting a positive response.

There has also been a lot of flurry in the media of extension of the light rail from Lilyfield to Summer Hill. But the media is yet to pick up on the huge potential for a GreenWay trail to not only boost numbers for the existing light rail service, but to have in place a "veloway" in the rail corridor from Summer Hill all the way to the Anzac Bridge cycleway at fraction the cost of a new light rail.



Friends' supporters gather at Hoskins Park Dulwich Hill in December 2007 to launch the group. See more on P.2 Photo GS

The Greenway Coordination Strategy

Anyone remember the three "think tank" sessions and Forum held last year as part of the consultation for the GreenWay Coordination Strategy? Well, all the good suggestions and ideas duly noted from the consultation sessions have now been considered, and the four-council working group is understood to be close to finalising the draft Coordination Strategy for public comment. We will let you know once it is out on exhibition, and most likely will be available to download from Marrickville Council's web site.

It will important for Friends to prepare a detailed and thorough submission, so if you'd like to help Friends prepare a submission on the Strategy please get in touch. You can email to the Friends Secretary Greg Stonehouse: gregs@exemail.com.au

Update of GreenWay happenings

. join the bush link roster - the "Creating a Bush Link " project continues, now with \$27,000 funding being provided under Round 9 of the Envirofund grants. However, the project will still need 600 hours of volunteer bushcare work to be undertaken, so if you are keen to do some local native gardening and learn more about our local plants, join the team that have a roster for each site. Contact IWEG on 9568 2412 or see www.greenway.org.au/IWEG.html

. Bandicoot Update - it has gone a bit quiet on the Long-Nosed Bandicoot front of late, but that could just mean that they have learnt to avoid the cars that have hit and killed quite a few. It is likely that they are still around but keeping a low profile. If you do happen to see some suspicious scratchings in your backyard or local park, contact Ben Khan at NPWS email: Ben.Khan@environment.nsw.gov.au





Sustainability bike tour of the GreenWay - local bike group MASSBUG organised a "sustainability" ride through the Inner West on 29 March. A large group of riders were taken along part of the GreenWay corridor and saw some the bushcare sites, and experienced the dreaded ramps at Parramatta Road (shown above). Many thanks for Gilbert at MASSBUG for organising the ride and including the GreenWay on the tour.

WWW Links

- look up the main GreenWay web site at: www.greenway.org.au
- find out about the bushcare work the Inner Wet Environment Group (IWEG) is doing at a number of sites along the corridor: www.greenway.org.au/IWEG.html
- join on of the local bicycle user groups (BUGs): www.bicyclensw.org.au
- see the results of the local school's streamwatch programs: <http://www.streamwatch.org.au/>
- find out about the Cooks River: www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/cooks.htm
- information about local indigenous culture and events: www.cadigalwangel.com.au

Dates

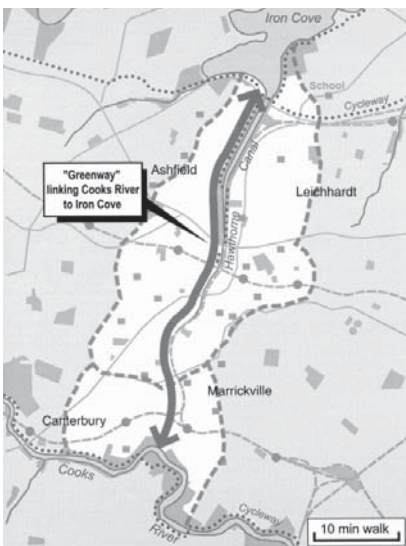
- Come along and visit the Friends stall at the **Cooks River Sustainability festival** at Steele Park Marrickville, on Sunday 13th April. If you would like to help out with the Friends stall please contact Geoff Hyde on email: gohyde@yahoo.com
- The next **IWEG** bushcare working bee is Sunday 20 April at Richard Murden Reserve at Haberfield from 10am to 1pm. Contact John on 9568 2412 if you would like to know more. Site map and details at: www.greenway.org.au/IWEG.html
- **Youth Week** is on April 5-13th and the four local councils have plenty of events. See the Leichhardt Council web site for a program: www.lmc.nsw.gov.au

Friends Membership

Membership of Friends has a number of benefits including: putting another local voice behind a group striving to improve your local area; keeping you informed as to what is happening along the corridor; and providing funds for the group to function as an community group and to cover expenses such as incorporation fees, public liability insurance for Friend's activities, materials for displays and festivals etc.

Fees to the end of this Financial Year (30th June 2008) are: standard = \$5.00; concession = \$2.50; household = \$12.50; Bandicoot = \$50 (includes free FoG T-shirt, please nominate a size, see T-shirt sample).

Joining is as easy as downloading a form from the web site. Visit www.greenway.org.au and go to the membership page.



The GreenWay Corridor - Within a 10 minute walk or a three minute cycle of the 5km long and 1km wide Greenway corridor there is a resident population of over 15,000 people. There is a significant number of trip attractors in the corridor:

- 25 churches and nine scout halls/
- eight shopping precincts and over 50 corner shops
- 20 large parks and pocket parks;
- 2 swimming centres; 3 bowls clubs; a golf course;
- numerous large and small shops
- 24 schools and 3 high schools; and,
- five CityRail stations (with another 3 within 1.5km).

How to Contact Us

The GreenWay vision is a grass roots thing so we are keen for those living near the corridor to be involved in what's happening as much as possible. So if you'd like to find out more about GreenWay or have any great ideas or suggestions for up coming issues of *Way2go!*, please contact the editor by emailing to: friends@greenway.org.au