

# What can I do to help my creek?

## *Join a creek care group*

These groups may meet once a week, once a month or in some cases every day. Contacts can be found on this brochure.

## *Grow your own native wildlife refuge*

By removing bushland weeds from your property and planting natives you can significantly reduce your impact on the creek.

## The Three Creeks Programme

3 Creeks is a demonstration project of the regional rehabilitation of urban streams. Three sites have been identified within the three Northern Beaches council areas and were chosen for the diversity of their habitat and restoration problems they represent. These are Narrabeen Creek (Boondah Rd, Warriewood), Dee Why Creek (Fisher Rd, Dee Why) and Burnt Bridge (Kamiri St, Seaforth).

The project includes community participation on planting days and an information pack for the community on:

- Native Plants
- Environmental Car Care
- Weeds
- Water/Catchments
- Pet Care and Frog Habitat

and two fridge magnets:

- Helping Our Creeks Get Into Shape
- Sydney Northern Beaches Creekcure Groups

## To Get More Information

You can browse the website at:

[www.ozgreen.org.au/3creeks.htm](http://www.ozgreen.org.au/3creeks.htm)

Or contact your local Council.

*Helping Our Creeks Get Into Shape*



**Regional Rehabilitation  
of Urban Streams**

# Car Care

3 Creeks is a RIVERCARE project funded by:



## Natural Heritage Trust

*Helping Communities Helping Australia*

A partnership between: Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Councils, Manly Environment Centre, Coastal Environment Centre, Oz GREEN and Sydney Northern Beaches Catchment Management Committee.

## Your Car and the Creek

### *Oil*

Repair oil leaks in your car. Oil leaking from your car can cause major environmental damage. As it travels through the stormwater system it collects other pollutants and sediment on its way to the creek. Motor oil can be deposited free at recycling centres and some car workshops.

### *Degreasing*

Imagine what a chemical that states 'Toxic, avoid inhalation or contact with skin' does to the creek. The chemicals contained in degreasing agents are toxic and require great care for use. The use of these on motors or driveways with runoff to the stormwater is both in breach of the Clean Waters Act (a \$1500+ fine) and will cause widespread damage. Contact your local car repair workshop where contaminated water can be treated and drained to the sewer.

### *Washing your car*

Even 'biodegradable' detergents cause environmental harm if they are washed into the stormwater system. To avoid this wash your car on the grass or at a service station with an appropriate wash down area.

### *Car Maintenance*

When changing the water in the radiator of a car ensure it does not drain to the stormwater system. The coolant contained in the radiator contains Glycols which can be taken to your nearest recycling centre. Contact Sydney Water Trade Waste or ask a local car repair workshop for the address. In addition store all car engine parts under cover where any leakage will not flow to the road.

## Some Car Facts

- 20,000 tonnes of oils wash into Australian coastal waters each year from our roads (CSIRO)
- 37% of all oil pollution world wide enters the sea as runoff from the land.  
*(US Academy of Sciences)*
- Phosphates and surfactants contained in cleaning fluids (e.g. Washing up liquid) contaminate the creek and promote toxic algal growth.
- One litre of oil can form a slick on water averaging one acre.
- 1,900 tonnes Sulphur Dioxide from car emissions in the Sydney region contribute to acid rain.  
*(NSW State of the Environment 1997)*
- Tuning your 2ltr car on a regular basis can save up to 1 tonne of Greenhouse gas per year.
- Five million tonnes of detergent are poured into Australian waterways every year.  
*(Tri Nature)*



## Remember, Only Rain Down The Drain

## Join a Northern Beaches Creekcare group

Contact:

### *Manly*

Bushland co-ordinator  
on Ph: 9976 1500

The Manly Environment Centre  
on Ph: 9976 2842

### *Warringah*

Bushland co-ordinator  
on Ph: 9942 2222

Manly Dam Rangers  
on Ph: 9949 3235

Oz GREEN  
on Ph: 9971 4098

### *Pittwater*

Coastal Environment Centre  
Bushland Co-ordinator &  
Catchment Education Officer  
on Ph: 9970 6905

### *Sydney Northern Beaches Catchment Management Committee co-ordinator*

on Ph: 9907 8402

### *National Parks & Wildlife Service*

on Ph: 9977 6732