



ISSN 0722-7717

BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

October 2019

Events

Saturday 13 October, 9am: LCBCS Stall

Tuesday October 15, 6:30pm: Climate War talk

by Dr Michael Mann in Sydney Town Hall

Friday 19 October, 9am: LCCGW stall in Lane Cove Plaza

Monday 28 October, 6:30pm: Gardens of Stone film in library

Contents

- Vale Doug Stuart – tribute
- Climate Emergency – Council declaration
- Bylong Coal article - response
- LCCGW events – invitation
- Wildflower Walk - report
- Native Plant Stall – report
- Waterfront Walk – report
- St Leonards proposals - update

Next Meeting 7.30 – 9.00pm

Tuesday 8 October

Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner

Kenneth St & River Rd, Longueville

All welcome

LCBCS Stall in Lane Cove Sustainability Fair

Sunday 13 Oct. 9am – 4pm

Sustainability Lane, Lane Cove Plaza.

Volunteers wanted.

Phone **Matt Fisher: 0413 414 926** or **Helen Jordan: 94274845**

TRIBUTE TO DOUG STUART- OUR FOUNDING MEMBER AND PASSIONATE ACTIVIST FOREVER A GUIDING LIGHT & INSPIRATION

As you are aware, our very special founding 'father' Doug Stuart died suddenly on September 10, 2019 and has left a stellar hole in our hearts. Below is a compilation of the tributes given in Council by Society member, Councillor Francis Vissel, and by Shauna, Society President on behalf of the LCB&C Society at his funeral.

Both Doug and Norma Stuart hail from and met in WA, one of the worlds internationally recognised biodiversity hotspots, with floristic diversity persisting in some cases for millions of years. Doug has been a tireless advocate for the natural and built environment of Lane Cove and further afield, primarily through the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society and the Residents and Shopkeepers for Appropriate Development (RASAD).

When Doug and Norma moved into the house Doug had designed in Osbourne Rd, in 1970, there was talk of the golf course taking over the bushland at the bottom of their garden. In March 1971, Doug attended the inaugural meeting of the LCB&CS and a petition signed by 1,049 people was presented to LC Council in April, opposing the

destruction of bushland for the expansion of the golf course into what is now Bushland Park. He was elected onto the Society's first Executive Committee that year, and for its next 25years, Doug also worked as a practicing architect.



Doug and Norma Stuart never missed the Plant Stall, here with Matt Fisher, Helen Jordan & Robbie Renu

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

Inquiries Ron Gornall 9427 1125

e-mail lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com

Address PO Box 989 Lane Cove NSW 1595

facebook: www.facebook.com/LCBCS

Website www.lanecovebushland.org.au

Doug and Norma worked flat out, along with others, renovating a condemned hardware store on Longueville Rd so the Bushland Society could hold an Art & Craft Sale which raised over \$1,000 to cover costs required for the court case held in May 1972. In 1980 LC Bushland Park was declared a wildlife refuge under NP&W and was listed on the National Estate in 2000.

Another of Doug's most significant, early contributions was that he organised a large team of volunteers to survey the state of all LC bushland over the summer of 1971-72, an idea prompted by CSIRO biologist Keith Murray, in order to identify areas for regeneration. Doug drew maps of each site and checked ownership of the reserves, then created a single cohesive document, the first of its kind for Lane Cove. Incredible!

The Society will soon be 50 years old. Over all these years, together with Norma, Doug has consistently been a driving force behind the Society, as President for 10yrs, Secretary, Executive Committee member and Convenor of Local Groups. They influenced Council to use new, radical 'Bradley' regeneration methods of weed removal. When the 'LC Bushland Plan of Management' was approved in 1990, it embodied many of the Society's aims to conserve and care for the bushland – a pinnacle of the Society's achievements.



Doug Stuart, 3rd from right, with past Presidents of the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society

Most importantly, Doug used his architectural skills to provide detailed and constructive comments for the Bushland Society's Submissions on many development applications, policies and local and NSW planning laws that affect the scale and survival of our greenspaces, trees and bushland. Some of Council's planning and development codes he contributed to include the Housing Strategy of 1996, the Dwelling Code of 2005, and several versions of Local Environment Plans and Development Control Plans. More recently, he also supported Council's objections to the State Government's 10/50 Code in 2014 and the Medium Density Code in 2019.

These detailed Submissions are the templates that enabled others to comprehend and to act, to support Council or when necessary, to 'blow the whistle'. He regularly attended Council meetings and spoke calmly, succinctly and to the point. His thoroughness and attention to detail were highly valued by Council and resulted in many of his recommendations being adopted.

Doug was an active member of the Tunnel Action Group from 2000 and the Village Advisory Committee from 2003. He was awarded a Citizenship Award in 1997, a LC Citizen of the Year in 2002 by Council and in 2013 he received a North Sydney Community Award for his work. In all his work he was supported by his wife Norma, still a contributor to Council with over 25 years of active membership of the Bushland Management Advisory Committee (BMAC).



Our founding member, Doug Stuart receives a North Sydney Community Award in 2013

Doug's major achievement was that he spearheaded activity that made Council aware of the existence and need to look after Lane Cove's bushland. The Society has been a major and consistent activist- contributor in the 'greening' of the LC Council, a guardian for the retention of our urban environment, its trees and bushland due to the professional skills and tireless, endless activism of Doug Stuart and others, from early 1971 until the very day he died, suddenly, aged 87years. We can continue to love and honour Doug by protecting his truly remarkable legacy, but will miss him dearly.

Climate Emergency - declaration by Lane Cove Council

Six out of eight Councillors present at the Ordinary Council meeting on 16 September passed the motion in full recognising "that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires immediate action by all levels of government." Two Liberal Councillors agreed only to the local 'action' part, denouncing climate change either as a "hoax" or not human-induced.

The LCB&CS President spoke at the meeting in support of the motion along with many others representing local groups or themselves. We asked for Council to introduce specific measurable policies, programs and targets to achieve carbon reduction as it has none and were successful in requesting Council to ask the State Government to change its objective for net-zero emissions to 2030 rather than the current 2050.

The Council resolved that the GM conduct a review of Council's Sustainability Action Plan and Community Strategic Plan by March 2020 that :

1. Incorporates the targets established by the baseline report as outlined above;
2. Creates an Emissions Reduction Pathway strategy as part of the Sustainability Action Plan and Community Strategic Plan; and
3. Overall focuses on increasing climate change resilience in our LGA (and identifies funding sources if needed).

For more information:

http://lccweb.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/bps/Open/2019/CNL_16092019_MIN_WEB.HTM

The BYLONG Coal Project – North Shore Blamed for Rejection

The Lane Cove Coal & Gas Watch, a sub-group of the LCBCS is listed in the Independent Planning Commissions (IPC) determination on the BYLONG Coal project (which rejected the mine application).

The Daily Telegraph (DT) printed several articles in the past week claiming the 'activists' of Lane Cove and



leafy north shore prevented people in the Mudgee area from gaining potential jobs by 'campaigning' (sending submissions to the IPC) to stop the BYLONG Coal project.

The DT case is that people not living near the mine should have no say in the decision. It should be noted that by taking submissions, the IPC allows everyone a say in the decision regardless of where they live. It provides a process for fair consideration of the pros and cons such as the Department of Agriculture's classification of the soils in the proposed mine area as highest possible grade and strategically important.

Unsurprisingly, the DT conveniently omitted to report the scientific evidence, submissions from groundwater experts, soil experts, government departments such as department of agriculture, roads, national parks, trains and forestry (all of who called out concerns about the damage the mine would do to their assets) the Thoroughbred industry, NSW Farmers, neighbouring coal mining companies concerned there is no capacity on the train line to take additional coal trucks to the port at Newcastle!

The IPC decision said that the project was contrary to the principles of ESD because the economic benefits would accrue to the present generation but the long term environmental, agricultural and heritage costs would be borne by the future generations. The LCCGW believe the DT should be investigated for the inaccuracies in the way they covered the story such as the statistics quoted -LCCGW submitted 250 form letters, not 2,500 as claimed by the DT.

All the relevant information has been sent to media watch to be investigated.

Lane Cove Coal & Gas Watch (LCCGW) Events

Stall in the Lane Cove Plaza
19 October, 9am-3.00pm.

Raising awareness of coal mining in Sydney's drinking water catchments and the damage this is doing to the swamps and water flows to our reservoirs.

Volunteers welcome for 2 hour shifts.
Contact Jann Dark.

Film on the Gardens of Stone in Lane Cove Library
28 October, 6:30 pm

This is a beautiful film about the dramatic landscape of the Gardens of Stone area adjacent to the Wollemi National Park. It is in the catchment area for Warragamba Dam and in danger from coal mining.

Speaker: **Keith Muir, Director, Colong Foundation.**

How to win the Climate War and take back our Planet from Polluters

[Dr Michael Mann: How to Win the New Climate War](#)

Presentation and panel discussion MC'ed by Craig Reucassel

Buy tickets: fal.cn/michaelmann.

North Head Wildflower Walk a huge success

On a spectacularly beautiful sunny Sunday, the 1st of September, around 30 people including many new walkers of all ages some with children, joined our wildflower specialists Ron & Barbara Gornall at the North Fort carpark in North Head Sanctuary, Manly for the Spring walk.



Some of the many who enjoyed the North Head Wildflower Walk



Hardenbergia (Happy Wanderer)

It was impossible not to enjoy the experience as North Head Sanctuary is a haven where natural heritage and Australian history combine with spectacular ocean and harbour views. It is a photographer's delight!

However Ron has found some other new destinations full of wildflowers so more is in store!

Once again Ron and Barbara, thank you for your good humour and expertise, getting us out and engaged in nature.



Ron Gornall was kept busy guiding Lane Cove locals around

The Spring Native Plant Stall in the Plaza - Saturday 14 September



A special thank you to evergreen coordinator Ruth Neumann and Leon Horsnall assisting in 2019, and to Norma Stuart, Wendy and the rest of the wonderful team for contributing to a terrific result on Saturday - with all plants sold!

There was lots of interest in our local native plants, especially Norma's purple flowering native orchids (dendrobium species) which were a big draw card, as was Robbie with his insect hotels. Leon's raffle innovation was a hit, he donated a beautiful *Cordyline Stricta* (native to our area) in a self-watering pot.

Another first were our fantastic bags for plants made from recycled paper – former maps which were sooo gorgeous Ruth didn't want to use them! Our locally made recycled paper greeting cards also sold well. Well done team!

Guided Waterfront Bushwalk @ Ventemans Reach with Mark Wolff

On Sunday 22 September was again a beautiful morning enjoying the mangrove and saltmarsh vegetation, with ex-President Meron Wilson assisting.

The walkers learnt about the processes responsible for supporting the vegetation from two very active plant experts. Thank you Meron and Mark for providing this great opportunity once again.

Council votes on St Leonards Sth Masterplan but requests a Moratorium

The Society has often reported on the St Leonards South Master Plan (**SLS Plan**). The Independent Planning Commission recently stated that the current SLS plan (an extra 2,000+ apartments in LC Council area) will result in overdevelopment.

At the September meeting, Councillors Vissel, Zbik and Morris requested a rescission of LC Council's earlier resolution on the SLS Plan. They urged Council to accept the Dept of Planning's offer to work with the community and Council to review the SLS Plan.

The many Greenwich residents who spoke in support of the motion were most unhappy as it was not successful.

At the same meeting, LC Council agreed to ask the Greater Sydney Commission and the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for an urgently needed moratorium on developer-initiated Planning Proposals in the St Leonard's South Area.

The moratorium, if granted, would allow LC Council to finalise the SLS plan without the complication of developers submitting overlapping residential Planning Proposals, although two have already been submitted.