



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

NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY, 1981.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

There will be a short business meeting, followed at 8.00 p.m. by a talk from our guest speaker, Roger Lyle of the South West Tasmania Committee.

In recent months there have been sensational developments in the Tasmanian Parliament on

this issue, which pose a new threat to both the Franklin and Gordon Rivers. Roger will give us the latest information on these events and show an award-winning film on the Rivers. Please make every effort to attend and bring your friends as visitors will also be welcome.

THURSDAY, 12TH MARCH,
1981, 7.30 p.m. at
SCUTH TURRAMURRA
KINDERGARTEN,
12 Auluba Road,
South Turrumurra.

LANE COVE RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA (S.R.A.) TRUST--DRAFT PLAN
CF MANAGEMENT.

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This draft management plan has just been released. It is of enormous importance to the Lane Cove Valley. If the plan is approved by the N.S.W. Minister for Planning and Environment, the whole Valley will be controlled and managed by the S.R.A. Trust on behalf of the Minister. The State government will provide the Trust with funds, and personnel employed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service will be seconded to the Trust for day-to-day management duties. The technical resources of the N.P. & W.S. will also be made available if needed.

S.T.E.P.'s Plan of Management has been well received by the Trust and was used in formulating many of the policies for our area, which is to be known as North Valley Recreation Zone and is classified as a "non-intensive pedestrian access area." In essence this means that all areas North of De Burgh's Bridge will be maintained and restored as far as possible to their natural state and used primarily for low-intensive recreational and educational use based on walking.

The Trust has also recommended that representatives of some local conservation groups have a place on the Trust, and S.T.E.P. has indicated its willingness to represent the interests of our end of the Valley. It is therefore essential that S.T.E.P. continues as a strong group which can assist the Trust in its management of the bushland which belongs to us all.

Our Bush Regeneration team (which uses the Bradley method of weed removal) will continue to work in the area with the encouragement of the Trust, and new members are most welcome to join us in this important aspect of bushland management.

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S.T.E.P.'S Committee is preparing a report on the draft plan, which will, amongst other things, request the Trust to rethink its policy favouring control burning. We have initiated a meeting of representatives of the many conservation groups in the Valley to discuss this very important item in the plan.

SYMPOSIUM NOTES.

The transcript of the recent Symposium on the Management of Urban Bushland is now available from Ku-ring-gai Council at the Cashier's desk. It makes very good reading, and costs \$3-00 or \$3-80 if posted.

TERANIA CREEK FILM.

This excellent film will be shown by Ku-ring-gai Bushland and Environmental Society on 20th March at 8.00 p.m. at Ku-ring-gai College of Advanced Education. Proceeds will go to the National Trust's Rainforest Appeal. Admission is \$2-00.

WATER BOARD ROAD--WEST PYMBLE.

Recently S.T.E.P. inspected the devastation in West Pymble bushland which was caused by the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board's laying of sewerage pipes in the area near Ryde Road. We arranged an on-site meeting with the engineer in charge of the operation together with a forestry officer of the Water Board, and had considerable success in getting them to agree to repair the area in the following manner:-

1. Remove soil built up around tree trunks.
2. Repair damage to tree trunks and paint with bitumenous paint.
3. Seed flat areas with indigenous seed, cover with straw mulch then use CCLBIND which will stabilize the areas.
4. Plant banks with tube-stock as well as seed, mulch with straw and use CCLBIND. Plants to be placed at one metre intervals and to consist of ground covers, shrubs and trees of indigenous species.

A major victory was achieved when we persuaded the Water Board not to go ahead with their plan to include exotic Rye grass in their seed mix. While this undoubtedly would have helped stabilize the area in the short-term, the long term effects along the River banks could have resulted in a substantial weed problem.

KU-RING-GAI BUSHLAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

This committee is being set up by Ku-ring-gai Council to give advice on all matters of management in Ku-ring-gai's many bushland areas. It will consist of four aldermen, three staff members, and six members of the general public who have shown a genuine interest in bushland and/or expertise in a particular aspect of bushland management.

S.T.E.P.'s President has been invited by Council to join the Committee and we urge any interested S.T.E.P. members to also apply in writing by 13th March, Details can be obtained by phoning Jeff Knight at the Council on 498-0888.

We look forward to more enlightened management of Council's bushland areas in the future. You, as a S.T.E.P. member, have helped to convince Council that bushland is worth managing.

S.T.E.P. MEMBERSHIP.

We now have a record number of members with 63 family and 17 single memberships.

MONITORING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Our monitoring by inspection of the agenda and minutes has been successful up to a point, but the Committee feels that active S.T.E.P. attendance at meetings is essential to ensure nothing is missed. Volunteers please ring Secretary.

COUNCIL'S 1981 CONTROL BURNING PROGRAMME.

The following areas are due to be control burned. If you live in any of these streets and prefer S.T.E.P.'s method of hand-clearing fire-breaks to control burning, we can offer you support and useful advice. Phone Alan Catford 449-1658.

1. Rofe Park and Sheldon Forest.
 2. West Pymble--Edenholme Street to Haite Close.
 3. Fox Valley--Seymour Close to Wongalee Avenue and Beltana Place.
 4. Rear of Shand Avenue, Turramurra.
 5. West Pymble--Ryde Road to Wallalong Crescent.
 6. Campbell Drive--Nerang Street--Mitchell Crescent.
 7. Howson Avenue--The Comenarra Parkway.
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ISSUES OF WIDER CONCERN TO ENVIRONMENTALISTS.

S.T.E.P. receives by post information from other Conservation bodies, and is itself a voting member of the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W., an affiliation of conservation groups which meets annually to discuss and vote on issues of concern to its members.

The following are some of the issues currently concerning environmentalists.

- * N.C.C., after lively debate, banned the export of kangaroo products and recommended the carefully-monitored culling of excessive populations of kangaroos, with strict annual review.
- * A cutback of Federal funding for voluntary conservation groups means a less effective mouthpiece in many vital aspects of concern in conservation.

- * The debate on the future of the Hunter Valley continues.
- * The future of the Barrier Reef is far from assured.
- * World Wildlife Fund keeps us informed on endangered species.
- * National Parks and Wildlife Foundation needs your support in their "Project Noah" in March.
- * The loss of Victorian forests endangers their faunal emblem, the Helmeted Honeyeater, as well as Leadbeater's Possum, the Baw Baw Frog and the Orange-Bellied Parrot.
- * Sandmining and the logging of forests remain controversial issues. The Washpool Wilderness must be preserved. It is N.S.W.'s only substantial rainforest wilderness containing the largest unlogged rainforest in N.S.W. and the largest Coachwood forest on Earth.
- * Friends of Parramatta Park have our support against the alienation of public land for the single use of one commercial interest.

Any members wishing to personally support any or all of these issues by writing, for example to appropriate Parliamentarians, are urged to do so. Letters from concerned individuals have great effect. Details are available from the Secretary.

PRESIDENT: HELEN PETERSEN -- 449-4526
SECRETARY: MARGARET BOOTH -- 449-3746
TREASURER: YVONNE LANGSHAW -- 449-1541.
