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# BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the  
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

April 2016

Join us to celebrate  
on Tuesday 12 April 7.30pm

## CELEBRATING BMAC'S QUARTER CENTURY

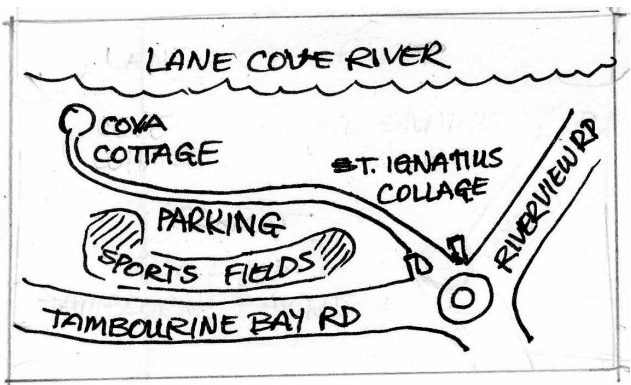
The LCC's Bushland Management Advisory Committee has been working to defend and enhance our bushland for 25 years.

The Society was intimately involved in its inception and thereafter.

Refreshments provided.

For catering purposes (families welcomed) please RSVP to Graham Holland, preferably by email, [grahamholland@inet.net.au](mailto:grahamholland@inet.net.au) or 9427 3282 by 5<sup>th</sup> April.

This replaces our usual meeting on April 12. Venue is Cova Cottage (St Ignatius sailing club), St Ignatius school. There is ample parking.



## What we have done

### Plant stall

The Plant Stall on 12 March was less successful than usual. There was interest, but less buying.

The recent hot weather may have been one of the causes, but we know from years of experience that results can be very unpredictable. **Look out for the September stall!**

## From the BMAC Report 24<sup>th</sup> Feb:

### Track Work - Ventemans Reach

Permission has been granted to change the location of the track upgrade to beyond the saltmarsh. The previous location had to be abandoned due to industrial contamination.

### Bushland Park

The track upgrade from Osborne Rd is now complete. This should give easier access to the reserve than some of the other entries.

### Lane Cove Coal & Gas Watch

This is a sub-committee of the Society. The terms of reference of this Committee were adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> March meeting. Full details will be on our website.

The purpose of the sub-committee is to campaign in NSW for no-go zones for coal and CSG (coal seam gas) mining in water catchments, prime agricultural land and special wild places, and the protection of public health and community rights.

**Their next event will focus on protecting Sydney's Drinking Water Catchment from Wollongong Coal's proposed mine expansion close to the Cataract reservoir's dam wall.**

International guest speaker, Ramesh Agrawal will share with us what he knows about Wollongong Coal's parent company Jindal Steel and Power, the same company his community fought and won against back in India, after the community exposed environmental breaches, and non-compliance with mining permit conditions. **"When you know what I know, I don't think you'll want this company in your catchment."** – Ramesh Agrawal.

This event will be at Greenwich Community Hall, 46 Greenwich Rd, Greenwich, 2 – 4pm, Sunday 3 April.

The other upcoming event is a workshop on the success of community grassroots organisations: -

### Grassroots Campaigning Workshop

Monday 2nd May 6.30 - 8.30pm Lane Cove Library  
139 Longueville Rd. Sally Kennedy 0424 330 323

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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## In other News

### Photos wanted for new Backyard Habitat book

to promote the local environment and encourage residents to be good bushland neighbours. Photos are needed of: native gardens, bushland landscapes, native flora & fauna, and interaction between these elements. Photos will be credited. Contact Vickie Lee, Environmental Projects Officer, LCC 9911-3555.

### Bush Kid program for April is now available on

<https://www.facebook.com/lanecovebushkids/>

### Tree Trails

Lane Cove Council is working on a number of Tree Trails to encourage an interest and appreciation in the value of trees. This will help people identify particular trees and hopefully gain community support for our local trees and their preservation.

### Repair Café at Uniting Church Hall

It's broken? Don't toss it, fix it. First & second Sunday each month, 1 – 3pm. Wendy 9420-4884 for details.

## News from around and about

### Latest tactic on Amalgamations

The Save our Councils Coalition Reports that all Councils and Councillors have been sent a letter from the Minister for Local Government, Paul Toole seeking an expression of interest in some options. The options available may include being an Administrator or continuing in office as a Councillor until the election of a new Council. The Government is seeking expressions of interest (EOIs) from Mayors and Councillors; a similar process is being conducted for General Managers.

This action by the Minister and the NSW Government is highly divisive and is pre-judging the outcome of the deeply flawed proposed mergers process.

SOCC is of the view that Councillors who have voted against amalgamation and who have supported their community in its wish to stand alone and not be forcibly merged must treat this EOI as a toxic document not to be touched.



**For such Councillors to fill in the EOI and tick the criteria will be seen by the community as a betrayal by Councillors of their own principles and a betrayal of the will of the people.**

We know many have made submissions, emailed and lobbied, but at the last anti-amalgamation rally it was strongly suggested that a letter on paper to the Premier would carry more weight than emails. So we urge you to write to:

The Premier, the Hon Mike Baird  
GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2001

### Baird's War on Trees – aka Biodiversity Legislation Review – Campaign update.

One hundred people turned up for the "Baird's war on trees" rally outside Baird's office in Manly. A framed photograph of a tree, which had been signed by all those present, was handed over along with a message outlining the demands of the campaign

### Cities for the future

One of the most noticeable ways that cities around the world are acting on climate is by installing renewable energy systems on their buildings. Several cities are installing solar panels on public buildings, as well as partnering with private developers to provide clean energy for city operations through power purchase agreements and other clean energy procurement tools.

[https://www.climateactproject.org/blog/five-ways-cities-are-acting-climate?utm\\_source=email-newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=General](https://www.climateactproject.org/blog/five-ways-cities-are-acting-climate?utm_source=email-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=General)

### On Biodiversity

Such has been the rate of species extinction on Earth over recent years due to human impacts that a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene, is proposed.

<http://www.smh.com.au/comment/the-problem-with-nsws-new-biodiversity-act-20160223-gn1pnm.html>

### On Logging

The battle lines for a renewal of the logging wars in south east New South Wales are being drawn over newly-created flora reserves.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-16/logging-conflict-brewing-again-in-nsw-south-east-forests/7248938>

### On Biodiversity Offsets

Biodiversity offsets have started to be viewed as an alternative funding source. It is tempting to use this money to help manage existing protected areas, or to purchase new protected areas to help achieve existing commitments. Such arrangements can make both industry and government look good. <http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2015/07/22/offsetting-biodiversity-greening-or-greenwashing/>

### On Mapping Vegetation

"You may lose the last type of vegetation, thinking you've got more of it," says Robbie Economos-Shaw, an environmental planner with Lake Macquarie Council.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/conservation/losing-the-plot-how-native-vegetation-mapping-went-feral-20160114-gm5xj9.html>

### Launching the Wilderness Society's Movement For Life

at Glebe Town Hall on Wednesday, 6 April. This program teaches the skills and ideas behind the most successful movements in the world today. You'll learn to inspire and rally your peers around a shared vision - build momentum for real environmental change. Damian Ogden, National Community Organising Manager, TWS..

<https://www.wilderness.org.au/events/movement-life#sthash.MYyXCluR.dpuf>