



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

NEWSLETTER
AUGUST, 1987.

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SPRING BUSHWALK -- SUNDAY, 23RD AUGUST, 1987 -- 2.00 P.M.

Meet at Glenn Johnson's, 45 The Broadway, Wahroonga. The Ridge tops of Fox valley will be the focus of our walk and many heath plants should be in bloom. Afternoon tea will be available at the conclusion--approx 4.30 p.m. For further information phone Glenn on 489-2722. (cancelled if raining.)



MEET THE CANDIDATES. -- FRIDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1987 -- 8.00 p.m.

Nominations for Candidates for election of Aldermen of the Municipality of Ku-ring-gai close on Wednesday 26th August, 1987. The elections will be held on Saturday 26th September.

The Kissing Point Progress Association has arranged a "Meet the Candidates" (relevant to Comenarra Ward) evening. S.T.E.P. will be joining with the Progress Association for this important meeting when members and interested people will have the opportunity of hearing the policies of the candidates, followed by a question time on more specific issues of concern to the local community.

Venue: "Hillview" ballroom, Pacific Highway, Turramurra (entry Boyd Street.)

NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -- THURSDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1987. 7.45 P.M.

S.T.E.P.'s Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 10th September, at 7.45. p.m. sharp, at St. Philip's Church Hall, Parkinson Avenue, Turramurra.

The business of the meeting will include presentation of Annual Reports and election of office bearers for 1987-88. This will be followed by guest speaker, Mr. Robin Grimwade, Manager of Parks, Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council, who will present a slide-illustrated talk on "The future of Ku-ring-gai's Bushland."



CHANGE OF NAME FOR S.T.E.P.

In the nine years since S.T.E.P.'s inception, many changes have taken place in our society. Until our incorporation 12 months ago, our membership was limited to residents of the Comenarra Ward and of course our basic concern still is for preservation of bushland in this particular area. However, we are now a more universal group with wider membership and areas of concern. It is felt that we have outgrown the "South Turramurra" identity especially as many of our members live in West Pymble and Fox Valley. An opportunity will be available at the A.G.M. for comments and views on this question. This observation is made bearing in mind however that due processes need to be followed to formalise any change.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER.

A red spot at the top of your newsletter indicates you are unfinancial. There will be an opportunity to pay subscriptions at the A.G.M. or you may use the enclosed account form.

FREEWAY NEWS.

S.T.E.P.'s Position Paper, prepared by John Burke, is nearing completion and will be available shortly. This document will be the basis for formulating a strategy against construction of the F3 from Pearce's Corner to Epping Road with consequent destruction of Lane Cove Valley bushland.

CANOON ROAD NETBALL TRAFFIC PROBLEMS.

The committee is actively working on this matter and hopes to resolve the traffic problems which have frustrated Canoon Road and other residents since the construction of the courts some nine years ago.

KU-RING-GAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

The Council now has a permanent staff of five managing its bushland areas. Our congratulations to Council on building up such an impressive team!

RHUS AND PAMPAS.

Ku-ring-gai Council has generously provided us with the enclosed leaflets on these recently declared noxious weeds. We applaud Council's efforts to enlist community support to remove these problem plants. There are reports from Council that difficulty is being experienced in persuading people to remove these weeds. S.T.E.P. members can help by passing on this information to neighbours and discretely reporting the location of problem plants to Council.

FESTIVAL OF WILDFLOWERS.

S.T.E.P. has again been invited to participate in the Society for Growing Australian Plants (North Shore Group) Wildflower Festival on Saturday and Sunday, 12-13 September, at Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden, Mona Vale Road, St. Ives. We will have a table with information leaflets and booklets for sale. If you can spare an hour or two over the weekend we need help to man the table. No experience necessary. Phone Yvonne on 449-1541.

ADVANCE NOTICE.

Change of date for S.T.E.P.'s Myall Lakes camping weekend--Now 28th and 29th November, 1987.

SUMMARY OF RAIN FOREST TIMBERS LEAFLET (from Rainforest Information Centre, supporting a boycott of rain forest timbers and substituting plantation timbers.)

Each year the world consumes 130 million tonnes of rainforest timber and destroys 11 million hectares of rainforest, much of this as a result of logging.

In Australia we are presently logging out some of the last areas of tropical rainforest. Ninety percent of the rainforest timbers we use are imported, furthering the destruction of South-east Asia's rainforest.

All the rainforest timbers used in Australia today could be replaced with plantation timbers.

Rainforests are the womb of life, home to half the 10 million species of plants and animals on earth. The rainforests were the birthplace of flowering plants and most of our food crops and medicines are derived from them.

The rainforests act as the planet's lungs, cleaning the air, maintaining the CO₂/Oxygen balance and modifying the global water cycle.

Each year humans destroy an area of tropical forest the size of Victoria. Recent estimates claim that 48 species are becoming extinct each day, mainly due to tropical deforestation. If present rates of destruction continue the world's tropical rainforests will be virtually annihilated within a single human lifetime.

"Unless nations change course, we face by the turn of the century an environmental catastrophe as complete, as irreversible, as any nuclear holocaust."

Primary tropical moist forests subjected to commercial logging can be written off as such for the future, because modification reduces them to simplified, moist forest-derived systems.

Logging not only destroys rainforests directly but logging roads give access to other activities which destroy as much forest area as the logging itself. Fire, weeds, plant diseases and feral animals follow the loggers, further degrading the rainforest. In the Third World displaced and landless people move into the newly logged areas and slash and burn for a few years before the infertile soils bake and leach away.

The bulk of imported rainforest timbers are best described as that softish, light-tan or reddish wood used for internal finishing around windows and doors. It is easy to work, with no heavy grain evident and is about twice the price of pine.

Australian rainforest timbers vary considerably in appearance, uses and cost. A large proportion of the rainforest timbers cut in north Queensland are of low quality and are used for structural purposes within the region. Despite the common belief that the rainforests of N.S.W. have been saved, 'specialty purpose' rainforest logging is continuing.

Alternatives: Most rainforest timbers are used for internal purposes. All of these uses can be replaced by plantation softwoods and eucalypt timber where strength is necessary. Also use second-hand timber whenever possible.

Within five years Australia's softwood plantations will supply more than enough wood to replace the rainforest timbers we presently use. In the meantime plantation timbers from New Zealand can fill any shortfall in supply. In Queensland plantations of hoop pine are ready for harvest but are left standing as present demand is low.

Most softwoods imported from North America, i.e. Oregon and Western Red Cedar, are not from plantations. These old growth timbers should also be boycotted.