



ISSN 0722-7717

BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

November 2019

Next Meeting 7.30 - 9.00pm
Tuesday 11 February 2020
Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner
Kenneth St near River Rd, Longueville
All welcome

Contents

New LCBCS Executive – notice
Sustainability stall – thankyou
Card sale and raffle – Sat 30 Nov, 10 Dec
Local Planning submission - notice
NCC conference - report

INVITATION

Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society Christmas Party

7.00pm – 9.30pm Tuesday, 10 December 2019

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

The Executive of the LCBC Society invite all members and guests 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 hope you are able to join us and meet some of our members and guests, and to help celebrate our work with some food and a glass or two. Members are requested to bring a small plate of food.

RSVP to the President: shaunaforrest@bigpond.com

Best wishes,
The Executive of the LCBCS.



New LCBCS Executive for 2020

At the LCBCS AGM on Tuesday 12 November the Executive and other positions for 2020 were elected. Details will go out with the Minutes.

BUT we welcome volunteers for the shared role of Minute Taker / Secretary. Only a few hours per year!

Please Ring or text: 0410 041279

Architect who protected harbourside bush



Doug Stuart's obituary in the Sydney Morning Herald was written by June Hefferan of RASAD.

You can read it on the LCBCS Facebook page:
[facebook.com/LCBCS](https://www.facebook.com/LCBCS)

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

Advocating for the protection of Lane Cove's bushland and the conservation of its built heritage since 1971

LCBCS Stall @ Lane Cove Sustainability Fair – Thank you!

On Sunday 13 October Society members, family and friends volunteered at our beautiful stall in Lane Cove Plaza, designed, built, erected and coordinated by Matt Fisher, our past Secretary (2019) and wildlife photographer. Matt is a treasure and was assisted by his delightful family and Mike Kelly.

We sold so many 'Walks' books we ran out! Matt and others reported that this year there was a heightened level of interest in the Society and what we do, more than we have seen over the past years, with many young people visiting the stall.

Thank you to US university student Katrina who ran the popular Native Animal Quiz (for Shauna) along with Corinne and Alexa, and organised their assistants the Riverview boys volunteers (thank you boys!)

The three young winners were Michal D; Amber S; Ravi & Vin G, all of Lane Cove. Each receives a 'Burns Bay Bookery' book voucher.



Thank you Win for making the native flora and fauna recycled paper cards; Helen Jordan for the roster and all the wonderful Stall volunteers: Linda, Ruth and Tatiana, Ron, Leon, Pam, Robyn and Alan – who really made it happen!

LCBCS Card Stall and Raffle of Taronga & Western Plains Zoo tix Sat. 30 November, 9am - 1.30pm - in Lane Cove Plaza



Unique photos of Lane Cove bushland and fauna on hand-made, recycled paper cards & raffle for a family pass to Taronga or Western Plains Zoo

1st prize valued at \$130; 2nd Prize - a native plant.

Please phone Helen on **9427 4845** to volunteer at the stall. Cards and raffle tickets will be sold and the winner drawn at the LCBCS Xmas party (invitation above) 9.30pm, Tuesday 10 December.

All proceeds go to the Society for its work protecting the natural environment. Winners will be notified by phone and published on our website: lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com and [facebook.com/LCBCS](https://www.facebook.com/LCBCS)

Planning Submissions and Letters

Thank you Ruth Neumann for writing our submission on the Draft **Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)** which will direct the next 20 years' strategic land use within the LGA, and is significant in promoting Lane Cove's unique characteristics and local identity.

It is thus a crucial document in guiding growth and change as the broader statutory plans are executed at local government level.

This year the Society has made nine submissions. They can be found under 'Communications' @ <http://lanecovebushland.org.au/>.

@ the Nature Conservation Council Conference

North Shore environment groups attended the annual Nature Conservation Council Conference on Saturday 2 November in Sydney. The Colong Foundation was a major contributor of motions and recently presented 'Reservation of the Gardens of Stone as a State Conservation Area' at Lane Cove Library for LC Coal & Gas Watch. Doug Stuart was honourably mentioned at the NCC Environmental Awards.

Following speeches by Matt Kean (NSW Minister for Energy & Environment), Kate Washington (Shadow Minister for the Environment & Heritage) and Cate Faehrmann (Greens MLC), a three member 'Water Panel' (below) discussed the disastrous condition of the Murray- Darling Basin.

Uncle Bruce Shillingsworth, a 'water for the rivers' activist and Corroboree Project, opened the panel with passion and anger at the situation his people face at Brewarrina, saying that his 90 year old mother had never seen the river in this state in her life. Bruce told us that 40% of First Nation peoples live along the Murray Darling and he called on Aboriginal people to do something about the loss of water. "80% of water is controlled by foreign companies. How do I teach my kids to fish, dream time stories with a dry river? There's no plan B. The land we live on has only been borrowed from our children".

In October 2019, Bruce brought together communities along the river in a Corroboree to unite people to solve this unprecedented crisis. The Corroboree Project, a roving, week-long program was held along the lower Barka (Darling River) in September 2019 "to find ways to rewind the destruction of the Murray-Darling/Barka." The ancient stone fish traps at Brewarrina on the Barwon River where thousands gathered, may be the oldest man-made structure.

You can join this gathering to see what has happened and explore ways to solve this crisis together. See: mundagutta.com



Keith Muir, Colong Foundation (back left), Shauna Forrest, president LCBCS, Ron Gornall vice-president, Frances Vissel, Lane Cove Councillor, Kate Eccles, president Mosman Parks & Bushland, Gaye Spiers (centre), Willoughby Environment Protection Assoc. (WEPA) and members at NCC Conference.

Bev Smiles spokesperson for the Inland Rivers Network described the current "binary narrative" of irrigator versus environment (despite small farmers doing the right thing) as anti-science and does not allow a pathway forward - it is denigrating of the Australia Institute. She said the Murray Darling Basin Plan Efficiency funding actually funded an expansion "of more Cubbys", more dams to capture more flows, so not returning flows to the environment.

\$13 billion has facilitated a massive shift to big agribusiness and is not benefiting small farms or irrigators but rather large agribusiness. Foreign owned nut plantations (almond farms) are taking water endlessly from traditional dairy and rice, which is on its knees.

A 2019 Report by Professor Fran Sheldon of the Australian Rivers Institute, found that just ten big irrigators were responsible for extracting 86% of the water and **4 irrigators control 75% of the water** from the Barwon Darling River system (the guardian.com).

Maryanne Slattery senior water researcher from the Australia Institute said water market trading has been a disaster playing into a neo-liberal market agenda. In her discussion paper (March 2019), Maryanne said that despite the current drought over 1,000,000 hectares of irrigated cotton has been planted in the northern Basin. Clearly some irrigators in the northern Basin can access significant volumes of water in years of scarcity further down the Darling/Barka.

NCC campaigned against water trading at the time of its introduction. Watch out for a Lifeblood Alliance campaign.