



STEP INC.

NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 1988.

HERITAGE WEEK. Our Heritage Week activity will be held on Saturday, 23rd April. Yvonne Langshaw will lead a walk to Bungaree, the site associated with Governor Arthur Philip. We will follow the new track prepared by Ku-ring-gai Council. It is a pretty walk, suitable for children, and will be followed by afternoon tea. Meet in Hunter Avenue, St. Ives at 2.00 p.m. Enquiries 449-1541.

SPOTLIGHTING. This STEP outing will take place in our local bushland. Bring a powerful torch and meet Fred Langshaw at the end of Kissing Point Road at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 6th May. We will be accompanied by Andrew Krockenberger from Sydney University who is studying the dietary habits of possums. Enquiries 449-1541.

BUSHWALK. St. Andrew's church and STEP will join forces for a South Turramurra Bushwalk in May. Meet at St. Andrew's, corner Vernon and Chisholm Streets at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday 21st May. Enquiries 449-1541.

BUSH REGENERATION. A good attendance at the teaching session in March ensured plenty of work being accomplished in Cooper Crescent, our regeneration project for 1988. Bush regenerators find it satisfying to assist the nature bushland to recover its vigor after weed infestation. Volunteers are always welcome; bring gardening gloves; tools are provided. The next session takes place at Cooper Crescent on Saturday 30th April, 2-4 p.m. (Note change to Saturday for this month.) Enquiries 449-1541.

THE ENVIRONMENT: VOTE. At the recent State elections, STEP members joined other volunteers in letterboxing and handing out leaflets at polling booths. It was disappointing that no independent environment candidate was elected; however Richard Jones, Democrat and environmentalist was successful. The Member for Gordon, Tim Moore, is Minister for Planning and Environment. Members of STEP may wish to write to him on matters which concern them. One such matter, discussed at the April committee meeting of STEP, is the apparent support of the new government for woodchipping in south-east N.S.W., and the consequent threat to forest land. The south-east has already experienced major losses of native forest and wilderness in recent times.

FAUNA IN LOCAL BUSHLAND. When the STEP report on local bushland was prepared in 1980, it was thought that there were few mammals remaining, and no mammals were listed in the report. A recently begun study has revealed the presence of a larger number and diversity of mammal species than was previously known. Good news indeed.

NETBALL COURTS, CANCON ROAD. The Netball Association has received \$15,000 from the Department of Sport and Recreation for night-lighting of these courts. STEP has always opposed the night-lighting of the courts. Ku-ring-gai Council has not yet determined whether it will approve night-lighting. The Mayor, Alderman Richard Lemon, has always opposed night-lighting, and

has stated, in a recent letter to STEP (in response to a letter from our president) that he will vote against it. STEP members might like to write to Alderman Lennon commending and supporting his stand on this matter.

WARRAGAL ROAD FIRE STATION. This was discussed at the April committee meeting. It appears that the Board of Fire Commissioners have a contract to sell Gordon Fire Station and to establish a new Fire Station on the corner of Pacific Highway and Warragal Road, Turrumurra. Residents are very concerned about this possibility. Ku-ring-gai Council will have the latest information on developments.

STEP COMMITTEE. The committee meets monthly. STEP members are welcome to attend any meeting and to raise any matter with the committee. The next meetings will be held on Thursday 12th May and Thursday 9th June.

MEMBERSHIP. There has been a steady stream of renewals of membership and some new members. There is strength in numbers: if you haven't already renewed, we hope you will do so at once and encourage your neighbours to join.

MAP OF LOCAL WALKING TRACKS. Margaret Booth is continuing the good work on this great project, and expects it will be completed on schedule.

BREAKFAST IN THE BUSH. This function was well-attended, and some new members were welcomed. It was a delightful morning, and the weather co-operated. Thanks to Glenn Johnson for his leadership.

FREEWAY PROPOSALS. The STEP Committee keeps this matter under review. At the moment, no specific development proposals are pending; however, we have written to Tim Moore expressing the hope that lands which were reserved for freeways, and which are no longer required, will be released and handed to a body such as the Lane Cove River S.R.M. for integrated management.

HISTORY OF SOUTH TURRAMURRA. STEP member Elizabeth Dokulil will talk on research she is doing on the history of South Turramurra at the Council Chambers on Wednesday, 20th April at 7.45 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

This newsletter was prepared by Jenny Simons and Yvonne Langshaw.