



ISSN 0722-7717

BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

May – June 2021

In winter we meet 7 – 9 pm in the

Lane Cove Library Meeting Room

Wednesday 9 June (Tuesday unavailable)

Tuesday 13 July and **Tuesday 10 August**

Note **EARLY 7pm start** in the Library

Important Events- Save the Dates

Sat. 4 September - Local Government elections

Sat. 11 September - LCBCS 50th Anniversary party in the Sydney Uni Boatshed Linley Point

Sat. 11 September - Spring Native Plant Stall LC Plaza.

Sun. 10 October- LCBCS Stall @ LC. Rotary Fair

Hi! The Society is entirely volunteer run and a great virtual and live meeting place for like-minded nature lovers. To be effective, we rely on 'replenishment' for ideas and any skills (set-up events, IT, submissions, secretarial, stalls, architectural etc.) so please email lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com or call/text **0410041279** to help out at a single event or ongoing. Do check out our [website](#) and actively promote our [facebook](#)

World First: Australian court finds 'duty of care to protect young people from climate crisis'

Eight teenagers, along with an 86-year-old nun, launched a case and **sought an injunction** to prevent the environment minister, **Susan Ley** approving a proposal by Whitehaven Coal to expand the Vickery coalmine in northern NSW, arguing the minister had a common law duty of care to protect younger people against future harm from climate change. [Read the Guardian article here](#)

The court heard the expansion of the mine could lead to an extra 100m tonnes of CO₂ – about 20% of Australia's annual climate footprint – being released into the atmosphere as the extracted coal is shipped overseas and burned to make steel and generate electricity.

The court has found that the minister owes a duty of care to younger children, to vulnerable people, and that duty says that the minister must not act in a way that causes future harm from climate change to younger people.

"It is the first time in the world that such a duty of care has been recognised, especially in a common law country" Barnden, a lawyer representing the children said. "Perhaps the most startling of the potential harms demonstrated by the evidence... is that one million of today's Australian children are expected to suffer at least one heat-stress episode serious enough to require acute care in a hospital," he said. "Many thousands will suffer premature death from heat stress or bushfire smoke. Substantial economic loss and property damage will be experienced. The Great Barrier Reef and most of Australia's eastern eucalypt forests will no longer exist due to repeated, severe bushfires."

Justice Bromberg found that the minister had a common law duty to take reasonable care not to cause the children personal injury when using her powers under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act. **He did not grant an injunction to prevent the mine extension.**

A spokesman for Ley said the government was considering the judgment and would have "more to say in due course", but noted it rejected the application for an injunction against the minister to prevent her making a final decision on the mine extension.

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Recording of Anne Carey's Talk - The Wildlife of Lane Cove

A recording is now available, to view Anne's presentation – see details below.

Link to recording (use passcode: #wildlife1):
Topic: Wildlife of Lane Cove. [Click here for the Meeting Recording](#)

The full fauna survey report can be found on Council's webpage and [click to it here](#)

Native Guava Raffle Winner! Congratulations to Winnie Fu, winner of the popular raffle of a beautiful



Bolwarra - Native Guava donated by Leon Horsnall - drawn at our May Stall. Thank you to all who entered the draw!

Eupomatia laurina image from tuckerbush.com.au

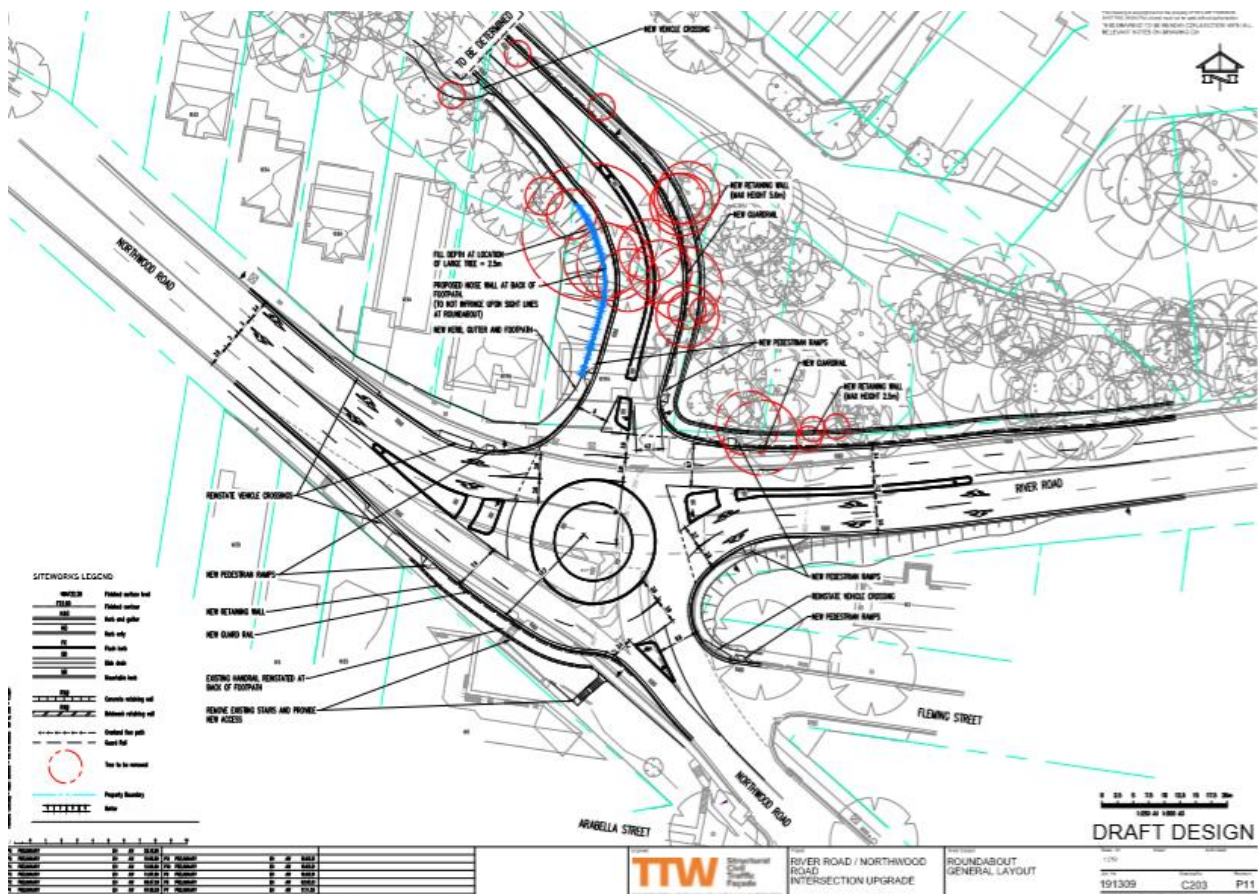
Plaza Stall a Success at Raising Local Issues

At our May stall we highlighted the projected loss of critically endangered Turpentine trees to facilitate increased traffic/buses to the Golf Clubhouse, site of the proposed new 'Sports & Recreation Centre.' Residents were interested in the enlarged diagram that we exhibited (see below).

Our volunteers discussed synthetic turf at the Gore Creek Reserve, gave out flyers and sold raffle tickets, a variety of books and our popular hand-made nature cards by local photographers of Lane Cove's native flora & fauna. It was a pleasure to have a new member volunteer and so many locals engaging in environmental conversations. Thank you volunteers!



Volunteers Pam and Kate with native guava (r)



Map showing impacts on Turpentines and other mature trees from the proposed roundabout

Critically Endangered Turpentines under Threat from Development

Executive members of the Society and other community representatives met on the escarpment above the golf course carpark to look at the impacts on Turpentine and other mature trees from the proposed roundabout from River Rd into Stevenson St to facilitate increased traffic/buses to the site of the proposed new 'Sports & Recreation Centre,' currently undergoing its DA process (separate to the actual golf course). Item 5 of LC Council Agenda 19 April 2021 has a link to the plans for the Final Draft Northwood Round-about http://lcc-web1.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/InfoCouncil/Open/2021/04/CNL_19042021_AGN.PDF

Funding has been included in the LC Council's 2021/22 Draft Budget to construct the roundabout and acquire the property at 194 River Road which will include the realignment of the former Stephenson St access road and TfNSW has given its approval for the proposed roundabout.



Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest (STIF) from Storm Report

TURPENTINE - *Syncarpia glomulifera*

Turpentine is one of the dominant species of the critically endangered Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (STIF) ecological community which probably existed more extensively west of the Lane Cove River in a transition to the drier areas of Cumberland Plain woodlands. Turpentine is found from north-east Queensland down through the eastern areas of NSW.

Turpentines are an important marker of the geological boundary between sandstone and shale and a key part of our natural heritage which adds to our understanding of original patterns of native vegetation. On Sydney's North Shore, including Lane Cove, this means it grew on soils that are transitional between the rich

Turpentine is a member of the Myrtaceae family which includes Eucalyptus, Angophora and Callistemon to name a few genera. Their nectar and pollen provides a balanced diet for flying-foxes (Sydneybats). Below is an extract from a summary of the importance of Turpentine by Lynne McLoughlin, author of 'The Natural Environment of Lane Cove' – read below.

Lane Cove's Vegetation Study (Storm Consulting, 2010), p.v lists Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest as a community with High Priority Conservation Status and recommends "that Council explores opportunities to expand the extent of the EEC on parkland and private land by enhancing remnants in these areas." "Blue Gum High Forest and Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest are important areas requiring management due to their rarity locally and regionally. ..." [Access the Storm study here](#)

The Lane Cove municipality has six vegetation communities that are listed as endangered ecological communities under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. Three communities (Blue Gum High Forest, Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest and Hygrocybeae Fungi) are also listed as Critically Endangered Ecological communities under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity conservation Act 1999*. [Click here to read more.](#)

clay soils that overlie Wianamatta Shales of the ridges and the shallower, less fertile but freely draining soils that are found on Hawkesbury sandstone in the lower parts of the valleys.

In a number of Lane Cove reserves which follow a creek line, turpentines can be seen in this transitional position as you walk down the track from the upper part of the reserve towards the creek mouth. One of the best examples is along Stringybark Creek, where vegetation communities change from remnants of the Bluegum High Forest of the shale ridges around Murray Street and Stringybark Reserve, through turpentines in Stringybark Creek Reserve to the sandstone forests of Batten Reserve.

TURPENTINE - *Syncarpia glomulifera* (cont.)

Turpentines attract a wide range of fauna as they reliably flower heavily with copious nectar. They provide resources for several nectar feeding faunal species including various insects, honey-eating birds and the threatened grey headed flying fox. Older trees can develop hollows to shelter for a wide range of species.

The timber is very resistant to fire and very durable in salt water. It is also highly regarded as a timber for structural purposes such as telegraph poles, beams and wharves. In a suitable location, turpentine grows into a large straight-trunked tree up to 45 or even 55 m. On poorer soils it grows as a small tree or even adopts a mallee habit. It has thick brown fibrous bark with deep vertical furrows running down the trunk. The leaves are dull dark green on the upper surface and pale underneath. The cream flowers appear from August to December fused in groups of seven, which means the fruit ('nuts') are also fused in a 1 to 2 cm diameter woody capsule. These ripen in summer and are distinctively different to gumnuts, looking a bit like a 'flying saucer' (fun to show children!). Finding them on the ground can help identifying a tall tree where the leaves and flowers are high off the ground.



[wikiwand.com/en/Sydney_Turpentine-Ironbark_Forest](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Sydney_Turpentine-Ironbark_Forest)

Sources: Benson D. & Howell, J. 1990. *Taken for Granted, The Bushland of Sydney and its Suburbs*. Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst.
Robinson, L. 1991. *Field Guide to the native Plants of Sydney*, Kangaroo Press, Kenthurst.

Storm Consulting 2010. *Native Vegetation of the Lane Cove Council Local Government Area. Report for LC Council, Sept 2010.*

Doug Stuart Walking Track & Walk in Bushland Park

Our 50th Anniversary three guided walks in beautiful Bushland Park were greatly appreciated by over 40 people on Sunday 16 May.

We stopped at the Doug Stuart Walking track plaque, newly dedicated by Council, where Norma Stuart recalled the dramatic events that she and Doug actively participated in, leading to saving this bushland from the bulldozers.



Norma Stuart & Mayor Pam Palmer unveil the Doug Stuart Walk

Doug was a founding Executive Member and later President of the Society, formed in 1971 during the campaign to save 'Bushland Park'.

Doug, an architect, was the first to survey and map all of Lane Cove's bushland and for nearly 50 years he led action to protect the natural environment.

Some walkers (mostly non-members who found us via social media) also visited volunteer bush regenerators in action.



Many Society plant experts contributed and feedback via Eventbrite has been extremely positive. Thank you all who contributed to an outstanding walk.

Why not take yourself into this jewel of Lane Cove!

Lane Cove Bushland Park

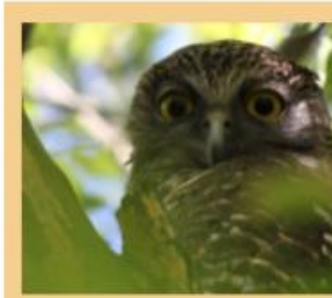
There is no place in Sydney quite like Bushland Park. With its towering Eucalypts and Turpentines, twisting lianas and fern-covered floor, this shaded valley is a unique green space and haven for many.

Over 310 native plant species can be found here, including 15 types of orchids. The Coastal Escarpment Littoral Rainforest and Hygrocybeae Fungi Communities found mainly along the creekline of Bushland Park are Threatened Ecologically Communities.

Bushland Park provides valuable habitat for over 70 bird species and also a range of endangered or vulnerable fauna such as the Powerful Owl, Grey-headed

Flying-Fox, Bent-winged Bat and Red-crowned Toadlet.

The unique biodiversity of this reserve has been supported by bush regeneration work since 1980, with Bushcare volunteers providing valuable assistance from 2003. Strategic weed removal encouraging natural regeneration of native plants continues, protecting this treasured reserve into the future.



Part of a leaflet produced by Council to open the Bushland Park Walk dedicated to Doug Stuart