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# BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the  
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

**Meeting 11 April 7.30pm**

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

**April 2017**

Stuart, Helen Fisher, Matt Fisher, Lidia Petersen and Mike Kelly. (see also photos on back page). Some other helpers on the day included Graham Holland, Maralyn Lawson, Doug Stuart, Ron and Barbara Gornall, Shauna Forrest and Margaret Bergomi.

## What we have done Plant Stall



*He bought \$50s worth!*

Did you see us in the Plaza on Saturday 25 March? Our plant stall was a great success under Ruth Neumann's leadership.

We had strong community interest and were kept very busy, selling more than 80 percent of the plants. We also sold several cards - our new initiative of gift cards featuring our Lane Cove bushland, flora and fauna - as well as several walks books and membership.

At the stall we always had someone on hand that knew a lot about growing native plant material and choosing suitable plants for Lane Cove gardens. Helping Ruth with the stall and sourcing the plants were Yvonne Barber, Norma



*Happy customers!*

For the September 12<sup>th</sup> stall we would like to expand our examples of native plants suitable for pots and balconies, so please let me know of any plants that are doing well for you in pots, and if possible, send me a photo.

Secondly, we would like to trial hives for solitary native bees. Please let me know if you have any experience, ideas and suggestions on hives for solitary native bees.

As indicated in our last newsletter, our bi-annual plant stall is one of the volunteer activities that keep our members busy throughout the year.

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### ***Some other volunteer activities include:***

Council's **Bushcare program**, which includes small teams that work together for an hour or two during the week or at weekends to keep our bushland reserves healthy and weed free. A number of members have worked for many years and some initially helped to set up the various groups. They include: Frances Vissell, (Stringybark Creek), Maralyn Lawson (Manns Point) and Yvonne Barber (Bushland Park).

Helping out at Council's **Bush Kids programs**, which provide activities for 2-5 year old children mid-term and holiday programs for children 2-10 years. They are held in Lane Cove bushland reserves and run by Council's Bush Kids officer Valerie Close. Bush Kids was initially set up by the Society and passed to Council in 2015, with the Society still officially involved. Some volunteers have included Ruth Neumann, Corinne Fisher, Norma Stuart and Helen Jordan, who have participated in Council's Bush Kids Advisory Committee. Also in attendance at some Bush Kids events were Ron Gornall and Philip Baxter.

The Society Stall at **Sustainability Lane**, during the Cameraygal Fair in October, where we are there to explain our aims and activities. A variety of plants, books and brochures are on hand to explain various issues. Handmade greeting cards with photos of Lane Cove bushland, vegetation and wild life are also available. Matt Fisher is responsible for the Initial Programming, assisted by Ron Gornall, Shauna Forrest and Doug Stuart.

All these activities provide the opportunity for members to meet and be involved in a worthwhile local activity. We are always looking for more members to become involved. If any of these activities appeal or you wish to find out more, please contact Ron Gornall 9427 1125.

***The following three recent submissions are on our website: -***

**We have made a submission to Council on its traffic proposals.** Thanks to Doug Stuart.

### **We have made a submission (thanks to Doug Stuart) on the Environment Planning and Assessment Amendment Bill.**

It's a curate's egg (good in parts) but we had some serious reservations listed below:

- Climate Change. There is no reference to the NSW "net zero by 2050" emission targets. Planning taken now will have lasting effects on future generations so this reference must be included.
- There is an urgency to include responding to climate change through timely mitigation and adaptation in all development applications. There is a need to allow consent authorities to update consent conditions to keep up with new technologies and innovation.
- The legislation must restore third party rights for merit appeals to the Land and Environment Court to increase public confidence, robust decision making and improved planning outcomes.
- Limit the extent of exempt and complying development.
- Strengthen the rules applying to the integrity of Environmental Impact Statements.

### ***We have made a submission on the Draft North District Plan.***

Thanks to Doug Stuart and Matt Fisher. Key points include:

The Draft Plan is lacking in detail and we hope that the final District Plan will furnish more concrete detail of strategic proposals for areas of concentrated development and a continuity of the characteristics of the many diverse communities in the District.

We commend the approach to a strategic plan for the North District. However, the following comments must be addressed as part of our submission.

- The community must play a major role in formulating this Plan at both the strategic and local level and should continue to be involved in this process.
- Local councils should be the sole arbiter of land use based on the strategic plan.

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- High quality design must be part of all planning and building works.
- North District's natural areas, from national parks to local green, spaces must be maintained and given enough protection to ensure their survival.
- While we commend the Green and Blue Grids we are still awaiting the detailed report as promised to be able to assess their effectiveness.
- Biodiversity offsets should be omitted from the built up urban areas.

**NCC 2016 Annual Conference – our motion on mergers**

The Motion, as follows, was carried:  
That the Nature Conservation Council of NSW write to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for the Environment seeking assurances that in all merged councils the environmental policies regarding protection and maintenance of bushland are based on the highest standards that are now in place in respect of councils that have been merged.

The NCC has since written to the Minister for Planning. The reply concludes with the following summary:

In summary – A new SEPP for the management of urban vegetation will be out in early 2017. The policy will not change the existing ability of councils to manage the amenity of heritage vegetation or locally significant biodiversity. It will however bring consistency to assessment and decision-making processes for clearing of native vegetation across NSW. The policy is needed to cover some types of clearing in some peri-urban or semirural parts of the State created by the new Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 which would not otherwise apply. It will ensure that all clearing of native vegetation, no matter where it is in the State, will be subject to the same strengthened assessment processes and rigorous offsetting methodologies established by the new legislation, if it exceeds the size and impact thresholds.

The policy will also include provision allowing Councils to issue permits for clearing subject to conditions which will give local government more options for managing local vegetation, resulting in enhanced outcomes for biodiversity conservation."

- For detailed information on all Motions at the NCC Conference, please see the NCC website  
[https://www.nature.org.au/media/250568/2016-final-minutes\\_20161121.pdf](https://www.nature.org.au/media/250568/2016-final-minutes_20161121.pdf)

**Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch**

**Screening Of Knitting Nannas Movie**

March monthly meeting included this screening. 20 Minute documentary about the women who established the knitting Nannas in the Northern Rivers of NSW. Link here: <https://vimeo.com/110102248>

**Petition And Parliamentary Debate**

Successful tabling of coal and coal seam gas petition in NSW Parliament by Anthony Roberts leading to a debate on the floor of the house. The following MPs spoke in the debate, with the ALP speakers firming up policies on protecting land and water from coal and gas.

Michael Johnsen MP for the Upper Hunter (National Party) Spoke in favour of Coal mining and extolled its virtues.

Trish Doyle MP for Blue Mountains (Labor Party) Reiterated the ALP's opposition to any further CSG and a ban in water catchments. She spoke about the need to protect catchments from coal mining.

Kevin Humphries MP for Barwon (National Party) This seat is where the SANTOS CSG project is. He spoke about what the government had already done in buying back CSG licences and the Caroon coal mine licence. He acknowledged there was more to do. He backed the right of farmers to say no to mining on their land.

David Harris MP for Wyong (Labor Party) Supported protection of Wyong drinking water catchment from the Wallatah 2 coal mine which was rejected by Kristina Keneally only to be relodged now.

Tamara Smith MP for Ballina (Greens) acknowledged that she is in parliament because of her community's rejection of CSG and outlined the Greens vision of a future beyond coal and gas.

Prior to the debate there was a rally outside parliament house where Jann Dark spoke on behalf of the Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch..  
*The speech is on the Society's website.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Stalls in Lane Cove Plaza**

Tuesday 4th April & Saturday 8th April 9 – 3pm.  
A focus on collecting signatures on the submission to the NSW Planning Department

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opposed to the SANTOS Narrabri Coal Seam Gas project.

The form letter has been emailed to the LCBCS membership for people to complete and mail off to the department.

**Willoughby Event** Sunday 7th May, 2 – 4pm  
Willoughby Uniting Church, 10/12 Clanwilliam St,  
North Willoughby.

Focus on the big **GAS SHORTAGE CON.** This event is to launch a Willoughby Group. Guest speaker from the Australia Institute talking on the fact we don't have a gas shortage, rather all our gas is being exported overseas where the gas companies can command a higher price.

**Pencil in the date and bring a friend.**

Email Sally for enquiries [sallykennedy123@hotmail.com](mailto:sallykennedy123@hotmail.com)

## In other News

### Tree trouble in the Shire

Most Sydney councils have tree preservation policies that are similar to Lane Cove's. A key component of these policies is that trees cannot be removed without council's permission.

Last year Wyong Council substantially watered down its policy but Sutherland Shire Council is proposing something much more drastic.

Some of its Councillors are trying to pass a motion that a landowner will be able to remove a tree on their land without Council's consent. They are claiming that this is necessary because residents are unable to remove "dangerous" tree.

Sutherland Shire already has policies in its DCP to easily allow the removal of dead, dying and dangerous trees without the requirement of council permission.

In 2016, nine out of 10 trees applied for by removal application were granted approval and on average 7000 trees are being removed from the Shire every year. This loss is driven largely by development.

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre seeks your help in combatting this urban devastation.

You can help to protect our tree canopy, to stave off potential tree losses and the further devastation of our trees. A loss of 7000 trees per year, and the cumulative impact of losses this size, is unacceptable!

Action you can take:

- Write / email / telephone Greater Sydney Commission (Attn: Morris lemma)
- Write / email / telephone Anthony Roberts, Minister for Planning
- Add your name to our online petition at [www.ssec.org.au](http://www.ssec.org.au)

### Report of the Nature Conservation Council Annual Conference 22 – 23 October 2016

#### **Significant Issues were discussed: -**

#### **1. Keynote: Politics and the Environment - Making Environmental Progress in 2016**

What happens in Parliament decides the future for our endangered wildlife, the places we love and whether our kids will have a safe climate. Hear directly from those who've spent years walking the halls of power to really understand how to inspire our politicians to care about nature and how this may be changing in modern politics.

All three speakers spoke of the deep concern in the way the environment is losing many of the gains over the past years under the present NSW Government, but the general message was we must keep on persevering and lobby and keep up the fight.

#### **2. Making Our Narrative Heard in a Changing Media Landscape**

Does the nightly news still drive politics? What about the pressures of the 24 hour news cycle? Are people too busy looking at cat videos to care about real issues?

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The way we create and digest media has changed dramatically in the past 20 years, posing real challenges and opportunities for protecting nature. Experienced journalists and communications experts discussed how to make headlines in our changing media landscape.

### 3. Building Alliances with Justice

At the heart of campaigning to protect nature is a cry for justice. The root causes of environmental destruction are often the same as those fuelling entrenched inequality.

By building powerful alliances with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Australians, religious communities, unions and justice advocates, we not only become stronger ourselves, we create a stronger movement for a fair-go for all.



**Maralyn Lawson**



**Margaret Bergomi**

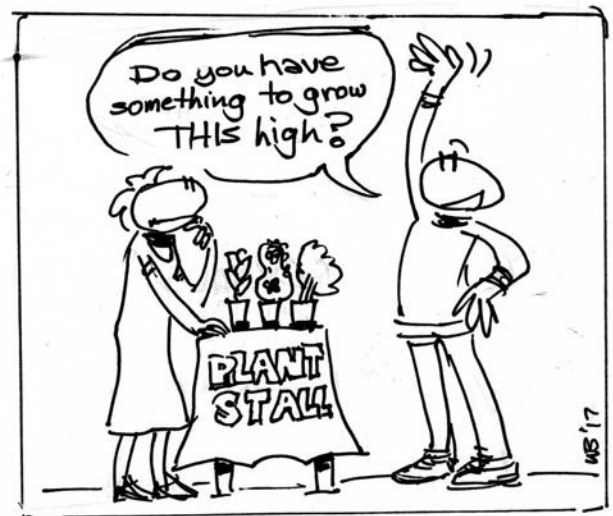
### Helping at the Plant Stall:



**Ron Gornall and Barbara Gornall**



**Helen Fisher and Ruth Neumann**



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