



ISSN 0722-7717

BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

Bushranger February 2022

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LCBCS meeting, 7.30pm Tuesday 8 Feb. 2022 - Venue or Zoom: to be announced

Do visit our website www.lanecovebushland.org.au and like our Facebook !

The Society would appreciate offers to assist us with any of the work we do, in any capacity.

Reading and Writing for Submissions or the Newsletter would be helpful or Media skills.

Architectural or Ecology skills are needed as so many new developments adjoin bushland.

Please contact us: [Lanecove bushland@yahoo.com](mailto:Lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com) or call: 0410 041279 or Ron: 9427 1125

Plant Stall in the Plaza: Note the dates

Saturday 19 March 9-12

Saturday 3 September 9-12

Nominate Now for an Advisory Committees of Council

Lane Cove Council has many different **Advisory Committees** and is calling for community volunteers. To nominate, outline any experience and skills you will bring to the Committee and attach a one-page resume. The Nomination Form [is found here](#)- linked to 'Your Council' website page.

Some examples are: **Sustainability Advisory Committee** (with a huge budget to consider); **Bushland Management Advisory Committee**; **Carisbrook Advisory Committee**; **Lane Cove**

Access and Inclusion Committee; **Bicycle Advisory Committee**; **Festival Committee**; **Public Art Advisory Committee**.

The Committees advise the General Manager and generally meet monthly or bi-monthly. A dedicated Council staff coordinates the meetings and a Councillor attends. The Society has three dedicated positions on the Bushland Management Advisory Committee (BMAC) while further positions are drawn from the community. The Society encourages you to nominate as you can have an impact.

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Annual General Meeting – New Committee

The Society elected some new faces to the Executive and committees for 2022 at the AGM held in Nov. 2021 at the Lane Cove Golf Clubhouse. Several members, now Councillors, were busy campaigning for Council election.

After, in 'safe' space around a large table and Club room, we enjoyed delicious meals from the new Indian 'Cinnamon Klub.' We were honoured to have long term members Graham Holland and Bill Henningham, ex-Mayor of Lane Cove join us.

Please contact us if you have skills to offer.



Executive, Committee & other Members at the 2021 AGM

LCBCS 2022 Executive Committee

Position Elected

President: Shauna Forrest

Vice Pres 1: Ron Gornall

Vice Pres 2: Sue Ingham

Secretary: Kate Moppett

Treasurer & Public Officer: Mark Horn

Committee 1: Leon Horsnell

Committee 2: Sue Gould

Committee 3: Ruth Neumann

Other Positions Volunteer

Membership Officer: Mark Horn

Correspondence Officer: Kate Moppett

Website maintenance: Sue Ingham

BPN/ Publicity Officer/ Facebook /Twitter: Sue Ingham

Newsletter Editor /Layout: Shauna Forrest/Meron Wilson

Plants stalls: Ruth Neumann/Leon Horsnell/Yvonne Barber

Bushwalks team: Linda Falardeau/Leon Horsnell/Kate Moppett

Email officer: Alasdair Stuart

Bush Kids Reference Group Reps: Ruth Neumann/Norma Stuart

BMAC Representatives: Ruth Neumann/Leon Horsnell

Sustainability Lane: Matt Fisher

LCC&GW contact: Laura Mooney

Social Events: Sally Kennedy

Areas of Concern to the Bushland Society for 2022

We congratulate our nine Councillors on their electoral success. It's a busy time, their first Extraordinary Meeting of Council voted 8-1 to overturn the last Council's decision to 'Plasticise' Bob Campbell Oval in the Gore Creek Reserve.

The Executive and Committee have identified issues of concern to present to the new and established Councillors and will meet with Cllrs. individually or in groups via Zoom to inform and discuss our views on:

- 1. Membership tenure on Community Advisory Committees**
- 2. New 'Dog Committee'** – need to broaden membership and interests
- 3. Alternative locations for bike tracks and jumps now despoiling native bushland reserves**
- 4. Develop the Policy for Light Spillage into bushland**
- 5. Protection of Turpentine Ironbark Forest above the golf course.** The DA for the proposed Sport & Recreation Centre did not include the 'Access Road' so hid total number of trees lost
- 6. Greater protection for reserves as bushland Sanctuaries for Wildlife (WPA).**



Dipodium hyacinth orchid, Warraroon Reserve

Thank You Frances Vissel!

The Society extends a **BIG THANK YOU** to Frances, long standing Society member and outgoing Councillor, for her hard work and contributions to bushland during her two terms (9 years!) on Lane Cove Council.

She represented her constituents in East Ward very well and worked strongly for the protection of Lane Cove bushland and the local environment including successfully fighting for setbacks of large developments from bushland, for a policy on light spill into bushland, and much, much more.

Lane Cove Council invites you to have your say on:

[The Revised Sustainability Action Plan](#)

[Urban Forest Strategy](#)

[A Draft Voluntary Planning Agreement associated with a DA at St Leonards South.](#)

Sustainability Action Plan - revised

Council is seeking your input on the review and renewal of Council's Sustainability Action Plan for 2022 – 2027. Please complete a [short survey](#) which will capture your sustainability values and insights on key issues, gaps, challenges, needs and opportunities regarding sustainability in Lane Cove.

The 10 minute survey closes at 5:00pm, Monday 14 February 2022. Participants go into the draw to win one of three Lane Cove Gift Cards to the value of \$100.

[View the current Sustainability Action Plan.](#)

Urban Forest Strategy

Please take a few minutes to [complete this survey](#) to help plan for the future. **The survey closes at 5:00pm, Monday 14 February 2022.**

Lane Cove's recently adopted [Climate Resilience Plan](#) includes an action to develop an Urban Forest Strategy. The Urban Forest Strategy does not replace any existing plans, such as the **Bushland Plan of Management or Street Tree Master Plan**, instead it will bring them together along with relevant legislation.

Wildlife Survivors: Recovery after the Black Summer Bushfires



Free Online talk. 7:00pm-8pm Thursday, February 17, 2022

From emergency koala evacuations to post-fire wildlife recovery work, the Science for Wildlife team have focused on wildlife conservation following the devastating 2019/20 summer bushfires. Science for Wildlife is a leading conservation research not-for-profit, based out of the Blue Mountains.

[Book here](#)

Fauna Survey - Wildlife in Lane Cove

The [Lane Cove Bushland Fauna Surveys 2020 Report](#) is a comprehensive wildlife survey undertaken by ecological consultants between September 2019 and April 2020, covering all of Lane Cove's major bushland reserves. This detailed [report](#) provides a profile on each species sighted, including abundance, behaviour and habitat and includes an overview of the bushland sites studied.

Council maintains an ongoing database of [fauna sightings](#), to help conserve and manage our bushland reserves.

Residents are encouraged to report interesting/unusual wildlife sightings to Council at bushinterp@lanecove.nsw.gov.au

Page 224 states the key issue affecting the long-term sustainability of fauna in many bushland reserves in the LGA (and the Sydney Basin more generally) is lack of connectivity between reserves and recommends that any proposed changes to green spaces have a net benefit for local fauna and improve urban corridor connectivity through broad community education and participation.

[Council's Wildlife webpage is here.](#)

Bikes and Dogs in Human and Wildlife Sanctuaries!



A sign that immediately educates bush and dog walkers

Sport ovals, parks and bushland reserves are highly contested green spaces. Yet some believe our very narrow, fragile, regenerated native bushland reserves are “up for grabs.” The Council lists the many urban threats to bushland [on its website here](#). It states “Urban pressures on this bushland are immense.”

The Society supports the need for bike tracks and jumps for Lane Cove’s youth but **NOT** in our bushland reserves. During Covid time (off-school) kids built many tracks and jumps in native bushland, damaging wildlife habitat in many regenerated reserves. Only some National Parks are deemed large enough to allow ‘off-road’ bike tracks. A solution is for Council staff to identify and build them in suitable sport Parks.

Can bushwalkers enjoy nature and is native fauna or flora safe with speeding bikes?

Allowing one bike track in bushland sends a message that bushland is open to exploitation.

The Society asks Councillors to:

- (a) ensure that bike tracks and jumps are NOT constructed in bushland.**
- (b) NOT set a dangerous precedent by allowing even ONE bike jump or track in bushland reserves, breaking with decades of protection, the Plan of Management for Bushland, damaging bush restoration work, the safety and tranquillity of wildlife and bushwalkers.**

(c) request Council staff find suitable locations outside of bushland.

The Society has called for ‘Wildlife Sanctuary’ signs for track entrances in bushland reserves as the words immediately educate that ‘Wildlife’ are the priority, not pets.

71% of those surveyed in Lane Cove said they walk their dogs in bushland. Lane Cove’s dogs must be walked on tracks and on-lead through bushland to protect other walkers and dogs, native species and reduce faeces contamination of habitat. Wildlife is known to abandon their habitat, even their nests, due to just the smell of non-native species.

It seems little understood by many pet owners that human and pet impacts alter and damage native behaviour and life in their last fragile urban bushland spaces. For 50 years the Society has repeatedly opposed “death by 1,000 cuts,” as demands reoccur to chop bits out for pools and reduce setbacks in Development Applications or for bike tracks.

The Dog Strategy was passed in Council on 18 Oct. 2021 and [can be found here](#) or in the Agenda for that meeting, not the Minutes. Of particular interest the Bushland Society:

6.8 Bushland Reserves

6.10 Information and Education

6.7 public lighting (increase for dogs).

Lane Cove Bush Kids (LCBK) Report for 2021

Lane Cove Bush Kids (LCBK) began as an initiative of the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society. Started in 2011 by three young Society mothers (Corinne Fagueret, Alyson Hayes and Ann Proudfoot) the program has won both local and national awards.

LCBK has the aim of connecting young children (2-10 years) and their families with nature in our local bushland reserves to nurture a lifelong passion for our natural environment. From 2016 the Society partnered with Lane Cove Council to deliver and expand the program and its success has continued, growing from strength to strength with coordinator Valerie Holland.

The 2021 LCBK program is just starting back with face-to-face activities after the lengthy Covid-19 lockdown. Val has prepared a November and December program which includes activities such as: *Bob the Builder* in Stringybark Creek Reserve about brush turkeys and their curious mounds and *Turtles, Tadpoles and Tots* in Tambourine Bay Park.

To participate in activities adults must show proof of double vaccination and each session has a maximum of 10 adults and 10 children. Bookings are now undertaken on Eventbrite. Val will soon be putting together the January-March 2022 Term One program.



LCBK is as popular as ever but you may be wondering how Val kept the program going through Sydney's extended lockdown?

Val utilised the LCBK Facebook page and Instagram to keep families engaged and even attracted some new families. Due to the 5 km restrictions, Val couldn't do a virtual bushwalk as in the 2020 lockdown. So, she utilized resources from, for example, Birds Australia and the Australian Museum and involved families in stargazing, bird counts and tracking butterflies – all activities that could be undertaken from your own garden or balcony.



To find out more about LCBK, download the current program, what activities are on offer and when, check out:

Website:

<https://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Environment/NaturalEnvironment/Pages/BushKids.aspx>

Facebook:

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

Instagram: follow the program on:

<https://www.instagram.com/lanecovebushkids/?hl=en>



Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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PRESIDENTS REPORT NOVEMBER 2021 -LCBCS

On behalf of the Society I pay our respects to the traditional owners of this land on which we gather, the Cameraygal people and their descendants. I also acknowledge the many founding members of the Society, the past presidents, vice-presidents and executive members whose tireless work is an enduring contribution to the local area. We are grateful for those who continue to guide the Society and actively help protect our urban bushland.

2021 marks the 50th Anniversary year of the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society, 50 years of advocacy for the preservation, management and regeneration of the natural bush and wetlands, for ecologically sustainable development of the urban and natural environment of the Lane Cove area and state-wide. Our planned celebratory 'party' was delayed this year due to Covid, however, we look forward to holding this special event next year.

The LCBCS is a respected, independent, local community group and it is notable that members contributed to the very first, all important 'Bushland Plan of Management for Lane Cove'. Our three dedicated positions on the Bushland Management Advisory Committee (BMAC) and representatives on Council Advisory Committees offer support, inform and challenge authorities on plans that impact on the environment, alongside community members. We continue our relationship with Bush Kids and Lane Cove Council, an incredibly successful initiative of three young mothers, members of the Society.

In May this year we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our foundation with several very special walks in an area significant to the formation of the Society, Lane Cove Bushland Park beside the Golf Course off River Road. This area of bushland was preserved for the benefit of all by the campaign of local residents in 1971. They protested the proposed extension of the golf course into the bushland and in the process, founded the Society.

As walkers stopped in selected areas of track, many past and present members recounted historic, ecological and management information, demonstrated bush regeneration techniques while plant experts also guided walkers. Three times! The Bushwalks team and all who participated are to be congratulated. Eventbrite bookings revealed the majority of walkers were from outside the Society and the success of a variety of advertising outlets.

On 8 May 2021, Lane Cove Council honoured the memory of Doug Stuart, a founding member, with a commemorative sign at the start of a 600m loop walk in Bushland Park, now known as the Doug Stuart Track. Doug's wife Norma joined Mayor Pam Palmer and our Councillors to unveil the sign with invited members of the Society present.

The Society is both under the umbrella of the Nature Conservation Council and proud to have Lane Cove Coal & Gas Watch under our umbrella.

During 2021, most of our meetings were held online via Zoom due to the pandemic. Again, we thank Sue Ingham who so diligently provided this service. The Society's work did not abate and I acknowledge the dedication of those who undertook the executive and other vital, non-executive positions in 2021: BMAC members Norma, Yvonne and Maralyn; Sue's many roles include articles for Publicity and Social

media /online services (assisted by Corinne and Bridget), Better Planning Network & Media Reports; Ruth, Yvonne and Leon's Plant Stall; our Submission writers include Margaret Bergomi, Norma, Ruth, Sue, Shauna; Linda, Leon and Kate form the Walks Team with Ron, Norma, Meron, Maralyn and other plant expert members contributing; Shauna's Bushranger newsletter editorial with Meron's layout work; Kate Moppett continued with many roles: Correspondence, Secretary, Walks Team, Archiving, Events; Bush Kids reps. include Helen Jordan; Lane Cove Coal & Gas Watch Reports.

Alexa, as Public Officer, has also provided the most excellent Treasurer and Membership Reports for years but is now stepping down. On behalf of the membership I extend the deepest gratitude for the service you have volunteered so reliably. The Society wishes you the best in your new career opportunity.

Although many of the guided walks planned by the Walks Team were cancelled due to the impact of lockdown measures this year, those that went ahead successfully captured attendance from a wider demographic. Eventbrite bookings allow us to reconnect with them and analyse our data.

Our March Native Plant Stall in the Plaza was as popular as ever despite 'The Canopy' moving foot traffic, however the September 'Spring' Stall could not proceed with Covid restrictions. Thank you Ruth, Leon and all the volunteers. An Information Stall in the Plaza highlighted the destruction of native trees due to the proposed 'Northwood Roundabout' into the Golf Course precinct. The Stall was very successful in engaging locals in conversation and also for raising awareness of the Society.

Publicity has been an ongoing achievement this year due to Sue's work engaging a wider audience via our Facebook posts, now linked to other environmental groups and 'In The Cove' (ITC) Facebook. Sue's ongoing work posting to the website, online membership renewals, and upgrading 'Activities' during the pandemic with a new resource for self-guided Bushwalks has been a great asset. View it here: <https://lanecovebushland.org.au/bushwalks/> We have also had very good online and hard copy publicity with regular articles in 'The Village Observer' monthly newspaper and ITC.

Following the 2020 AGM in November, our 'Jazz Up Christmas Party' on the 8 December provided a welcome opportunity for over 70 members and friends to gather Covid safe in the Golf Clubhouse. We were treated to guest speakers, Jeff Angel of the Total Environment Centre & Gary Dunnett of the National Parks Association and danced to the sounds of the fabulous Billy Burton Jazz Quartet. Thank you to the wonderful volunteer members who worked tirelessly to make the night a success.

We initiated a Motion successfully carried when put to Council by Councillors Andrew Zbik and Frances Vissel to address the fact the Council has no controls for "light-spill" from high rise buildings or developments into our bushland reserves, affecting native habitat or wildlife. The Society's role has always been to advocate for maintaining healthy native habitat by keeping a watchful eye on the development approval process and the enforcement of policies and controls. We must continue to agitate on this matter as we have yet to see the Council develop a Policy to control Light -Spill from development.

Representatives of the Society spoke at meetings of Council and at Planning Panels and sent eight Submissions addressing various Development Applications or Strategies, as well as supporting Councillor's Motions for example against synthetic turf (19 July 2021) and various other letters. This could only be done with the generous input of members working in collaboration with local experts, including those from other residents' groups and even across Sydney. The Society's role is also to inform members who also write or address Council and authorities in support of the natural environment of Lane Cove and NSW. The majority of the Society's Submissions and letters are found on our website, here are some recent examples:

2021 – [Submission to Lane Cove Planning Panel re Fox St DA](#)

2021 – [Submission to NSPP re 266 Longueville Rd DA](#)

2021 – [Letter to Lane Cove Council re 14 Gay St vegetation clearing](#)

2021 – [Submission to Council re Sport & Recreation Facility](#)

2021 – [Submission to Council on draft Local Housing Strategy](#)

2021 – [Letter to Council re Tree Removal Signage](#)

2021 – [letter to Council re Sewerage in Bushland](#)

2021 – [Submission to Council on Dog Strategy](#)

2021 – [Submission to Council re clause 4.6](#)

2021 – [Submission further to Bob Campbell Oval](#)

2021 – [Submission Fox St DA](#)

Looking Forward

The Society welcomes and encourages our new members to step forward, as some have already done this past year, and actively engage. Please assist in any capacity with the environmental work you feel is needed or simply help us organise ourselves to address future challenges.

The Society would appreciate the assistance of anyone with architectural or planning skills or with knowledge of ecology to help in responding to developments encroaching on our green spaces.

A few members are required to check in on Council's agendas each month for Motions affecting the environment, requiring a response. The Bushranger Newsletter requires writers. IT skills are always wanted!

And finally, engaging with like-minded members is a great way to meet others who share your passion and enjoyment of nature, who may be able to advise and help you with a project you would like to undertake, or simply join you in a walk, sharing or gaining plant knowledge. I look forward to meeting you on one of the new bushwalks already planned for next year delayed by the lock-down interruptions.

Thank you all for your engagement,

Shauna Forrest- President