



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

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1985

MAKE FRIENDS WITH A BAT, at STEP'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be followed by guest speaker HELEN GEORGE, speaking on the subject of BATS, particularly those inhabiting the flying fox colony at Gordon. This is the sole survivor of four such colonies once present in the Sydney region.

Are bats evil? Verminous? Smelly, and if so, why? Do they prefer cultivated to native foods? Is there enough native food for them? How well are they conserved? What is being done about the Gordon colony? Helen will answer these questions and much more, and you will have the opportunity to meet a live bat!

All are welcome - members and general public alike. Supper donation appreciated.

St Phillip's Church (not the hall this time)
Parkinson Avenue, South Turrumurra
WEDNESDAY JUNE 26th * 8 pm

BUSH REGENERATION NOTICE.

SUNDAY 30th JUNE * 2 pm
End of Vernon St, South Turrumurra
Contact: Yvonne Langshaw 449.1541

New members willing to work according to the Bradley method of bush regeneration are most welcome. There is much work to be done in this field if we are to restore our precious bushlands to their former purity and natural diversity.

INSPECTION OF BROWN'S FIELD

SUNDAY 4th AUGUST * 2 pm
Campbell Drive, Wahroonga.

Learn about this interesting rainforest remnant in the midst of a sandstone environment, and about the progress STEP is making in its restoration with the aid of Community Employment Funds and the workers whom we are giving employment.

URBAN BUSHLAND PROTECTION AND OUR PROMISING NEW MINISTER.

Planning and Environment Minister Bob Carr has responded to an earnest appeal by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW to give protection to Sydney's bushland remnants from further development. Mr Carr has ordered a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) to be prepared by the Department of Environment and Planning (DEP). This will identify the areas and lay down guidelines for their management. The NCC is anxious to ensure that all of Sydney's bushlands (and later beyond) are included, not only those under local government control, and Mr Carr has promised that this will be so. The full outcome of his commitment will be followed keenly. Urban environment groups are to be mailed a letter requesting them to send the NCC information about urban bushlands in their areas for use in the campaign to maximise urban bushland preservation.

STEP WALKS

STEP's last committee meeting decided that we should offer a program of bush walks to the members. Walks need leaders, and those who can and will are urged to come forward. Once, twice, or more a year, as you feel inclined. For this purpose, our contact person is (Mrs) Chris Woodhouse, on 449.2826.

SYDNEY-HUNTER TRAIL PROJECT.

A couple of years ago, a few STEP Committee members took part in a demonstration walk from Boronia Park to South Turramurra along the Lane Cove River. This was led by Leigh Shearer-Heriot, and was our first on-ground introduction to his fine Bicentennial project, which is nothing less than a walking trail from Sydney Cove to the Hunter Valley, mainly through bushland preserved in national parks, state forests, and other public lands, and traversing a great variety of natural habitats such as wet and dry sclerophyll, rainforest, heath, mangrove, and sedgeland. It may eventually link up with the long-awaited Tri-State Trail which is conceived as linking Wilson's Promontory with Cape York.

The good news is that the project has just been approved by the Bicentennial Authority. Congratulations Leigh and your fellow workers!

BUSHLAND WORKING PARTY .

Members of Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushland Working Party have been capitalising on their major achievements to date: the Plan of Management for Ku-ring-gai Bushlands; the Ku-ring-gai Bushland Survey; the film The Bush Beyond Your Garden; and the bushland care pamphlett.

- * The Plan of Management is available from Council for \$6.00 (last few)
- * The Bushland Survey, in 2 volumes, also available for \$20 each
- * The film may be hired (we think \$20)
- * The pamphlett, a reprint (improved) is available at the information counter at the Council Chambers.

(The books may also be seen at the Gordon Library)

The Working Party has also been sending out letters to schools, scouting groups, and residents adjoining bushlands, advising them of the above productions and their availability for use. It has also been advocating them within the Council and council departments.

MAY DAY! HELP THE NCC.

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW, with its organ The Environment Centre, federator of 80 environment groups, implementing around 80 Annual Conference resolutions plus other work, must vacate its present (rather grotty) premises at 399 Pitt St by the end of September. It cannot afford normal rentals in the Central Business District of Sydney, yet that is where it needs to be. Better premises are needed for selling to earn income and to provide information to the public, and for providing adequate meeting venues for the environment movement and for special occasions.

Is there someone out there with sufficient influence to convince the Premier that his government should support NSW' central conservation body, by providing decent premises at a nominal rental?

If you can't do it by yourself, write as one of (hopefully) many, to

The Hon. N.K. Wran, Premier of NSW, with a copy to
The Hon. Bob Carr, Minister for Planning and Environment,

both at Parliament House
Sydney NSW 2000.

You could also ask for the support of your local State Member, who could write or speak to the Premier and Mr Carr. The matter is really most important for the future of conservation in NSW.

Further information:

President: 449.1658
Secretary: 449.1541