

S.T.E.P.

South Turramurra Environment Protection

Newsletter No.4 April, 79.

The Basic aim of S.T.E.P. is to preserve all remaining bushland in the area for the use and enjoyment of all residents.

To achieve this we have monitored all Ku-ring-gai Council Meetings since the destruction of the Canoon Rd. bushland in May, '78. By use of a roster system of S.T.E.P. members, this activity will be continued.

BUSHWALK

We have organised a bushwalk for Sunday April 22nd, from 1.30p.m. to 4p.m. starting at the end of Kingsford Ave. We shall be following a new trail, visiting areas not seen on previous organised walks.

The walk will be suitable for all ages and we look forward to your support. Afternoon tea will be served. Some native plants will be sold. Inquiries ring Alan Catford 4491658.

DUMPING OF GARDEN REFUSE

This is one of the major problems in urban bushland as the dumping of garden refuse and lawn clippings quickly causes unspoilt bushland to become weed infested. As well, it is illegal.

Many people seem unaware of the damage they do, believing that this kind of vegetable matter cannot harm the bush.

Plants such as privet, pampass grass, asparagus fern, no matter how attractive, are undesirable plants to grow near bushland because of their vigorous seeding habits.

Another undesirable practice is the growing of vines on trees. Not only can the vine kill the host tree through covering foliage, but can cause untold damage through harboring unseen insect pests.

WEEDING GROUP

Because of our concern for the bush, S.T.E.P. has formed a weeding group which once a month weeds various areas of the local bushland. The aim of this weeding is to maintain the natural bush and in order to do so we follow the scientific method of weeding devised by Joan Bradley as set out in her book "Bush Regeneration".

New members are extremely welcome. Phone Helen Petersen 4494526.

Meetings of S.T.E.P. take place in members homes on the ^{2nd Thurs.} of each month. New members are most welcome. Phone 4492389 - any inquiries will be gladly responded to.

The Annual General Meeting will take place in June at which the speaker will be a most interesting one. Watch for further details.

N.B. Don't forget the bushwalk 22nd April.

THE NETBALL COMPLEX

In April last year, Council accepted a petition from the Ku-ring-gai Netball Association which said regarding the Canoon Rd site ".....and we are grateful to Council that this development will not impose upon the environment and residents or intrude into their enjoyment of the area."

At the time S.T.E.P. fought vigorously to point out that this was not and could never be, true, so now South Turramurra has the sad loss of 12 ½ acres of weed free bush, plus the enormous traffic problem generated by masses of netballers who come not just from Ku-ring-gai, but from many other parts of Sydney to play here.

Council predicted 160 car movements extra per hour - we suggested some three times that - and no prizes for guessing who was correct once again.

Of course what they do with the courts- which are not being fully utilised even now - with declining netball numbers, is anyone's guess.

However the problem is basically one of access - one road in, the same road out. (The solution is obvious - bulldoze the houses below the complex and spend half a million on a new road!) However the budget has already been exceeded enormously, so it is now up to the Netball Association to do their bit to ease the burden they have placed on the area. Many times we have suggested using parent rosters, buses, and other less congesting methods of transport, but apparently the Netball Association is not yet able to co-operate in that area. We feel that more pressure should be applied. letters etc.

Excessive noise from loud speakers too must be eradicated.

We hope the people responsible for this muddle, our two ward aldermen can do something for the people who live in this part of their ward.

SO BUSHWALK IN WHAT IS LEFT - 22ND APRIL.