



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

8 May 2017

### **10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SAVING ST IVES BLUE GUM HIGH FOREST**

FOKE (Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment) celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary when the community came together in 2007 and called upon Ku-ring-gai Council, the NSW Government and Commonwealth to purchase two privately owned blocks of land within the Blue Gum High Forest at St Ives.

“This was a huge conservation achievement that deserves to be remembered” said Mrs Kathy Cowley, President of FOKE. “Acquiring the two privately-owned blocks of land within the St Ives Blue Gum Forest was an outstanding achievement. The Dalrymple-Hay and Browns Forest is one of Sydney’s most significant and rarest of forests with less than 1% left in the world,” said Mrs Cowley.

Renowned conservationist Nancy Pallin led FOKE’s ecologically focused walk and shared her encyclopaedic knowledge about Ku-ring-gai’s majestic Blue Gum High Forest.

“This walk was incredibly popular. We were inundated with bookings. The walk obviously ignited the memories of the many community groups who fought so hard to protect this forest years ago, as well as inviting many individuals who wanted to learn about this amazing conservation victory”, said Mrs Cowley.

“Thousands of motorists drive past this hidden forest treasure, along Mona Vale Road, without knowing just how rare and beautiful it is. The best access to the forest is at the sign ‘Dalrymple Hay Nature Reserve, near the corner of Vista Street and Rosedale Road, St Ives.”

FOKE will hold another walk meeting in front of Turramurra Railway Station Ticket Office on Sunday 14 May 9.45am for 10am start.

“This Turramurra to Pymble walk highlights the threats to Ku-ring-gai’s built and natural heritage. It shares the disappointment that many felt when Ku-ring-gai Council sealed Turramurra’s Little Village Park fate for high rise. The walk also shares the disappointment when the NSW Government rejected a State Heritage listing for the Hillview Urban Conservation Area. Will this heritage area be yet another sacrifice for the NSW Government’s obsession for more high rise? The walk then visits Sheldon Forest, another of Sydney’s rarest Blue Gum High Forests and

highlights how this endangered forest has been inappropriately zoned for recreation. Finally the walk views the massive construction sites that have now erased Pymble's remnant Blue Gums for high rise apartments", said Mrs Janet Harwood, FOKE Committee member.

"The NSW Government is turning one of Australia's most environmentally sensitive areas into a construction zone. This FOKE walk highlights why Ku-ring-gai's heritage must be protected for a future City of Sydney", said Mrs Harwood.

Final FOKE events include a fundraising luncheon for EDO NSW on Sunday 21 May FOKE at Pecorino Café, 77 Werona Ave, Gordon costing \$35; FOKE's 2017 Public Talk will be by renowned businessman Dick Smith who will talk about *Sydney's Population Growth—is it sustainable?* on Wednesday 24 May, 8 pm, Killara Uniting Church, cnr Arnold and Karranga Avenue.

For more information and bookings about FOKE's program of Walks and Talks contact Janine Kitson (02) 9498 2402 or M: 0428 860 623 Email [info@foke.org.au](mailto:info@foke.org.au) [www.foke.org.au](http://www.foke.org.au) [www.facebook.com/friendsofkuringgai](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofkuringgai)

**For media comment, please call Kathy Cowley on 0431 158 880 or 9416 9007**