



ISSN 0722-7717

BUSH RANGER

Newsletter of the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

November 2018

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Christmas drinks
Time to celebrate all we have achieved in 2018

An invitation to the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society and the Coal and Gas Watch



Tuesday 11th December
Drinks and nibbles
7.00pm - 9.00 pm

The Tennis Club
Cnr Kenneth St and
Longueville Rd,
Longueville

Please bring a plate




The Society invites Councillors and a wider group of locals to our Christmas Party that is also shared with our sub-group LC Coal & Gas Watch. **We had a really great time last year and encourage you to come!** Drinks are provided but do bring a small plate to share if you can.

LCPA Planning Forum on Development Moratorium

The Lane Cove Planning Alliance is an alliance of 11 community groups in the Lane Cove Council area. Last week's LCPA Forum in Lane Cove was a full house, highlighting how important planning and development issues are to residents in the area.



The Society is a member of the LCPA and assisted with planning the Forum on 30 October where Planning Minister Roberts, a representative of the Greater Sydney Commission, Labor's Andrew Zbik (LC Councillor), Mayor Pam Palmer and Greens David Shoebridge MLC, presented and took questions.

Society members were active in questioning the politicians - Sue Ingham noting that the NSW Govt's 'Gateway' and Land & Environment Court removed third party merit appeals and community wishes. This was further clarified by Minister Shoebridge who said the Planning Minister makes the decision to allow either a Public Inquiry – which retains the rights of the

community, or a Public Hearing- which "kills your third party appeal rights".

On 20 August 2018 LC Council unanimously voted to seek a moratorium on any new planning proposals involving residential use within the Lane Cove Council area until 2020. **It was made clear at the forum that Lane Cove MP Minister Roberts has direct authority for approving or rejecting this Moratorium.**

LCPA encourage you to [sign our letter to Lane Cove MP and NSW Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts](https://givelanecoveabreather.good.do/givelanecoveabreather/givelanecoveabreather/) urging him to approve Lane Cove Council's request for a temporary Moratorium on new planning proposals at: <https://givelanecoveabreather.good.do/givelanecoveabreather/givelanecoveabreather/>

Earlier this year Anthony Roberts suspended planning proposals in Ryde over concerns that housing development had outgrown infrastructure. He can do the same for Lane Cove. It is important for all of us who care about this issue to make our voices loud and clear.

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NORTH SYDNEY PROTEST RALLY AGAINST OVERDEVELOPMENT



On Saturday 10 November the Committee for North Sydney held a Protest Rally against Overdevelopment of Crows Nest, St Leonards and Wollstonecraft. The Crows Nest pocket park was packed.

Speakers included Merri Southwood of Greenwich Community Association and ex-Nth Sydney Mayor Genia Mc Caffrey. Many referred to the current massive scale as Overdevelopment and Developer Greed!

The height and scale of all currently approved high-rise was quantified and these densities will shock when built. Much of the St Leonards development is in Lane Cove Council's jurisdiction.

To learn more visit websites:

<http://committeeornorthsydney.org.au/whats-happening-to-crows-nest/>

<https://givelanecoveabreather.good.do/givelanecoveabreather/givelanecoveabreather/>

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

NCC Policies for a Sustainable Future

NCC has launched [A Cleaner, Greener NSW - Policies for the 2019 NSW State Election and Beyond](#), which outlines the most important measures the next government needs to take.

The five top priorities are:

1. Set up a \$2-billion regional renewable energy fund to accelerate the transition from polluting coal-fired power plants to clean energy as part of a plan to get to zero-emissions by 2040;
2. Set up a \$1.5-billion land and biodiversity fund to restore bushland and forest as part of a plan to protect all high-conservation-value habitat from clearing;
3. Establish a Sydney Marine Park to give the marine life the world-class protections it deserves;
4. Create the Great Koala National Park to save our iconic species for future generations;
5. End logging of public native forests to protect what is left of these beautiful ecosystems, which are among the most diverse in the world.

Sustainability Lane Stall @ Lane Cove Fair

Congratulations to all children who completed our 'Native Animal Quiz' at the Fair! We will send book vouchers to the first three most correct: **Indigo Fenson, Hannah Fisher, Finlay Parker**.

For the first time, students from **St Ignatius College Riverview** volunteered at our stall, as the College is active in environmental work and networks. What a great job they did - they become expert in engaging

with passing families to get children of all ages to do a fun 'native animal' Quiz. *Thank you boys!*

A big thanks to Matt Fisher who once again erected the brilliant stall he designed; to Helen Jordan for organising the roster; and to our many faithful volunteers who promoted the Society to the community, answered questions and also sold many books.

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR AUSGRID TREES AND VEGETATION AROUND POWERLINES

If you are angry about the loss of Lane Cove tree canopy due to Ausgrid's contractors pruning, it's time to write. Go to the Council website:

'Have Your Say': www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au

MAKE A SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL – THE LCBCS WILL!
Submissions close on Friday 7 Dec, 2018

NO MORE COAL IN BYLONG

LANE COVE RESIDENTS SAY NO TO A NEW COAL MINE IN THE BYLONG VALLEY

This beautiful valley north-east of Mudgee, NSW, has a permanent source of water, the Bylong River, and underground water reserves. It is the home of Natural Sequence Farming, the iconic Bylong Way scenic drive and comprises high quality agricultural land which has produced many famous Australian race horses.

Why would we turn this into an open cut coal mine?

From hours of door knocking and countless stalls the Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch group have found that the overwhelming majority of the general public in Lane Cove are not in favour of opening new coal mines in NSW.



People are saying...

"It makes no sense to permanently destroy prime agricultural land, and deplete water resources for coal mining. We need to be moving away from coal."

Despite community concerns and the major impacts on the environment and our climate, the Bylong Valley mine has been recommended for approval by the NSW Planning Department and now sits with the Independent Planning and Assessment Commission awaiting a final decision towards the end of this year.

Lane Cove River stroll @ Ventemans Reach

Our guide Mark Wolff had so many stories to tell about the plants, animals and places that it was more a leisurely journey through time and into nature on our recent Sunday bushwalk. Young families brought small children along who delighted in this easy waterfront walk at the end of Lloyd Rees Drive, Blackman Park.



Ventemans Reach by Liz Pyne

The track hugs the river in a pleasing combination of natural ground, low rock steps, and sections of recently installed boardwalk.

Differences in soil and slope were clearly reflected in the vegetation, from tidal Mangroves and Saltmarsh (home to all manner of aquatic life), salt tolerant She-oaks with their carpets of needles and patches of Warrigal Greens, to Eucalypt and Angophora forest with a beautiful under-storey of shrubs and orchids on the slopes.

Mark has worked as a Lane Cove Council Bush Regenerator along the Ventemans Reach section of the Lane Cove River for over twenty years. With his colleague Martin David, they first cleared a track down the Mars Road steps through dense weed infested Privet, Lantana and Blackberry bush. They then proceeded to gradually remove the wall of weeds, allowing the native vegetation to recover. The healthy foreshore bush linking Blackman Park with Epping Road owes its existence to their skills.

As the group passed flowering plants Mark named them, and suggested their uses by the indigenous Gadigal peoples. He pointed out the concrete slab remains of makeshift houses built during the Depression, noting the proximity of fresh water and fishing points. He described how migratory birds depended on Saltmarshes for breeding, and how they continued to be lost to human greed.

The sun shone, high tide turned the Mangroves into an irresistible photo subject, and Eastern Yellow Robin calls accompanied us on our way. A pleasant and interesting way to pass a Sunday morning. Thank you Frances Vissel (Councillor) and Meron Wilson (past President) for sharing your knowledge too!

President's Report 2017-2018



As President, I wish to pay our respects to the traditional owners of this land on which we gather, the Cameraygal people and their descendants.

The LCBCS continued its vital role for the community in the past year. As an organisation the LCBCS still packs a punch—relying on its active members to inform and educate, to express concerns orally at Lane Cove Council (LCC) meetings, via written submissions to LCC and NSW bodies, also in an advisory role on Committees of Council and through our monthly meetings and newsletters, publications, stalls and walks.

In 2018 we continued to strive for best practice and better outcomes for the local and rural bushland and environment, to influence wider changes in decisions related to NSW planning and overdevelopment and raise the profile of these issues. Our Executive Committee has worked effectively in support of our aims, helped by a small number of members involved in many activities, often working in small groups (or working groups). As President, on behalf of the Society, I wish to thank all of those members who have so reliably contributed in every capacity, large and small, to the successful running of the Society this year.

The enduring work of the Society leaves it in a position to act as an 'umbrella' and rallying point for the birth of other organisations – most notably *the Lane Cove Planning Alliance* in May this year, and in previous years, *Bush Kids*, *the Better Planning Network*, and *the Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch* (LCCGW). It must be mentioned here that the force behind the genesis of several of these organisations was the rallying cry and work of one of our most active members, ex-President Ms Corinne Fisher, assisted by husband Matt, our secretary and supported by long term members of the Society.

The above and following activities fulfill the guidelines for our advocacy in 2017-18

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

While the tribute "*The success of the Society's work can best be seen in the greening of Lane Cove and in the amenity provided in the Municipality – both visual and otherwise.....*" is true, currently this work is undermined by the rapid loss of urban canopy, often with no accounting in place by Council due to changes in NSW legislation that deliberately override our Council's LEP and DCP. And so, the need to remain strong and active is unfortunately, ever present.

Networking - A Current Campaign

In May, alarmed by the possible impact for Lane Cove's environment /infrastructure / liveability of the NSW Government Complying Development legislation - 'Medium Density Housing Code' (terraces/townhouses etc. in R2 areas), the Society held a special meeting, inviting Lane Cove's local residents and action groups. Over 50 people crowded in to the Tennis Club, to discuss what united plans and actions the LCBCS and groups may devise and take in light of this impending legislation and the 'Greater Sydney Commission's' uncertain "housing supply target" for our 'District North' – the wildly contradictory 'dwelling' projections from local Council and other NSW government bodies.

As a result, *the Lane Cove Planning Alliance* was formed. Our representatives are active in preparing a Planning Forum on 30 October, where the community can ask the big questions of decision-makers about projections that affect amenity and remove LC's tree canopy.

Our Stall in Sustainability Lane, Lane Cove Fair -

For the first time, the Society's has engaged students from St Ignatius College Riverview as volunteers at our stall, as the College is active in environmental work and networks.

Achievements

LC Bush Kids: The Society formalised its continued partnership with LC Council for Bush Kids.

The fact that the bushland officer position (Valerie Close) has been made permanent part-time is further testimony to the extraordinary success of this program, created and initially run by three young mothers from the Society.

BMAC: Our three highly skilled members, Norma Stuart, Yvonne Barber, Maralyn Lawson continued their advisory role on LC Council's Bushland Management Advisory Committee (BMAC) and keep the Society informed on issues affecting all of LC Bushland.

LC Council Sustainable Citizen Award: In June we celebrated Sally Kennedy's award in recognition of the role she has played with the LC Coal and a Gas Watch over past 4.5 years.

Advocacy - Developments affecting Bushland

While our many Submissions cover a wide range of environmental issues, such as the NSW Government's reintroduction of land-clearing laws this year, Lane Cove's ongoing Rosenthal Ave (carpark and park) development, below is just one local example of the work of Graham Holland and Doug Stuart in analysing the architectural, planning and environmental merits of the many DA's they write on our behalf, to protect local bushland and amenity.

14 Gay St Development Application: When an option was taken to put 7 villas on this 2800 sq.m property in Upper Stringy Bark creek, to remove approx. 128 trees and affect large sections of the public 'Harry Howard' walk, we joined other local groups in raising the alarm, our Bushranger newsletter providing guidance for a Submission to Council and alerting our membership. This action supported LC Council's decision in January to prevent the DA being approved at this stage.

Activities

2 Native plant stalls – Saturdays in March and September 2018, Ruth Neumann organised many members including plant experts who helped make both stalls a huge success

Climate Change Rally- March 2018. The *Lane Cove Coal and Gas Watch* was joined by many to demand that the NSW government end coal and gas mining developments in rural regions in favour of protecting farmland and water resources.

Guided Spring Wildflower Walk- Ron & Barbara Gornall, August at North Head Sanctuary.

Sustainability Lane Stall, Lane Cove Fair- Oct 2018, Lane Cove Plaza. Helen Jordan organised the roster, Matt Fisher erected and designed a brilliant stall and thanks, faithful volunteers.

Delivery of the monthly Bushranger Newsletter- Ron Gornall & Wyn Chandler

Monthly meetings: A special thank you to the Executive and Committee, listed at the bottom.

Social Media, Publicity and Updating the Society: Google Drive - We created a Google Drive account to facilitate storage in the Cloud of historic and current data for easy access for Society committee members.

Website, Facebook page, Email monitoring-

Thank you Bridget Kennedy, Sue Ingham, Gaye White, Corinne Fisher, Sally Kennedy and Mike Kelly, for keeping us in the 21 Century!

TVO articles inc. 'Sustainability Scribes': June Hefferan, Graham Holland & Shauna Forrest.

Correspondence: Kate Moppett



*Yellow
tailed
black
cockatoos
near
Warraroon
Reserve*

Challenges for the Future

Continued networking and growing our membership are ongoing and necessary activities. New, connected, active members are required for the Society to continue its advocacy role. The loss of tree canopy due to planning changes combined with increasing development and population is occurring without concurrent increases in open space and infrastructure, threatening liveability locally. Wider land clearing and degradation of our environment are major concerns.

2017 – 2018 Executive positions:

A special thank you to the Executive & Committee Members for their time, reliability and valuable work as volunteers on behalf of the membership

Vice President	Ron Gornall
Vice President	Graham Holland
Secretary	Matt Fisher
Treasurer	Alexa Troedson
Committee	Doug Stuart, Ruth Neumann, Sue Ingham

Regards and thank you,
Shauna Forrest, President