



ISSN 0727 7717

BUSH RANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

May 2016

Next Meeting

Tuesday 10 May 7.30pm

**Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner,
Kenneth St & River Rd.**

What we have done

LCBCS and BMAC celebration

The April LCBCS meeting was replaced with the BMAC 25 year celebration, held on Tuesday 12 April, at Cova Cottage, Riverview,

BMAC is a major achievement of LCC and its success is evident in the quality of Lane Cove's Bushland reserves. It was a major success also for the Society, which was closely involved in the committee to develop the first Bushland Plan of Management for Lane Cove, which recommended the establishment of BMAC.

The Society has had three representatives on BMAC, along with three community members and nominated councilors since its inception and through this has been able to influence the establishment, maintenance and preservation of our pockets of urban Bushland. Its role with BMAC represents a close and important environmental influence in Lane Cove, while the BMAC represents a unique model for environmental and Bushland protection through its multi stakeholder representation.

It was terrific to have past LCBCS presidents attend along with so many past and present Lane Cove council staff to mark 25 years of the BMAC. Included were Bruce Stuckey, the first Open Space Director; and Susan Butler the first Bushland Manager, to help us celebrate along with our mayor. Illness prevented the attendance of Jack Hartman, the long-serving engineer and planner.

Deborah Hutchens, and current GM Craig Wrightson, and former GM Peter Brown were present together with current Bushland management staff.

Guest speakers included:

Councillor Deborah Hutchens, Mayor of Lane Cove formally opened the celebration. Rod Tudge spoke on LCBCS and the establishment & achievements of BMAC. Norma Stuart officially cut the cake!

During the evening the following BMAC members were presented with Awards in appreciation of their contribution: Yvonne Barber, Ros Baxter, Margaret Bergomi, Win Chandler, Shauna Forrest, Maralyn Lawson, Vickie Lee, Lynne McLoughlin, Norma Stuart, Frances Vissel.

Several have been active members of BMAC for more than 20 years.

A full account of the event, including speeches, Award recipients and photographs are on the LCBCS webpage.

Report on Bush Kids 2016

The first term's Lane Cove Bush Kids program offered five activities from February to April. All activities except one (due to heavy rain on the day) were well attended. Most activities had 12 to 16 participants. A total of 62 participants attended the first term program (33 children and 26 adults).

The program is attracting regulars with half the families having attended before and attended more than one activity for this term.

Participant feedback has been very positive. A sample of this term's feedback include; "We enjoyed the entire morning", "Thank you and highly enjoyable and gentle/friendly leadership – great!", "I thought it was all great, well timed and all kids involved.", "All EXCELLENT! Love the new coordinator", "Lovely instruction and information in the bush."

The Bush Kids Facebook page is attracting attention with a reach of 451 people and 312 Likes. A new Bush Kids link and page on Council's web site under Environment / Natural Environment provides residents with further information on the program and upcoming activities.

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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The coordinator Valerie Close would like to thank the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society members who gave their time freely to come along as LCBCS representatives. In particular, thanks go to Ron Gornall for his support.

Coal and Gas Watch Report April 2016

The Coal and Gas Watch sub-committee in conjunction with Lock the Gate held a public forum at the Greenwich Community Hall on Sunday 3rd April.

Four guest speakers, including 2014 Goldman Environment Prize winner Ramesh Agrawal, from India, addressed a full house (150 people) to explain the impacts of Wollongong Coal's activities on the Sydney drinking water catchment; cracked riverbeds, drained swamps and potential water loss from the Cataract dam if their mining expansion is approved. They also argued that the company is "not fit and proper" to mine there.

Ramesh told his story about Wollongong Coal's majority owner Jindal Steel, who in India have been charged with environmental breaches, non-compliance and are facing corruption charges.

Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts has the discretionary power, using the "not fit and proper" clause in the NSW Mining Act to cancel Wollongong Coal's mining license. On Monday 4th April Ramesh Agrawal delivered a dossier of evidence to the Minister's Gladesville office to support this "not fit and proper" claim. Representatives of Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch accompanied Ramesh. This was to support a letter sent to the Minister on this issue by the Environmental Defenders Office.

We await the Minister's response.

For further information about the campaign, contact Sally Kennedy 0424 330 323

In other News

Your toothbrush is broken? Don't toss it, fix it. Battery-powered toothbrushes that have given up, broken handles (and lots more things) can be fixed at the Repair Café, Uniting Church Hall, Mowbray Rd. First & second Sunday each month, 1 – 3pm. More details In The Cove, or contact Wendy 9420-4884.

News from around and about

Amalgamations

We can't add much to what you have already read in previous newsletters, because nothing much has happened – at least publicly. The Government still seems intent on pursuing amalgamations, in spite of continuing objections. As you may have seen in the press, some legal action has been launched to prevent some amalgamations proceeding, however their main effect may be to delay the process.

The Boundary Commission Delegate's report on the

Lane Cove Council merger has been given to the Minister for Local Government, but not released to those most affected – namely, **US**. The Minister has not said when, if ever, it will be released. Ku-ring-gai Council has used legal means to obtain a copy of their report, but are unable to make it publicly available. We understand that it and some others, recommend amalgamations.

The Great Roberts Silence

Anthony Roberts' 12 month silence on this matter continues. Our local member has clearly let us down completely.

Latest on Amalgamations – SMH April 27

"More councils join legal battle with state government over mergers.

"Council amalgamations fuelling Liberal backlash in North Sydney by-election.

"Mike Baird sets out the path to fewer councils.

"They might represent polar opposites inside the Coalition but the Nationals' Barnaby Joyce and the newly elected Liberal member for North Sydney, Trent Zimmerman, are united on one issue: they want the Baird government to back off on forced amalgamations of councils.

"While local government issues rarely impinge on federal politics, the issue of forced amalgamations is threatening to break through during the looming federal campaign, particularly in the bush."

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/fed-liberals-nationals-feel-the-heat-from-council-amalgamations-20160427-gog1w3.html#ixzz47AOAx3rH>

Bush Kids program for April is now available on

<https://www.facebook.com/lanecovebushkids/>

Owl Babies - Thursday 12 May at Blackman Park - meet at picnic area on Penrose Street (no toilets on site) 9:45am - 11am - Hoot! Hoot! Owls are fascinating night time animals. Join us to read Owl Babies, go on a bushwalk and make an owl of your own to take home.

Turtles, Tadpoles and Tots - Tuesday 24 May at Tambourine Bay Reserve - meet near Tambourine Bay Rd car park 9:45am - 11am - Do you carry your house on your back or lose your tail when you get older? Give your tot a chance to explore nature, encouraging a love and curiosity of the natural world. We'll look at some of the places turtles and tadpoles live, learn how tadpoles change into frogs and touch a real turtle shell.

Snugglepot and Cuddlepie - Thurs 2 June at Blackman Park, Lloyd Rees Drive - meet at picnic area 9:45am - 11am - Join us to revisit an Australian classic, May Gibbs' Snugglepot and Cuddlepie. Join us for the adventure of two lovable gumnuts. We'll go on a bushwalk looking for gumnuts, play the forest felt board game and make our own gumnut baby.

Bookings essential - call 9911 3583. To be added to our mailing list, email bushkids@lanecove.nsw.gov.au and let us know your name, contact number & email, age of your child/dren and how you found out about Bush Kids.



Top left: Mayor Deborah Hutchens delivering her address
 Top right: former Mayor and Councillor, Rod Tudge describing BMAC's beginnings.
 Below: Denise Tudge, former GM Peter Brown and former Bushland Manager Susan Butler.



Left to right with their certificates: Norma Stuart, Margaret Bergomi, Frances Vissel, Yvonne Barber, Shauna Forrest, Vickie Lee, Maralyn Lawson, Ros Baxter.

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An array of LCBCS Presidents: Meron Wilson, Doug Graham, Corinne Fisher, Doug Stuart, Ruth Neumann (our current President) and Ron Gornall.



Norma Stuart cuts the celebratory cake.

