



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

NEWSLETTER --- AUGUST, 1984.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Greetings, and many thanks for re-electing me for another year. I'll do my best to keep S.T.E.P. vigorous and forward-looking, with the indispensable help of our hard-working Secretary, Vice-President, Treasurer and our enthusiastic Committee members.

A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting elected the following team:-

- President: Alan Catford.
- Secretary: Yvonne Langshaw.
- Treasurer: Geoff Suggate.
- Committee: Margaret Booth, Chris Woodhouse, Janet Catford, Lesley Berry, John Burke, Dot Dawson, Glenn Johnson, Helen Petersen, Jim Boow, Elizabeth Dokulil, Jan Ruys.

The following committee meeting saw the election of Jan Ruys as Vice-President. Jan is also to be S.T.E.P.'s publicity Officer.

Membership fees were raised by resolution of the meeting to \$3-00 single and \$4-00 family membership.

The A.G.M. proceedings were followed by a magical set of audiovisuals by Mark Spencer, a deep-diving dentist who has fallen in love with the undersea world. The audience was duly amazed at the great richness of marine life on the bed of the Caribbean Sea, Jervis Bay, and (even closer to home) Sydney Harbour, which is far, far more than mud, old tyres, tinnies, and lost umbrellas!

COMING EVENTS. Please note bene in your diaries, etc.:-

* SPRING BUSHWALK. S.T.E.P.'s annual wildflower feast is to start at the Scout/Guide Hall, at the bush end of Field of Mars Avenue, South Turrumurra on SUNDAY 19TH AUGUST at 2.00 p.m. You can't afford to miss it, particularly if it is your annual exercise! But please wear shoes for rough bushland tracks and some wet ground.

* GENERAL MEETING. The next members' meeting will be on THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH at 8.00 p.m. at St. Philip's Church Hall, Parkinson Avenue, South Turrumurra. This time we are staying close to home and the grassroots, with an hour-long audiovisual made by our own Turrumurra Primary School entitled "Natives that grow in the School Grounds." This will be followed by Ku-ring-gai Council's excellent little film "The Bush Beyond Your Garden." All are welcome, and supper is provided.

By the way, does any member own a 16 mm sound movie projector? Would you be willing to lend and operate it? If so please let us know 3 weeks or more before September 20th. (Alan Catford 449-1658.)

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT REPRINT.

After 4 years and nearly 800 copies sold, S.T.E.P.'s evergreen

Plan of Management in Booklet form is still in demand, enough to warrant a reprint of 300. Please register your forward orders with the Secretary, Yvonne Langshaw on 449-1541.

PAMPAS STUDY. S.T.E.P. has received a letter from Judith Rawling of Macquarie University who is at present engaged in research into the biology of this weed with a view to eradicating it from the bushland around Sydney. In particular Judith would like to receive information on any sightings of isolated clumps of pampas deep in the bush far from roads or pathways. If you can help please phone Judith on 449-2172.

BUSH REGENERATION: The next session of this rewarding work will take place on Sunday next, 12th August, meeting at the end of Cove Street, South Turrumurra at 2.00 p.m. We would welcome new members; requirements are patience and dedication, a pair of gardening gloves and small tools, trowel, secateurs and knife, or these can be provided by S.T.E.P. (Contact Yvonne Langshaw 449-1541.)

GATHERING OF FIREWOOD. The practice of gathering firewood in bushland is of concern to S.T.E.P. as it is becoming widespread and has been observed in Browns Road, Wahroonga and at several places in South Turrumurra. This practice is environmentally damaging leading to destruction of wildlife habitat and disturbance of plants, soil and rock by vehicles driven into bushland. Large dead trees and timber do not constitute a fire hazard; it is only small twigs and branches under 2.5 c.m. diameter which are readily flammable. Bushland cannot accept increasing pressure of this kind without significant degradation in the form of infiltration of weeds, loss of wildlife habitat and loss of its aesthetic and recreational value. Any observed instances of this activity should be reported to Ku-ring-gai Council.

CELEBRATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. On Sunday 23rd September, the first Sunday in Earthweek, Services on the theme of "Conservation and the Environment" will be held at Trinity Uniting Church, Turrumurra Avenue, at 9 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., the morning service being followed by a short bushwalk at 10 a.m.! Some S.T.E.P. members as well as other conservationists will be involved in both services. Any interested members will be very welcome to attend. If you would like to know more, ring Jan Ruys, 449-2020.

THE EVER-EXPANDING CITY. Urban bushland becomes even more precious when we hear of plans to expand Sydney's residential and industrial area even further. It would seem (North Shore Advocate, 1/8/84) that the area north of Blacktown as far as the Hawkesbury River at Wiseman's Ferry and as far west as Kurrajong is the next marked for development. So much for rural or non-urban zonings. Quite obviously such land can only be regarded in future as a reservoir for limitless expansion of the metropolis. Those concerned are advised to study the draft regional environmental study at Hornsby Shire Council's town planning department or at the Department of Environment and Planning in Sydney and make a submission.

PEST GARDEN PLANTS. We have been taking steps towards the banning of sale of plants which can proliferate from gardens into bushland. After we have broken the preliminary ground, S.T.E.P. will seek the support of the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W., which resolved to take similar steps last year.

ANNUAL SUBS. Please assist by prompt renewal of subscriptions, due June, 1984 (Single \$3-00, Family \$4-00) to Treasurer, Geoff Suggate, 43 Bowen Avenue, Turrumurra, 2074 (449-4029)

Alan Catford, President, 449-1658.
Yvonne Langshaw, Secretary, 449-1541.
26 Chisholm Street, Turrumurra. 2074.