



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

NEWSLETTER -- MARCH 1985

GENERAL MEETING IN THE BUSH -- SATURDAY 30TH MARCH, 2.00 p.m.
End of Kingsford Avenue.

Bad weather caused cancellation of our last effort to hold a general meeting of S.T.E.P. members in our own bushland. Better luck this time! Here is an opportunity to not only hear about but also to see S.T.E.P.'s concerns and activities--recently burnt areas; bushfire fuel reduction; weed proliferation; bush regeneration; track work--and of course to enjoy the beauty which is there in abundance. Dates of forthcoming events and current projects and plans can be discussed. Afternoon tea (including soft drinks for children) will be available for a small donation.

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT BOCKLET. It was hoped that an updated reprint of S.T.E.P.'s plan of management entitled "South Turrumurra Bushland" would be ready for sale by the above meeting date. This is unlikely, but orders can be taken then or at any other time. The old edition has been amended to add more species, to clarify the grouping system, make name changes according to international agreement, and to make the bibliography more comprehensive.

BUSH REGENERATION. Sunday 24th March at 2.00 p.m. is the next scheduled session, meeting at the end of Vernon Street, South Turrumurra. We have the help of two Venturer Scouts working towards their environment badges but would welcome anyone who has a few hours to spare for this worthwhile activity. (Further information: Yvonne Langshaw 449-1541.)

FUEL REDUCTION AND SOME OLD BUSH DESTROYED. No activity has taken place for some time in regard to bushfire fuel reduction behind properties in South Turrumurra, but residents will be notified when work is planned soon, in Autumn. Where the bush is "clean" (no weeds), our no-fire fuel-reduced areas look fine. Where there is heavy weed infestation, weeds keep returning as expected. Eventually we may be able to deploy our small bush regeneration force to some of these areas. Hopefully, their numbers will be boosted by local residents concerned to restore the bush near their properties. Meanwhile, residents would help prevent further weed infestation by controlling weeds on their properties and refraining from dumping vegetative materials over the back fence.

An area of long unburnt bush occupying the western end of the Kingsford Avenue ridge was recently fired by some irresponsible incendiary. This was at least 25-year old bush, and it had been interesting to observe its evolution in an apparently senescent state in the absence of fire.

FREEWAY. The controversial F3 freeway link between Sydney city and the north will traverse S.T.E.P.'s area of concern if it extends into its final stage--the Lane Cove Valley Freeway. S.T.E.P. recognises that this major development would have a devastating

environmental impact, necessitating crossings of deep valleys such as that between the Fox Valley and South Turrumurra residential areas. Further problems would arise from the physical division of suburbs. S.T.E.P. committee members are studying a Macquarie University report and a Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust report, and further material in the Total Environment Centre and Department of Main Roads libraries. We are thus preparing an informed case to take to the inevitable debate.

"OUT OF STEP." Committee member Elizabeth Dokulil has researched and written a 40-page history of citizen opposition to Council's construction of the Canoon Road netball complex in 1978, the matter which saw the birth of S.T.E.P. and launched us on our illustrious career. The manuscript is to be made available to local school and Council libraries. Copies could be made available to members and others for a cost-defraying charge of \$5-00. To avoid unnecessary extra trips to the photocopier, could those interested please contact Yvonne on or before the meeting (30th March.)

THOSE BATS. S.T.E.P. congratulates the Council on its decision to save the grey-headed fruit bat colony in Gordon by purchasing the land on which the home trees are growing. S.T.E.P. has resolved to support Ku-ring-gai Bushland and Environment Society by inviting our members to contribute to the fund KUBES has set up to assist the Council. The address is 29a Crinoco Street, Pymble, 2073. The total amount needed is \$185,000. *

JAN RUYS ILL. S.T.E.P. Vice-President Jan Ruys recently had to come to terms with a long-standing heart condition by submitting to an operation, but is now well on the road to a new and better life. Our thoughts were with Jan at the time of his crisis, and we are now focussed on his good prospects for a complete recovery. See you at a meeting or in the bush soon, Jan.

A NEW BROOM? Recently appointed Minister for Planning and Environment Bob Carr has been looking extremely promising, with forthright statements on the environmental damage caused by oil spills on Botany Bay; anger and prompt action in conjunction with the Minister for Natural Resources (Janice Crosio) to prevent future disasters such as the mass destruction of water birds in Bolligal Swamp by water starvation caused by the Water Resources Commission; promises of more national parks; and an indication that he will do something about stopping noisy powercraft on waters within or adjacent to national parks and motor vehicles on park beaches. He deserves, and may need every support from those concerned about environmental issues. Letters to the Minister, or better still to the newspapers, are needed from each and every one of us. This is how conservation battles are won.

NEW CHAIRMAN. Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushland Working Party has a new chairman. John Burke, a S.T.E.P. Committee member has been on the Party since its inception, along with Helen Petersen, our immediate past-President. We look forward to an enthusiastic continuation of the good work already done by the Working Party.

Alan Catford 449-1658.

Yvonne Langshaw 449-1541.

* Orders taken for Bat T-shirts at \$10-00 each--phone Janet Fairlie-Cunningham 449-8725.