



STEP INC

NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY, 1988.

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* U R G E N T --- W E D N E S D A Y *
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POLITICIANS AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. A meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th February, convened by KuBES (Ku-ring-gai Bushland and Environmental Society) and STEP to enable people interested in conservation issues to hear and question

- Tim Moore, M.P. Shadow Minister for the Environment
- Milo Dunphy, Candidate for Environment Group, N.S.W. Legislative Council
- Richard Jones, Democrat candidate for N.S.W. Legislative Council.
- Simon Jeans, Labour Party candidate for Ku-ring-gai.

Place: St. Margaret's Uniting Church Hall, Eastern Road, Turramurra.

Time: 8.00 p.m.

Date: Wednesday, 24th February.

Key issues will include local government powers, urban transport, urban planning, urban bushland and public participation in planning. Other environmental issues can be raised at question-time.

THE ENVIRONMENT VOTE. Three environmental candidates are standing for the N.S.W. Legislative Council. As Independents, they are organizing their own campaign. Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of some of their material, entitled ENVIRONMENT VOTE. One of the candidates, Milo Dunphy, will attend the meeting on February 24 detailed above.

In view of the importance of the Environment Group, the STEP Committee resolved to donate \$100 to their campaign. It was stated that if all members of environmental groups voted for this ticket, then at least one candidate would get in. Helpers for letterboxing and manning polling booths are requested. Phone contact 49-8000.

BREAKFAST IN THE BUSH. Our next STEP activity will be an informal get-together around a breakfast campfire. B.Y.C. breakfast--and a camp stool if you wish.

Date: Saturday, 12th March.

Time: 7.30 - 9.00 a.m.

Place: Meet and park at corner of The Broadway and Leuna Avenue, Wahroonga. We will walk 6-7 minutes down a steepish fire trail to our breakfast spot.

The event is cancelled if the weather is wet. Further details: Glenn Johnson, Committee Member, 489-2722.

HERITAGE WEEK. A walk on the new Bicentennial Track to "Bungaroo" on Middle Harbour Creek is STEP's chosen activity for Heritage Week. The track commemorates an exploring party to areas north of the harbour led by Governor Phillip in the early days of the First Settlement. The bushland remains largely in its natural state. Remember that friends and neighbours of STEP members are always welcome at our activities.

Date: Saturday, 23rd April.

Time: 2-5 p.m.

Place: Meet at entrance to bushland, Hunter Avenue, St. Ives.

Afternoon tea will be provided at the end of the walk. Further details: Yvonne Langshaw, President, 449-1541.

STEP ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME. Two activities are detailed above. We hope you will be able to join in. For your convenience, a separate sheet listing STEP activities for 1988 is attached to this newsletter. We hope you will detach it, put on your notice-board, and mark your diary with our activity dates.

ACF VOLUNTEERS. Janet Catford advises that ACF--The Australian Conservation Foundation--is in urgent need of volunteers to help with its shop. If you think you could spare even a small amount of your time to help, please ring Janet to discuss, on 449-1658.

STEP'S NAME. We are now officially known as STEP Inc. As you will recall, this change of emphasis in our name was thought desirable, in recognition of the broadening of our membership and activities.

MEMBERSHIP. The importance of your membership of STEP cannot be exaggerated. We have an active, effective organisation, and need the support of as many residents as possible to back up the hard-working committee, and to demonstrate to councils, governments and statutory authorities that local people care about the quality of the natural environment, and are determined to preserve it for future generations. If you are a lapsed member, we hope you will rejoin; if you are a current member, we hope you will renew your membership annually. Membership enquiries may be made to Geoff Suggate, Treasurer, 449-4029.

In order to bring our organisation to the notice of other local residents, we are including an extra copy of this newsletter and activities Programme in this mailing. We hope you will assist by passing it to a neighbour or any other person who would be interested in joining and supporting us.

BACKDCR BUSHLAND. Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of a sheet issued by Ku-ring-gai Council. STEP Committee members have read the Management Issue Statements, and made minor suggestions. In general the Statements were approved of. Notice that comments can still be made to Council, closing date 26 February. Your comments--even a short paragraph--on any of these issues would show Council that its work to develop a comprehensive and worthwhile plan of management for urban bushland is appreciated by residents.

BUSHLAND MANAGEMENT. Several members of STEP are members of the Ku-ring-gai Council's Bushland Management Working Party. This working party met 10 times during 1987 at the Council Chambers, and dealt with an enormous variety of local environmental issues.

FERAL CATS. The problem of feral cats in urban bushland has been raised in the newsletter of the Thornleigh Area Bushland Society, which is received regularly by STEP. Did you know that local pounds will lend (on deposit) suitable trapping cages, will accept caught cats and arrange for their disposal? It is suggested that a public awareness campaign together with local government legislation, would go a long way in reducing the problem of the dumping of unwanted animals.

KU-RING-GAI BICENTENNIAL PARK. You may have noticed the activity in West Pymble. It is good news that Council will use local species in the landscaping and planting of the park.

THE SOIL LANDSCAPES OF THE KU-RING-GAI MUNICIPALITY. A splendid publication of this name is now available from the Council. It contains detailed information on slopes, soil types and landscapes in our local area.

