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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

JULY 2020

Next Meeting 7.30 – 9.00pm

Tuesday 14 July 2020

Zoom connection details will be emailed.

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Please send a REPLY to this email without changing the Subject line.

Add your name or don't; the important thing is to **reply so we know we are reaching you!**

You will be helping us as we look into ways to make our communication with members and the wider public more effective.

If you can suggest how to improve communication, or have articles for the newsletter, please send them in (email in footer of this page).

And while you are here, have a look at our Facebook, like and share it:

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

Vale Doug Graham- founding LCBCS Vice President & President

It is with sadness that we note the death of Doug Graham (9 June 2020), founding member of the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society, the Society's first Vice-President from 1971 to 1978, President for 11 years, 1980-1990 and Committee member for 21 years. As a botanist and research scientist, including for CSIRO, Doug advocated for the systematic scientific study of Lane Cove's bushland reserves, their hydrology and benchmarking the ecology of each reserve. He is remembered for his calm leadership and good humour while leading the Society during some difficult issues.

Doug was on the committee that oversaw the development of 'The LC Bushland Plan of Management' which resulted in a dedicated Council bushland officer, the foundation of the 'Bushland Management Advisory Committee' (BMAC) and a guaranteed budget to fund ongoing work in LC bushland. Doug provided leadership on major issues such as the preservation of Lane Cove Bushland Park, weed management in bushland, recycling and the preservation of resources. He was strongly involved in the Society's fight against the use of organochlorines in the bush.



Doug, 2nd from left, with past LCBCS Presidents celebrating 25 years' participation in BMAC.

Doug's legacy is still relevant today: in 1981 Doug Graham warned the Society against complacency, reflecting "now that the Lane Cove Council is generally sympathetic to environmental matters **there is a tendency to think we can sit back and relax. Such complacency must be avoided**" (Macleod 2012: 45 *Beyond the Untidy Fringe*). We have expressed the Society's condolences to Doug's wife Gabrielle and 4 children. Vale Doug - a fine man, we are grateful beneficiaries of his dedication to reserving the natural environment.

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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Lane Cove National Park Bushwalk with John Martyn

John Martyn, geologist and author of a 'Field Guide to the Bushland of the Lane Cove Valley' (2010) will lead our first bushwalk into Lane Cove National Park from Fiddens Wharf Track, highlighting the variety of trees, wildflowers and birdlife. Society plant experts, Ron Gornall and Leon Horsnall will also assist, but be quick as there's a limit of 20 bookings. The Grade: easy to medium with steps & slopes.

John has been exploring, mapping and photographing Sydney's natural world ever since he came to Australia from the UK in 1970, after mapping in the Rift Valley of Kenya for his PhD in geology. John was stunned by the colour and variety of spring flowers in the bush during 30 years of fieldwork as a minerals exploration geologist in WA. He joined the South Turramurra Environment Protection (STEP) committee in 1990 and has dedicated many hours to STEP's campaigns and through the publication of four [books](#) and [maps of walking tracks](#) available through STEP: <https://www.step.org.au/index.php>

We will stop mid-walk for brunch by the river having experienced the beautiful trees, ferns, flowers, birds, animals and river of the Lane Cove National Park.

Spring Native Plant Stall, Saturday 29 August

9am -12pm in Lane Cove Plaza: Helpers wanted- it's Fun! Ring Ruth 0409 609940 if you can help.

The Society's biannual native plant stall in the Plaza dates back to 1975 and at 45 years old, is possibly the longest-running plant stall, selling mostly low cost plants endemic to Lane Cove, with advice to help locals develop habitat and food gardens for our native birds & wildlife. The plant stall began in Earth Week 1975 and "for the first 20 years was largely run by Norma Stuart with help from many others including: Jill Pain, Joan Whitaker and Barbara Gornall" (p.32 *Beyond the Untidy Fringe*).

Sport and Recreation Precinct Concept Plans- Lane Cove Golf Clubhouse

On Sat. 18 & 25 July from 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Lane Cove Council will be hosting two drop-in info. sessions at the Lane Cove Golf Clubhouse, 180 River Rd, to speak with Council staff about a new Sport and Recreation Precinct on the curtilage of the current Lane Cove Golf Course.

The Society wants your input as the precinct adjoins the Lane Cove Bushland Park, which was instrumental in the Societies formation in 1971. We will consider the plans carefully and email members to give advice on the issues

It's a Dog's Life - Contested Spaces


As Sydney's high rise population intensifies the use of playing fields and open space becomes contested.

At the recent Greenwich Community Assoc. meeting, speakers said the Masterplan changes to Bob Campbell Oval (BCO) The GCA speakers said the Masterplan changes to BCO would mean the end of the major leash free area for dog walkers in Greenwich. The Society spoke briefly against the movement of the Oval's dog "off-leash" area

Free Guided Walk

Sunday 2nd August - 10am-12pm

Lane Cove National Park with John Martyn, author of 'Field Guide to the Bushland of the Lane Cove Valley' to appreciate trees, wildflowers and birdlife.



LANE COVE BUSHLAND & CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Easy Walk • Children Are Welcome • BYO Brunch - by the River

Meet 10am: corner Fiddens Wharf Rd & Carramar Rd, Lindfield, Lane Cove National Park	Bookings essential, or if wet weather call or SMS: Leon: 0418 627 196 Kate: 0411 593 078
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For more information go to: lanecovebushland.org.au

raised. Please ring or email the President to discuss your views after considering the Concept plans. Council asks that you [view our video](#) and review the [Sport and Recreation Precinct Concept Plans](#), [Golf Course Masterplan Layout Option](#) and our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

To complete the online survey and view the full exhibition documents, visit [Council's website](#) before **16 August**.

next to the bush track entrance into Bushland Park, as it would intensify dog walkers in the bush, who generally ignore the tiny Council signs to keep dogs on leads. "We consider them Wildlife Protection areas for native species", this was applauded. Another spoke of possible impacts of the proposed synthetic grass on children & bushland (chemical leaching).

Council community consultation failing

At the recent Greenwich Community Assoc. meeting, held safely in the Lane Cove Golf Clubhouse, there was discontent with the lack of Council's consultation over several contentious proposals, that our Council progresses major developments long before it engages the community in the process and, when consultation finally happens, the views of the community seem to count for little with Lane Cove Council.

GCA gained the yet to be exhibited Masterplan for Greenwich's Bob Campbell Oval (BCO) under a 'Freedom on Info.' application. **The meeting revealed the Council's \$3mill. Grant Application for BCO appears to be predicated on St Leonards South (SLS) massive scheme having already been approved, as that was why the**

grant application was made under the Precincts Support Scheme (for rezoned precincts).

SLS proposes to add approx. 1.5K new apartments to SLS to the Lane Cove side of St Leonards. **A new shared path links SLS to the Oval.** So, it now brings a key community asset into the open space discussion regarding SLS. While GCA took no position on the BCO, as one resident put it, "the needs of the current community are being sublimated to the future residents need for open space for St Leonards South (apartments)".

The LCBCS will send the full Report of this meeting to members as it deals with several issues of importance.

Independent Review of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Report - Released!

The Headland Preservation Group (HPG) ran a successful campaign with others, to protect Department of Defence sites on Sydney Harbour. This led to the formation of The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust in 2001 by an Act of Federal Parliament. These sites include Cockatoo Island, Woolwich Dock, Sub Base Platypus, Chowder Bay, Georges Heights, Headland Park, Middle Head, North Head and Macquarie Light Station.

On 18 June 2020, Minister Sussan Ley released the report of the 'Independent Review of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust'. The Review explored options for the future of the Harbour Trust and the management of sites under its control. [You can access the full Review report here.](#)

North Head Sanctuary on Shaky Ground

The Society sent a Submission to help safeguard the Harbour Trust. Each Sept. Ron & Barbara, LCBCS plant experts guide a popular annual spring wildflower walk in the historic & picturesque North Head Sanctuary which is still at risk. HPG greatly welcomed many of the 21 recommendations, particularly **that Harbour Trust sites should remain with the Commonwealth and Endorsement of the objects of the Harbour Trust.**

However, the fate of the **North Head Sanctuary (NHS)** is yet to be determined. Under a Deed of Arrangement between NSW and Commonwealth Govts., NHS must be transferred to NSW for ownership and management on or before 1 Jan. 2032 putting at risk the strict environmental and heritage protections afforded to NHS

under the existing Cwth. Legislation (unless the Deed is amended).

Strengthening community involvement is recommended but HPG recommends Community Advisory Committees for complex and work-intensive sites, in particular, North Head, Headland Park, Platypus & Cockatoo Island.

Concerns remain regarding to the Long term funding of the sites as the Trust is not generating sufficient revenue to maintain the sites. HPG is preparing a response to the Minister regarding the Review to be published on the HPG website soon. Go to hpg.org.au Read press coverage: hpg.org.au/in-the-media

Acacia terminalis and *Grevillea speciosa* are in flower now.



Pimelea linifolia and *Correa reflexa* have just finished

