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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

Meeting 9 May 7.30pm

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

What we have done

Keeping the Record

Before the advent of electronic documents, we diligently filed and stored many pieces of paper. This record was invaluable in preparing the Society's history ("Beyond the Untidy Fringe", which can be bought from the Library).

We are developing a process for electronically archiving the many minutes, letters, submissions and other documents produced by Society members.

Our Working Groups continued - Bush Kids Volunteers -

We are calling for Lane Cove Bush Kids volunteers! Helping out with Council's Bush Kids program was one of the volunteer activities highlighted in last month's newsletter.

The 2017 Bush Kids activities are well underway and we are anticipating that the program will continue next year.

It is proving a great success under Council's Bush Kids Program Officer, Valerie Close, who is a very experienced childhood environmental educator.

May 2017

January found the Bush Kids learning to propagate plants at Councils Community Nursery (see photographs, following page).

Norma Stuart was our volunteer during the April session, entitled Echidna Antics. It was so popular that it ran to several sessions to meet the demand. About fourteen children, parents and carers enjoyed a short walk into bushland to investigate termites (a food favourite of the echidna) in nests in the trees and in branches on the ground. A craft activity was then tackled enthusiastically by the children.

If you have a bit of spare time during weekdays to help out we would love to hear from you, especially from some of our members that have joined the Society through the Bush Kids program. All that is required is some time to give out some information to young Lane Cove families about the Society and be a helping hand for Valerie if needed during the session.

Note that 8-14 May is National Volunteering Week!

Please contact Helen Jordan at:
helenj65@tpg.com.au

The Bush Kids program is a joint program of the LCC and the Society under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which expires on 30 June 2017. We are currently negotiating draft terms for extending the current MoU. Council officers are seeking a Sustainability Levy grant to continue the program for the year 2017- 2018.

Details of Bush Kids Program are available on their website and Facebook page.

www.lanecovebushkids.com.au

www.facebook.com/lanecovebushkids

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Valerie Close, Bush Kids Co-ordinator, with keen kids.

Photos from Michelle Greenfield, Lane Cove Council



GUIDELINES FOR OUR ADVOCACY IN 2017

We need to remind ourselves of our priorities for 2017: -

- Advocate to retain as a minimum the current proportion of bushland and open space in Lane Cove.
- LCB&CS to actively promote the establishment of a 'network' of independent bushland/conservation advocacy groups (eg. WEPA etc).
- LCB&CS to become more savvy in the use of social media and grow our following.

'Icons' are not so easily replaced

In addition to the name 'Bushland', the word 'Conservation' was added to make 'The Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society' in 1972. Since then, the Society has worked hard to keep the Lane Cove environment, both built and natural, a great place to live.

The Lloyd Rees Bandstand, erected in 1983, is yet again under threat following a call for its removal by local architect Jon Johannsen, in an article in the April TVO that tries to undermine its pedigree. Johannsen's call for its removal is alarming in the extreme.

His recommendation appears to arise from his negative opinions about its neglected appearance and his assumption that it will be replaced by something better. It may signal that once again the public space may be asked to give way to further commercial use of the Plaza that has led to boxy structures and a price to pay for sitting in them.

In 2009, The Lloyd Rees Bandstand and its associated Plaza was listed or classified by the National Trust (NSW) Report (May 2009) also confirmed its significance, when it was threatened with demolition.

In 2013, a majority vote of the current Councillors ended the Bandstand's brief period of legal protection when it was removed from its listing as a Heritage item in the Lane Cove Local Environment Plan (LEP). They also approved commercialisation of much of the Plaza and the removal of some shade trees.

The Bandstand's enduring success as the absolute 'heart' of community in Lane Cove continues its original function as conceived and designed by Harry Howard (1930-2000) and the involvement of Lloyd Rees (1895-1988) a local of Northwood and one of Australia's most pre-eminent landscape artists. Lane Cove Council's former chief engineer and town planner, Jack Hartman was instrumental in commissioning the development of the plaza.

The most recent renovation of the Bandstand and its grassed area involved comprehensive community consultation and input.

The National Trust Statement of Significance cites the Bandstand's "... historical significance as an integral part of the innovative urban design of this public space, **the first suburban plaza to be created through a major road closure.** We have an enduring performance and social space for Lane Cove that is unrivalled, a focus for ANZAC day, Cameraygal and other ceremonies.

It is with regret that the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society confronts such an assault on a place that makes Lane Cove special. Concerned residents should urge Councillors to acknowledge its significance and protect it by reinstating it as a Heritage item in the Lane Cove LEP.

Margaret Bergomi, President
Shauna Forrest, Secretary

Amalgamations

You will no doubt have seen that Ku-ring-gai Council won most of its action in the Supreme Court against its amalgamation with Hornsby Council.

This is relevant to Lane Cove's case. LCC's General Manager, Craig Wrightson, reports as follows:

"Council's hearing before the same three Judges which heard the Ku-ring-gai case concluded on 6 April, however, the court allowed for additional written submissions to be provided post the hearing in writing. The government was also given an opportunity to respond to these in writing, with the whole process due to conclude 28 April. The Court will now make its decision, which based on the Ku-ring-gai case, will take 4- 6 weeks".

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Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch UPCOMING EVENTS

GAS SHORTAGE CON

*Does Australia have a Gas shortage?
Is all our Gas being exported...?*

A speaker from the Australia Institute will assert that we don't have a gas shortage, but all our gas is being exported overseas where the gas companies can command a higher price.

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

Pencil in the date and bring a friend.

Email Sally for enquiries sallykennedy123@hotmail.com

Coal is it worth it?

Monday 5th June, Lane Cove Library 6.30 – 7.30pm

'Coal - is it worth it?' is a new documentary by veteran filmmaker John Davis who tragically died in a helicopter crash while trying to expose damage caused by the Shenhua coal mine. His family and friends completed the film in his memory.

The film exposes the environmental damage wrought by coal mines and asks us...is it worth it?

Come along and join us – \$5 entry at the door. Pizza and wine included.

Lane Cove Council locking out political groups and lobby groups from use of the Cove Room.

Lane Cove Council voted to prevent political organisations and lobby groups from hiring The Cove Room at the Civic Centre, (although other Council venues could still be hired). The Lane Cove Land, Water, Future group and CSG Activists were specifically mentioned as examples of groups that would be excluded.

The original motion has since been amended to exclude **only registered political parties and registered lobby groups** so the status quo has been restored.

In other News

TEC's SOS Green Spaces

On April 1, This Forum attracted over a hundred representatives of dozens of community groups from across Sydney and beyond. It was a fantastic day of information sharing and strategy building.

With a packed house, our forum allowed our expert speakers to share the latest research on urban green spaces, which we followed up with a lively discussion around how to build this

powerful campaign together to stop the loss of our parks, trees and bushland.

Some of the wisdom shared included: You are three times more likely to exercise if you live near a green space. Many doctors are now prescribing time in a park to promote positive mental health outcomes. The 2020 Vision group will be releasing new data on tree canopy loss in Sydney soon. The results will surprise government and the community!

Green spaces are not only environmental assets but are also of great social and economic value.

The Forum included a presentation by James Grant (Australian Institute of Landscape Architects), Jess Miller of 2020 Vision, and Emily Ryan of the NSW Environmental Defender's Office. For more information including links to the presentations go to www.tec.org.au/sos_green_spaces_forum

Money does grow on trees!

According to a study by the global engineering and urban design committee AECOM reported in the SMH April 28, 2017, higher tree canopy coverage can lead to an average increase of about \$50,000 to house prices than houses in less leafy streets in the same suburb.

The report's co-author points out that "local governments are becoming more conscious of the benefits of street trees, as research finds canopy in the urban environment has important cooling and air filtering effects, as well as amenity." This effect has been noted and advocated by environmentalists for some time, but with the strong focus on house prices in the real estate market and in the media, the hip pocket nerve might lead to this being taken more seriously.

Hi Bushcare Volunteers and Convenors,

Van Klaphake is hosting a series of workshops in July-August in Camden Council. All workshops run over two days. Some volunteers in your group may be interested in going along – please forward to your group if you think it is relevant. These are excellent workshops, the flyers are attached below. (Van used to be a bush regenerator in Lane Cove).

Eucalypts of the Sydney Region - \$150
Rainforest, Wet Schlerophyll Trees & Shrubs
\$130
Grasses - \$130
Sedges and Rushes - \$130

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Not So Fantastic Side of Plastic

Dr. Mark Browne Presents: Microplastics - choking our oceans, marine wildlife and more

**FREE
Event**

The amount of plastic entering our oceans every minute is equivalent to one garbage truck pulling up to the beach and dumping its contents every minute.

Dr Browne will discuss our relationship with plastics and show the manner in which we dispose of our waste products has serious implications for our marine wildlife and ecosystems.

Mark's work has taken him to the shores of six continents. He has dedicated much of his research and academic career to advancing understanding of the sources, pathways and impacts of microplastics, including clothing fibres, packaging and microbeads.

Come along to this engaging and inspiring free talk to hear ideas and actions that **you** can take to make a difference.

Thursday 25 May

6:00pm - 8:30pm

Lane Cove Library, Library Walk, Lane Cove

Register online at www.lanecovesustainability.org or phone 0421 442 840 for more information.

This talk is proudly funded by Council's Sustainability Small Grants Program and is being hosted by the Lane Cove Sustainability Action Group.



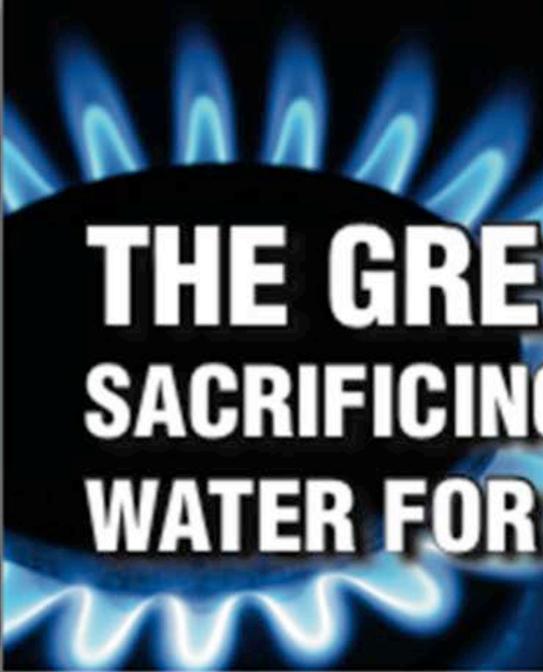
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THE GREAT GAS CON: SACRIFICING FARMS AND WATER FOR COAL SEAM GAS

Join us for a free public forum at
the Willoughby Uniting Church

Australia is set to become the
world's largest exporter of gas,
while our farmland and water are
being put at risk.

The gas industry is duping us into
letting them open up the NSW
countryside to gas.

But the people of NSW don't need
or want coal seam gas!

Find out why we've got to stop the
Narrabri coal seam gas project and
support our farmers.

FEATURING

BRUCE ROBERTSON

Gas Market Expert from IEEFA

MEGAN KUHN

Liverpool Plains farmer

JANET FRANCE

Willoughby Citizen of the Year 2017

MC SALLY KENNEDY

Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch



WHEN: Sunday 2pm 7th May 2017

WHERE: Willoughby Uniting Church 10/12 Clanwilliam St, North Willoughby NSW 2068

RSVP: www.lockthegate.org.au/calendar