



Adapting to Climate Change on the Coast: Leading Scientist Presents at NSW Coastal Volunteers Forum

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One of Australia's leading scientists Professor Bruce Thom will present at the upcoming NSW Coastal Volunteers Conference, to be held on the Central Coastal from August 9-12.

Professor Bruce Thom is a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and Emeritus Professor, University of Sydney. His area of expertise is in: Coastal management, Coastal land use planning, Geomorphology, and Coastal geology.

"A basic question confronting NSW Coastal Communities is – how capable are we going to be at adapting to changes driven by global warming? As a coastal society this question is fundamental to the lifestyles and livelihoods of all coastal dwellers. It is also critical to the economy and particularly to industries such as tourism" said Professor Thom.

Professor Thom said some of the potential coastal climate changes we may face and need to plan for in coastal communities include:

- On the coast, sea levels may rise at an accelerating rate, even beyond the conservative projections of the IPCC Reports.
- Patterns of storminess may change leading to more intense, longer duration, less frequent East Coast lows with stronger easterly rather than south-easterly wind components separated by long drought periods.
- Storm surges may coincide with east coast river floods leading to the extensive inundation of low-lying lands around lakes and estuaries.

Coastal Volunteers across NSW will get the opportunity to hear Professor Bruce Thom and other experts present at the NSW Coastal Volunteers Forum 2007. This forum, presented by Wycare on the Central Coast, will provide an opportunity for people to exchange ideas about cooperative community approaches to creating healthy coastal landscapes and lifestyles and consider future issues.

For more information contact: WyCare, T: 02 4352 1199, E: wycare@bigpond.com or visit www.wycare.com.au or contact the Landcare or Bushcare Officer at your local council.

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Media Contacts:

- Marlene Pennings, Wycare: T: 0419 277 633
- Professor Bruce Thom, T: 02 9228-6514
- Anne Briggs, Marine Coastal Community Network T: 02 9985-8578 M: 0411 035 876