



28 July 2000:

Community Involvement The Key To Lake Health

Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator Jeff Jansson has called on the local community to take an active role in the task of reviving Lake Macquarie. Speaking at a seminar on vegetation for Council staff and Landcare groups today, Jeff said community involvement was critical to the success of strategies to solve environmental issues facing the Lake. "Community groups like Landcare should be encouraged to work closely with government authorities. The plight of Lake Macquarie affects everyone living in the catchment, so it is an advantage to have these stakeholders involved in the process of fixing the problems facing the Lake." The event coincided with the release of a community education program developed by the Office of the Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator. Appropriately, the first edition covers the issue of native vegetation. "With National Tree Day also just around the corner, it is a timely reminder of the vegetation issues facing Lake Macquarie. The Lake relies on native vegetation to filter out pollutants from stormwater and to stabilise land to prevent erosion. Without it, the Lake is vulnerable to excessive sedimentation levels, which can mean major problems for the balance of the ecosystem." The material will be available at Council's Speers Point headquarters and will also be displayed in schools and public library facilities. The series outlines the key issues facing Lake Macquarie and provides suggestions on how the community can help in the quest to protect it.

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