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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

Next Meeting 8 August 7.30 pm

Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner,
Kenneth St & River Rd.
We will have heaters but

Wrap up Warm!!

August 2017

We are reminded of the following quotation from TS Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*:

"The last temptation is the greatest treason:

To do the right deed for the wrong reason".

What we have done

As outlined in recent Newsletters we have made a number of submissions on important issues, such as Biodiversity Codes, the changes to the management of Crown Land and Travelling Stock Routes.

Although these are not local issues, they fit well with one of our aims, to represent locally the wider concerns for the protection of the natural environment. All our submissions are on our website.

What's coming up

Important dates for your Diary

Help us by volunteering an hour or two. If you can help in any of the following. Email the Society or call Ron Gornall.

16 September - at the Annual Spring Plant Stall in the morning- in the Plaza

8 October - at our beautiful stall in Sustainability Lane at the Lane Cove Festival (Cameraygal festival) - a fun and social time at the fair!

The Non-Amalgamation Issue!!!

The Society has consistently opposed the forced amalgamation of Lane Cove Council with any other council since this sorry process began. The first of a number of submissions to the several government appointed bodies was made in 2013.

We have supported Council's continued moves to prevent amalgamation. We have asked questions of the various Ministers with little or no meaningful response. We have lobbied our local member who has publicly spoken against amalgamation. We have employed reason, logic and cited the considerable body of evidence that shows that there is no necessary correlation between council size and efficiency.

We thank Council for continuing to fight for our independence and in particular Councillors, Scott Bennison, Karola Brent, David Karpin, Pam Palmer and Daniel Strassberg. We also congratulate our members for actively supporting the campaign throughout. Thanks for keeping the faith!!

We are now greatly thankful that this cliffhanger has ended. The Premier says that this decision will "end the uncertainty (for ratepayers) with the remaining proposed mergers", but we suspect it's more about reducing the political damage to Liberal candidates in the upcoming council elections and the next state elections. She and Local Government Minister Upton still believe that bigger is better.

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc.
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A Bushwalk in the Beautiful Native Plant Sanctuary



Join a group of locals who love nature for an easy bushwalk. Learn about a host of amazing native plants along the way.

Bring your own lunch, a hat, sunscreen and drinking water.

Saturday 26 August 2017 between 10 am and 2 pm.

For enquiries and further information contact Ron and Barbara Gornall on 9427 1125 or rongornall@hotmail.com.

Meet at the visitors centre near the North Fort parking area in North Head Sanctuary near Manly.

In Other News

Saying NO to Plastic Bags.

At its meeting on 17 July 2017, Council resolved to-

- write to Woolworths and Coles congratulating them on their decision, and offering to assist with the early phasing out of plastic bags in Lane Cove;
- investigate and report back on expanding our current bag share program; and
- write to Minister for the Environment, Gabriel Upton MP, and NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and Federal Member for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman to request a national ban on single use plastic bags.

The Society will be writing to Council to congratulate them on this welcome move.

Recycling plastic

We know you are all diligent recyclers of plastic and metals via your yellow Council recycling bin, but soft plastics can't

be put in that bin because the machinery at the recycling plant can't handle it. Soft plastics include: newspaper and magazine wrappers, green shopping bags, bubble wrap, bread bags – in fact anything that that can be easily scrunched in your hand. **They can be deposited in the REDcycle bins at Coles, Woolworths and Safeway supermarkets.** (Source: Choice, April 2017).

50 years of Bushcare!

It might seem hard to believe that 50 years have passed since the first Bushcare group started working in Lane Cove at Greenwich public school led by Jill Pain with the support of landscape architect Bill Ashton.

Some years later, Frances Vissel saw the need to regenerate Batten Reserve, and in 1994, initiated the Stringybark Creek Bushcare Group (as part of the Stringybark Creek Resident Assoc. activities), with the assistance of Council. This Group continues this great work, celebrating its 23rd birthday in June.

Frances recognized that the most successful way to start other Bushcare groups in Lane Cove was to garner Council support. So in 1999, when a Councillor, she proposed that Council employ a dedicated Bushcare Officer with the aim of encouraging more volunteer bush-care groups. This has successfully resulted in an increase of active Bushcare Groups from three back then, to twenty-one today, with 185 volunteers.

Lane Cove Council is organizing a celebration later this year of the significant achievement of 50 years of Voluntary Bushcare.

Track reopening

The waterside walking track from Shell Park to Greenwich Wharf has reopened after significant upgrades financed by a government grant. Enjoy it now, as it will be closed again in October for several months to finish the work.

Birds – then and now



A Frogmouth visiting Christine's garden

Whilst tidying up some files, Christine Holland found a bird count for Birds Australia carried out on 26 January 1981 between 7 and 8 am in Johnston Crescent.

She counted 54 Lorikeets, 7 Indian turtle doves, 2 Magpies, 8 Currawongs, 3 Noisy miners, 3 Indian miners, 5 Silvereyes, 2 Sparrows, 1 Bulbul, 1 Wattle bird, and 1 Butcher bird. Swifts or Swallows were seen flying high. Not in the count, but around at that period were Frogmouths, Mudlarks, Wrens, Spotted pardalotes and Kookaburras.

Things have changed since then, and there are now all the above, but not the Turtledoves, Mudlarks, Indian miners, Silvereyes, Sparrows, Bulebuls and Wattle birds. In addition there are brush turkeys, cockatoos, plovers, rosellas and powerful owls. The vegetation in the garden hasn't changed much, nor has the vegetation in adjacent properties.

Batten Reserve is also very close by. Most of the little birds have gone, probably chased away by the aggressive Noisy miners. However this doesn't account for the disappearance of Wattle birds which, while resident, aggressively chased other birds. The bird bath regularly attracts Lorikeets and Noisy miners.

Bushland illustrated

Lane Cove artists have been painting and drawing our bushland for many years and some of their works have become part of the Lane Cove Municipal Art Collection. Some of these are currently on display in the library and include two drawings by a former member Don Dove, now deceased. Among other things, he wrote the first 1982 edition of the booklet *Bush Walks around Lane Cove*.



The Forest/Bushland - Ink Drawing