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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

March 2017

Meeting 14 March 7.30pm
Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner,
Kenneth St & River Rd.

Plant Stall

March 25, 9 to 12 in Lane Cove Plaza.
Contact Ruth if you can help, 0409 609 940.



Our Working Groups

Our President Margaret Bergomi writes:

Many of our members are busily involved in a range of activities throughout the year. Some of these activities are aimed at giving us a voice in Lane Cove and some involve hands-on participation in Council-run bushland programs and events.

This is separate from the work of our Executive Committee that sees to the running of the Society. Members work in small informal groups, liaise by email or over the occasional coffee, and work with other organisations.

In later newsletters we will expand on these activities and introduce you to the members involved and the work they do.

Working and liaising with Council
Council's Bushland Management
Advisory Committee Representatives
(BMAC)
Council's Bush Kids Advisory Cmtee
Reps
Grant Applications

Volunteering

Bush Care Groups
Bush Kids (Volunteers represent the
Society at Council-run program in
Bushland Reserves)
Society Plant Stall (Native Plant Sale
held in the Plaza twice per year)
Cameraygal Festival (Society Stall at
Sustainability Lane)

Monitoring Current Planning and Development Issues (Submissions, Letters)

Amalgamation
Development Applications
Government Plans and Policies
Better Planning Network Liaison
Coal and Gas Watch Committee

Newsletter and Publicity

Publicity
Newsletter each month
Newsletter Distribution
Emails to Members
Web Page and Maintenance
Twitter and Facebook
Membership and Public Officer
Social activities
Public Contacts

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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KEY ACTIVITY TO KICK START 2017

The C&GW delivered their 15,000 signature petition to Anthony Roberts on 2 Dec 2016. The petition asks for no-go zones for coal mining and coal seam gas wells on prime agricultural land, drinking water catchments and special wild places including state forests. It also asks for public health and community rights to be protected from the impacts of coal and gas mining.

Roberts agreed to table the petition in Parliament which will trigger a debate. It is anticipated that the debate will take place on a Thursday afternoon in February or March. This will be accompanied by a rally outside NSW Parliament, everyone is encouraged to attend. We will probably be given short notice but a heads-up email from the NCC to all member groups and those who signed the petition will be sent this week.

6,000 of the 15,000 signatures were collected in the Lane Cove Electorate. The other signatures coming from other suburbs within Sydney. The key message will be that Sydney-siders support a new approach to coal and gas mining across the state. It is not just communities impacted that are in opposition. Collecting this number of signatures has been a significant achievement for all involved. Roberts himself seemed impressed!

Bye Bye Baird...



What we have done

Medium Density Housing Code

Have you seen the article critical of the NSW Government's proposed introduction of a Medium Density Housing Code - **allowing it to be built almost anywhere?**

It was published in February issue of The Village Observer and soon afterwards in the Facebook page "In the Cove".

It stated that medium density housing development should only be allowed on R3 zoned land and that where this should occur should remain a decision of Council. Kuringai and Hornsby Councils and many groups like ours have similar views.

It is also supported by the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC), which has stated that: "local environment plans will continue to determine whether development is permitted or prohibited on land."

We oppose the use of Complying Development for medium density housing. It should only be approved by Council through the Development Application (DA) process.

The cynical view is that (like council mergers!) such opposition would increase the chances of the Government pressing on with a bad idea.

You can read the Society's submission on our website.

In other News

Council has obtained these grants: -

Metro Greenspace Grant, Shell Park To Greenwich Track Upgrade

A design and construct quote is being obtained from a contractor to upgrade the Shell Park track addressing the strict constraints of the Aboriginal sites.

OEH Saving Species Bushland Park

A multispecies Fungi Project of \$16000 over 3 years. The grant will cover, Water Quality Monitoring, Bush Regeneration in the Hygrocybe area and community education.

Council's bushland activities:

Backyard Habitat

The program continues to attract new participants. A new initiative for DAs adjacent to bushland or who have remnant bush land on their properties are being recommended to participate in the program as part of the conditions. Both Backyard Habitat and Bush kids along with Bushcare and Bush friends are supported by the Sustainability levy.

Bush Kids still going well and attracting strong attendance at all events.

15 Centennial Ave.

The very steep area adjacent to Hycorp's apartments and Stringybark Creek was greatly disturbed and degraded by the development. At last a rehabilitation program is about to happen. \$80,000 has been allocated for this work.

Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT). Council has a list of Priority Sites for installation of these. They are quite expensive to install. They also need access for maintenance. There are plans to install one at Warraroon Reserve this financial year and the Bushland Park the following year.

Amalgamations again:



In a media release dated 14 February, the Premier said "we accept that a one size fits all model does not always apply outside Sydney", but hasn't explained why it doesn't apply in metropolitan Sydney.

Council at its meeting of 5 December 2016 resolved to press ahead with lodging an appeal and seek orders to adjourn the appeal until after the decision in the Woollahra case is handed down to allow time to consider the impact of the decision on the merits of Council's case.

The Woollahra decision has now been handed down and Council decided whether to pursue an appeal against the Land and Environment Court Judgment.

Speaking to the motion to continue the appeal Councillor Bennison stated that the Premier "based her justification to proceed with the Sydney mergers as necessary to address the city's housing affordability crisis and improve development application times", but he pointed out that "housing affordability is not linked to council mergers, it is a function of supply, foreign investment rules and taxation" (NST, 23.2.17). Council resolved to continue the appeal currently before the Court of Appeal.

We still haven't had replies to our letters to the Minister for Local Government.

Community Recycling Centres

Two Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) will be opening in the coming months in northern Sydney. One will be in Artarmon to be operated by North Sydney Council on behalf of Lane Cove, Willoughby, Ryde and Hunters Hill councils. Watch for details.

"A Festival of Brass"

2.30pm Sunday 2 April, presented by the Beecroft Orchestra at St Albans Church Hall, Epping. Conductor: Joanna Drimatis Soloist: Gregory van der Struik-Trombone - *Fanfare for the Common Man* by Copland - *Concerto for Trombone and Strings* by Gregory van der Struik- (*World Premiere*) - *Symphony No. 5 in E Minor*- Tchaikovsky
This is an unsolicited notice by one of the trombone-playing editors!

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