



ISSN 0727 7717

BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

Meeting 13 September 7.30pm
Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner,
Kenneth St & River Rd

What is coming up

Our **Spring Plant Stall** in the Plaza from 9am to 12 noon on Saturday 10 September. There will be a Kids' Activity. It's also the Coffee Carnivale!

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Tuesday October 11 at the Tennis Club, at the usual time. This is your opportunity to take an active role in the Society to support its ongoing work for the natural and built environment.

Sustainability Lane in October will include a Society stand. Come along and join in.

What we have done

Our Spring bushwalk

Sunday, August 28 was a glorious spring day and about 25 people enjoyed a walk through the North Head Sanctuary near Manly, for a stunning display of wildflowers.



Ron affectionately fondling a Xanthorroea!

September 2016

Ron Gornall identified the plants, explained how they responded to variations in habitat and indicated those which would grow well in Lane Cove gardens. Unfortunately, Barbara Gornall was not present to share her knowledge due to an injury.

The area has well-developed paths, making for easy walking, is well signposted, has great views and there is a very nice cafe at North Fort! Making your own visit would be worthwhile.

You can pick up a leaflet, which includes a map, at the visitor centre at North Fort.

Meeting with the members of the Greater Sydney Commission

Our August meeting turned into a major event when our Society invited all the community associations in the northern region to join us in an evening of information with Rod Simpson, the GSC Commissioner for the Environment, Dianne Knott, A/Director Communications and Engagement, and Dr Deborah Dearing, Commissioner for the North.

Rod Simpson spoke enthusiastically about the 'blue grid' of the water catchment across the Sydney basin and the 'green grid' of bushland. This green grid is a distinctive feature of the Sydney metropolitan area and he said much has already disappeared, citing the state of the Cumberland Heritage Woodland in West Pennant Hills.

He wants to make more green space and utilise the existing green space better. But not all areas of Sydney are the same and in comparison to other parts of Sydney, the Northern Region is 'pretty well endowed with bushland', he said. In response to the Q&A, he remembered the issues surrounding the Batten Reserve and Kylie Brydan-Smith's presentation at the Meet the

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Candidates event in Longueville last year, saying he 'could not understand what was the planning behind that development'.

Dianne Knott spoke about the strategies the GSC proposed to engage with the communities to identify priorities for infrastructure and the environment. \$3m is available for the Green Grid of which there were a number of sites in the north, for example in Hornsby, Lane Cove and the Northern Beaches.

Dr Deborah Dearing, arriving late due to prior commitments, participated in the Q&A which many felt was the most interesting and effective part of the evening.

Representatives were present from some 40 community groups, stretching from Brooklyn and the Northern Beaches to Epping, Mosman and North Sydney and many had submitted questions for the Q&A in advance. Although the speeches from the GSC had been full of their good intentions, Corinne Fisher asked 'what would happen if the government disagreed with the GSC?' Deborah Dearing replied that this would be 'highly unlikely'; yet final planning decisions will still be made by the Department of Planning and the Planning Assessment Commission that have given priority to developers in the past.

The GSC spoke of working closely with councils to ensure their priorities are met, seeing themselves in an area between councils and their plans and the Plan for Growing Sydney. But with the current development of mega councils, it was not clear who would have the final say on LEPs. Many of the groups reported negative experiences with planning and development in their areas and were not convinced that the consultation and 'engagement' the GSC proposed would limit inappropriate development. At their request, these and other questions will be submitted to the GSC.

Some 15 members of LCBCS and helpers made the event run really smoothly and effectively. Just to mention some: Sally Kennedy, Matt Fisher, Doug Stuart, Sue Ingham, Ruth Neumann, Corinne Fisher and Margaret Bergomi.

The evening was very successful - whether we will preserve the bushland and prevent inappropriate development by working with the GSC is another story. *Thanks to Sue Ingham for this report.*

In other news

Challenging Our Notions – What Makes Good Planning? A report on the Better Planning Network's Special Event on Tues 23rd August 2016

BPN's Jeannette Brockman outlined the position as she sees it. Some points were:

- the Government's priorities are for 90% of applications approved as complying.
- a 50% reduction in approval time for major and State significant developments.

The Government is introducing changes to the planning laws by increments – their philosophy is divide and win. We have to be vigilant. SEPPs are also being rethought – further information to come as it is received.

BPN's survey listed new priorities:
Planning governance
Climate change



The GSC forum audience being addressed by Corinne Fisher.

There were three speakers.

Prof Anna Yeatman, Whitlam Institute (Western Sydney University)

She acknowledges that we must grow, but how to do it? The present situation does not come up to community expectations.

Historically the concept of City = community- a Democratic Society resulting in a civic place.

Current Neo Liberalism, at Federal and State level, has resulted in an assault on Society.

The Government program to sell assets to the highest bidder has reduced to opportunity for Civic Places.

Wealth is not just private profit but also includes the public realm and well being.

If cities are to grow we must have a civic process to provide the environment that is craved by most people to live a fulfilling life.

Tim Williams CEO, The Committee for Sydney
Cities must be walkable – maximum of 30 minutes from home to work.

- more emphasis on pedestrian space than providing for cars (This reduces the necessity for

the use of cars), we must have more trees.

- areas of 4 – 5 storey housing with wide shared spaces between, providing the densities that are necessary for a growing city.

- 50% of jobs in NSW are in Sydney, 30% of those jobs are in the CBD.

This must change if we are to achieve the 30 minute commute.

His main message was Citizens as Creators – not consumers.

Joanne Jakovich, Lab for Strategic Open Urbanism (SOUP)

She used the example of her group consultation, a workshop over about 6 weeks, about 200 people involved, mostly young people from inner urban areas, who came up with some brilliant ideas for their problems.

She used the analogy of 5000 planners making decisions for 5 million stakeholders, this should be reversed and the 5m stakeholders should make the decisions for the 5000 planners to implement.

- all planning must be sustainable and equitable, producing delight

- consultation should have depth, passion and a shared responsibility.

We must rethink how we see planning with openness, creativity, investment (time) and connectiveness.

The audience included staff from the Dept of Planning, GSC (including 3 commissioners) a couple of politicians as well as the concerned community. *Thanks to Doug Stuart for the report.*

The Plaza – set in stone

At the opening of the Plaza on November 26, 1977, the then Mayor, Bill Henningham (a Society member), unveiled a plaque set in the paving near the pedestrian crossing at Longueville Road.

The plaque read:

**LANE COVE PLAZA
A PLACE FOR PEOPLE
From 11 – 11 – 1974**

This was the date when Burns Bay Road was closed. The three years that followed included many public meetings where opinions were voiced for and against a Plaza. Council was also involved in at least one court case in its efforts to bring the Plaza to fruition.

Bill's choice of words deliberately excluded the usual list of the names of worthies to emphasise that it is **A Place for People**.

During one of the renovations a few years ago the plaque was removed to enable the paving to be changed, but it did not reappear as expected. It was lost. Two Society members, who were at the opening, thought it important enough that this significant event should be "set in stone" and approached Council about 15 months ago to have the plaque replaced.

After some delay, Council agreed to place a reproduction of the plaque on the brick wall at the Longueville Road end of the Plaza.

The red granite plaque was installed on 1 September 2016 and serves to remind us that it is:

"A PLACE FOR PEOPLE".

Australian Brush-turkeys in Lane Cove



Brush-turkeys, also known as Bush-turkeys, have recently re-established populations in many Sydney suburbs, including Lane Cove and surrounds.

These native birds used to occur in these areas but have been decimated by shooters, foxes, cats and habitat destruction. You have probably seen them wandering on driveways, footpaths and roads seemingly unconcerned by your presence.

During the breeding season, Brush-turkeys can cause considerable damage to suburban gardens while building their mounds. Year-round, they can uproot plants when scratching for food. This leads to complaints from local residents, especially in areas where these birds have only recently re-established themselves.

Surveys in other areas, where Brush-turkeys have occurred for longer, have shown that up to 75% of people tolerate them in their backyards.

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Avoid attracting them to your backyard by:

- Reducing or removing potential food sources. Brush-turkeys eat almost everything, including pet or chicken food, other bird seeds, or any other food scraps left lying around. Also
- Covering your compost heaps, as they love to feed from these.
- Removing unnecessary sources of water that these birds can drink from.

More information by Dr Ann Goeth is on Council's web site, search for "brush turkey".

SOS Green Space...?

You are invited to attend a community forum to protect our green spaces!

We know you are passionate about protecting our shared parks, trees, bushland and wildlife. They belong to all of us, and they are not for sale! Critical green spaces across Sydney and NSW are facing multiple threats so the Total Environment Centre is launching a new major campaign to save them – SOS Green Spaces.

We invite you to work with us. We've organised free information and action evenings that will include presentations on:

Current threats to our green spaces:

- The NSW Government scheme for a new urban tree SEPP, which will override existing tree preservation orders, and set new native vegetation clearing controls across urban areas in NSW
- The NSW Government's upcoming Crown Lands legislative changes, due to be put to the NSW Parliament in October 2016
- The review of SEPP 19, Urban Bushland
- The work of the Greater Sydney Commission and how it will affect planning if you live in Sydney

All of these proposals will have a profound impact on our lives and on the way our shared green spaces and trees are protected and managed.

Sign our SOS Green Spaces Petition

Book a free place at one of our community workshops:

Monday 12 Sept, 6.30pm in the CBD
Wednesday 14 Sept, 6.30pm in Crows Nest

Check out our campaign video to save our Green Spaces

For further information, please contact Corinne Fisher on 9211 5022 or cfisher@tec.org.au

Report on the Rosenthal Avenue development workshop – 31st August 2016

The Facilitator outlined the purpose of the workshop to about 25 people. It was to discuss issues arising during the construction period and immediately after opening. We were not there to discuss the development.

LCC GM Craig Wrightson then gave a history of the site and the development up to the present time and how it changed from possible residential to an open space on the upper level. Tenders have been called from four Design and Construct contractors, which are due in October 2016.

Construction will commence early next year. The development will be in a single stage (whole of site) and contractors are requested to provide an alternative price for an accelerated time to open the parking levels. Figures were shown that the number of parking spaces in the centre after to closure of Rosenthal would be the same as prior to the Little St carpark development.

We were then invited to record on butcher's paper on four tables roughly given subjects, our concerns/suggestions/solutions of the issues we saw during construction and immediately after.

Thanks to Doug Stuart for the report.

Bush Kids



Our Term 4 program is out!

Bookings are essential, call 9911 3583.
Join us and encourage your child to connect with nature.

Hard copies are available at the Lane Cove Civic Centre, 48 Longueville Rd or can be emailed to you. Contact bushkids@lanecove.nsw.gov.au. Keep in touch with [facebook.com/lanecovebushkids](https://www.facebook.com/lanecovebushkids).

LCBCS members attend free. Non-members \$5 per child.