



ISSN 0727 7717

BUSHRANGER

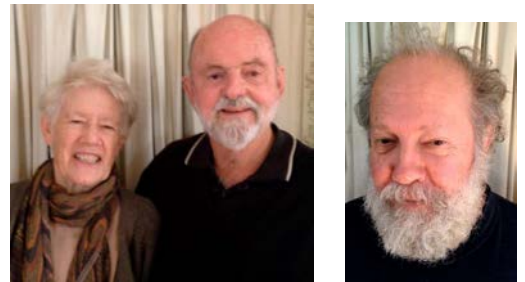
Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

Meeting 13 June 7.30pm

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

June 2017

Our Working Groups:



What we have done

Redevelopment of Rosenthal Carpark

The Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society has written to Council to comment on this stage of the development.

The building has a significant presence to Birdwood Avenue and Rosenthal Avenue and the opportunity to provide trees and understory in the proposed setback will soften its impact and is a significant improvement on the initial concept plans.

We commend the statement that the 82 trees that have been removed will be replaced with trees only indigenous to Lane Cove and that this will apply to all landscaped areas. Deep soil areas for planting at the upper level will be needed to support reasonably sized trees.

We also support the separation of suitably sized play and picnic areas, which should also be separated from the general open space.

Our newsletter is sent to members monthly (except for January). This is the main way in which we tell members (and anybody else who comes across it) what we have done and what is coming up.

It focuses on local issues, but inevitably there are matters, particularly from the State Government, which affect Lane Cove.

It does not include matters of national interest or overarching campaigns such as on climate change, or oil exploration in Bass Strait, as these are thoroughly covered by state or nation-wide organisations like the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and Australian Conservation Foundation.

However, it has recently focused on the Biodiversity Conservation Act of the NSW government (aka the Tree-Clearing Act) and Council amalgamations.

Graham Holland and Wendy Bishop produce the newsletter. Email distribution is done by Alasdair Stuart and the print version by Ron Gornall and Win Chandler.

Occasionally members are emailed by Alasdair on things requiring action by a date that does not fit the newsletter cycle.

Contributions by members are welcome.

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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What is coming up

Meeting with Anthony Roberts – presenting our concerns.

Members of the Society, LCSAG (LC Sustainability Action Group) and Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Society are meeting Anthony Roberts as Planning Minister on June 6, to present our concerns primarily on the Biodiversity Conservation Act and regulations. We will also discuss banning plastic bags and council amalgamations.

TREES AT RISK Developers can **CONVERT THEM TO CASH** During the 6-week public consultation period we have a real opportunity to get a better outcome (how to help, see below)



Key points you could make:

- The draft regulations, codes and Vegetation State Environment Planning Policy spell DISASTER for our wildlife and our communities.
- The Vegetation SEPP MUST be released for public comment.
- Tree protection MUST NOT be relegated to Council DCPs. Protection of native and non-native trees must be left in the Court-enforceable LEPs.
- Developers will be able to clear important habitat in city and country though making cash payments BUT money cannot compensate for the destruction of nature. Cash for clearing IS NOT an acceptable alternative.
- Any vegetation offsets MUST be of the same ecological community and habitat value as the vegetation being cleared. These offsets must also be located near the area where vegetation has been cleared, not hundreds of kilometres away.
- Protection of local biological diversity MUST be included
- Cumulative effects MUST be included in the Regulations.
- Protection of local wildlife MUST be included in the operation of the SEPP & wildlife MUST be protected during any clearing.

A list of the relevant documents: <https://www.landmanagement.nsw.gov.au>.

In particular see the State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation) Explanation of Intended Effect (SEPP)

Submissions must be made by June 21st.

How to make a call to our Environment and Planning Ministers:

- Minister Upton's office number is (02) 8574 6107. Minister Roberts' office number is (02) 8574 5600. You can call the NSW Premier's office on (02) 8574 5000.

One of their staff members will answer. Let them know that you would like to leave a message for the Minister. The staff will be very polite and are used to taking calls from people just like you. You can also email them.

Thank you for your help in protecting Sydney's wildlife and Sydney's tree canopy. They really need your help RIGHT NOW.



Attention - fee changes for Bush Kids

Firstly, thank you to all our Lane Cove Bush Kids families and for your ongoing support of our Society.

There will no longer be free activities for Society members; instead there is now a voucher system.

Members who have recently joined or renew membership for the new financial year (1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018) will be issued two vouchers to attend Lane Cove Bush Kids activities free of charge.

Vouchers will be sent to you by our Society Treasurer in July.

We hope you will be understanding of this change and continue to support the Society and Lane Cove Bush Kids.

In other News

Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch



Our recent coal seam gas event was a great success. We had a full hall with 150 people and there wasn't a dry eye in the house once Megan and Sarah told the full story of what is at stake for their community's farmland. The whole issue of the Australian gas market situation was of great interest. Bruce Robertson really brought that message home and warned of the pending impacts on our manufacturing industries because our Federal energy policy is not prioritising domestic supply over export.

A Willoughby Action Group is to be set up to raise awareness of the negative impacts of CSG particularly with the NSW Premier who is the MP for Willoughby.

Pictured (above) are all our speakers: Sarah Ciesiolka and Megan Kuhn holding the sign. Bruce Robertson far left. Willoughby citizen of the year Janet France. Sally Kennedy in the black dress. Raymond Weatherly behind the sign, who spoke movingly about the Aboriginal perspective.

Final reminder: film night – Monday 5 June, LC Library 6.30 – 7.30pm 'Coal - is it worth it?' exposes the environmental damage wrought by coal mines. Come along and join us – \$5 entry includes Pizza and wine.

From the STEP newsletter : celebrating blue gums



The Battle of the Blue Gums

NPA Talk Saturday 10 June 10am to noon.

Tutor: Janine Kitson

Bookings:

<https://www.weasydney.com.au/course/TBBG>

During the 1930s, two forests were under threat . the Blue Gum Forest in the Blue Mountains and the Blue Gum High Forest in suburban Sydney. Discover how pioneer conservationists like Myles Dunphy and Annie Wyatt successfully rallied to protect these forests.

How did these forest battles contribute to the modern Australian conservation movement?

How are these forests faring today . at a time of burgeoning population increase, habitat loss and climate change?

Blue Gum Walk in Hornsby Valley

STEP Walk on Sunday 18 June .

Time: 9:15 for a 9:30 am start

Meet: end of Rosemead Road, Hornsby Valley, next to the park

Length: 4 km (about 3 hours)

Grade: medium, climbs are in stages and only locally steep and rocky

Bring: snacks, drink, hat, salt or repellent in case of leeches

Leader: John Martyn (0425 830 260)

Book: register online so we can contact you if we cancel due to bad weather <http://step.org.au/index.php/walks-talks>

This walk is remarkable for its scenic beauty and for the vegetation contrasts between tall Sydney Blue Gum forests, dry sandstone woodlands, tall sandstone valley forests and riparian rainforests.

The reason behind the variety is the chain of Jurassic-age diatremes within the sandstone which carry basaltic breccias that break down to deep, fertile soils, creating a broad sweep of Blue Gum forested valley. The walk also descends to the deeply incised, meandering sandstone valley of Berowra Creek which hosts the famous Fishponds Waterholes.

Amalgamations – no more news

Which might be good news or bad news.

BPN . we still support this organisation and are assisting in refining its future.

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