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SOUTH TURRAMURRA ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (S.T.E.P.) NEWSLETTER -- MARCH, 1986.

It has been some time since our last Newsletter, September, 1985 in fact, but yes, S.T.E.P. is alive and well and your hard working Committee has been busy dealing with many environmental issues both local and of wider concern.

Perhaps of most significance is the fact that S.T.E.P. has again been successful in securing Community Employment Program funding for Stage II of the project of Diatrene Rainforest Regeneration at Browns Field, Wahroonga. This is the only project of its kind in Ku-ring-gai Municipality included in the 1986 funding. An amount of \$84,113 has been allocated for a further nine months' work, employing six long term unemployed and disadvantaged people. Work commenced on 7th March with an initial training period by Helen Petersen, our Consultant.

A condition of the grant is that S.T.E.P. commences procedures for becoming incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act, 1984 with money being allocated in the grant for this purpose.

Briefly, incorporation under the Act provides to the Association the capability of suing and being sued and the power to hold, acquire and deal with property. Most importantly Section 16 of the Act affords members and officers of the Association the protection of not being liable to contribute towards "the payment of the debts and liabilities of the incorporated Association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Association."

Obviously incorporation will be of great benefit to S.T.E.P. members. The Committee has consulted a Solicitor and under his direction prepared and approved a draft Constitution embodying the objects of S.T.E.P.'s original constitution, and the rules to comply with the requirements of the Act. This now requires approval of the members at a Special General Meeting, notice of which is attached. The necessary Public Liability insurance has also been effected in conjunction with this year's C.E.P. project.

Following the business meeting the beautiful film--

"A SINGULAR WOMAN"

will be screened. This is a biographical film of the life and times of Marie Byles, lawyer, mountaineer, conservationist, writer and loner.

THURSDAY, 10TH APRIL, 1986, ST. PHILIP'S HALL,
Parkinson Avenue, Turrumurra, Business Meeting
7.30 p.m. followed by the film. Donation \$2-00.

There will also be an interesting selection of goods from the Australian Museum Shop on display and for sale--an opportunity to buy some unusual gifts.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS:

THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY affecting Urban Bushland is being studied and a submission will be forwarded to the Minister.

F3 FREEWAY The letting of the contract for the Berowra to Pearce's Corner section brings closer the construction of the proposed Lane Cove Valley Freeway with its inevitable devastation of the small corridor of bushland in the valley. As well, there is concern at the impact the freeway will have on the communities of Fox Valley and South Turramurra, together with noise, pollution and visual aspects. S.T.E.P. wishes to prepare a position paper on the whole question of the F3 Freeway and seeks an input from members who may have information on the following--

- Are there any rare plants threatened?
- Any articles or studies on any aspect?
- Any petitions from or surveys of residents?
- Any maps or other information?

This is an opportunity to let us have your thoughts and suggestions on this vital issue. Please contact Committee Member, John Burke, 487-3680 if you can help.

COUNCIL'S REPORT TO RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS. You will all have received your Rate Notice for 1986 supported by an attractively presented Report. The report is concise, superficial and some might even say, misleading. Council has been challenged to clarify its claims.

The 1986 Financial Plan claims to cover "Bushland Management" to a massive \$1,163,500. In fact \$87,000 has been allocated to Helen Petersen and her team of three, employed on a casual basis for 12 months. So far Council is unconvinced of the need for a permanent staff officer with professional skills in Bush Regeneration.

A segment is devoted to "Bush Regeneration." This fails to acknowledge the success of S.T.E.P.'s Browns Field C.E.P. financed project; even to mention it. Almost all the activities described were in fact Federal Government funded. The only thing that can be said about the report is that Council does recognise the importance of at least posturing to the conservationist lobby.

N.S.W. WILDLIFE INFORMATION AND RESCUE SERVICE. This Association, WIRRES, has been established to serve as the central and expert service body to deal with queries relating to wildlife. Its functions are to aid native animals in distress or requiring removal to a better habitat and to provide information on wildlife care. In response to a telephone call for help a rescuer will attend the scene, and assess and take what action is necessary. With approval and assistance from the National Parks & Wildlife Service, the Association arranges for the training of volunteer rescuers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer rescuer or in helping in some other way, telephone 977-5380 or write to the Association at P.O. Box 371, Manly, 2095.

OTHER MEETINGS:

Ku.B.E.S. film evening, Thurs, 30/3/86, 8 p.m. Gordon West P.S., Kooyong St., W. Gordon. "Bats of the World" and "Wilderness Areas of N.S.W." \$3. All welcome.

NORTH SHORE GROUP S.G.A.P. Fri. 11/4/86, 7.45 p.m. Willow Park Community Centre, 25 Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby, "Terrestrial Orchids."