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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

May 2023

Next Meeting: Tuesday 9 May 2023

7pm – 8.40pm

Lane Cove Library Meeting Room
Longueville Rd

All welcome, we need your input.

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

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

The Society would appreciate assistance 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 ecological skills are
needed as so many new developments adjoin bushland.

Please contact us: Lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com or call
Shauna: 0410 041279 or Ron: 9427 1125

Events:

**1 May, 4pm: Sport & Recreation Facility -
Registrations for submissions close.**

**Contact Sydney North Planning Panel
Secretariat before 4pm**

See below for details.

Wed. 03 May 2023 11.30am: Sydney North
Planning Panel decides Sport & Recreation
Facility

**Friday 5 May 2023 5pm- Submissions due
on 14 Gay Street – decision to classify the
property as either “operational” or
“community”.** Find Council’s

consultations, workshops & surveys on key
projects that shape Lane Cove:

[https://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Council
Consultations/Pages/14gaystreet.aspx](https://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Council%20Consultations/Pages/14gaystreet.aspx)

SPORT & RECREATION FACILITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING – SYDNEY NORTH PLANNING PANEL

Wed. 3 May 2023 at 11.30am. Register before 4pm, Mon. 1 May 2023

Held by public videoconference due to COVID-19
precautions.

The panel will meet to determine the
development application(s): **PPSSNH-352 - PAN-
287259 -Lane Cove - 180 River Road, Lane Cove,
Sports and Recreation Facility.** Demolition of
existing structures and construction of a (part
two and part three storey/mezzanine) sports and
recreational facility. The purpose of the meeting
is to give interested people the opportunity to
speak directly to the panel before a decision is
made.

Please quote the panel reference number in all
communications. If you wish to address the panel or
listen to this meeting, or have enquiries **you must
register before 4pm Monday, 1 May 2023** by
contacting the Planning Panel’s Secretariat on 02
8217 2060 or via email to
enquiry@planningpanels.nsw.gov.au.

Relevant documents will be available seven days
before the meeting on the Planning Panels website:
www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/planningpanels at
least.

**Further information below on the Council decisions
and the Sport & Recreation Facility**

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14 GAY STREET - COUNCIL ACQUIRES BUSHLAND PROPERTY



Some GREAT news! Lane Cove Council (LCC) has just bought **14 Gay Street**, a 2,801 square meter block that connects to the existing Stringybark Creek Reserve. The Harry Howard Bushwalk traverses the lower portion. **The property is locally important and regionally significant due to its range and composition of trees and flora.** The (residential) block was purchased to bolster Council's bushland portfolio, as part of its Bushland Expansion Program and had been on the market only a few times in the past 100 years.

Five Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society members attended Council's meeting on 23 March, to congratulate Council for acquiring this important site. We consider our long-term, continuous advocacy, alongside others, has been successful and instrumental. With so many large trees lost in the high-rise developments of the Mowbray precinct, it's important to retain precious mature native trees and understory.

The bushland on the property has been of ongoing interest to the Society, given its size, location on Upper Stringybark Creek and unique ecological composition. It has long been identified for potential acquisition by Council.

The property includes mature trees, such as Sydney Blue Gums, Sydney Red Gums, Blackbutts, and Turpentines. Recent local fauna sightings include the powerful owl, boobook owls, king parrots, crimson rosellas, rainbow lorikeets and butcher birds and an echidna on the adjacent property. The Endangered Powerful Owl and Grey Headed Flying Fox frequent Upper Stringybark Creek Reserve and both species are listed as Vulnerable under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

The Society and LCC's bushland managers have long understood the significance of this land, called for its acquisition and opposed a previous DA for an overdevelopment of townhouses. In 2021 we alerted Council to extensive tree and native vegetation clearing including in the environmental protection layer and up to the Harry Howard Bushwalk, as well as into the public reserve.

The property purchase was finalised on 17 March 2023 at \$3,333,000, plus costs, in line with LCC's ongoing commitment to preserve natural bushland.

HELP DECIDE ITS FUTURE

LCC is asking the community for input in the decision between two options for the land's future use, to either: **Operational - sub divide and sell the front of the property (only), with its vacant house, to partially recover the purchase cost, OR**

Community - demolish the house and keep the whole site as open space.

Council has given formal notice of the following proposed resolution to classify the land as 'Operational Land'. **Proposed Resolution:** "That Lane Cove Council classify the recently acquired property 14 Gay Street, Lane Cove, Lot A DP 360196 **as operational land**, pursuant to s31 of the Local Government Act 1993" Schedule – Description of Land: 14 Gay Street, Lane Cove, NSW 2066 (Folio Identifier A/360196)

[Click here](#) for the reasons LCC intends to initially classify 14 Gay Street as **operational land**, found in the March Meeting Agenda & Minutes.

To provide feedback on the proposed resolution, make a submission to the General Manager by 5pm Friday 5 May 2023 by quoting SU9252 and: email:

service@lanecove.nsw.gov.au OR post to: Lane Cove Council, PO BOX 20, Lane Cove, 1595.



TRIBUTE TO ANNE MULFORD, ENVIRONMENT WARRIOR, LANE COVE

We report the passing of Anne Mulford in March 2023, aged 91yrs, an inaugural and committed member of the Society, who lived in Longueville for many years and authored 'An Early History of the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society 1970 – 1985.'

Anne continued her involvement in environmental issues when she moved to the Hawkesbury region and Macmasters Beach, right up to her passing, Thank you, Anne, for your amazing life and the work you kick-started for the environment!

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT & SPORT & RECREATION FACILITY

Council Meeting 20 APRIL 2023 - PROGRESS REPORT

On Wed. 03 May 2023, 11.30am, The Sydney North Planning Panel will meet to determine the Lane Cove - 180 River Road, Lane Cove, Sports and Recreation Facility: PPSSNH-352 - PAN-287259

Council received a progress report at its meeting of 23 March 2023, and a Councillor Workshop was held on the 11 April 2023 where presentations were made in accordance with the resolution.

By 15 May 2023: The 80% design milestone is now targeted to be completed for tender release, to be include in the tender documents.

To start June 2023: Work Commencement - Demolition, Bulk Earth Works and Sediment Control (Per Resolution, Tenders must be within budget).

[CLICK HERE](#) for a summary/outline of the outcomes from the presentation to the Councillor Workshop: An update on how the tender design will address the recommendations to mitigate risk to the natural environment as outlined in the following DA reports:

• **ESD report** • **Riparian Report** • **Light Spill Report** • **Biodiversity**

e. outline in the tender documents a process for expedition of tree planting to replace lost tree canopy and how this will be implemented;

f. update on options considered for the building to contribute maximum renewable energy

output and battery storage capability to reach a target of achieving a building that can be operated on 100% renewable energy;

g. briefing summary as to the fit for purpose application of each space in the building to satisfy the community user groups that have been engaged in workshop sessions over the past six months.



What confidence can we have with the planning of the River Road Sports Facility and its impact of 'light-spill' on nocturnal wildlife? It will be a massive development within a very, very dark valley, a wildlife corridor of the Gore Creek Valley and in conflict with wildlife and their life-dependent habitat.

Consider the impact on nocturnal wildlife around the dark, foreshore bushland (pictured) of the white lights of Council's current Watercraft Storage Facility on Lane Cove River, Aquatic Park, Longueville - west side of Lane Cove Sailing Club.

NAMING & PROTECTING THE NORTHWOOD SLOPE BUSHLAND

Council's Community Consultation:

In 2022, following a few investigative walks, the Society approached Councillors about protecting a substantial parcel of unnamed Environmental Conservation land- C2 zoned bushland (without tracks) on the western side of the Golf Course, with mature turpentine and ironbark trees.

Described as *the Northwood slope* in the current Bushland Plan of Management, the bushland runs from behind 266 Longueville Rd. (previously a Music & Cultural Centre) to the rear of the big Pathways development site (opposite Jack & Co) and along to Stevenson Street. It is a wildlife corridor to the Gore Creek Valley and Bushland Park.

The Molino Stewart Ecological Assessment (re. DA for 266 Longueville Rd) 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 Street, for eg. that may be more appropriately conserved as bushland, as well as unmade portion of McMahons Road.

The natural environment here has already been impacted by the Pathways development, despite the fact that "*Extensive conditions are included in development consent conditions.*" So, the Society called for stronger protective infrastructure, but "controls are the responsibility of the Private Certifier". With the potential for further impacts from nearby development at 266 Longueville Rd, more pressure is also likely from increased public use.

It is still remnant bushland as defined under Chapter 6, Biodiversity and Conservation, State Environmental Planning Policy (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.*

Councillors Kennedy & Bryla's Motion to Recognise and Protect this Bushland was put on 23 June 2022, and passed unanimously.

The proposal was to develop a name and regeneration plan, to identify and rectify the damage from surrounding uses and a plan to identify where bushland protection could be extended to adjacent parcels on public land.

Several LCB&CS members and President spoke in the Public Forum. Submissions to Council for naming the Northwood Slope Bushland closed on Tues. 11 April 2023.

SYDNEY ABORIGINAL NAME FOR NORTHWOOD BUSHLAND

The Society suggested Council use Sydney Aboriginal names for this bushland. Our most preferred names were: **(1) Yanderra: turpentine or (2) Djaramada: scrub, dry jungle (jerematta)**

Several other Aboriginal names found in '*The Sydney Language* (Jakelin Troy) were proposed for species present in the Northwood Slope bushland. *The Sydney Language* is a respected source accepted by the Aboriginal community and was suggested by the Aboriginal Heritage Office.

You can download it here:

https://www.williamdawes.org/docs/troy_sydney_language_publication.pdf

The Society proposed an Aboriginal name for Turpentine as it is an important species in the reserve, but naming is complicated as we don't have a species list for the area. *The Sydney Language* (TSL) doesn't name many tree species that apply to this bushland area (*for eg.* Grey Ironbark-*Eucalyptus paniculata* -is the dominant Ironbark species but is not in TSL list).

DIESEL LEAK INTO BERRYS CREEK

On Good Friday morning (7 April) Crows Nest fire station alerted Council to diesel being discharged into Berrys Creek which runs through Greenwich and Wollstonecraft. A diesel generator being tested at a new building at St Leonards spilled into rainwater downpipes which feed into the onsite stormwater retention pit. This pit empties into the stormwater system and flows into the creek.

Council Rangers responded immediately and, with the assistance of Fire & Rescue Hazmat crews,

were able to contain the spill. Fortunately, the contamination did not reach the Harbour.

The requirements for construction and controls to prevent future such escapes from high-rise buildings in St Leonards South need to be developed. The current review of the DCP is an opportunity to reinforce these requirements.

See Council's statement

<https://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/News/Pages/Diesel-Leak-Contained.aspx>



One of the containment measures used to prevent the diesel spreading in Berrys Creek.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO LCBCS - COUNCIL MEETING 23 FEBRUARY

FINALISING BOB CAMPBELL OVAL MASTERPLAN

It was resolved that Council:

adopt the Bob Campbell Oval Masterplan;

undertake a procurement process for design and construction;

explore the removal of the Fig Tree; and

identify a suitable surface for the shared pathway at the base of the cliff.

For the Motion 8. Against 1.

FINALISING URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

It was resolved that Council:

adopt the Urban Forest Strategy as amended, and write to the NSW Minister for the Environment, advocating for councils to be allowed, as a priority, to offset biodiversity credits in their own LGA, before they are pooled in the state-wide **Biodiversity Credits Scheme**.

For the Motion 9. Against 0

The Society Needs Members Help

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 and found on its Agendas. The Executive needs help with responding to environmental issues, and/or with simple tasks, such as communications to the members. To inquire further or reply, please contact the Secretary: lcbs.correspondence@gmail.com or President: bushlandpresident@gmail.com

Lane Cove Council holds its Ordinary Meetings generally on the Thursday following the 3rd Monday of each month, except for January & December. Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at 48 Longueville Road.