



“I saw my local environment degrading and knew it should be in a better state”

Garth from Wangi Ridge Landcare

I grew up in Newport, Sydney on the Upper reaches of Pittwater. Newport in those days was an outer suburb of Sydney which had little residential development and, as a result, plenty of bush.

Our home was opposite the extensive mangroves which lined the shore of the bay. Our youth was spent ‘borrowing a rowing boat’ (there were no outboards then) and we would play pirates amongst the mangroves at high tide. I can remember being able to see the bottom as the water was crystal clear. You could see the ripples in the sand caused by the incoming tide and count the whiting feeding on the bottom.

The mangroves are now gone - replaced by concrete retaining walls. The incoming tide now brings in an assortment of plastic and other rubbish caused by our throw away society. The water is so polluted you cannot see the bottom and the fish have all but disappeared. This environment would be considered ‘natural’ by anyone who moved into the area in the 1960’s but I knew it used to be better. That is why I became a Landcarer.