



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

NEWSLETTER --- FEBRUARY, 1984.

Welcome to 1984. Don't be overcome by forebodings of Orwellian horrors. They are not likely to happen if Little Brother keeps watching, and meanwhile S.T.E.P.'s committee is planning wonderful events to entertain you and inspire you to lend your weight to the permanent care of our environment. So what's in store? Read on.

MONDAY, MARCH, 12TH, 7.45 p.m. St. Philip's Hall,
Parkinson Avenue,
South Turrumurra.

"BIRDS OF THE NEAR INLAND"

Colour-illustrated talk by JACK PURNELL

Supper * Books, etc. for sale.

Please arrive early: we want to start on time!

SUNDAY, APRIL 15th. 2.00 p.m. Meet George Christie Oval,
end Yanilla Avenue,
Wahroonga.

S.T.E.P.'s Heritage Week BUSHWALK in upper Lane Cove Valley and Pennant Hills Park. Easy-medium walk for moderately fit people, on tracks. Suitable shoes please! All welcome. Afternoon tea at meeting place after walk.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7TH. S.T.E.P.'s Annual General Meeting.

This is looking well ahead, but please mark your diaries to reserve this date--to maintain your welcome interest in S.T.E.P. and the environment, have your say if you will, and stay to see Mark Spencer's fabulous undersea photography in the Caribbean Sea, Jarvis Bay and probably also Sydney Harbour, which is not just a repository for fraudulent human schemes! Time and place in next newsletter.

BUSH REGENERATION. S.T.E.P. has a dedicated team of people who, monthly, go out for a few hours to restore selected areas of bushland which have become marginally weed infested. It is rewarding work, as the results over time are highly visible, but patience and training are needed. If you fill this bill and would like to help, we'd love to have you, and will be able to range more widely in our work. Next weeding is Sunday 18th March, at 2.00 p.m. meet at end of Cove Street, South Turrumurra. Please phone Yvonne Langshaw on 449-1541.

FUEL REDUCTION. Inexorably the Earth is completing another round of the Sun, and we are once again leaning into winter--just the time to roll up sleeves and work to hold the ground we've gained in fire protection for houses which back on to the bush in South Turrumurra--protection achieved without burning the bush. The hard initial work

of reducing the accumulated bush litter of years has been done, but annual maintenance is needed. If you want to help, please phone Alan Catford on 449-1658. Many hands truly make light work in this kind of task.

LANE COVE RIVER S.R.A. Gazetted as a State Recreation Area in 1976, Lane Cove River S.R.A., one of 19 in N.S.W., has now acquired a plan of management, approved by Planning and Environment Minister Bedford in 1983. S.T.E.P. contributed comments on the draft when it was exhibited for public comment early in 1982. The most heavily visited and used of all the S.R.As., this area is being managed to cater for a variety of outdoor activities and amusement, from bushwalking to riding on a small paddlewheeler plying up and down a calm stretch of the river. While no sharp line appears possible at this stage between national parks and S.R.As., it can be said in general that S.R.As provide for a more intensive type of recreation than is desirable in national parks, and indeed tend to relieve some of the pressure on the latter. Thus while providing at its centre such attractions as kiosks, canoe hire, a zoo, and the paddlewheeler, the Lane Cove Valley S.R.A. provides miles of walking tracks for the most passive recreational activity of all. The management plan is quite detailed, although it fails, in common with national park management plans, to provide specific fire management plans.

NEW MINISTER. The recent Cabinet reshuffle returned Planning and Environment Minister Eric Bedford to his former Education portfolio, and substituted Terry Sheahan, formerly Minister for Energy and Finance. Nobody seems to know much about the new minister's environmental stance, but we have heard that he is most likely to give his attention to cases presented to him that are soundly argued. Fair enough, but let us hope that he will actually push in Cabinet for the interests his portfolio is supposed to serve, just as the ministers with more development-oriented portfolios do. The time should be long past when Environment is regarded as the Cinderella of government departments.

MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET. An invitation, on light green paper, to people to join S.T.E.P. has been prepared by the Secretary, Yvonne Langshaw, soon to be widely letterboxed. It contains a membership form and details S.T.E.P.'s aims, achievements, activities and future projects. Send for one (or more) if you think you might be able to recruit new members. Although we have a healthy membership of 130, an environment organisation can never have too many members. Membership is strength.

A.C.F. MEETINGS OF NOTE. The Australian Conservation Foundation has asked S.T.E.P. to publicise two important meetings to which all are invited: 1. "THE GREAT SANDY REGION" an illustrated talk by John Sinclair, of Fraser Island fame, on the great coastal sandmasses of the lower Queensland coast--Fraser Island, Cooloola Sands, and Great Sandy Strait, which A.C.F. is pressing to be listed as a World Heritage Area. Thursday March 15, 7.30 p.m. 2. "WETLANDS--HERITAGE OR USELESS SWAMPS?" a double-barrelled illustrated talk by Dr. Paul Adam (Coast and Wetlands Society) and Dr. Angela Ivanovici (Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service), covering both terrestrial and marine wetlands of Australia. Thursday March 22, at 7.00 p.m. (All A.C.F. meetings are held in the Hallstrom Theatre, Australian Museum, Cnr College and William Streets, Sydney. Enter from William St. and ask the attendant.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. S.T.E.P. is applying for funds from the C.E.P. to employ suitable people to regenerate the valuable and interesting area, Browns Field, Warrawee, known as the Diatrema, a volcanic area to which we referred in our last Newsletter. The aim of the Program is to provide employment for the unemployed, particularly those most disadvantaged or long unemployed, in socially advantageous work.

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