

STEP INC.

Community Based Environmental Conservation since 1978

P.O. Box 697 Turramurra 2074

NEWSLETTER

No 53, September 1991

BONUS ISSUE

This issue of our newsletter is not due until October but has been brought forward because of the council elections on the 14th of September. We also have two STEP functions to remind you about and a third to tell you about.

HEAR JOCELYN HOWELL

Jocelyn Howell, co-author of Taken for Granted, the wonderful new book about Sydney's bushland is speaking to us at 7.45 pm on Thursday 26th of September after the AGM. A separate notice is enclosed which may be useful for hanging on the fridge or wherever such reminders are kept.

A WALK IN TWIN CREEKS

Our spring bushwalk will be held on Sunday October 13th. It will be led by committee member John Martyn who also prepared the enclosed notice. Meet at Howson Oval at 2 pm and have a cup of tea afterwards at Sue Jones' house on Howson Ave.

WILDFLOWERS OF W.A.

We have all heard of the wildflowers of Western Australia but not all have seen them. STEP committee member, John Martyn, has travelled throughout WA in the course of his work for more than twenty years. John understands this country and has collected some excellent slides. We shall advise you of the date and time in

due course but it will be late in October.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

We have STEP members in every ward and hence we offer the following rundown on the most environmentally friendly candidates.

St Ives Ward

Janet Fairlie-Cuninghame (449-8725) and Caron Morrison (449-6797) are the STEP endorsed candidates in St Ives. Janet has been the energy behind KUBES for many years and a tireless worker for environmental issues. Caron is an expert and a real force in traffic matters and is a NCC (Nature Conservation Council) Councillor.

Roseville Ward

Robert Pallin (416-7334) is our recommendation for Roseville. Robert is a businessman and environmentalist. He is chairman of Paddy Pallin Pty Ltd and president of the Lane Cove State Recreation Area Trust.

Comenarra Ward

Elaine Malicki (44-5716) has worked hard and successfully over the past three years to acquire a good knowledge of Council, its aldermen, staff, policies and the laws it operates under. She has been an active supporter of STEP policies and is our endorsed candidate for Comenarra Ward.

Gordon Ward

Peter Derwent (498-4213) is a sitting alderman and has been the most consistent supporter of good environmental issues within Council. We thank him for his past support and wish him every success in this election.

Wahroonga Ward

Jim Mitchell (489-5689) and John Meadows (487-2077) stand out in this field of thirteen in Wahroonga. Both have a good understanding of the environmental issues and are committed to a sound environmental policy.

Current Aldermen

Most of the current aldermen were either generally hostile on many environmental issues to STEP's position or were compromisers. Of course if you compromise by cutting a piece of bush in two many times you will soon destroy it.

In an earlier newsletter we promised to evaluate the current aldermen and so here we give our estimate of how they ranked in terms of implementing policies which STEP supports. Those marked with an * are standing again.

- 1 Peter Derwent *
- 2 David Barnett *
- 3(eq) Malcolm Patterson *
- 3(eq) Richard Geddes *
- 3(eq) Richard Lennon
- 6 Peter Cottrell
- 7(eq) Bob Buttenshaw *

7(eq) Bob Mallyon *
7(eq) Barry Lewis
7(eq) Nanette Lewis

HELPERS WANTED

All the candidates need help in letterboxing and in handing out information on polling day. Getting some environmentally sound people into Council will make an enormous difference. A couple of hours of your time will help them greatly. Please Consider !!

BUSHLAND MANAGEMENT

There is a small crisis in the bushland management section of Ku-ring-gai Council. The departure earlier this year of Parks and Landscapes Manager, Robyn Grimwade, created a hiatus in management the consequences of which are still being felt.

The basic issue is Council's commitment to bush regeneration. A key staff member, Tein McDonald, has resigned because of the problems and the three key bush regeneration management and supervisory positions are now vacant.

At risk is Council's relationship with the 300 or so community regenerators who Tein serviced so well and also the future efficacy of the Council regeneration teams.

We believe that an appropriate answer will be found but are concerned about the harm in terms of morale and loss of expert staff. No organisation can afford to be dismissive about the loss of its skills.

We shall stay with this problem until it is satisfactorily resolved.

COWAN CREEK P.O.M.

The draft of the Plan of Management for Cowan Creek is

now on exhibition at Council. This is the creek which runs between St Ives Chase and North Turramurra. Please go and have a look and, if appropriate, comment.

One of the recommendations of the Plan is for a community based sub-catchment management committee to be formed. If you have an interest in being on this why not register that interest with Council.

CHAE LUNDI

STEP seldom ventures far outside our urban interests but we are unable to think of one justification for logging any old growth Australian forests. It is testimony to the mismanagement of our timber resources that such logging is even considered. We therefore made various submissions on the proposed logging of Chaelundi.

SPORTING FACILITIES

The Ku-ring-gai Sporting Association has been at it again in demanding that bushland and urban amenity be sacrificed for the convenience of netball players.

At a meeting of candidates (conveniently held on the same night as the Comenarra Ward meet-the-candidates meeting so that those candidates could not be present) the sporting people attempted to convince all that the Canoon Road netball courts should be lit, should have increased parking and should have tiered grandstand seating.

The courts are of course an ecological and social disaster and successive councils have adhered to the promise, made when the courts were first built, that no lighting would be installed and that no further bushland would be alienated for parking or otherwise.

STEP members play sport, even netball, and fully support the development of good sporting

facilities in the Municipality. These must, however, be in harmony rather than in conflict with the community surrounding them.

The current initiative for expansion of the Canoon Road facilities without consultation with, and the approval of, the community is selfish and shortsighted. Local communities no longer allow themselves to be bullied as the North Turramurra sporting complex proposal has recently demonstrated.

This proposal cannot be allowed to succeed.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A couple of facts courtesy of Gordon and Suzuki;

*40 hectares of tropical rainforest is being destroyed every minute.

*The world's population is increasing at the rate of a quarter of a million people daily.

It's good to know that in Australia we are doing our bit by keeping our population on an exponential growth curve and by cutting down more of our old growth forests.

STEP'S ROLE

The navel gazing in our last newsletter brought a less than overwhelming response so we must assume that you are happy with the general directions your Committee is taking. [We aren't prepared to contemplate the alternatives that either you don't read this newsletter or that you don't care.]

Authorised and printed by John Burke, 116 Browns Rd., Wahroonga.

Sydney's threatened bushland

can it
be

saved ?

an illustrated talk by

Jocelyn Howell

co-author of the recently published book

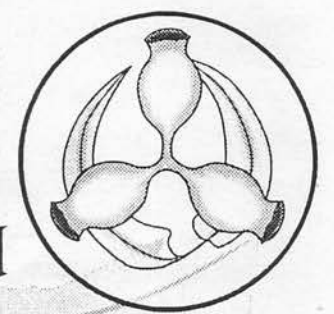
TAKEN FOR GRANTED

The bushland of Sydney and its suburbs

VENUE: St. Andrews Hall, cent. Vennin & Chisholm St, South Turramurra

DATE & TIME: Thurs. 26th September

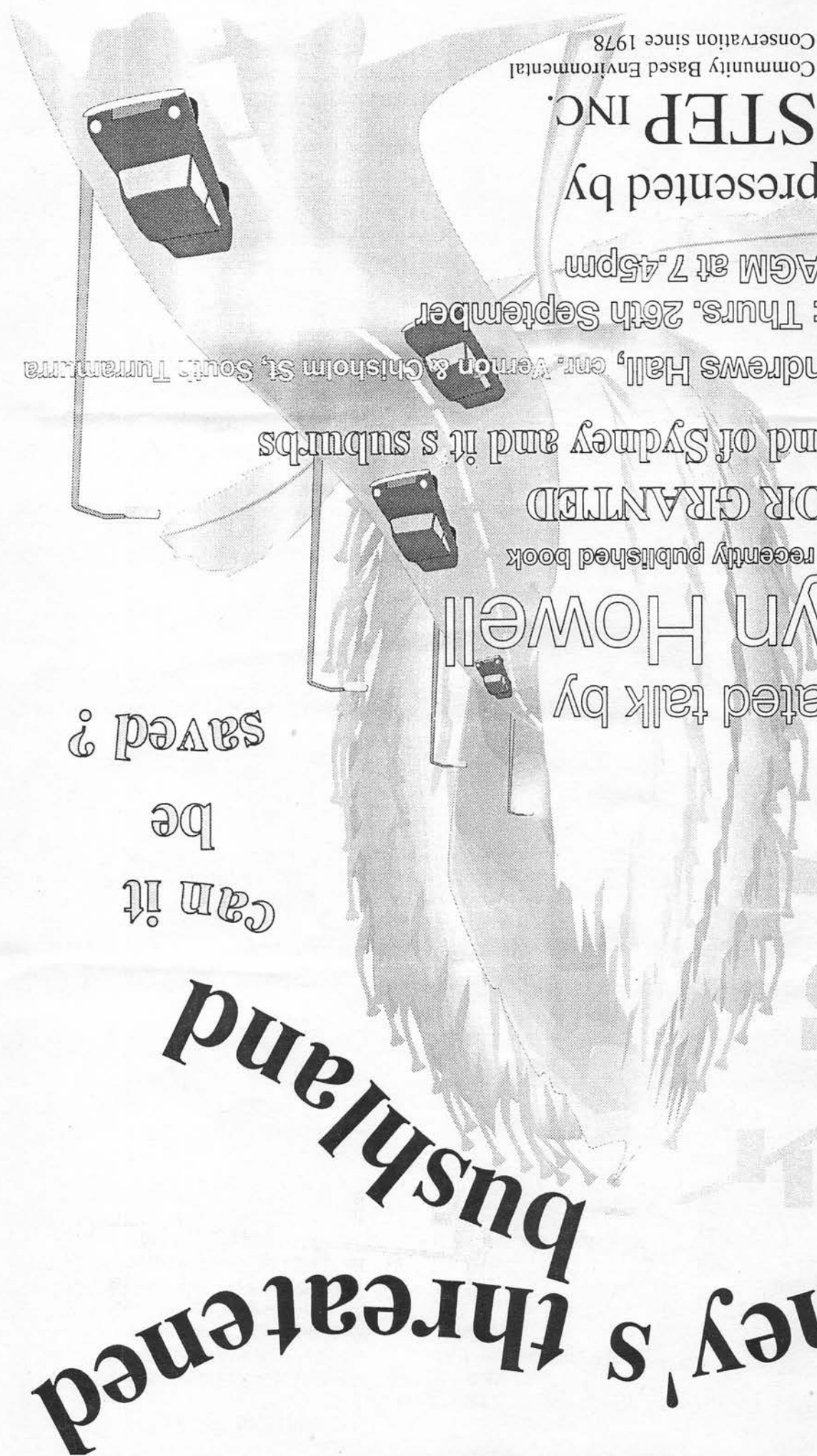
following the AGM at 7.45pm



presented by

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Community Based Environmental
Conservation since 1978



RECYCLED PAPER

Most STEP paperwork, including this newsletter is now produced on recycled paper. Only problems with copying machines which will not process recycled paper sometimes force us to use the unrecycled product.

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