



ISSN 0722-7717

# BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the  
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

**JULY 2022**

Go to [our Facebook](#) or [Website](#)  
to keep up to date!

**Next Meeting Tuesday 9 August 2022**

**7pm – 8.40pm**

**Lane Cove Library Meeting Room**

**Longueville Rd**

Winter meetings are held in the warmer venue of the Lane Cove Library, starting earlier at 7pm. All welcome, we need your input!

## Events

**Sunday 14 August 9am Members Only North Head walk.**

**Sunday 7 & 14 August 2-4pm, Repair Café North, Lane Cove**

**Thursday 18 August 7pm, Lane Cove Council Meeting & Public Forum.**

**Saturday 3 September, 9am-12pm Spring Native Plant Stall, Lane Cove Plaza**

**Thursday 22 September 7pm, Lane Cove Council Meeting & Public Forum.**

**Sunday 9 October, Sustainability Lane @ Rotary Fair**

**Sunday 16 October- Nature Conservation Council Picnic day Lane Cove**

**North Head Sanctuary Guided Bushwalk, Sunday 14 August 2022**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Manly. Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) walk exclusively for LCBC&S members with a limit of 20 participants. The tour, guided by wildlife ecologists will give you an insight into the ecological value of North Head and the science program that AWC is implementing there. This is focused on the conservation of surviving native wildlife and the return of locally extinct species such as the Eastern Pygmy Possum and Brown Antechinus and to help restore the biodiversity of North Head including the critically endangered Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub.

You will see the ongoing response undertaken by AWC ecologists to the fire that occurred on the headland in 2019 and the wonderful regeneration of the bush due to the greater than usual rainfall in 2021 and 22. Only 7 places left for this one-off opportunity. Book quickly to secure your place. [Click here to book.](#)

We look forward to welcoming you to spend time with AWC field staff and learn how AWC is helping to restore our natural assets to this iconic headland on Sydney's doorstep.



*Eastern Pygmy Possum courtesy AWC*

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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## The Society Needs More Help From Members

An important role for members wishing to protect the local environment is to be aware of and respond to decisions that impact it, often by Council. The Executive needs help with Communications to the membership, and/or to help with our responses to Council's environmental agenda.

Please contact the President to inquire further or Reply:

[bushlandpresident@gmail.com](mailto:bushlandpresident@gmail.com)

Lane Cove Council holds its Ordinary Council Meetings generally on the Thursday following the 3rd Monday of each month, with the exception of January & December.

Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at 48 Longueville Road

### Contribute here!

#### Draft Sustainability Action Plan

The [Draft Sustainability Action Plan 2022-2025](#) is now available for public review and feedback. Consultation closes **7 August**. The SAP undergoes regular revision/updating. This is a plan on which both the Society and individual members might make comments, particularly on the "Environment" section.

#### Draft Community Garden Policy, Guidelines and Procedures

This motion enables public exhibition of the draft and provides background to, and development process for, this policy. Members of the Society may take an interest in this as community gardens are often proposed for public land, usually parks, and this would result in impacts on bush where a garden is located close to a park/bush edge (there has been at least one proposal of this kind). Motion to exhibit the plan passed unanimously. **Consultation closes 14 August**.

## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN COUNCIL

### The Sport & Recreation Facility - Wildlife Corridors near the Golf Course

The Executive was delighted that Murtaza Rangwala spoke on behalf of the Society for the first time in the Council's Public Forum (21 July 2022) to express the importance of protecting wildlife corridors and regenerating the bushland of the 'Northwood Slope' adjacent to the Golf Clubhouse curtilage, a proposed development site for the Sport and Recreation facility. We stressed the importance of Council retaining the many original native trees forming a wildlife corridor between the Northwood Slope (should this site be chosen) and trees along the gentle

slope adjacent to River Road down to Bushland Park (at the bottom) as this canopy is habitat and links wildlife (also via an under-road tunnel) to the bushland of Gore Creek Reserve. This will be essential habitat for wildlife in the intervening years till replanting matures if trees are removed closer to the proposed DA site.

The Society is of the belief that Council now intends to protect the remnant, critically endangered Turpentine-Ironbark trees and bushland around Stevenson St. in any new design for a Sport & Recreation Facility at the Lane Cove Golf Club precinct, recognising the importance of this rare, remnant vegetation community, a marker of our original natural heritage, specific to its location and soil type. We congratulated Council for protecting this endangered heritage of Lane Cove.

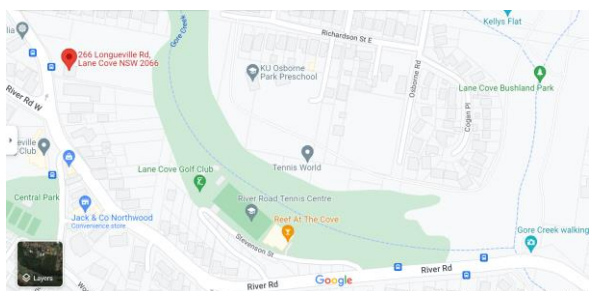
*The 'Northwood Slope' Angophora is now on leading edge of impacted bush.*

*According to the arborist report map this tree should be some metres inside the bush/C2 boundary, approx. in centre of the bush behind the former garage (second block from top of site in aerial photos in other document). This would explain why there is no protective planking around the tree – the site boundary should be further upslope.*



## WHAT'S IN A NAME? PROTECTING VALUABLE BUSHLAND

Earlier this year the Society approached many Councillors about a substantial parcel of unnamed Environmental Conservation land-C2 zoned bushland on the western side of the Golf Course. In the current Bushland Plan of Management, it is described as Northwood slope but is currently not part of a bushland management plan. It runs from behind 266 Longueville Rd. (disused bowling greens & previously a Music & Cultural Centre) to the rear of the big Pathways development site (opposite Jack & Co) & along to Stevenson St.



It is not shown on Maps, hasn't a track, but the Society took several informal exploration walks here.

It is under threat from the already significant downslope impacts of the Pathways development including both damage and physical encroachment, despite the fact that *"Extensive conditions are included in development consent conditions."* So the Society called for stronger infrastructure, the provision of double fencing on steeper sites with at least one of the fences to be 2m high steel fencing properly anchored in the ground. Council responded that "controls are the responsibility of the Private Certifier. Council will liaise with them in regard to sensitive



Pathway development. Huge sediment pile and totally inadequate controls for it, especially given the steep slope

development sites i.e. steep slopes to ensure "best practise." However, the consent conditions imposed or "liaising" haven't protected C2 bushland here so far.

There is the potential for further impacts from the development at 266 Longueville Rd. **The Molino Stewart Ecological Assessment, associated with the 266 Longueville Rd DA, found a substantial portion of this bushland to be 'of high conservation value'.** Within this area zoned C2 are also portions that have been diverted to RE1 (Recreation zoning- golf course) uses, while there are segments within the adjacent RE1 area around Stevenson St., for eg., that may be more appropriately conserved as bushland, as well as the unmade portion of McMahons Rd.

With the proposed developments taking place nearby, it is likely to come under more pressure from increased public use. It is still remnant bushland as defined under Chapter 6, Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP, March 2022 (former SEPP 19 Urban Bushland). It should thus be protected under this SEPP which covers *bushland on land zoned or reserved for open space purposes.*

**On Thursday 23 June 2022, Councillors Bridget Kennedy & Kathy Bryla's Motion to the Council Meeting to Recognise and Protect this Bushland** passed unanimously with little discussion. The Motion proposed to develop a name and a regeneration plan, to identify and rectify the damage from surrounding uses and a plan to identify where the protection of bushland could be extended to adjacent parcels on public land. Several people including LCB&CS President spoke in the Public Forum to support the motion.



Next to the Angophora is this pile of building materials which has been washed downslope and will now be trashed by builders – they are obviously not even adequately containing their own materials.

## Bushland Encroachments on Public Land- Council Meeting 21 July 2022

The LCBCS has worked for over 51yrs to stop encroachments into Environmental Conservation land-C2 bushland, including impacts from development on bushland, supporting residents and working positively with Council officers. Members have engaged with Council recently on encroachments by private users.

Ruth Neumann spoke on behalf of the Society at the Public Forum in support of this 'Encroachment' motion. Ruth represents the Society on the Bushland Management Advisory Committee, organises the Society's Plant Stall, and is also on the Sustainability Committee of Council. The aim was to identify and put in place specific processes and staffing responsibilities whereby Council firmly addresses all reported bushland encroachments by private users on public land – both C2 bushland and RE1 (Public Recreation zones), in a timely manner to protect public assets and bushland resources.

### Lane Cove Coal & Gas Watch Report

#### Dendrobium Mine - situated in the Sydney Drinking Catchment, owned by South 32

On behalf of LCCGW, Winnie Fu and Chris Bilslund made a submission for the state Planning Minister to reject the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project (SSI-33143123). South32 proposed to extend longwall mining in Area 5, after the initial proposal was rejected by the Independent Planning Commission. The amended proposal was deemed State Significant Infrastructure that would not be subject to IPC investigation. Individual submissions were also made by several LCCGW volunteers. The decision has not yet been announced.

### Community Gardens and Bushland don't Mix

Gone are the days when suburban homes had back yards where a bit (or a lot) of food was grown. There is now a lack of places to grow the veggies.

Enter Community Gardens. They are a great way for individuals and families to connect with each other while learning about what is involved in growing food. Under-utilised pockets of land can be converted into productive community gardens. But not all land is suitable. It could be that the land is very close or uphill from bushland.

One of the things you learn when growing veggies is that they need enormous quantities of water and fertiliser. In order to make sure their food plants are getting enough, gardeners tend to oversupply. The excess water and fertiliser just runs downhill. Into the bush.

Most people know that phosphorus is poisonous to some native plants, especially grevilleas, banksias and hakeas. What is not so well understood is that any large amount of fertiliser is toxic to most native plants, including grasses. Over-fertilising natives causes them to grow very rapidly then die within 10 years.

Find details of items in the Council agenda here:

<https://lanecove.infocouncil.biz/>

We also recommended that Council maintain and implement stronger adherence to the Development Control Setbacks (DCP) setbacks for developments on bushland so that encroachments don't become future issues such as: overshadowing affecting bushland vegetation, light spill affecting wildlife habitat, development too close to future growth of bushland tree canopy in event of fire, inappropriate planting seeding into bushland, and chemicals overflowing from pools into bushland. Or as reported to us recently & experienced in Tambourine Bay, calls for native tree removals in bushland when setback breeches were allowed in a DA. Every encroachment whittles away and alienates public land.

#### Stall Raises Awareness of the Dendrobium Mine situation

On Saturday August 6. LCCGW held a stall in Lane Cove Plaza in conjunction with the Protect our Water Alliance (PoWA) to promote awareness in our community of the continuing long term risks that this amended project will pose to our drinking water.

Another reason why it isn't a good idea to set up community gardens near bushland are the weeds. Some food plants are incredibly resistant to being killed in normal composting systems. Tomato, nasturtium and passionfruit vines are commonly found flourishing in moist gullies behind houses, their seed washed down from tended gardens.

Weeds grow faster than natives and can become dominant in natural areas. The natural pests that would usually control or reduce their growth are lacking as the plants have been introduced from somewhere else. 65% of weeds that end up in bushland come from urban gardens.

And if this isn't enough to persuade you that food gardens and bushland don't mix, think possums. Brushtails and Ringtails are not fussy eaters. They happily gorge on garden produce, and they quite like to eat food plants when they are still a bit unripe. Putting a community garden near bushland is an open invitation to the possums to feast.