



# STEP INC.

Community Based Environmental Conservation since 1978

P.O. Box 697 Turramurra 2074

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thirteenth Annual General Meeting 26th September, 1991

STEP continued to work hard during the past year in the conservation and rehabilitation of the natural environment of Ku-ring-gai and surrounding areas. Our work will of course be more effective if STEP has credibility in the community and to this end we have continued to increase our membership and to adopt a higher profile.

The highlights of the year included the storm in January, the formation of Total Catchment Management Committees for the Lane Cove Valley and Middle Harbour catchments, some success in the fight to save the Mona Vale Road bushland corridor, the Woodward report on the Castlereagh Freeway (where Mr Woodward joined the ranks of those who don't think that urban freeways fix congestion) and the election of the first environmentally proactive council that Ku-ring-gai has ever seen.

### Newsletters

Our regular newsletters are the primary means of keeping our members informed on the issues and the action which STEP is taking about them and I therefore do not intend to here duplicate information which you already have.

A total of seven newsletters were issued during the year and back copies are available for any newer members who wish to see them.

### Activities

Various functions, all attended by between 50 and 100 people, were held during the year beginning with the talk, in conjunction with the AGM in September, by Dr Harley Wright on the impact of nutrients on bushland.

A Heritage Birdwalk led by Dariel Larkins was held in Sheldon Forest during Heritage Week in April and Antarctic expeditioner Damian Gore spoke to us in June.

STEP hosted the Meet the Candidates night for the Comenarra Ward candidates in August.

### Committee

Your committee met eleven times during the year and I wish to thank all committee members for their contribution and work.

### Financial

STEP continues to be in a sound financial position. This is due to low running costs on the one hand and donations and profits from the sale of maps and other publications on the other. Our long serving treasurer, Geoff Suggate, retired during the year. I want to record the committee's appreciation of his years of hard work. Bruno Krockenberger has taken over the job and is tackling it with enthusiasm.

### Ku-ring-gai Elections

The results of the council elections represent probably the single most important positive event in STEP's history. The way the natural environment is treated is affected by everything that Council does from roadworks to building approvals and bushland management. The incoming council will be proactive about doing things better and we look forward to working with it.

### STEP Committee

Most members of the current committee have offered themselves for re-election. There is always the need for new committee members, however, and I encourage anyone who may be interested to talk to me or another current committee member. It is interesting to note that of the 13 elected to the committee in 1989 only 4 will remain after this AGM. Committee members can be appointed at times other than Annual General Meetings.

### Yvonne Langshaw

This meeting sees the resignation of Yvonne from our committee. Yvonne joined STEP in the early years and has been a very active and committed member. She has been Treasurer, Secretary and was president from 1985 to 1988.

Yvonne has been one of the main architects of STEP's success and growing influence in the community. She has worked very hard on the boring details, on matters such as the administration of the CEP funded project at Browns Field, on keeping STEP up to date through incorporation and name change and countless other such matters.

No one more deserves a rest from the tedium but I prefer to look on her departure as simply an opportunity for her to gather strength and new ideas before returning to the fray.

### The Next Year

There are many issues to be addressed during the next year. Despite the improved makeup of the new councils we must have an input into the setting of priorities. There are ongoing threats to bushland through development at the UTS at Lindfield and at the Broadway at Fox Valley and there will be many more similar. The Total Catchment Committees offer an opportunity to put right the damage which has been inflicted upon our bushland for 200 years.

It will be a busy year and the Committee looks forward to the continuing support of our members. We hope to see you all at the walks and functions which will be organised during the year.

John Burke  
September 1991