



SOUTH TURRAMURRA ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (S.T.E.P.)

NEWSLETTER

--- SEPTEMBER, 1982.

SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA (Land of the Wild Rivers) NO-DAMS CAMPAIGN	
FILM NIGHT	Saturday, October 16 * 8.00 p.m.
WAR MEMORIAL HALL, 26 Union Street, Hornsby.	

GIANT NO-DAMS RALLY	
Saturday, October 9 * 10.30 a.m.	
TCWN HALL SQUARE	

SCUTH-WEST TASMANIA NIGHT. This great national issue has become so urgent that the Committee has decided to assist the South-West Tasmania Committee to ensure the success of its film night at Hornsby (see box), rather than run a similar show of our own near that date. All S.T.E.P. members are urged to lend their assistance also, by attending. The threat to the superb wilderness of the South-West, a post glacial landscape of mountains, button-grass plains, lakes and rivers, rainforests and limestone caves, grows daily more palpable with the imminent construction of roads to the dam site. Be part of the unprecedented public protest, which must be escalated even further if those blind or reluctant politicians are to be convinced that this project should be abandoned. Come to the meeting. Donate money to support the campaign. (South-West Tasmania Committee, 399 Pitt st. Sydney. Phone 267.7722). Equally importantly, write your protest to the Prime Minister, c/- Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600. In the great game of politics, numbers count most of all. Be counted.

BUSHFIRE FUEL REDUCTION. S.T.E.P.'s Committee has agreed upon two actions to help ensure citizen maintenance of the firebreak and fuel-reduced zone established by S.T.E.P. workers and local residents in 1980 and 1981:

1. A circular is being prepared for letter-box distribution. This will describe the why and how of S.T.E.P.'s involvement in this aspect of bushland management. It will stress the necessity for careful maintenance of fuel reduction and will express the hope that local citizens will accept this responsibility. If all able-bodied people pull their weight, this would require no more than a day's work per year.
2. A maintenance drive for 1982 is to be conducted on the 23rd and 24th October. It is S.T.E.P.'s hope that the entire area of the 1980-81 effort will be covered in this one weekend, and to do this without strain we will need as many willing hands as we can get. Citizen volunteers will be asked to work in teams under leaders assigned by S.T.E.P. Those living adjacent to or near the bush will of course be able to concentrate upon their own area. Volunteers from S.T.E.P. are asked to contact Janet and Alan Catford on 449-1658 or Margaret Booth on 449-3746.

As hoped, the attraction of non-burning bushfire fuel reduction

has spread. Two local councils (Mosman and Willoughby) are implementing the method in parts of their municipalities. Advice has been sought on several occasions by concerned people in other parts of Ku-ring-gai. Recently, fuel was reduced in a morning behind a property in Howson Avenue.

PAMPAS GRASS. An all-out attack on a bad infestation of pampas grass along the Comenarra has been planned for a date in the near future. The assistance of Apex volunteers will be invited.

BUSHWALK. Approximately 80 people turned out for S.T.E.P.'s annual afternoon bushwalk in the upper Lane Cove Valley on Sunday, 15th August. The route took the party up and down steep slopes and across sunny plateaux with wildflowers at their best. Everybody kept up well. Opportunities were offered for return by shorter routes, but only a few took these up. Quite a number stayed for free afternoon tea at the start/finish spot near Aleta Close, Fox Valley. Several new members joined.

BUSH REGENERATION. S.T.E.P.'s team of weeders has been assisting the regeneration of bushland behind properties, mainly in Ashburton Avenue, South Turramurra. Results are encouraging. Given a little encouragement by removal of weed competition, plants will recolonise areas on the urban fringes which might otherwise have become derelict weed patches for an indefinite period. These dedicated people give their time without remuneration to restore bushland beauty and the splendid diversity of native plant species. The Co-operation of local residents is requested. Some citizens could at least refrain from dumping rubbish and garden refuse and from allowing spoil to smother native plants and facilitate weed infestation. Everybody should take some responsibility for keeping the bush clean and attractive.

Next weeding will be on Sunday October 31st, 2.30 p.m. meeting at the bush end of Ashburton Avenue. Information--Yvonne Langshaw 449-1541.

BUSHLAND SURVEY. As a data base for future bushland management, a survey of Ku-ring-gai's bushland resources is to be undertaken by Robin Buchanan for Council. Long overdue, this was recommended by the Bushland Working Party, which includes representatives of S.T.E.P. and K.U.B.E.S. (Ku-ring-gai Bushland and Environment Society), as to date no-one knows the full nature and extent of the municipality's landforms and native plant species. The study will take 3-4 months.

REMINDER. A large number of Subscriptions for 1982-83 remain outstanding. A red spot on your newsletter will indicate that our records show that this matter has been overlooked. For your convenience there is a membership application form below. Our membership for 1981-82 was at a record level and we appreciate the support you have given us in the past and hope you will continue your support.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

NAME..... SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$2-00
ADDRESS..... FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$3-00
..... (31st May 1982-31st May 1983.)
PHCNE.....

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