



ISSN 0727 7717

# BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the  
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

## December 2017 Contents

Invitation to the LCB&CS Christmas party  
Calendar events  
Saving Stringybark Creek Reserve  
NCC report  
Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch report  
Keeping Lane Cove green  
What's in flower  
Newsletter jobs available  
President's Report

The Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society meets at the Lane Cove Tennis Club, Central Park, Kenneth St, Longueville

every 2nd Tuesday of the month (except January) at 7:30pm.

Anyone is welcome to attend.

## INVITATION TO MEMBERS

Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society Christmas Party

7.30pm – 9pm Tuesday, 12 December, 2017.

Lane Cove Tennis Club, Central Park on Kenneth St (near River Rd)

Drinks provided.

Members are asked to bring a small plate of food.

The Executive of the LLCBC Society invite all members to our final gathering of the year to celebrate the ongoing and active work of the Society in maintaining and preserving the health, beauty and amenity of our unique, green environment and its biodiversity.

We encourage all members to come even if you have not attended a meeting before to meet the other members and guests, and to celebrate our work with a glass or two.

*Do.... just turn up! ... or* RSVP to the President: [shaunaforrest@bigpond.com](mailto:shaunaforrest@bigpond.com)

Best wishes,  
The Executive of the LCBCS.



## Calendar Event!

### Trees in the North: New Clearing Rules

**What:** Information session on implications of the latest NSW Government laws affecting our biodiversity  
**When:** **Thursday 30 November, 6.30pm-8.30pm**  
**Where:** Cheltenham Recreation Club, 60 -74 The Crescent, Cheltenham.  
**Book/RSVP:** [cfisher@tec.org.au](mailto:cfisher@tec.org.au) or 9211 5022 (Total Environment Centre)

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

**Inquiries** Ron Gornall 9427 1125

**e-mail** [lanecove\\_bushland@yahoo.com](mailto:lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com)

**Address** PO Box 989 Lane Cove NSW 1595

**facebook:** [www.facebook.com/LCBCS](http://www.facebook.com/LCBCS)

**Website** [www.lanecovebushland.org.au](http://www.lanecovebushland.org.au)

## What Else is On

### New Nature Laws Forum

**What:** Get involved in the campaign to strengthen Conservation Laws with Jemilah Hallinan (EDO NSW).  
**When:** **Thursday 7 December 2017, 6.15pm - 8pm**  
**Where:** Surry Hills Community Centre, 405 Crown Street, Surry Hills  
**Book/RSVP:** Daisy Barham Ph: 95161488 or email [ncc@nature.org.au](mailto:ncc@nature.org.au) & share the event on Facebook.

### Draft Plans for St Leonards South

**What:** Drop in Session on Draft Plans, now on public exhibition.  
**When:** **Saturday 9 December 2017 10am - 3pm**  
**Where:** Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Road, Greenwich  
**RSVP:** Written submissions until 5 December 2018. See:  
[www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/CurrentIssues/Pages/StLeonardsSouth.aspx](http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/CurrentIssues/Pages/StLeonardsSouth.aspx)

### NEXT YEAR – FOR YOUR DIARIES

#### LCBCS Native Plant Stalls in the Plaza

**What:** Fund raiser and promotion events  
**When:** **Sat. 17 March AND Sat. 8 Sept. 2018, 9am -12 noon.**

#### **BIG MARCH IN THE CBD organised by Lock the Gate:**

**What:** Launch of the Time2Choose campaign 12 months out from the NSW State elections.  
**When:** **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 12 noon.**

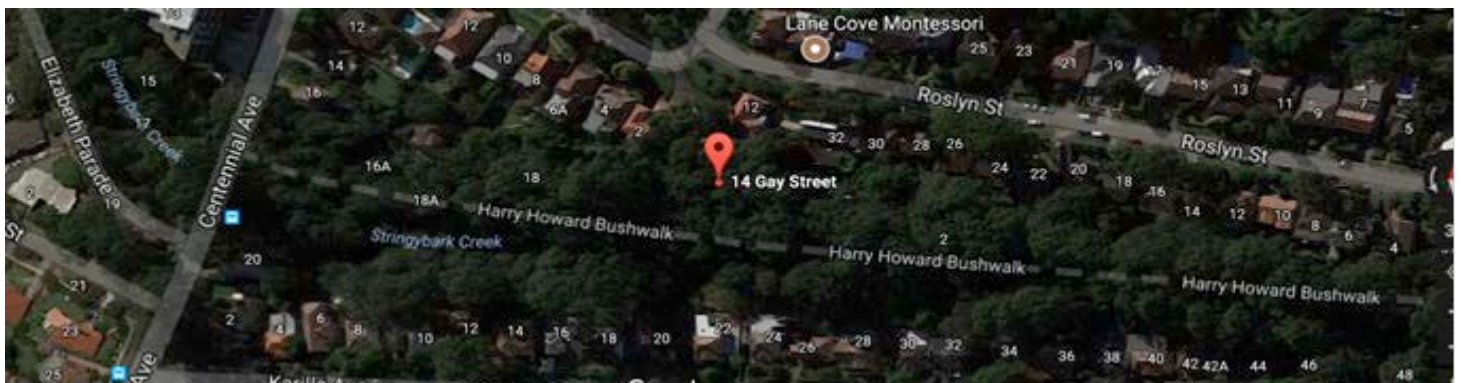
#### Jurassic Plastic

**What:** Dinosaur sculptures in landscapes made from discarded toys. Free!  
**When:** **6- 28 January 2018, 9am – 5pm**  
**Where:** Sydney Town Hall, Lower Hall, George St.  
**More info:** <https://www.sydneyfestival.org.au/2018/jurassic-plastic>

---

## LAST CHANCE TO SAVE STRINGYBARK CREEK RESERVE!

14 Gay Street, Lane Cove North - Development Application



Members were asked via email to send individual, urgent submissions opposing the DA for seven villas on this site because of its proximity to the creek and planned removal of much of the existing, contiguous bushland in Stringybark Reserve and the Harry Howard walk. The proposed DA would remove **86 native trees, with a possible loss of 134 trees** and have a 'Significant Impact' on endangered ecological communities of Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and Sydney Bluegum High Forest. There were many breaches of our Development Control Plans so that we recommended "Reject it!"

**Readers should contact all nine Lane Cove Councillors to ensure that they make the final decision.**

## NCC NSW Annual Conference 2017

The Nature Conservation Council (NCC) is a leading umbrella group formed more than 60 years ago when “nature in this state was pillaged on an industrial scale,” to provide a shared voice for community environmental organisations from across NSW.

NCC networks people and groups who are working to protect our beautiful wild places, animals, bushland, waterways and coastlines. In fact, the National Parks Act was drafted by the NCC in 1957 and the National Parks Association of NSW was founded.

The LCBCS sends delegates to the two day annual conference each year, may propose motions and votes on Day 2. Day 1 was about speakers and workshops and was attended by new Society President, Shauna Forrest and Doug Stuart whose report is summarised here. See our website for a full Report.

**CEO Kate Smolski's** report outlined the NCC's achievements, diversity of issues and very large expanded portfolio of campaigns and actions undertaken.

**Sue Higginson**, recently retired CEO of the Environment Defenders Office (EDO) spoke on how laws need changing to better protect nature. NSW has one of the better systems in the world, but it could be better. She pointed to current problems such as moves to silence dissent by changes to the protestor's laws, advocacy group's silences, removal of deductible gifts to advocacy organisations, reduction of grants (\$10m lost over the last ten years).

Her outline of the basis of the Law we have to work within is that:

It is a human construct and consists of words -  
It is anthropocentric - It is agenda biased

It covers private and public property - and is adversarial: winners and losers.

And, as evidenced by a decline in species, what we need to better protect nature is substantive laws that are fit for the purpose of protecting nature and Independent environmental assessment.

NCC's online submission guides help people make informed input into government environmental decision making and retrospectively, to understand current changes to laws affecting nature.

**The Society's submissions can be found on our website: <http://lanecovebushland.org.au> under Communications/ 'PLANNING - SUBMISSIONS, LETTERS'**

## Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch

*This sub-committee of the LCBC&S meets on the first Monday of each month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm in the Lane Cove Library.*

*Contact Sally Kennedy on 0424 330 323.*

**97% of Lane Cove households voted for a 100% stop to coal seam gas in NSW and more protection for communities to object to coal mining on prime agricultural land.**

In October the group took these clear-cut results to Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts who in his capacity as NSW Planning Minister is in a position to do something about this. The message being that it's time to prioritise our farmland and water supplies.

When Minister Roberts was detained, we had an extended meeting with his ministerial advisors. They said there was

- big downward pressure on fossil fuel projects in favour of renewables;
- more scrutiny of miners complying with consent conditions and an increase over the past 2 years in fines.
- Community pressure had led to the cancelling of projects and mining companies needed a social license to operate.

They reminded us that activists needed to maintain their social license and that our group was a good example of how to do that!

If you would like to find out more about the campaign or VOTE NOW on this issue go to: <http://www.lockthegate.org.au/time2choose>



*LCC&G members Warwick Pearce (also Bylong Valley Protection Alliance), Dashini Jeyaratnam (Doctors for the Environment), Peggy Fisher (Blue Mtns Gardens of Stone action group) and Sally Kennedy at a meeting with Minister Roberts.*



## Lane Cove's great green spaces

The LCB&CS has been an advocate for bushland and the environment in Lane Cove for over 46 years and our efforts have assisted Council to preserve and enhance the unique bushland character of Lane Cove.

The Society's Executive contribute to writing and approving many submissions. Our evergreen campaigners Doug Stuart and Graham Holland continue analysis of the environmental implications of DA's, buildings, planning and development for Lane Cove and write the Society's important and critical submissions before deadline, a job they have done for decades, utilising their architectural and planning knowledge.

---

## Flowering Native "Apples"

You may have noticed the flowering over November of many *Angophora costata* trees, known as the Sydney Red Gum. It is the very beautiful, iconic tree of the Sydney sandstone bushland, easily recognised by its colourful smooth bark, its often gnarled and twisted branches and its ribbed seed capsules. It does not flower every year, however conditions were right this year to support a noticeable number.



Image: Friends of Lane Cove National Park

## Pinaroo Park concept plans

Our Submission to Council on the **Park concept plans** expressed various concerns for protecting the adjoining fragile and remnant Batten Reserve as a valuable wildlife and nature reserve, including

- ensuring a sufficient buffer zone (at least ten metres) is provided to all boundaries;
- a filtration system on the existing stormwater drains to reduce pollution into the bushland;
- the quantity of 'fill'; sediment control during both the construction and vegetative period;
- root protection zones for existing trees;
- invasive weeds; selection of grasses, materials and other design suggestions.

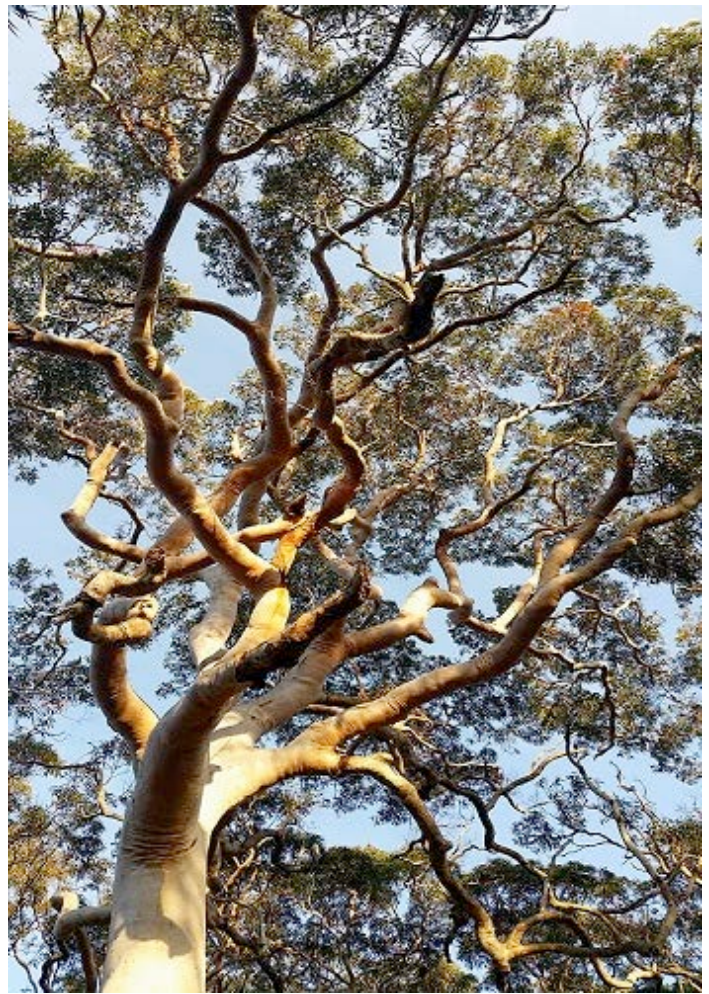


Image: MWilson

---

## NEWSLETTER WRITERS/ EDITORS/ LAYOUT ARTISTS WANTED

An opportunity to enhance your writing, editing, lay-out skills! The monthly 'Bushranger' Newsletter needs YOU! It presents an opportunity for budding journo's to connect others to what is going on with the local and wider environment.

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.

Email: [grahamholland@iinet.net.au](mailto:grahamholland@iinet.net.au) or [lanecove\\_bushland@yahoo.com](mailto:lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com) with 'EDITOR' in the subject line.



## President's Report 2016 - 2017

By outgoing President Margaret Bergomi

It is a great pleasure to present this President's Report for 2016-2017 here in the Municipality of Lane Cove rather than in a city, possibly called the City of Greater Ryde! Certainly the Council amalgamation, non-amalgamation issue must be the key issue of the year. Amalgamation would have had enormous impact for Lane Cove bushland, and given us less of a say in how it is managed. Instead we can be proud that one of our long term members France Vissel has been elected to our intact Lane Cove Council. Congratulations Frances!

Our Executive Committee has seen to the effective running of the Society throughout the year to support our aims. We have been helped by a small number of members involved in many activities, often working in small groups (or working groups). Some of these activities give us a visible presence in Lane Cove in Council run bushland programs and events. Therefore I am pleased to report on our activities and achievements in 2016-2017, described under the following headings:

- **Living in Lane Cove and working with Council**
- **Local and State Development and Planning Issues**
- **Communications and Governance**

### **Living in Lane Cove and working with Council**

We continued to work cooperatively with Council and to participate in Council activities that reinforce our aims, specifically for the **Bushland Management Advisory Committee (BMAC)** and the **Bush Kids** program. On BMAC we were represented by Yvonne Barber, Maralyn Lawson and Norma Stuart. Norma must hold a record as being our representative on BMAC since its inception in 1990. Of particular concern to BMAC this year has been the continual loss of tree cover even though the 10/50 legislation has been moderated. BMAC is currently dissolved pending the formation of a new committee under the new Council, and we trust that it will continue.

We assisted Council Officers Kerry Heatley and Valerie Close with a successful grant to extend Council's **Bush Kids** program for one year. Corinne Fisher, Helen Jordan and Norma Stuart were our representatives on the Bush Kids Advisory Committee. We also thank Helen for her good work in rounding up volunteers to be present at the many activities. We are trialling a voucher system that entitles Society members to two free activities per family per year as an incentive to join the Society. We are currently negotiating a new agreement with Council to continue our ownership of the program. We are planning for Valerie Close to address the Society before the end of the year.

Alexa Troedson, Ruth Neumann and Shauna Forrest have submitted an application by the Society for a grant through Council's Sustainability Action Plan to undertake a **Geodiversity Project** in Warraroon Reserve, supported by Council's Assistant Manager of

Open Space and led by Dr. Trudi Semeniuk, who works with the Geological Society of Australia. It would have an educational outcome that demonstrates the relationship between geodiversity and plant communities. It could lead to the first geoheritage trail in Lane Cove. If successful, we will be active participants in the survey, especially in selecting sites and identifying plant communities.

The annual autumn **Native Plant Sale** was held on 25 March 2017. It was very successful this year and plants were of best quality. The Society thanks Ruth Neumann as convenor, Yvonne Barber, and all who volunteered their time and effort. Plans for a spring stall on 9 September 2017 were finally abandoned due to an unexpected conflict with the Council elections and the unavailability of a suitable alternative date.

We thank Matt Fisher and others for putting together our stall for the **Lane Cove Fair**, last Sunday 8 September 2017. Another successful initiative by Matt and Corinne Fisher are the greeting cards that feature stunning photographs of Lane Cove bushland and wildlife. They became available late last year and now find a place on our stalls.

Members of our society also participate (unofficially) in Council's **Bush Care Groups**, including Frances Vissel (Stringybark Creek Group), Maralyn Lawson (Manns Point), and Yvonne Barber (Bushland Park) among others.

Further afield a few of us joined a **spring bushwalk** on Saturday 26 August 2017 at North Head Sanctuary, led by Ron and Barbara Gornall, where we enjoyed one of the best displays of native flowers yet seen.



## Local & State Development & Planning Issues

We thank Doug Stuart, who has worked tirelessly throughout the year reviewing **Lane Cove development applications and issues** and preparing submissions when necessary. A major issue for Lane Cove is the loss of trees on private and public land, such as the proposed Finlayson Street widening and the associated Rosenthal Development, as well as the current development proposal at 266 Longueville Road.

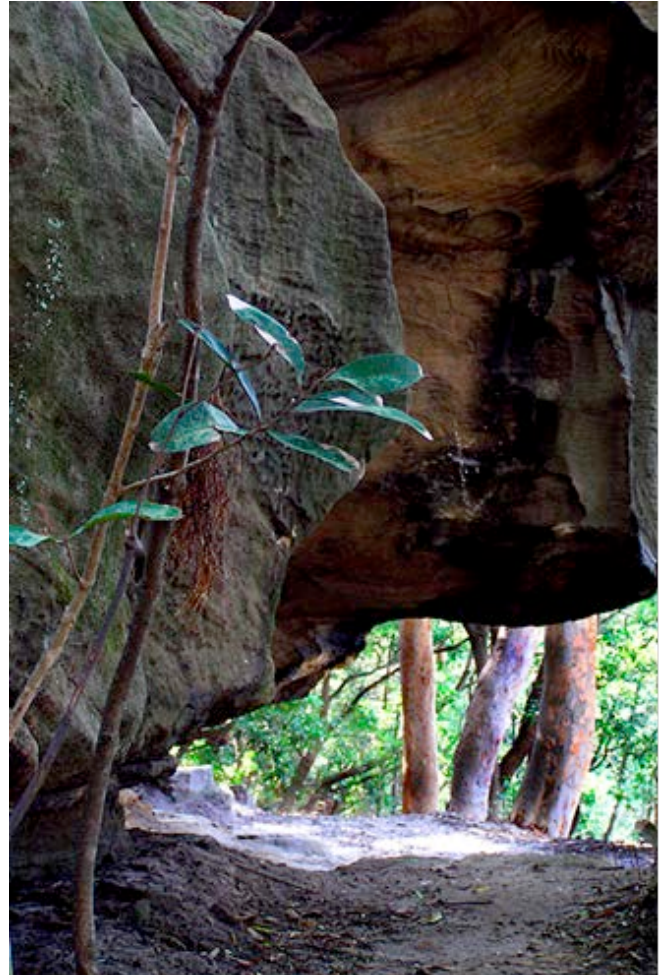
Together with Graham Holland and others, Doug has also been active in reviewing **State Government Plans and Policies**. Our work for the Greater Sydney Commission (remember that?) included a submission on the Draft North District Plan and attendance at a number of presentations and workshops. Doug also prepared an excellent submission on the related Medium Density Housing Code, which was backed up by an excellent article prepared by Graham that was published in The Village Observer (TVO).

Our presence continued at the **Ausgrid Vegetation Management program**, represented by Maralyn Lawson, Ruth Neumann and Norma Stuart. While the program resulted in an Engagement Summary Report and the Terms of Reference for a Vegetation Management Program, it remains to be seen whether the many days spent workshopping will translate into an appreciable improvement in the pruning of street tree throughout Sydney and in Lane Cove.

With Graham Holland taking the lead, we have lobbied against **Amalgamation** since 2013 and supported all of Council's moves to prevent amalgamation. We like to think that our efforts helped those Councillors who resisted pressure to give up on Council's legal appeal against amalgamation, and we thanked them for it.

We were also active in the **Council Elections on 9 September 2017**. We formed a working group to oppose Council's proposed poll to ask residents "do you support the Amalgamation of Lane Cove with the City of Ryde Council and Hunters Hill Council? When amalgamation was reversed and the poll cancelled, we quickly redirected our efforts.

Although we are party non-political and do not endorse candidates, many of our members worked individually to support their favoured candidates. We especially thank the group, including Doug Stuart, Sue Ingham and Corinne and Matt Fisher, that came together to prepare our own **Questionnaire to Council Candidates** and circulate the responses, both electronically and as a flyer. Also we thank those who asked questions at the 'Meet the Candidates' forum, which were also featured in our article 'Question Time for Council Candidates' that was written by Graham Holland and published in the August edition of the TVO. We believe that the questions asked of candidates may have had a beneficial effect on the result.



We continue our associations with various groups including TEC and NCC. Frances Vissel will present a motion to improve the availability of information about the candidates prior to elections at the upcoming **NCC Conference** in October. We thank Doug Stuart as our representative and Sue Ingham for her involvement in the **Better Planning Network (BPN)** which confronts the same issues for Sydney about poor urban planning and development and not enough infrastructure that we face in Lane Cove.

Shauna Forrest took the lead in opposing the presence of an unwelcome Cat Protection Society in Sustainability Lane at the Lane Cove Fair, which fortunately did not eventuate. We collaborated to oppose the suggested relocation of the Lloyd Rees bandstand, in a submission that was published in the TVO, as well as other contributions to the same magazine.

The list of other government plans and policies that are a potential threat to our municipality are too many to enumerate. We will continue to monitor them and act where necessary.

Which brings us to the work of our **Coal and Gas Watch Committee** led by Sally Kennedy. The Coal and Gas Watch continued its work protecting NSW from the impacts of invasive coal mining and coal seam gas with some high profile events and campaigns. Sally's report is presented separately and is annexed to this report. We thank Sally for her efforts on our behalf.



## Communications and Governance

Nothing is more important than our ability to communicate to members of our Society and to have a voice in Lane Cove through publications such as the TVO, In The Cove and the North Shore Times. We thank Sue Ingham as our **Publicity Officer** who has been very active and effective in this role.

After many years our editorial team of Graham Holland and Wendy Bishop is standing down. We thank them for their enormous contribution by producing the **Newsletter (Bushranger)** each month. Without a replacement team we will not be able to produce a newsletter. So this AGM is critical to deciding its fate. We also thank: Alasdair Stuart for emailing the Newsletter to members (in addition to emailing other important reminders and announcements); Ron Gornall (for printing hard copies); and, Win Chandler (for distributing it).

More and more our Society is communicating electronically, as our extensive email files attest. We thank Sue Ingham and Bridget Kennedy who manage the **Web Page** and maintain it, as well as Corinne Fisher, Sally Kennedy and Gaye White who do the same for **Twitter and Facebook**. Alexa Troedson in her major roles as Treasurer, Public Officer and Membership Officer has quietly transformed the way we handle key information.

We also thank Helen Fisher and Frances Vissel for recording our correspondence this year and Mike Kelly who monitors and forwards emails from

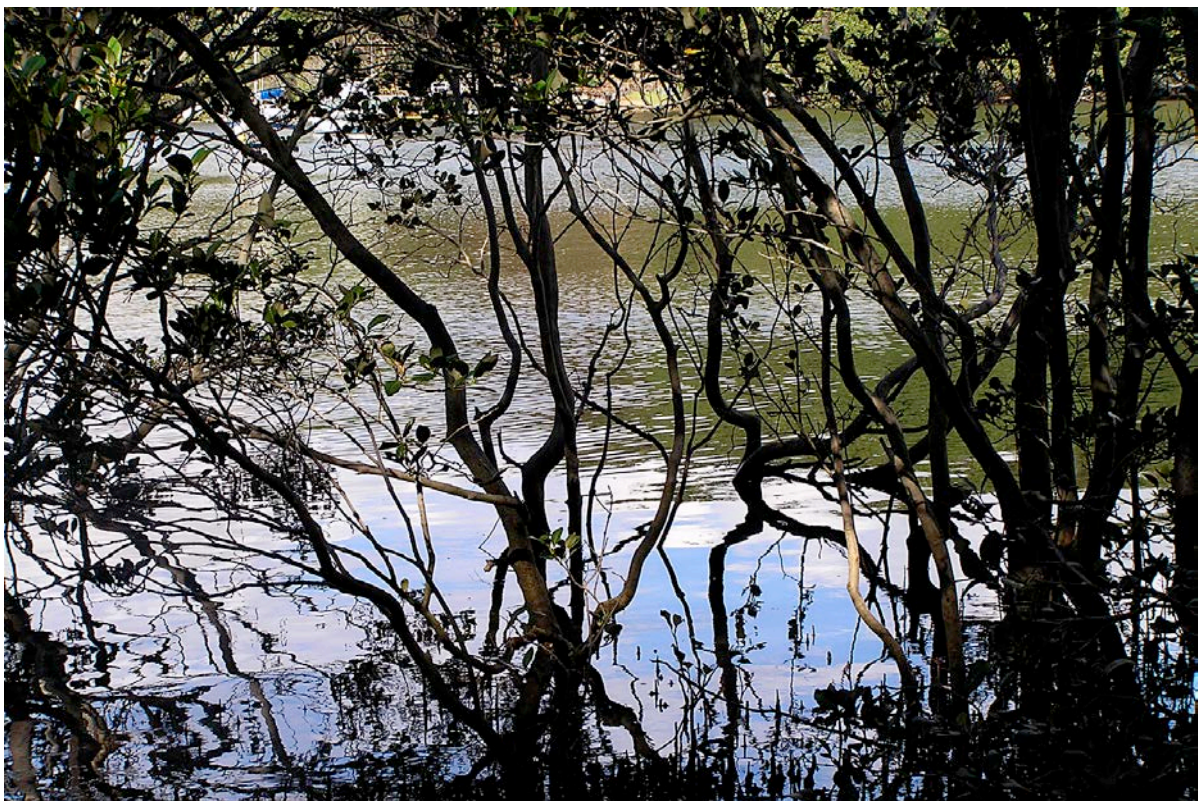
many other groups on to our Executive. We have made progress in improving our governance of these new areas of communications. We have developed Draft Website Protocols, Draft Protocols for Publicity and Public Statements and Draft Guidelines for our Face Book Page and for our Email contacts. More work needs to be done to formalise these documents. While we have made a start, we are yet to establish a system for electronic archiving of the Society's business. And we have streamlined the way we conduct our meetings by circulating via email as many of our reports as we can beforehand.

### **Lastly, the Future**

We remain optimistic about our future. However we must note that some of our members are reducing their active involvement, which leaves a declining number of active workers. This places a number of our usual activates under threat, so it is important that other members step forward. On the positive side there are active younger members who are on top of the new technologies and are making an impact. This is our future, if we are to have one.

May I thank all of those who have committed time and effort to our work in 2016-2017. We have been able to come together harmoniously as working groups to tackle many issues as this report demonstrates. I trust that you have had fun working together in the process and have enjoyed our achievements. I also thank you personally for the opportunity to serve this year as your President and for the help that so many of you have given me.

Margaret Bergomi, President - 10 October 2017



*Warraroon Reserve Mangroves*