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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10 October 7.30pm

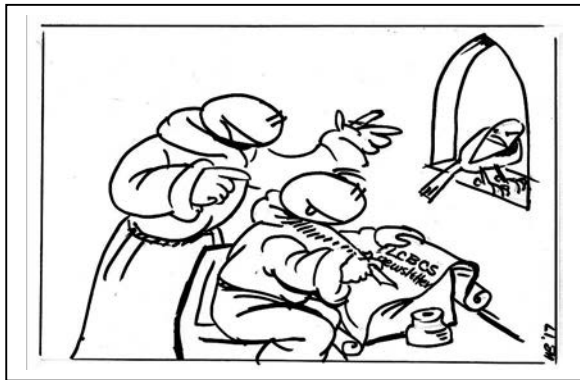
Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner, Kenneth St &
River Rd

Our AGM - Give some of your time this year – put your name forward at the AGM to support the work of the Society. All positions are open! Make a positive contribution to the natural and built environment in Lane Cove.

What we have done

An opportunity to enhance your writing and editing skills!

This publication presents an opportunity for anyone who is keen to help others to know what's going on within and without the Society. The editor (S) have free rein to creatively present the Society's news and views and express opinions constrained solely by the laws of libel. It's an excellent opportunity to creatively hone your writing skills and drawing skills you



can manage that as well. This is the final issue by the current editors, Wendy Bishop and Graham Holland. We are not sure how long they'd been at it but it's at least eight years and it's time for someone else to have a go, so

Wendy can spend more time at Culburra and the Repair Café and Graham can spend more time with his family—trombone, flute and sailplane. It's been a nice monthly pleasure which we are, however, willing to forego.

President Margaret Bergomi writes:

Thank you to our editorial team

After many years our editorial team of Graham Holland and Wendy Bishop is standing down. We thank them for the enormous contribution they have made to the Society by producing the newsletter each month. Without a replacement team we will not be able to produce a newsletter. So this could be our last edition. Our AGM on Tuesday 10 October will be critical to deciding its fate. So come with your ideas, or better still, step forward to help as an editor!

October 2017

TIME FOR CONGRATULATIONS

The Council merger threat has gone and the council election is over, so hopefully we can have some time free from political controversy. However, we are pleased to report on the Council election beginning by congratulating our long-standing member Frances Vissel on her election as a Councillor for East Ward.

Although we are party non-political and do not endorse candidates, many of our members worked individually to support their favoured candidates.

We especially want to acknowledge those who contributed to our own 'in-house' efforts, including the group that came together to prepare our questionnaire and circulate it, both electronically and as a flyer. Also, we thank those who attended and asked questions at the 'Meet the Candidates' forum, which were also featured in our article 'Question Time for Council Candidates' which was published in the August edition of the TVO.

We look forward to the new Councillors honoring the commitments that they made at the forum. They all unanimously supported rejecting any future Council amalgamations, committed to keeping the Lloyd Rees bandstand in place and to maintain, and in some cases, expand the green space and bushland budget.

We believe our contribution asking candidates questions about matters important to Lane Cove in general and to the Society in particular was useful and perhaps had a beneficial effect on the result.

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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The results are:

Central Ward: Deborah Hutchens, Liberal
Karola Brent, Independent (Deputy Mayor)
Katherine Morris, Independent

East Ward: Pam Palmer, Independent (Mayor)
David Brooks-Horn, Liberal
Frances Vissell, Independent.

West Ward: Scott Bennison, Liberal
Daniel Strassberg, Independent
Andrew Zbik, Labor

The informal vote was about 4% and the participation rate about 80%. It's disappointing that 20% of the electorate did not think their local future was important enough to vote on. The Electoral Commission will issue a penalty notice to those who chose not to vote.

Ausgrid Vegetation Management Workshop

From August 2016 to March 2017 Ausgrid undertook a vegetation management engagement program with stakeholders in order to (1) better understand community responses to Ausgrid street tree trimming (butchering?), (2) develop a shared understanding of Ausgrid's work in relation to tree trimming, and (3) use workshop outcomes to inform future improvements in Ausgrid's tree trimming performance. The Society participated as a community group, attending four 3- to 5-hour workshops.

Key concerns raised during the sessions were (1) the quality of Ausgrid tree trimming and the contractors used by Ausgrid (2) community perceptions of poor communication from Ausgrid in particular with residents directly impacted by tree trimming (3) a very strong view that a partnership with local councils would result in improved vegetation management and visual outcomes.

In February 2017 Ausgrid announced that, on the strength of sentiment and arguments presented by stakeholders at EVERY session, Ausgrid would be moving to an engagement and consultation with local councils over the next months of 2017. This news was unexpected and welcomed by stakeholder participants. (Thanks to Maralyn Lawson, Ruth Neumann and Norma Stuart for participating and reporting)



Development at 266 Longueville Road

During the development of the Major Projects Plan in 2006 . 2007 the Society vehemently opposed development of any type on existing open space in Lane Cove, particularly on 266 Longueville Road (and 314 Burns Bay Road). We repeated

this opposition to development on 266 Longueville Road at the Public Hearing to re-categorise and rezone this land.

We did not achieve this result in either case.

This Society still holds this position of opposing development on existing Council owned open space, which we believe is needed, with the increased population that the we are experiencing.

We do, however, believe that the situation may have advanced on 266 Longueville Road to a point that retention of the area as recreational open space is not possible, so that our comments are confined to the development application as submitted.

Like so many other developers, this developer has blatantly exceeded the height limit. In this case over one whole level! We can see no justification at all for its inclusion, other than to increase the number of units that can be leased/sold for profit. A roof height was set in the LEP covering the whole of the site and this must be adhered to and the extra floor of units should in no way be permitted.

Some of our other concerns include:

- the removal of too many trees;
- non-conforming buffer zone and setbacks.

The full submission is on our web site. (Thanks to Doug Stuart for his thorough and detailed submission)

In other news Sustainability Lane

in LC Plaza Sun 8th Oct 9am – 4pm as a part of the Lane Cove Village Fair. We will have our elegant prefabricated stall in Sustainability Lane and would welcome helpers during the day. Contact Matt Fisher to add your name to the roster: cmfisher@tpg.com.au.

MORE BUSH FOR DEVELOPMENT

Endangered Blue Gum High Forest to go for more housing!!

Mirvac has a rezoning and development proposal for land adjoining Cumberland State Forest in West Pennant Hills. The proposal is to rezone the majority of the 26 hectare site of heavily forested land to R4, high density residential. About 12 hectares on the southern side is of high ecological value containing critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest or endangered Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest. The rest of the site contains many mature trees believed to be over 30 years old.

The initial development plan is to allow for 400 apartments and 200 medium density houses in the northern part of the site with associated tree removal for bushfire protection. The proposed rezoning would allow eventual construction of apartment dwellings plus a recreational area on the entire site with no protective environmental zoning. This is a crucial example of the potential destruction under the NSW government's new Biodiversity Offset laws.

The government is currently considering whether to give this rezoning proposal its in principle blessing under the Pre-Gateway review process and it is expected to be before the Hills Council before the end of the year.

Go to www.forestindanger.org.au for more information and to lodge your objection to this proposal.

Coal and Gas Watch Lane Cove

Nothing new to report this month.

Bush Kids

See their website and Facebook page for their latest information.

Backyard habitat: Another great initiative from Council's bushland management team

For some years Council has given residents who have moved into properties adjoining bushland a packet of information including information on appropriate plants, encouraging wildlife and to ensure their property enhances the bushland rather than damages it.

The latest initiative is to give all property owners that adjoin bushland reserves a copy of Council's new well illustrated publication "**Creating Backyard Habitat**" published by Council and written by Vickie Lee and Tom Kristensen with photographs by local residents and bush regenerators. It has sections entitled "About The Region", "About Your Garden", "Planning Your Habitat Garden", "Building Your Habitat Garden " and includes stories by local residents about their

gardens. It has five appendices of very useful information.

As has been the case for a while, residents who adjoin bushland reserves are invited to join Council's Backyard Habitat Program. They receive a free on-site consultation on how to create a native garden or protect remnant native species, weed management and/or removal techniques and receive free plants from the Community Nursery.

The book will be officially launched at Sustainability Lane on October 8 and will be available at a minimal cost.

Brush up on Brush-turkeys

A number of members attended a talk arranged by Lane Cove Council on living with Brush-turkeys on Thursday 17 August 2017.

It included a presentation by Dr Ann Goeth, who is an authority on Brush-turkeys and other Megapodes in Australia and has co-authored a book entitled "Mound Builders".

The evening was a fascinating briefing on Brush-turkeys and their unusual habits. It included some ideas about trying to live with them harmoniously. Michelle Greenfield, Council's Bushland Interpretation Officer, invited questions from the floor. They gave an insight into how many Brush-turkeys are in some Lane Cove gardens (up to eleven) and the problems confronted by many residents.

We thank Council for organising the Brush-turkey talk, and for Dr Goeth's very informative and enjoyable presentation.

We also thank Council for its permission to circulate the leaflet especially prepared by Dr Goeth for Lane Cove Council.

The only condition is that any use of the photos in the leaflet be acknowledged with the name Dr Ann Goeth identified as the source.

We hope it will help you in live with Brush-turkeys.

(see attached information sheet) .

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Sounds of spring

With such fine warm spring weather upon us you might feel more inclined to leap out of bed at a reasonable hour of the morning, however your waking hour could be earlier than you would like. One of the editors is encouraged into early wakefulness by the annual non-stop chirruping of young Noisy (well named) Miners from dawn. Charming Magpie warbling can occur at a more reasonable hour.

Other delights which can occur at any time is the call of the Koel and the arrival of our visitor from New Guinea, the Channel Billed Cuckoo (pictured above) which announce their presence with their loud raucous kerk ork ork ork repeated throughout the day and night.

It is the largest of the Cuckoo family and lays its eggs in other bird's nests. Its preferred hosts are Currawongs, Magpies and Ravens and you often see these birds struggling to feed the very large fledglings they have raised. At the end of summer these migratory birds depart for warmer weather in New Guinea and Indonesia and leave us in peace for another 6 months.

(Thanks to Norma Stuart for this observation and photo).

Bright and Shining

While strolling around Manns Point at Greenwich recently, one of the editors noticed a Pittosporum with wet looking very shiny leaves.

It wasn't wet and others nearby were in a similar condition. On returning home we noticed that some parts of our Pittosporums were also shiny.

Manns Point bush regenerators Marilyn Lawson and Helen

McNamara confirmed that it is a widespread phenomenon which has been appearing for at least three years, but is definitely worse this year. It is because the Pittosporum are stressed by the long period of dry weather. On the underside of the leaves there are sap sucking insects (species Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha group), a response to the conditions. No intervention is needed. Let nature take its course.

Here's a photo from Dinah McNamara of the tiny critters.



New Gross Pollutant Traps

Two new Gross Pollutant Traps are being installed, one in Warraroon Reserve and the other in Bushland Park. When driving along River Road West you might notice earth works at the edge of the Reserve. These are large installations and need vehicular access for construction and regular cleaning out. However they will remove a lot of rubbish and silt from the water that flows down the creek into Lane Cove river.

THE ELUSIVE GREEN GRID

The Greater Sydney Commission's (GSC) Green Grid is potentially a great idea which has looked good on some sketchy maps.

We await more detail whilst bushland is being threatened (see elsewhere in this issue). This link, found accidentally and not via the GSC's web site, gives a bit more info. but we wonder whether it will really happen:

<http://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/articles/2017/06/sydney-green-grid>