

SUMMARY of PRESIDENT'S REPORT to A.G.M.

My task has been to try to maintain S.T.E.P.'s role as an active, practical, effective conservation body so far, having achieved a number of important objectives. This success has been due largely to the efforts of the previous president, Helen Petersen, with the dedicated help of her committee. Helen continues to serve not only as a valued committee member, but also in the wider sphere as President of the Union of Lane Cove Valley Conservationists and as a member of Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushland Working Party.

Fuel reduction. Led by Alan Catford, various members and local residents have continued to reduce fuel by the selective hand-clearing method developed by S.T.E.P. In spite of our efforts, Council decided early in the year to burn our area and we had to do some fast lobbying to stave them off. It is considered that work carried out subsequently has provided the required degree of fire protection and native plant regeneration is satisfactory.

Bush regeneration. Yvonne Langshaw led our small team in its painstaking craft of restoring the purity of bushland invaded by exotic plants. The team concentrated on the bushland fringe behind Ashburton Avenue, South Turramurra. People endowed with the necessary zeal but of a patient temperament are sought to bolster the group's numbers. See Yvonne.

Bushland Working Party. S.T.E.P.'s representative on Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushland Working Party is Helen Petersen. The Committee's first achievements have been the production of a pamphlet on bush care and of a film (shown at the A.G.M.) called The Bush Beyond Your Garden. A survey of Ku-ring-gai bushlands by Robyn Buchanan, was near completion. Turning now to its chief role as a policy-maker, the Working Party had recently drafted a policy on control burning. It was vital that the life of the Party be assured by funding which to date had not been forthcoming, and members were urged to express their support.

Bushwalk. S.T.E.P.'s annual bushwalk, in the northern section of the Valley, was attended by about 80, on a fine day (August 15th, 1982), with wildflowers at their best.

Education of the young. Robin Ruys and Janet Catford, assisted by a program mapped out by Margaret Booth, have been pioneering environmental education of pupils at Turramurra Primary School, utilising a small "heritage" area of natural vegetation within the school grounds. Credit goes largely to Robin for the initiation of this D.U.S.C. (Development of the Understanding of Self and Others) program. Independently, Jan Ruys had given a couple of talks to school children.

General Meetings. Two general meetings were held during the year:

1. "Reptiles and Frogs of the Sydney District," by Dr. Harold Cogger, Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians and Deputy Director, Australian Museum.
2. "The Lane Cove River State Recreation Area," by Mr. Ian Brown, the S.R.A. manager.

Both were excellent and well received. We were amazed at the diversity of the frog life of our own district. Mr. Brown's enlightened attitude was noted and beneficial liaison is anticipated. A third general meeting was cancelled in favour of assisting the Tasmanian Wilderness Society at their Hornsby meeting of October 16th.

Committee Meetings. Eight were held during 1982-83. We hope to enlarge the existing committee, and anyone who would like to serve should contact any member of the incoming committee.

N.C.C. At the Annual General Meeting of the Nature Conservation Council of N.S.W., S.T.E.P. submitted a motion on urban bushfire control. This was absorbed into a composite motion. The resolution has assisted the formation of N.C.C. policy. Eleven S.T.E.P. members attended the dinner and heard a talk by that advocate of environmentally and socially acceptable work, Jack Munday.

Regional Plan. Discussions held by the Union of Lane Cove Valley Conservationists led to the submission of a draft Regional Environmental Plan for the Lane Cove Valley to the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr. Bedford. The Plan was initiated by the immediate past president of the Union, Martin Fallding. Mr. Bedford has thanked the Union and promised to forward the submission to the Crown Lands Office.

South-West Tasmania Campaign. In line with our Constitution S.T.E.P. extended its local role by getting behind the campaign to stop the Dam by running a fund-raising barbecue at the Langshaws' home in South Turramurra and by assisting at the Hornsby public meeting.

Bushland management seminar. Several S.T.E.P. members attended a bushland management seminar held by Willoughby Council on 26th March. Helen Petersen delivered a paper on selective hand clearing for fuel reduction and there was much in the other papers to stimulate thought and action. The proceedings are available from the Council, posted, for \$5-00.

* Two films, both extremely well received because of their obvious value and quality were shown:

1. "The Bush Beyond Your Garden," initiated by Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushland Working Party.
2. "A Voice for the Wilderness," by Chris Wilcox, centred on the rainforests of the Hastings and Forbes River Valleys.

NEXT BUSH REGENERATION--Sunday 30th October, 1983, 2.00 p.m.--Meet at end of Canoon Road, South Turramurra. If you would like to join in this rewarding work please contact Yvonne Langshaw on 449-1541.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....
 PHONE.....

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