



Kiama Greens press release

World Environment Day 5th June 2021

Kiama Greens recognises world environment day 2021, by highlighting the importance of protecting the unique natural environment of the Kiama Local Government Area.

Kathy Rice, current Kiama Councillor, highlights that “the Kiama LGA is home to amazing biodiversity, including at least seven Endangered Vegetation Communities spanning Jamberoo to Gerroa; the largest area of subtropical rainforest in southern NSW; rare littoral rainforest; swamp forests; heathlands and saline wetlands. Our coastal dune vegetation is an important habitat and buffer to rising sea levels.”

Kathy reminds us that “these communities are home to many animals and bird species including the endangered Greater Glider population at Seven Mile Beach, endangered Ground Parrots and Bristle Birds at Barren Grounds and rare Oystercatchers breeding in the dunes at Seven Mile Beach.”

“Sadly, the Koala disappeared in our municipality in the eighties and development pressures and climate impacts may see more losses, so we think it’s very important to highlight these values and work to look after what remains of our unique local environment” said Kathy.

There is little disagreement that this rich natural heritage provides much of the character that attracts people to the area and supports both a special local quality of life and our local tourism industry, where visitors are welcome to share our amazing natural heritage.

These and other environmental features have an intrinsic right to be protected, supported and enhanced. Kiama Greens have actively contributed to these activities over several decades, both as individuals, members of local environment groups and through the work of elected Greens Councillors on Kiama Council.

Our members have supported campaigns to protect special areas from sandmining; to preserve the remaining vegetation along the Minnamurra River; to combat unnecessary removal of individual trees of significance and the arrogant destruction of coastal dune vegetation through vandalism. We are constantly alert to the potential negative impacts of development on the area.

It is important to remember the impact that climate change is having on ecosystems, many animal and plant species and coastal land through erosion and to recognise the effects of excessive plastic use on sea creatures. Protecting the environment from further degradation and cleaning up the existing damage, is a massive, and sadly increasing world-wide problem.

Jodi Keast, as a member of the Greens team for the upcoming September council elections, said "Like many in our community, I've swum at every beach and river, and walked every trail in the local area (as part of my '50 walks in my 50th year goal') . When you spend time in nature, it is good for your mental wellbeing and gives you an opportunity to develop a deep connection with our country".

"Greens Councillors elected to Kiama Council in September 2021 will be committed to actively protecting this valuable and unique biodiversity. Our team has extensive practical experience in environmental campaigning; in land-care work and administration and in championing the changes needed to reduce climate change. When elected, we will be encouraging and promoting Council policies which support these values".

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Clr Kathy Rice m: 0438 375 559 or Greens Council candidate Jodi Keast m: 0407 664 401

See attached image: Jodi Keast relaxing at the end of the 50th walk in her 50th year.