



S.T.E.P. NEWSLETTER

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"What Bird Is That?"

We hope the title of Neville Cayley's famous book will inspire those interested in local birdlife to formulate questions to ask Dariel Larkins, a leading, local ornithologist, who is guest speaker at the

STEP General Meeting on 14th February.

Dariel, the Conservation Officer with the NSW Field Ornithologists Club, has taken a helpful and active interest in STEP since its formation in 1978. She will speak on birds and on bird banding, work in which she is, actively involved. Questions afterwards will be welcomed. It is impossible, STEP feels, to live in South Turrumurra without becoming interested in the rosellas, fly-catchers, cockatoos, honeyeaters and the many other species which inhabit our bushland and are regular visitors to our gardens. Now is your chance to find out more about them and the work being done to evaluate and preserve them. The meeting is at 8pm in the South Turrumurra Kindergarten, Auluba Rd, and everyone is welcome.

Inquiries to Janet Catford, 449 1658 or to Margaret Booth, 449 3746.

P.T.O.

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Woods in Urban Bushland - The Silent Enemies.

There has been a general public awareness recently of the problem of woods infesting urban bushland: so much so that a symposium was held in November at the Hotel Boulevard to discuss the subject. It was attended by more than 200 people. Vincent Serventy, Allen Stron, and many other experts on bush management saw weeds as the main threat to natural bushland. The meeting felt that the only way this threat could be averted was to use the highly successful Bradley method of bush regeneration, and voted unanimously in favour of a resolution requesting more funds from the State Government to train people in this scientific method. STEP has been using this method for some time in our local bushland, under the direction of a supervisor who is training with the originator of the scheme, Joan Bradley. New members are most welcome.

Inquiries: Helen Petersen, 449.4526.

The Recent Bushfires in South Turramurra - How Damaging Were They?

The pre-Christmas bushfires in our area were a major cause for concern, in that some areas which were burnt in December 1976 were burnt again. Whilst it is true that regeneration of native plants takes place after a fire, every three years is undoubtedly too high a frequency for the preservation of the natural regime, with a danger that species will be lost, and there is obvious impoverishment of the bush through the weakening of the larger trees rendering them more prone to insect attack and consequent dieback.

It was very heartening to see the obvious concern and active assistance of so many local residents at the time of the fires. The survival of our bushland in good condition will ultimately depend on a continuation of this concern, and special vigilance with perhaps early suppression activity at times of high fire risk.