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BUSH RANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

March 2021

Next Meeting 7.30 - 9.00pm
Tuesday 13 April 2021
Lane Cove Tennis Club, Central Park
Kenneth St near River Rd, Longueville
All welcome

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Native Plant Stall Sat 20 March – notice
Vale Ros Baxter – tribute
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Bushland fauna surveys – read more
Planting Native Species – read and apply
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Mowbray Rd impacts – feedback requested

Special event Sunday 16 May
LCBCS 50th Anniversary
Bushland Park bushwalk & social



Native & Indigenous Plant Sale

Saturday 20 March, 9am-12 noon
Lane Cove Plaza

Whether your garden is large or small or you only have space for some pots there is a wide range of suitable native and indigenous plants for your situation. So come and find out about growing Australian and local plants in our Lane Cove gardens, balconies and terraces.

website: www.lanecovebushland.org.au
facebook: [facebook.com/LCBCS](https://www.facebook.com/LCBCS)
email: lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com
twitter: [@SocietyBushland](https://twitter.com/SocietyBushland)

Lane Cove
Bushland
and **Conservation Society**

Vale Rosilyn Baxter, OAM

With great fondness and admiration we pay tribute to Rosilyn (Ros) Baxter, one of the Society's most active, dedicated and enduring members, who died on 25 Feb, 2021 following the recent passing of her husband Phillip.

Ros attended the first meeting of the LC Bushland & Conservation Society in Dec. 1971, formed during the fight to stop the expansion of the golf course into what is now Bushland Park. She held the position of Secretary to the Society's Executive Committee until her election to Lane Cove Council in 1974.



During her 21 years on Council, including time served as Mayor, Ros tirelessly worked to promote the aims of the LCBCS including "*retain publicly owned bushland for the use and enjoyment of the public*". Later she took a hand on role as the Society's representative for nearly ten years on Council's Bushland Management Advisory Committee (BMAC).

Ros was an early advocate of the effectiveness of the pioneering Bradley method of bush regeneration adopted by Council.

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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

Vale Ros Baxter (cont.)



Ros (far right) as BMAC's 25th Anniversary celebration

She represented all metropolitan councils on a committee to investigate weeds and lobbied the Noxious Weeds Board to include urban weeds, not only weeds that threatened agriculture.

Ros was the driving force behind 'Project Environment' that took work initiated by the Bushland Society and developed books, publications and activities such as 'Every Child a Bush Experience' which continues today and involves quality, curriculum based, experiential education for local primary school children in our bushland.

She also started community services such as The Meeting House in Stokes St and Possums Corner, an early childcare, centre and supported aged care services. In 1994 Ros was awarded the Order of Australia for her contributions to the community.

Ros's dedication to the natural environment ensured the policies, management and funding needed were implemented by Council and is evident in the green legacy she left us.

Impacts of Dogs on the Natural Environment

Comments due by Sunday 28 March

Council is asking for feedback on a **draft Dog-Friendly Strategy** which aims to address the needs of dog owners and non-dog owners in the Lane Cove area. Our concern is to ensure the health of bushland is not threatened by pets. A Society rep. will attend a LC Council meeting to make suggestions for their Strategy.

Council's website has additional information including the locations of off-leash dog areas, the number of dogs registered in Lane Cove as well as the intent of the Strategy.

You can provide input on Council's 10-minute online survey: www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay by **Sunday 28 March** but we suggest you first read: **'The effects of domestic dogs (Canis familiaris) as a disturbance agent on the natural environment'** <https://eprints.utas.edu.au/12310/2/whole.pdf> by Bob Holderness-Roddam.

The results of the survey will help Council to prepare the Dog-Friendly Lane Cove Strategy to help address the needs of the community. Council will also be dropping into 3 different dog off-leash areas during March. Dates and times for the drop-in sessions will be available on the [Have Your Say website](#).

BUSHLAND FAUNA SURVEYS

Findings of a comprehensive wildlife survey undertaken on Lane Cove's bushland reserves can be read in [Lane Cove Bushland Fauna Surveys 2020 Report](#). Around 200 different native animal species, including more than 150 birds, have been observed in the bushland and gardens. Swamp wallabies, sugar gliders, echidnas, green tree frogs, turtles and microbats are still sighted and endangered species such as the powerful owl and eastern bent-wing bat reside in our area.

Ted Nixon, our 'Bellbird Bushwalk in Mowbray Park' guide, was thanked "for sharing his local knowledge and birding observations" along with Council staff.

Council maintains a database of fauna sightings, which helps in the conservation and management of our reserves. Residents are encouraged to report interesting/unusual sightings to bushinterp@lanecove.nsw.gov.au



Bell Miner



Planting local species

The first pages of the book *Growing the Native Plants of Lane Cove* by Judy Messer (with a foreword by Ros Baxter) gives some insight into the very early history of Bushland Park and Lane Cove's ecology. When deciding which plants to use in your garden, consider factors such as soil type, plant height, water usage, aspect and so on. It is worthwhile to plant native species indigenous to the local area for a number of reasons:

1. You can help preserve the historic and aesthetic landscape qualities of the area.
2. You can provide valuable habitat for many birds, mammals, reptiles and insects still found throughout the area.
3. Local plants selected with care are already adapted to the local soils and microclimates, so they often grow more rapidly and need less constant attention.

Lane Cove Bush Kids - Highly Commended Recipient 2020

The Lane Cove Bush Kids (LCBK) received a highly commended recognition in the Take Me Outside NSW Excellence Award category of the Australian Association of Environmental Education annual awards in 2020. Congratulations Valerie Holland!

The program was the brainchild of three young mothers-members of the Society and received numerous environmental awards when still run by the Society, including being shortlisted for the Sustainability Education category of the United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Awards 2014. LCBK is now a partnership between the Society and Council.



Environmental Impacts - Mowbray Rd Data Centre Update

LCB&CS members attended a briefing session with Microsoft on the proposed Data Centre on Mowbray Road, a 'State Significant Development' (SSD-13475973)



<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/41041>

The proposed building will extend the current three storeys to six, thus increasing the permitted height of the building. **Some environmental impacts raised by our members and BMAC reps. were:**

- the impact of a 6 story high building on views from the river and Great North Walk on Ryde side;
- increased shadowing onto bushland from a taller building;
- importance of the downslope bushland;
- need for significant screening along the road edge, including both trees and understorey; and
- the interruption to drainage and stormwater, including contaminated water.

Your feedback on this and any other issue will feed into the design process: feedback@apa.net.au