



STEP Inc. Newsletter

Community Based Environmental Conservation Since 1978. No. 92 October, 1998

VISION FOR LANE COVE NATIONAL PARK

Past, Present and Future

A dramatic expansion of Lane Cove National Park has been proposed, from the current area of 364 ha to a large National Park of around 1000 ha, encompassing all of the bushland of the Lane Cove Valley.

The Lane Cove Valley bushland has been recognised as having significant conservation value, containing threatened plant species such as *Darwinia biflora*, and providing a habitat for endangered animals such as the Red Crowned Toadlet and the Powerful Owl.

Already Hornsby Council has agreed to transfer a substantial area of bush in the upper reaches of the catchment (Pennant Hills Park) to the NPWS, and Willoughby and Ryde Councils have also indicated their willingness to transfer bushland within the Lane Cove River catchment to the NPWS.

However Ku-ring-gai Council has so far refused the proposal from NPWS to transfer the substantial area of high value bushland within the Lane Cove River catchment, currently under their control, to the NPWS, citing management and funding concerns.

What is the best possible solution to ensure the long term survival and viability of the Lane Cove Valley bushland?

These issues will be discussed on

Wednesday, 14th October, 1998, at 8.00 pm at the St. Andrews Church Hall at the corner of Vernon and Chisholm Streets, South Turramurra.

The speakers will be:

Dr. Lynne McLoughlin, of the Graduate School of the Environment, Macquarie University, who is well known as author of several books on the history of the Lane Cove River area, and as representative on a number of bushland advisory committees, and

Terry Wilson, who is District Manager of Lane Cove National Park.

STEP has held the view since its inception that single management control of the bushland in the Lane Cove Valley was the best method of ensuring the conservation of its natural values.

However it is important that this issue should be exposed to discussion in the community, since there are many detail aspects, which need to be agreed and supported by the community for the whole proposal to succeed and prosper.

Please come and participate and bring along any non-members who have an interest in the long term management of the bushland.

Supper and the opportunity for further discussion will follow.

The STEP Annual General Meeting will precede the discussion, from 7.45 to 8.00 pm.

All members of the STEP Committee have agreed to stand for re-election, and the President's and Treasurer's reports will be made available as hard copy, rather than read at full length, in the interest of keeping the AGM as short as possible. Naturally they will be open for discussion at members' discretion.

The now well established and popular annual Ku-ring-gai Community Fair will be held on **Sunday 18th October, 1998**, at the usual venue at West Pymble, and STEP will be there as usual to promote interest in the enjoyment and conservation of our natural bushland.

Moonlight Walk - On Friday night, 6th November, 1998, a "Chase Alive" guide will take us on a journey through Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park with a powerful spotlight and a wealth of comment and information. We may spot owls, bats, possums and whatever else moves in the bush at night. Meet at Kalkari Visitors Centre, on the drive through via Bobbin Head or from Mt. Colah on the Chase Rd, at 7.30 pm. A limit of 20 participants applies and booking is essential. The cost is \$5 per person.

Contact **Jennifer Schwarz** on 9144 2106 to make a booking and do it early to secure a place.

Granny Springs Reserve
On Saturday, 12th September, the new sign at the back of the Turrumurra Plaza Shopping Centre was unveiled to mark the work being done in the Granny Springs Reserve by a dedicated group of bush regenerators.

During the morning a stream of people showed interest in the bushcare work and were given information by Rosanna Luca, who coordinates the work.

The work is being carried out under Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushcare program, and the sign was sponsored by STEP Inc. in honour of Pam Morse, who had made great efforts on this reserve during her lifetime.

Christmas Barbecue

Keep Sunday 13th December, 1998, free for the STEP barbecue. It will be at the back of Leuna Ave., park your car at the end of the Broadway, Wahroonga, and Neroli and Harry will have the gas barbecue set up at 4.30 pm. In past years it has been a very pleasant venue, and the weather has been good, the heat of the day having dissipated somewhat by late afternoon.

Spring Bushwalk

Fourteen keen bushwalkers braved the overcast and occasional drizzle to follow Neroli on the Cowan Trail bushwalk.

The trail actually starts as part of the Perimeter Trail, which then forks into the Long Trail, and finally via a gate into the Cowan Trail. Waratahs are already on display along the Perimeter Trail, and we



envied the horse riders who got a better view from horseback vantage. But what a stunning display of wildflowers we discovered once we turned off on to the actual Cowan Trail.

It was difficult to maintain a pace, which would enable us to complete the walk in the allocated time, as there was always another flower to identify and photograph.

There were striking examples of *Styphelia triflora*, different species of *Tetratheca* and four species of boronia.

But the highlight was the *Boronia floribunda*, which was heralded by its wonderfully tantalising frag-rance drifting on the breeze before the actual flowers came into view.

Along the way we encountered a rock site revered by local Aboriginal people, with rock carvings, as part of their spiritual heritage.

The trail ends at a vantage point with a spectacular view of the Ku-ring-gai Chase bush and the green patch of Apple Tree Bay.

It was an outstanding experience for all participants.

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