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# BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the  
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

April 2021

**Next Meeting 7.30 - 9.00pm**

**Tuesday 11 May 2021**

Lane Cove Tennis Club, Central Park  
Kenneth St near River Rd, Longueville

*All welcome*

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## Lane Cove Bushland Park 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Guided Walks

### Discover Lane Cove Bushland Park – its history and bio-diversity

**Sunday 16 May from 9am, 9.30am, 10am**

On this special commemorative walk, hear the dramatic history of Lane Cove Bushland Park first-hand from those who campaigned to save it from the bulldozers in 1971. This led to the formation of the **Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society**, now celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

As you meander around small rock pools, rainforest species and red gums, learn about its bio-diversity from native plant experts and the bush regenerators who tend it now. It is a site of ecological importance, listed on the Register of the National Estate due to its rare and endangered community of *Hygrocybeae* fungi, also with a remnant of critically endangered Blue Gum High Forest, satin bowerbirds, rosellas, micro bats, tree and terrestrial frogs and more.



Numbers are limited so you can enjoy a tranquil walk. It is essential to book any one of three 1½ hour guided walks starting: **9 am, 9.30 am, 10 am.**

Follow the links [on our website here](#)

## LCB&CS STALL IN THE PLAZA - Sat. 8 May 9am - 12.30 pm

Plant Raffle – Book Sale – **PR for May Bushwalk** - Campaign Info. - Native Cards

**Volunteers needed!** 1 – 1 ½ hour shifts, it's fun to chat with the community

Text: 0410 041279 or email: [shaunaforrest@bigpond.com](mailto:shaunaforrest@bigpond.com)

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## Proposed State Environmental Planning Policy (Design and Place)

**ACT NOW!** and encourage your family and friends to also make a submission.

**Submissions close 28 April**

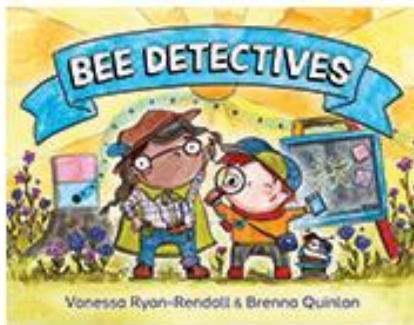
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/design-and-place-sepp>

### Key points you can make:

- Recognise that climate change is an urgent challenge and should not be diverted into vague pathways that will avoid essential emission reduction and delivery targets.
- Reject the flexibility approach as it invites trade-offs and undermining of fundamental goals. We need best practice at all times and inject certainty for industry and the community.
- Ensure high quality tree retention, tree canopy and open space targets are mandatory and can't be offset by weak alternatives.
- Maintain, improve and enforce BASIX including its energy targets (or an alternative higher national standard) for housing and commercial developments.
- The communities' resilience in the face of natural challenges is vital and is not just a consideration.
- The approach will lead to a multitude of court cases disadvantaging local councils who may wish to reject or significantly amend development plans.

*The Total Environment Centre warns "this proposed policy surrenders our environment and liveability to the private sector. It's an abrogation of responsibility by the state government to present and future generations."*

## Australia's native bees



LCBCS member Vanessa Ryan-Rendall and Brenna Quinlan have written 'Bee Detectives,' a CSIRO publication which [you can find here](#)

Join these budding Bee Detectives as they explore the wonders of Australia's native bees.

When Olivia and Hamish see a smoky haze coming from their local park, they're ready to spring into action! But it's not a fire – it's a nest of Australian stingless bees that needs their help. We hope to have the book available at our Plaza stall on 8 May and hear from Vanessa at an upcoming Society meeting.

## Wallabies on the Riverbank! Wildlife in Lane Cove



Council reports around 200 native animal species, including more than 150 different birds have been observed in the bushland and gardens of the Lane Cove LGA.

Thanks to Sue Ingham loaning us Tim and his IT wizardry @ last Tuesday's meeting, we managed

to get the big TV set-up in the Tennis club. 11 people 'Zoomed' in and were fascinated by ecologist Anne Carey's Wildlife talk for Council.

Anne prepared Council's Fauna Report (Sept. 2019 - April 2020 - [read the Report here](#) ). We expect a recording of the Talk will be available soon.

## **LCBCS Successes at Council Meeting Monday, 19 April 2021**

We supported several important motions affecting the environment at this Council meeting.

### **A Notice of Motion - Preliminary Investigation of Options to Reduce Light 'Spill' on Urban Bushland**

**in Lane Cove** was put to the April Council Meeting by our member, Cllr Frances Vissel (Ind.) and Cllr Zbik (Labor) after initial discussions with the Society following the report on the Northwood 'Pathways' DA revealing that no such policy (or protection) exists. The Society wrote to all Councillors to support the Motion put to Council and spoke at the first 'live' forum held post-Covid. About 8 residents attended and 2 'Zoomed' in.

With 5 stories of apartments backing onto and shining night lights into bushland, the native habitat for nocturnal animals, including microbats is degraded and reduced. On 21 April, the Council itself, and Norma Stuart spoke (for the Society) addressed the Sydney North Planning Panel that

reconvened as the developer is challenging many of the environmental conditions imposed by Council, including the policy for a 10 metre setback of a development on bushland and the street trees required. The developers for 266 Longueville Rd aged care DA previously got the 10m set back reduced.

So, it was disappointing that a challenge was put (which removed the Light Spill) and extolled the current, inadequate (for high rise) 10 metre setback policy that the developers are challenging this week. Cllr Vissel's research papers had explained Light Spill can extend for 50m. Thankfully, Cllr Zbik spoke so well to their 'Light Spill Motion' that it was passed.

### **Lane Cove Indoor Sports & Recreation Facility**

Our Submission on this Motion was concerned with large mature trees lost due to a widened road entrance into Stevenson St from River Rd and further loss of bushland near the Clubhouse. A Stevenson St resident affected by noise, tree loss and light pollution spoke and was supported by Cllr Morris's addition.

Cllr Zbik also successfully carried an added point that the Society requested to explain the process of re-exhibiting the Golf Club DA for public comment, which will have to be to an Assessor, as Council can't assess its own DA. Then it will go to a Planning Panel. The GM acknowledged 'confusion' about the process.



***Roundabout at Stevenson St into the Golf Club 'Sport & Rec.' facility - from LC Council's Draft Development Application***

### **Sydney North Planning Panel: 4-18 Northwood Rd & 274-274A Longueville Rd (DA 113/20)**

The Society supported the Lane Cove Council's recommendation that the refusal in the original assessment report is upheld. Norma Stuart highlighted the environmental impacts on bushland: The proposal is likely to have a significant impact on the flora and fauna in the adjacent bushland including the long-term survival of threatened species and/or ecological communities. This includes five threatened species within a 1km radius of the subject

site, as identified in the independent Ecology Assessment undertaken by Applied Ecology, dated 18/03/21:

- Powerful owl
- Southern myotis
- Grey-headed flying-fox
- White-bellied sea-eagle

**To read our 2020 and 2021 Submissions to the Planning Panels [go to our website here](#)**

## **SYNTHETIC FIELDS, MICROPLASTICS, PRIVATISING PUBLIC SPACES**

In October, 2020, the Society put forward a very detailed Submission to Council on the 'Bob Campbell Oval Draft Masterplan' - advised by an architect and town planner, bushland experts and other professionals, noting the new field's fence, and that "when the field was open grass, it was available for everyone, to be used informally..." [View here](#)

Local Councils are recipients of grants from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), to 'Astro Turf' and fence in ovals. Community opposition led to the Friends of Gardiner Park and the Greenwich community putting forward a series of questions to the Hon. Rob Stokes MP, about how community money, via the Priority Precinct funding came to be spent on synthetic soccer fields.

The Minister was questioned in NSW Parliament during **Budget Estimates** about synthetic fields and microplastics by Mr David Shoebridge, MLC. Budget Estimates is a key process for government accountability and transparency as it involves detailed questioning on the decisions, actions and advice of ministers and public servants. This and answers by the DPIE (click Next) [can be found here](#).

Answers by Minister Stokes included that the DPIE is currently undertaking a research study into the risks and benefits of Synthetic Turf. This will include a full review of the environmental, social and economic impacts; and NSW Government will soon release a final Plastics Plan. The plan will look at the entire lifecycle of plastics and will address the impacts of single-use and problematic plastics, such as oxo-degradable plastic which breaks down into microplastics.

The Minister's office will provide details of the community workshop that will be part of their review.



*Greenwich residents worry about increased heat, plastic and rubber debris if Council turns Gore Creek Reserve ("Bob Campbell Oval") into a synthetic playing field. Photo Steven Siewert*

**Earlier, BCO featured in a front page article of the Sun – Herald: [Fake grass may be greener, but much hotter and less friendly to environment \(smh.com.au\)](#)**

A Rescission Motion was put forward in Council on the day the article appeared to reverse the decision to resurface Greenwich's Bob Campbell oval with plastic grass by Councillors Frances Vissel and Katherine Morris (Independent) & David Brooks-Horn (Liberal), but was lost.

The Sun-Herald article stated "New research by the Australian Microplastic Assessment Project (AUSMAP) with Northern Beaches Council, funded by NSW's Environment Protection Authority, has found 80 % of the waste entering stormwater drains was black crumb (recycled tyres used for the base of these fields) and microplastics from Astro Turf – compared to 5 % in areas without these playing fields" (J Power, 14/3/2021).

Synthetic turf installation is also resulting in the closing off of fields which means a loss of open space rather than a gain. A video of the webinar on synthetic turf installation 'Greenwashing and the privatisation of public space' is available [here](#). It features Dr Scott Wilson from Macquarie Uni. (focused on microplastics and innovative approaches for marine debris); Dr Mick Battam, certified Professional Soil Scientist and Dr Paul Lambie, PhD, B.Com, B.Sc, CID (on Best Practice Natural Turf Fields, including an example from Mosman) . Dr Scott cited preliminary data indicated at 2.5m away from a field, 24,000/m<sup>2</sup> pieces of rubber found.



**Book a repair online at:** [www.repaircafesydneynorth.net](http://www.repaircafesydneynorth.net)

BYO face mask are now voluntary. Covid safety measures still apply such as QR code, social distancing, hand sanitizing etc.

**There is no charge for the repairs but donations are welcomed.**

**Next Openings:** 2 & 9 May, 2pm - 4pm (always first 2 Sundays of the month)

**Address:** 180 Longueville Road, Lane Cove.

**For more info.** go to Repair café website or email us: [enquiries@repaircafesydneynorth.net](mailto:enquiries@repaircafesydneynorth.net)

[Bushwalks Around Lane Cove 7th edition - Free Download](#) **Hardcover books on sale for \$9.90!** Available from Lane Cove Library and Lane Cove Civic Centre. Free basic maps of local walks are also available from the Lane Cove Civic Centre.