

NEWSLETTER NO. 3  
9.6.78

SOUTH TURRAMURRA ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

**S . T . E . P .**

We welcome all who care for the bush —

Phone	449 1658	Jan Catford
	449 2389	Sandra Csenderits
	449 4526	Helen Petersen

if you would like to join in protecting the environment of  
South Turramurra.

## **The Assault on Canoon Rd.**

On Wed. May 24th, senior officers of the State Pollution Control Commission inspected Ku-ring-gai Council's then proposed bushland destruction site at Canoon Rd, thereby placing the whole issue under Section 4.2.3 of its "Principles and Procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment in N.S.W." which reads "Where the determining authority is also the developer and the proposal is one which has special significance or has *generated significant public controversy*, that authority *must* refer the matter to the State Pollution Control Commission for consideration *before it proceeds.*"

This direction was flouted on Mon. May 29th, when with military precision a formidable convoy moved in. Even air cover was not forgotten, or was it a coincidence that a helicopter happened to hover over Canoon Rd just at that time?

**Camera Crew** — filmed the whole operation, so Council can enjoy its incredible feat again. Such a crew costs almost \$250.00 a day — multiply that and you have an idea of the lengths to which Aldermen Lennon and Lee were prepared to go, having been given carte blanche by Council.

**Guard Dogs and Armed Guards** – Town Clerk, Mr Taylor has since denied presence of armed guards – why then was the guard on the site wearing a holster?

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

Council has a firm resolution (No. 1362 of 7.4.78) which states it must abide by the Pollution Control Commission's guideleines in a case such as this and yet it has ignored this completely (apart from a cursory note from the Town Clerk thanking S.T.E.P. for our guidance in this matter).

It accepted a statement from one of their own aldermen and rejected a detailed study by a specialist in this field, R. Buchanan (B.A. Hons. Biol.) prepared with guidance from Dr. D. Adamson (Biol. Macq. Uni.)

## COUNCIL POWERS

In all issues confronting it Councils have enormous powers. This has strong implications. When a State or Federal Govt. passes a statute, it has to abide by that statute until such time as that statute is altered – and courts are there to ensure this happend – but Local Govt's can ignore their own resolutions, and no-one can interfere. Ku-ring-gai Council ignored Resolution No. 1362 – and we are powerless to stop it from doing the same in similar or other matters.

## WHERE TO FROM HERE:

We have had discussion with a senior member of Paul Landa's Dept., and this made us firmer in our resolve to continue to work through S.T.E.P. for our basic aims:

1. To preserve all viable bushland in this municipality – and more particularly that in our own area.
2. To work for the establishment of a separate trust to take over the management of the Lane Cove River valley from Councils. We shall be approaching the Nature Conservation Council re this as they are in the process of preparing a report on urban bushland.
3. To support aldermen and candidates who are genuine conservationists, and to work for removal from office of all Aldermen who cannot understand the value and importance of urban bushland.
4. To monitor all Council activities.