

FOMRE September 2022 Newsletter

Hello Members



As winter comes to an end at the estuary, it is good to see this place looking lovely.

This week I have seen osprey, pelicans, ducks, cormorants, swans, gulls, terns and a piper flying about the beach as well as various honeyeaters, wattle birds, parrots, kookaburras and Carnabys around town. The lizards are out so the snakes will be too. Take care in the bush!

The sandbar has been open since the end of July and we have seen a lot of brown water in the ocean as heavy rain inland has allowed a good flush of the estuary to occur.

The sandbars upriver have changed, with an area just past diamond island that the DoT boat couldn't get past this week. They were repositioning buoys, as one had nearly made it out to sea!

We did our water testing with Ryan and Mark from DWER last Friday. The level is still about a metre below 'full' and lots of sand and tree roots are exposed much more than normal. The salinity was about 4 the whole way up to site 5, beyond Woodridge (which indicates a good flush as it can be about 25 salinity at the bar and into Silver Creek when smaller flows occur and the salt water comes in). The oxygen levels were all good (with the strong flow) and the temperature was only about 14 degrees. There was very little rubbish seen thankfully.



The testing team on Cooky's boat at Woodridge.



Strong flow as the river narrows.



Exposed tree roots on Diamond Island.



A new sandbar at a bend in the river. Navigation is tight!

Some of you may realise that Barragoon Road has been hugely upgraded this winter. The Shire assures us that it is a DFES operation to act as a big firebreak for Woodridge but we are seeing evidence of the local hooners on it already! This is one of the access roads to Moore River South (MRS), so any work in this area concerns me! It should certainly be a good firebreak!

We went to the Shire's Electors Meeting last week and were assured that they know of no progress on MRS plans yet. They still have 2 years left on their subdivision approval and are likely to try to address at least some of the 40 Conditions attached to it in the hope of extending it again.

Our proposal for Wilbinga Regional Park remains our main goal. You can read about it on our website at guildertonwa.com.au .

At the recent Conservation Council Annual Conference, I raised it with Brad Pettit and Reece Whitby's advisors but they all have a lot on their plate with coastal erosion and other urgent conundrums.

There is a proposal for a windfarm off our coast to be progressed over the next ten years. I have more information if you would like to see it.

You can stay up to date by following us in social media for great photo's, stories and local happening's:

www.facebook.com/hashtag/guilderton

www.instagram.com/guildertonmooreriver

I hope you are all well and get to the estuary before long.

All the best, Linda

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