

October 1980

Since the last newsletter, S.T.E.P. has been actively involved in many aspects of bushland management.

The recently published Plan of Management, "South Turrumurra Bushland" has been widely praised by many eminent bodies - universities, libraries, Councils and conservation groups. If you have not found time to purchase one, some copies are still available from the Secretary or Kissing Point Newsagency. Ku-ring-gai Council have discussed the Plan and our aldermen have moved its adoption. Reports from the Health Department and Parks and Gardens are pending at the moment.

The President recently addressed fifty Ryde School of Horticulture students at a gathering in the South Turrumurra Bushland area where great interest was expressed in the Plan.

The area being considered by Council for the 1980 hazard reduction programme was from Cove Street to Robin Avenue around the edge of the Kissing Point Ridge. Having surveyed the affected residents, we succeeded in arranging with Council that S.T.E.P. supervise the careful hand-clearance of a suitably wide area (as stated in the Plan of Management) that did not involve the unnecessary control burning of very much larger areas. These areas are almost cleared now with the happy co-operation of residents around that edge and the added help of Turrumurra Apex next month in the final flourish near Robin Avenue. The National Trust will monitor the effects of S.T.E.P.'s clearing over the next few years to see if this is a method which should be encouraged on a wider scale.

One member of STEP was on the committee that organised the recent symposium on the Management of Urban Bushland sponsored by Ku-ring-gai Council. The speakers were excellent throughout the day. The main thrust of the day was the unique nature of Sydney's bush and Ku-ring-gai's specifically, and how it needs to be managed with care and imagination. The Bradley Method of bush regeneration was well explained and fire and its control was discussed. The botany of urban bushland was explained. All speakers illustrated their lectures with slides and the audience of approximately 200 was very attentive. The speakers were unanimous in their acknowledgement of the value of urban bushland. A transcript of the symposium will be available on request from Council.

STEP has changed its method of monitoring Council meetings. It became too difficult to roster people every meeting, so a member surveys the Agenda on Friday advising us of any matter needing our attendance. If nothing arises, the minutes are checked the following week at Turrumurra Library.

The Ku-ring-gai Bushland & Environmental Society is now a constituted body with a full committee. They gave their thanks to STEP for their help in its formation.

On Saturday, October 26th, STEP will send a delegate to the Nature Conservation Council Conference, which is a meeting of representatives from all the affiliated conservation bodies of N.S.W., who meet to vote on issues of concern to them all. Details of proceedings will be available from us after that day.

Our latest information on the Lane Cove Valley Freeway and the Kissing Point Road extensions to North Ryde is from Nick Greiner, MHR Ku-ring-gai. His enquiries from departmental officers assure him that no immediate start on either project is anticipated and they were both well down the list of priorities. However, a further question from Tim Moore in the House ascertained that an Environmental Impact Statement is still to be done at some future date, so it's still on the drawing board. Mr. Greiner also directed a question to the Minister for Transport regarding the possibility of licensing trail bikes in the hope of better controlling them. We await the answer.

Everyone is welcome at the next General Meeting on Thursday, 13th November, at 8 p.m. at South Turrumurra Kindergarten, 12 Aluba Road, South Turrumurra. This informal night entitled "Bushfires and You" will be on practical bushfire safety, methods and strategies used by people in our own area in firefighting will be discussed and useful tools will be demonstrated. There is much that people can do in a fire situation, but it takes some forward planning and knowledge of what is to be done. Helen Petersen will also talk about tools and methods used by STEP's Local Bush Regeneration Group.

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