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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

February 2016

Meeting 9 February 7.30pm
Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner,
Kenneth St & River Rd.

*"Change clause 13, sub-clause (2) – deleteis to be 7,
and addcan be up to 8*

*"Add new sub-clause (4) and renumber the remaining sub-
clauses.*

*"Should any of the office bearer's position be duplicated or
split, 3 committee members shall still be elected".*

What we have done

LCC Award for Strategy for Aging Residents

We have written to Council congratulating them on winning an award for their Aging Lane Cove Strategy. Mayor Hutchens read out the letter at the November Council meeting.

Threats to our Bushland

A summary of the potential threats to Lane Cove bushland were identified in the November Special Meeting.

From this meeting four proposed actions have been identified to address the threats. Further discussion and refinement will occur in early 2016.

The proposals were overwhelmingly supported:

- Advocate retaining, as a minimum, the current area of bushland and open space in Lane Cove.
- LCBCS to actively promote the establishment of a network of neighbouring independent bushland/conservation advocacy groups (eg WEPA etc)
- LCBCS to become more savvy in the use of social media and grow our following.

* LCBCS to establish, as a sub-group of the Society, a "Friends of Lane Cove bushland".

Our next plant stall will be sooner than you think! Saturday 12 March in the Lane Cove Plaza.

Notice of Motion

The Society would like to have provision for three committee member positions instead of the current two. The constitution needs to be changed to achieve this and notice is given for this change to be put to the next meeting.

In other News

Biodiversity Review

The NSW Government is rewriting land clearing laws and the news isn't good for biodiversity and communities across the state, including Sydney.

With the Government's draft legislation due for public release in March 2016, you can learn more about the Government's proposed changes and be empowered to make your voice heard.

The Total Environment Centre and Nature Conservation Council for NSW is organising a series of events across Sydney.

Baird's War on Trees: Time for Action!

North Shore meeting. Monday 1 February 6.30-8.30pm Johnson Hall, Crows Nest Centre, 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest.

Speakers are Jeff Angel, Executive Director Total Environment Centre and Corinne Fisher, Biodiversity Review Campaign Coordinator (Nature Conservation Council of NSW / Total Environment Centre)

Please RSVP: at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/bairds-war-on-trees-time-for-action-north-shore-meeting-tickets-20772462996> by 27/01/2016

For information on the NSW Biodiversity Review, go to: <http://www.nature.org.au/campaigns/nature-laws/>

For further information about the meeting, email Corinne Fisher - cfisher@tec.org.au

Campaign Coordinator NSW Biodiversity Review
Total Environment Centre / Nature Conservation Council of NSW Ph: 9211 5022 / 0481 700 296

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Greater Sydney Commission news

The Environment Commissioner for the Greater Sydney Commission is Lane Cove resident Rod Simpson. He will address the Society in 2016 on the connection between the work of the commission, our local council and potential impacts on our bushland reserves.

Warraroon Reserve

Sydney Water's proposal for a major incursion and construction of a sewer access point in the reserve has been put on hold. We are now informed that this has been taken out of the contract. Good news!

Our Land Our Water Our Future update

Since the group was formed in April 2014 nearly 6,000 petition signatures have been collected. Along with signatures, the group have collected around 3,000 people's contact details for the database.

During 2015 the group generated publicity via letters and articles to local and state-wide papers. An impressive result due to the on-going commitment of the group and their knowledge of the issues. There are now over 100 active volunteers.

The group also met with Anthony Roberts, NSW Minister for Energy and Resources, at Parliament House to discuss many aspects of the campaign.



The future of Bush Kids

Valerie Close has been appointed by LCC as the LCBK coordinator. She has longstanding experience with a bush kids program at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower reserve. The Society will meet with her soon.

Our thanks to Alex May who in the past has volunteered much of her time to the program and has made an outstanding contribution.

Amalgamations – they haven't gone away

In the recent past the government wanted a Mega-council by amalgamating Lane Cove, Hunters Hill, Mosman, North Sydney, Willoughby and part of Ryde councils, totalling 360 000, all driven by their "Bigger is Better" ideology. For some unstated reason, they will now be happy with a Mini-Mega-Merger of Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde, totalling 160 000.

The government isn't prepared to legislate amalgamations as recommended in the IPART Report, but have referred the Mini-Mega-Merger to the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government (OLG) for examination and report under the Local Government Act.

So we have another (and probably last) opportunity to join with Lane Cove Council to yet again roundly oppose this Merger. We will not repeat the case against the Mergers. Ample information is available

from our submissions on our website and also on Council's website.

Public enquiry Tuesday 2 February

A public inquiry will be held at Hunters Hill Sailing Club, off Clarke Road There are two session times, 1:00 – 5:00pm and 7:00 – 10:00pm.

Members of the public who would like to attend must register at www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au or ring 1300 813 020. If you wish to speak at the inquiry you must indicate this when you register to attend. Registrations close 12noon Friday 29 January.

Written submissions will be accepted until 5pm on 28 February 2016.

The Society will speak at the inquiry and make a written submission. We need many voices to make it clear that the supposed benefits are an illusion and that the residents of Lane Cove have clearly stated that they do not want to be amalgamated with anybody. Many thanks to Sue Ingham for organising leaflets and the awareness campaign.

Who benefits? Your rates will be higher – amalgamation is expensive;

You will have no say in what happens in Lane Cove – councillors will be reduced from 9 to 3;

Local associations will lose support

Lane Cove's unique bush land will be threatened

Government's infrastructure projects will override local interests – as we have seen in Mowbray and Epping Rd and St Leonards.

Make a submission and attend the Public Inquiry. Tell your friends. Write to the North Shore Times.

Where is our representative Anthony Roberts when we need him? On the 20 March 2015, he posted on his website:

"As I said in June 2013, when it comes to Councils, bigger is not better. I naturally support the idea of all Councils working closer together to achieve the best outcomes for their ratepayers, whilst retaining their identity and autonomy."

Since then there has been silence. There has been no response to requests for assurances that he will support the overwhelming opposition to amalgamations.

Welcome back Corinne and family

Former President Corinne Fisher and family are back from a well-deserved long holiday from the bustle of Lane Cove and government-induced stress.

Corinne is now working as the Campaign Coordinator for the NSW Biodiversity Review for the Total Environment Centre / Nature Conservation Council of NSW.