



**STEP** INC.

Community Based Environmental Conservation

## NEWSLETTER

MAY, 1989

### PUBLIC MEETING ON (LOCAL) FREEWAYS

Date : 11th May, 8.00 p.m.

Place : Everett Hall, Abbotsleigh Junior School,  
Woonona Ave South, Wahroonga

Enquiries : 449 1541

The new local peak organisation, Coalition against Lane Cove Valley Freeways has organised a meeting to provide information and to clarify public understanding of the transport/traffic problems of the North and North West sectors, and to suggest solutions.

Distinguished speakers will include -

Mr David Engwicht of Brisbane, author of "Traffic Calming"

Dr Judy Messer, President of the NSW Nature Conservation Council

Mr Jim Donovan, Spokesperson for Action for Public Transport

As you will know, STEP is a foundation member and strong supporter of the Coalition Against Lane Cove Valley Freeways. Each member organisation may send two delegates to the Coalition. STEP's delegates are Yvonne Langshaw and John Burke. The Chairperson is Mrs Elaine Malicki.

**STEP REQUESTS ITS MEMBERS TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.** To quote Yvonne Langshaw, "the B3 link will happen if you don't act now".

URBAN TRANSPORT CONFERENCE. This is a one day conference which would be of interest to some STEP members. It is convened by the NSW Urban Environment Coalition on Saturday, 6th May at the Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. There will be eminent speakers from environment and transport fields. Fee \$12. Enquiries 387 7873 or 212 6193.

KU-RING-GAI WILDFLOWER GARDEN. The management committee for this garden is being re-formed, and STEP was invited by Ku-ring-gai Council to nominate a member. Pat Dunn, a member of the STEP Committee, has agreed to be our representative. We look forward to useful cooperation and a sharing of information.

(see) 38  
John Burke  
+ copy JS's letter

## SCREENING OF VIDEO ON CHILDREN AND BUSH REGENERATION

The video is titled "Touch Wood", by Chris Farmer. It was filmed mostly at the Bush School, Wahroonga, and is about ways in which children can care for bushland and help with bush regeneration.

Date : Tuesday, 16th May  
Time : 7.30 p.m.  
Place : Field of Mars Study Centre, Pittwater Rd, Ryde.  
Enquiries : 449 3746

THORNLEIGH AREA BUSHLAND SOCIETY (T.A.B.S). In our last newsletter we listed the activities of the STEP Committee that related to the freeway issue. We mentioned that we had attended a public meeting at Thornleigh and omitted to say that this meeting was organised by T.A.B.S. We are pleased to set the record straight.

## REPORT ON HERITAGE WEEK WALK

As you may have read in the North Shore Times (19/4/89) STEP's Heritage Week Walk was a resounding success, with an attendance of close to 300 walkers, led by Yvonne Langshaw & Alan Catford. The route followed the STEP Track, built almost 10 years ago, and now threatened by B3. The walkers were addressed by Jenny Simons, President of STEP, who pointed out that this track was built for the special purpose of allowing residents and visitors to enjoy the variety of scenery and habitats in this area. The track traverses mostly pure, weed-free bush, in contrast to some areas in the valley where the activities of humans have resulted in huge infestations of weeds.

Information tables were set up by STEP, P.A.V.E., and by the Coalition against Lane Cove Valley freeways. Petitions were signed, letters were written, donations were given. The STEP Committee handed over all the donations STEP received on this day to the Coalition, as this new group needs funds to support its lobbying work.

At the end of the walk, the picnic atmosphere at the end of Kingsford Avenue was delightful.

A news release was sent to four local newspapers, reporting this event. STEP's thanks go to Yvonne, Alan, the ad hoc track clearing working party, the Coalition and P.A.V.E. for their strong support, and KuBES for help with publicity.

Lost Property - a cloth hat with three badges, including a Canadian flag badge, was left behind in Kingsford Avenue. Enquiries 449 1658.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. With the delivery of 5,000 new (yellow) leaflets, our campaign led by Pat Dunn, with assistance from Chris Burke and Ralph Pridmore, is going along well, and new

membership applications are being received regularly. If anyone has a little time & energy to spare and could help with letterboxing, either in their own area or further afield, would they please ring Pat Dunn, 489 5778 ?

**BUSHWALK** (This is a reminder about the bushwalk mentioned in the April Newsletter).

STEP members and friends are cordially invited to join a bushwalk arranged by St Andrew's Uniting Church, and to be led by STEP Past President Yvonne Langshaw.

Date : Saturday, June 17  
Time : 2.00 p.m.  
Place : St Andrew's, Chisholm & Vernon Sts, South Turramurra  
Enquiries : 449 1541

**BUSH REGENERATION.** We were washed out last month (not surprisingly). Details of the next meeting are as follows :

Date : Sunday, 28th May  
Time : 2.00 p.m.  
Place : Cooper Crescent, Wahroonga  
Enquiries : 449 1541

**COMMITTEE MEETING** Next meeting Thursday 18th April.  
Enquiries 449 8445.

**MEDIUM DENSITY HOUSING.** An information evening on The Future of Medium Density Housing has been arranged by the Ku-ring-gai Ratepayers Association. Speakers will include -

Dr Margaret Munro-Clark, Professor of Town Planning, Sydney Uni

Mr Peter Stavely, Department of Planning and Environment

Mr Stephen Harris, University of N.S.W.

Mr David Ryan, Ku-ring-gai Council

Mr Bob Walsh, Stockland Property Group

Mr Hugh Fraser, Architect

It seems that one particular environmental threat from medium-density housing is the reduction in tree cover on a site. Recent hasty legislation has apparently made it possible for almost any residential land to be rezoned for medium density building.

Date : Wednesday, 31st May  
Time : 8.00 p.m.  
Place : Pymble Community Centre  
Enquiries : 44 5716

**STEP LIBRARY.** This has been assembled gradually over the last 11

years, for the use of the Committee and STEP members. Here is an up to date list of items. If you would like to borrow any of these please contact Yvonne Langshaw, 449 1541.

Bush Regeneration, Joan Bradley  
Bushland Management Survey Vols 1 & 2 Ku-ring-gai M. Council  
Common Weeds of Sydney Bushland, Robin A. Buchanan  
Eco-Fire Symposium, N.P. & W.S. 1976  
Flora of the Sydney Region, Beadle, Evans & Carolin  
Impact of Man on Mammals & Birds of the Lane Cove River Valley,  
Sarah Stevens 1978  
Lane Cove River SRA, Plan of Management 1983  
Mowbray Park Description and Management, 1979  
National Conservation Strategy for Australia, Canberra 1982  
Nature Conservation Council of NSW (N.C.C.) Annual Reports 1987-88  
Plan of Management for Bushland Areas, Ku-ring-gai M. Council  
Proposed Subdivision of Bushland in Byles Creek Valley, 1988  
Rainforest Conservation in Australia Report  
Soil Landscapes of Ku-ring-gai Municipality, Ku-ring-gai M. Council and  
Soil Conservation Service, 1988.  
Soil Survey, Sydney - Newcastle Freeway, Wahroonga to Berowra Section, 1981  
Symposium on the Management of Urban Bushland, Ku-ring-gai M. Council, 1980.  
The Middle Lane Cove River, A History and a Future, Lynne McLoughlin  
Traffic Calming (CART) The solution to route 20 and a new vision for  
Brisbane, 1989.  
Urban Bushland Management and Fire Protection, N.C.C. of NSW 1983.  
Urban Bushland Management Symposium, Willoughby Municipal Council, 1983.  
Wet Weather Pollution of the Lane Cove River estuary, 1980.

KU-RING-GAI TREE PRESERVATION ORDER. Elaine Malicki, President of the Ku-ring-gai Ratepayers Association, has been investigating the efficacy of Ku-ring-gai Council's efforts in tree preservation. It appears that Ku-ring-gai's last successful prosecution was in 1983. In contrast, many Councils surveyed by Mrs Malicki reported 15-20 successful prosecutions each year over recent years. It appears that Ku-ring-gai's Tree Preservation Order needs to be re-written to strengthen it legally, and that a new set of procedures needs to be introduced for the guidance of Council officers.

This Newsletter was compiled by Jenny Simons, Yvonne Langshaw and Sue Jones.

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