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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

May 2020

Next Meeting 7.30 – 9.00pm

Tuesday 12 May 2020

Meetings will take place

in virtual space via Zoom until further notice.

Please check your emails for details

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Bushwalks of Lane Cove – download 7th edition
Fast tracking: Northwood development – report
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Sediment spill in Ventemans wetland - report
Covid legislation in Lane Cove – report
EPBC Act review – get updates

Lane Cove's Book of Bushwalking Tracks, Information & Maps

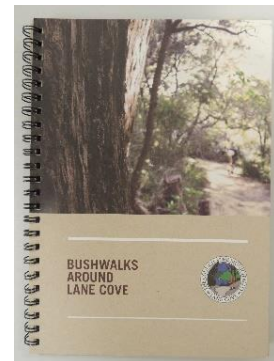
Now in its 7th edition, the colourful little book of 17 walks was compiled in 1982 by Don Dove, a stalwart member of this Society.

Don updated four editions.

While it cannot be bought during Covid-19's closure of the Library and Council chambers, you can download it free!

Bushwalks Around Lane Cove 7th edition - Free Download [click here](#)

lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Environment/BushwalkingInLaneCove.aspx



Fewer Constraints for Developers under COVID

Is unfettered ministerial power really good for our health? Elizabeth Farrelly, in the SHM (25 April), writes that the Urban Task Force has been “driving planning reform in NSW”. The taskforce sent the government a list of 70 projects requiring fast-track treatment including **Bilbergia's 440-apartment development at St Leonards**, and the **Northwood Shops proposal** (below). Farrelly concludes that “many are “stuck” in the planning system because, let's be frank, people detest them”. [Read the article here.](#)

Northwood Shops Planning Proposal - Fast Tracked

The Department of Planning Industry & Environment 'Fast-tracked Assessments: Tranche One' includes the project proposed for Northwood shops, 4 – 18 Northwood Rd / 274 Longueville Rd, seen as part of River Rd. **Details are on BPN Facebook:**

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

The question is **why was it fast tracked?**

We are concerned for the protection of a bushland corridor at the rear (see article below) as required by the DCP. Buffers for bushland protection that should be provided on the proponent's land may be overridden, as it may limit the size of development.

[Read our first submission on 266 Longueville Rd here.](#) A 2018: 'Further Submission on DA 117/2017 266 Longueville Rd Lane Cove' discussed Buffer Zones. See Submissions on our website:

<https://lanecovebushland.org.au/>

The community and council criticised the previous plans for the impossible traffic problems it would create at the dangerous intersection, the height of the building amongst other issues, and now because there is a proposal for another aged care facility right beside an already approved one at 266 Longueville Rd. Full details: inthecove.com.au/northwood-aged-care-facility

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Lane Cove Council has had no power in the process as it was developer led and the council was treated as any other in making a submission. **LCC continued to refuse the proposal on town planning and urban design grounds including:**

- The impacts on the adjoining SEPP19 bushland are not adequately addressed and it has not been demonstrated that the adjacent bushland can be adequately protected by the proposed 3m wide buffer;
- Entry/exit from the site and changes to the intersection have not been resolved with the RMS;
- The proposed site is not considered appropriate for an aged care facility. There are currently three aged care/seniors living development applications nearby being considered by Lane Cove Council or the Planning Department:
 - 266 Longueville Road, almost next door, and just down River road:
 - Greenwich Hospital Upgrade and
 - the old Billy Blue site on the corner of Greenwich Road and River Road.

Bike Track Adjacent to Bushland Wildlife Corridor

Northwood Shops development and others adjacent to this bushland came before Council in the past but are on the move again. All sites are linked up and adjacent to bushland though a narrow, neglected strip that provides an important wildlife corridor between reserves.

What is most worrying is a proposal to create a three metre wide 'shared' track here over difficult terrain and gradient, with large rock out crops and many trees, to cater for bikes as well as aged pedestrians. Adding bikes and a wide track on such a narrow reserve will have a major impact and destroy the ability to enjoy a bushland walk.

The Society supports the LCC Bike Plan but has strongly opposed tracks in narrow wildlife reserves/bushland, including this proposal.



Lane Cove Bushland Park

Bed & Breakfasts for Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Biodiversity

Urban regeneration is especially important now, amid unfathomable estimates that more than one billion animals were killed in the recent bushfires. Even before the fires, we were in the middle of a mass extinction event in Australia and around the world.

Lane Cove Council's 'Backyard Habitat' program will provide you with free native plants and advice. 'Planting Seeds' are also key pollinating gardens and pollinator habitats at strategic urban locations throughout New South Wales, called B&B's – Bed & Breakfast for Birds, Bees, Butterflies and Biodiversity. There is a Planting Seeds (FoodFaith) community garden at Hughes Park, 304-314 Burns Bay Rd.

The NSW Department of Education is also developing an associated curriculum to engage in ecosystem restoration. You can join the project: www.foodfaith.com.au. **Check out the guide to planting:**

<https://liveability.com.au/liveabilityguides/liveability-vegetable-fruit-planting-calender/#sydney>

Sediment Spills into Ventemans Reach Wetlands from 1 Sirius Rd.

There has been a major sediment discharge into wetlands at Ventemans Reach, the most expansive and diverse wetland community in Lane Cove. Though Council was quickly notified and the developer implemented a clean-up straight away, it should not have happened. Since then a new sediment pit has been dug to capture sediment on site.

We hope it is being closely monitored to make sure there are no repeats.

We are very disappointed that the Living Labs proposal is going ahead at Blackman Park. We spoke out strongly about this as it means that inappropriate trees and shrubs will be planted here adjacent to Bushland and the foreshore, against our Local Environment Plan and State plans.

New Emergency COVID 19 Legislation Amendment Bill

Society Defends Protections at Lane Cove Council Meeting 20 April 2020.

The Society submitted objections (via email and phone calls to Councillors) to the objective and intent of Recommendation 1 of the 20 April Council meeting's Motion by Councillors Bennison and Brooks-Horn *"to remove bureaucratic blockages that allow council and non-council led infrastructure projects to become 'shovel ready"*.

The Society suggested the words be replaced with: *"The Council writes to the NSW Minister for Planning & Public Spaces, expressing Council's opposition to the recent planning changes which grants the Minister unprecedented powers to override planning decisions made by local Councils"*.

The powers given to Mr Rob Stokes, NSW Planning Minister, under the newly approved emergency legislation are designed to override planning decisions made by local Councils and remove local community and Council influence to fast track all projects.

The Society has for almost 50 years supported or insisted on the Council's adherence to all the planning boundaries set by Lane Cove's LEP and DCP regulations, to the established best-practise planning that allows for community concerns to be heard. These have maintained the clean, natural, healthy green environment that has proved so important for residents in today's crisis.

Council rejected the motion.

Birds in Greenwich Ted Nixon writes...

Yellow-faced honeyeater by David Noble



"Winter is usually quiet on the bird scene. With some exceptions, like magpies, grey butcherbirds, lorikeets and noisy miners, birds are not calling much. Furthermore, after prolonged drought, bushfires and storms, not to mention the relentless infilling with 'developments' of various kinds, one suspects that bird numbers have dwindled. It is certainly harder for the migrants to thread their way through the suburbs.

An exception was an immature black-face monarch, a flycatcher, found at Manns Point on its way north. Another migrant, a yellow-faced honeyeater, flew into a window at my block of flats. With good rains the local bush should recover somewhat, and spring will undoubtedly produce a happier scene."

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act review

The independent review of the EPBC Act - our national environment laws - is undertaking its ten year review. The Society's Submission to the Review is available on our beautiful, updated website: <https://lanecovebushland.org.au/>

We need strong new laws and a national EPA to act as a watchdog and enforce the law, and to lift the environment above politics and entrust decision-making to independent science-based institutions like a National Environment Commission.

Read the Discussion Paper on line and sign up for updates: <https://epbcactreview.environment.gov.au/>