

S.T.E.P. PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 1981-1982

PRESENTED AT THE FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL

MEETING ON 10TH JUNE, 1982.

The past year has been very rewarding for S.T.E.P. We have been particularly successful through our representation on Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushland Management Working Party, which was formed just over one year ago. Council agreed to allocate \$60,000 this financial year for the making of an educational film on Ku-ring-gai's bushland, production of a pamphlet to be sent to all residents in the Municipality explaining the do's and don'ts when living near bushland, and for the preparation of a survey which will provide for the first time a complete record of bushland areas under Council's control, together with information on their composition and general state of repair. S.T.E.P. led the way with our Plan of Management for the upper Lane Cove Valley, and is confident that the Working Party will formulate enlightened management policies for adoption by Council.

MEETINGS. Eleven meetings have been held over the past year. Eight were committee meetings and three were general meetings. As in past years the general meetings proved to be very popular. In June leading aviculturist Graeme Phipps from Macleay Museum at Sydney University, talked about the role of the aviculturist in efforts to prevent the extinction of endangered bird species such as the Lord Howe Island Woodhen. In October Alan Catford and I spoke on practical bushfire safety and bush regeneration methods. The S.T.E.P. method of hazard reduction by selective hand clearing was also explained. The hand clearing work carried out by S.T.E.P. over the past two years has been declared satisfactory by Council and by the Board of Fire Commissioners. In February, Marjorie Sullivan, a salvage Archaeologist from the National Parks and Wildlife Service showed slides and gave a most enlightening talk about aboriginal relics.

BUSHWALK. A very successful bush walk was held on 16th August, 1981. Approximately 200 people took part and walked over the S.T.E.P. track. The weather was perfect and the many flowering native plants provided us with a delightful display. Our thanks go to the 1st Kissing Point Venturers who acted as guides and helped S.T.E.P. members with the large crowd.

S.T.E.P. STALL. The yearly S.T.E.P. stall held on 24th April was most rewarding in several ways. New members were recruited, and Plans of Management, Wildlife posters, T-shirts and native plants sold well. We were particularly pleased to sell indigenous trees to mark the United Nations Year of the Tree which began on World Environment Day, 5th June.

NEWSLETTERS. Four newsletters have been distributed to members over the past twelve months. This enables everyone to keep in touch with S.T.E.P. affairs, and is particularly helpful to those who cannot attend regular meetings.

MAP OF WALKING TRACKS IN S.T.E.P. AREA. The S.T.E.P. Committee has started work on a map showing walking tracks in our bushland. It will also show public rights of way, and it is hoped that it will encourage many more people to walk through the bush without the fear of becoming lost, or of encroaching on private property.

GLASS RECYCLING. Because of the interest shown by many S.T.E.P. members in the recycling of glass, several approaches were made by S.T.E.P. to Council and A.C.I. who jointly conduct a collection service. We are pleased to report that South Turramurra has now been included in the collection area.

PLANS OF MANAGEMENT. Plans of Management continued to sell well and are now getting scarce. About 700 copies have now been sold.

UNLUNTEER BUSH REGENERATION TEAM. Yvonne Langshaw has supervised a hard working group on many weeding excursions throughout the past year. The creek at the end of Cove Street has been regenerated and is looking superb. Bush regeneration has also been carried out behind the houses in Ashburton Avenue. Our grateful thanks to all those who take part in this valuable work.

DEATH OF JOAN BRADLEY. Bush regenerators throughout Sydney were saddened at the recent death of the originator of the Bradley Method of Bush Regeneration. As one who was trained by Joan over a two year period, I was deeply shocked at her sudden death. She will be remembered fondly by all of those who worked with her and her valuable contribution to urban bushland will not be forgotten.

MEMBERSHIP. S.T.E.P. has this year attracted a record number of 170 members. This surely proves that conservation is alive and well in the S.T.E.P. area, and that the outgoing committee has been successful in meeting the needs of S.T.E.P. members over the past year.

On a personal note, as a founder member of S.T.E.P. and President for the past three years, I must confess that my life has been considerably enriched by the existence of S.T.E.P. It seems a long time since a small group of local residents joined together in an effort to protect their bushland. As S.T.E.P. members, we should be pleased indeed with our achievements, and be prepared to work hard for further gains in the coming year.

HELEN PETERSEN.
President.