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

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1983

GENERAL MEETING

St Philips Church Hall
Parkinson Avenue,
South Turrumurra

Thursday 7th April
1983
8 p.m.

Speaker: Mr IAN BROWN, manager, Lane Cove River State Recreation Area

S.T.E.P. looks forward to meeting the new manager of this important urban recreation and conservation area. His talk will be illustrated with slides.

Mr Brown will speak about plans for the already developed area of the SRA and for Brown's Waterhole. We will be able to discuss with him, in accordance with his desire to establish a fruitful liaison with environment groups in the Valley, general new directions which he is considering, including plans for the Upper Lane Cove Valley part of the SRA. There will be opportunities to raise matters such as bush fire fuel reduction, soil erosion, access, weed control, etc.

S.T.E.P. BUSHWALK + HERITAGE WEEK + SUNDAY, APRIL 17

S.T.E.P.'s part in the celebration of Heritage Week, 1983, will be a bushwalk commencing at the Canoon Road netball complex parking area at 2 p.m., and ending there probably about 4.30 to 5.00.

The route will be chosen for scenic and floristic diversity - both features of our beautiful valley. Average fitness only is required, but please wear sensible shoes and bring a drink if you are a thirsty walker. EXPERIENCE OUR PRICELESS NATURAL HERITAGE FIRST HAND.

KU-RING-GAI BUSHLAND PAMPHLETT

In 1982, Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushland Working Party, which assists Council in bushland matters, produced a concise and crucially important pamphlett on the value of our urban bushlands and the essential role of residents in its care. Municipality-wide distribution has begun. We extend our congratulations to the Working Party and to the Council, with our hopes that further circulation will deliver the pamphlett to those who seem to have missed out on the initial issue.

Any member who has missed out is invited to phone Mrs Helen Petersen on 449.4526 for a copy to be posted.

BUSH REGENERATION

The next day is SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY. The location is to be decided. People interested in this interesting, satisfying, and necessary work should contact MRS YVONNE LANGSHAW on 449.1541.

SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA STALL

KISSING POINT SHOPS

SATURDAY 19th FEBRUARY
(morning only)

The stall will be in aid of the effort to save the South-West wilderness of Tasmania. This great campaign is unprecedented in its size, scope - and EXPENSE! Please support it by purchases and/or donations.

T-shirts, stickers, books, badges, tea-towels, posters.

PLEASE NOTE THE OTHER S.W.T. EVENTS DETAILED ON ENCLOSURES

FUEL REDUCTION

The area between Cove St and Robin Avenue, South Turrumurra, needs very little attention to meet the requirements of Council, following which S.T.E.P. plans to conduct twice-annual maintenance weekends with the assistance of residents. If you live cheek by jowl with bushland in this area, please co-operate in this effective, ecologically favourable, aesthetically attractive way of protecting your homes from bushfires.

WORKING PARTY

Council's Bushland Working Party, which includes representatives from S.T.E.P. and other local environmental groups, now has its three main initial projects well in hand (pamphlett, film, and bushland survey) and looks forward to grappling with matters of policy in regard to bushland management.

TRACKS

A S.T.E.P. objective for 1983 will be to plan and propose a system of walking tracks within and linking bushland areas included in our area of concern. The purpose is to encourage interest in the passive use of our bushlands, which should lead to a greater awareness of their value to the community as a whole.

ONCE AGAIN THE GREAT BUSHFIRE CONTROVERSY

The recent spate of bushfires and the deaths of three more firefighters in Sydney has resulted in yet another upsurge in the control burning controversy in the letter columns of the local newspapers. Available space here does not allow us to enter into a full debate on this distressing situation. However, one aspect should be commented upon. This is the continuing irresponsibility of those local councils which permit houses to be built in the most fire-prone situations.

Circular 16 of the erstwhile Planning and Environment Commission, now the Department of Environment and Planning, strongly advises councils to require the provision of perimeter roads by the developers of bushland subdivisions. Failing this, where some lots back directly on to bushland, adequate "radiation belts" should be provided. These are fuel-reduced areas which would protect properties from the direct flames and radiant heat of an advancing bushfire. This is a less attractive option, as it still requires bushland modification, probably by control burning. Preferably, it would be provided on the private land itself, and not encroach upon our dwindling natural areas.

The real enemy is the "sacred cow" of real estate trading, which appears to take precedence over all other considerations and assumes that there is no alternative to the maximisation of profits, some of which would be consumed by a perimeter road or a private land radiation belt.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME (Mr, Mrs, Dr etc.

ADDRESSPostcode.....

Phone

Single membership \$2.00
Family membership \$3.00

to Mrs Y. Langshaw
Treasurer,
26 Chisholm St,
TURRAMURRA NSW 2074

(Phone 449.1541)

FURTHER GENERAL INFORMATION:

President: 449.1658
Secretary: 449.3746