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BUSHRANGER

Newsletter of the
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

February 2015

Meeting 10 February 7.30pm
Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner,
Kenneth St & River Rd.

LANE COVE FORUM **NSW STATE ELECTIONS**
MEET THE CANDIDATES- FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT

THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2015, 7PM
St Andrews Uniting Church, 47A Kenneth St,
Longueville. Light supper, donation at door

**Our population is growing and development is
booming BUT is the Lane Cove electorate
getting a raw deal?**

How is planning, development and infrastructure
to benefit the community? Are there some do's
and don'ts and how can we get it right?

In anticipation of the NSW State Elections in
March, Join us for a fascinating evening of
discussion about development issues in LC
**and the Lane Cove launch of Planning for
People: a Community Charter for Good
Planning in NSW.**

MC: Genia McCaffery, former long-serving
Mayor of North Sydney
Speakers

Rod Simpson (Associate Professor Urban Design,
Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney):

The importance of Public Participation.

Kylie Bryden-Smith: *Community experience in
the development of the Mowbray Precinct.*

Invitations have been issued to Candidates for
the seat of Lane Cove to speak on planning and
development issues.

Hosted by the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation
Society and a number of other local associations.

What we have done

On 19 December we wrote to the three candidates for
the Lane Cove electorate, Anthony Roberts, Liberal,
sitting member; Andrew Zbik, Labor; Pierre Masse,
Greens, seeking a reply to two questions of concern
to our members:

- 1) What are your party's key environmental
policies for the 2015 election?
- 2) If elected, what would be your major
environmental priority/priorities (max three)?

Replies are included on page three of the newsletter.

D223/14 – 27 – 43 Little Street, Lane Cove

This development deviated from agreed standards in
a number of ways. For example, to quote from the
letter we sent:

"The [developer's] report states ... that the
landscaping plans comply with the requirements in
the DCP for indigenous plants to the visible areas and
that landscaping require a minimum of watering.

"The list of plant species proposed for this site
completely belies this statement. The use of *Magnolia
soulangeana* as the major tree along Little Street is
an insult to Council's landscaping policy. This
Landscape Plan should be totally rejected and the
applicant made to comply with the DCP
requirements."

Why do developers keep trying it on?

In other news

Amalgamations?

This time last year, we were reporting on the proposal to
amalgamate Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Mosman, North
Sydney, Ryde (part), Willoughby or combine as a strong
Joint Organisation.

What's happened since?

At the special Lane Cove Council meeting on the 19th
January, our president Ruth Neumann reiterated the
Society's strong support of Council and its motions on "no
forced amalgamations". In March and June 2013 the
Society made detailed submissions to the Local
Government Review Panel arguing against larger
amalgamated councils.

Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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Our submission concluded:

"Lane Cove Council works. It is genuine local government and it is as financially sustainable as the present funding system allows. It's not perfect, but we see no benefits in amalgamation as it would no longer be genuine local government..."

We continue to stand by this view and offer Council our strong support in the fight against council amalgamations. Our opposition to amalgamated councils includes a stand against both forced and voluntary amalgamations. To this effect we would encourage our Councillors to also clearly affirm to the LC community that it also stands against voluntary amalgamations. This would reinforce publicly with the community the importance of our current local democracy and representation as well as our strong sense of a LC community.

A Sad and Fond Farewell

Former President Corinne Fisher and family are taking a well-deserved long holiday from the bustle of Lane Cove and government-induced stress. Our Treasurer Andrew Fisher and Bush Kids treasure Alyson Hayes (aka Mrs Fisher) are moving to New Zealand. We wish them well. We will miss their active contribution to the Society and the community of Lane Cove.

So we need a new Treasurer. If you are interested, or know anyone who would be willing to take on this regular but not onerous role, please contact Ruth Neumann, 0409 609 940,

Another Award

Congratulations to Ray and Elma Kearney and the Sydney Fungal Studies Group on their NSW Green Globe award in the "Natural Environment Sustainability" category.

News Just In

LCBCS's application for an NCC member small grant has been successful. The NCC judging panel has decided to award \$1000 to the Trees in YOUR street project.

NSW "10/50" Code: recent developments and what's next?

At the end of last year, the LCBCS hosted a community meeting with the aim of establishing a new campaign leadership group to carry forward the great work Corrine Fisher and Gaye White have done to stop Code 10/50 clearing in Lane Cove. A small number of people from various areas of greater Sydney volunteered to be part of that group and our new member Gaye White is heading up this strategy group.

The NCC executive met in January and agreed that it would call for **the complete and immediate withdrawal of 10/50 clearing code of practice** rushed into law by the NSW Government on 1 August 2014.

This new leadership group has subsequently met with the NCC's Code 10/50 project officer Karl Beckert. The outcome of that meeting was that everyone agreed to support the NCC's call for the complete and immediate withdrawal of Code 10/50. Subsequently the NCC has resolved to seek the repeal of legislation as well. To quote the NCC's website "The government must immediately repeal and withdraw this rule which is transforming Sydney's leafy suburbs."

The Society supports this position. We note that the legislation cannot be repealed before the election. However, we understand that a moratorium or withdrawal of

the Code can occur at any time even though it is being reviewed.

On the 27 January the LCBCS Executive resolved that the Society call for a repeal of the legislation and in the interim, a moratorium or withdrawal of the Code. We will continue to support the strategy group's campaign.

Australian Ethical Investment

We have been contacted by Australian Ethical, who suggested that their values are aligned with ours in more ways than one. Members may wish to have a look at what they offer. See www.australianethical.com.au



The future of Bush Kids

Lane Cove Bush Kids has been partially funded by a grant from the NSW Environmental Trust, which ran out in December 31 2014. The Society has been planning the continuation of this highly successful program for some time. Negotiations with Lane Cove Council for the next year and possible the following year are reaching what we believe will be a satisfying cooperative arrangement for all. The overall intention is to strengthen the existing LCC school holiday program and to develop the current Lane Cove Bush Kids program to a point where within two years it is self-sustaining and will return fully to the Bushland Society.

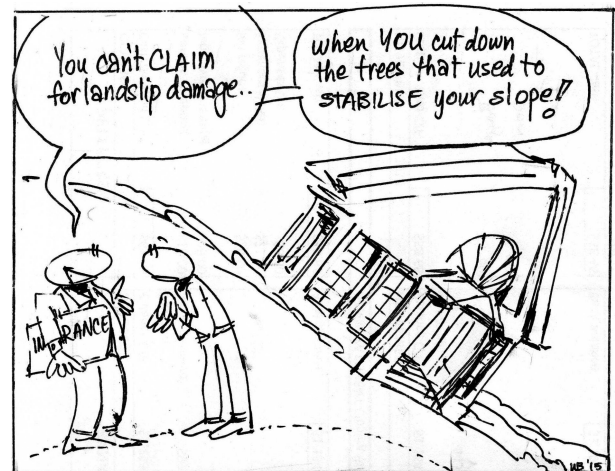
We are glad the Council has recognised a good thing when they see it!

Tree non-preservation

We know that the 10/50 legislation overrides tree preservation policies, but Wyong Council wants to take it further. An amendment to the current well considered Tree Management DCP (No 14) is proposed which will permit:

"The pruning or removal of **any tree or vegetation** on land within the following zones, that has an area less than 1500 square metres:", **without any consent from Council**. The zones include most residential areas. One of this policy's objectives is to: " To provide a streamlined process for practical tree management within urban areas." This is likely to be considered at the Council's March 11 meeting. If you know anyone in the area, you could ask them to oppose this wholesale clearing policy. This resembles the NSW government's "reduction of red tape" justification for the 10/50 legislation.

We know this couldn't possibly happen in Lane Cove.



The Candidates' responses to our questions for the coming election:

Reply from Pierre Masse, Greens Candidate:

1) What are your party's key environmental policies for the 2015 election?

Planning and Development

The Greens have been very supportive of the work of the Better Planning Network and fully endorse the Community Charter for planning which advocates a planning system based on fairness, equity, and ecologically sustainable development. We also oppose the 10/50 code being used in urban areas, leading to the wholesale destruction of trees. The Greens, Greens candidates, and I have signed up to the charter.

Environment and mining

Coal mining has no place in a modern, technologically advanced society, while Coal Seam Gas mining represents a real risk of poisoning our water supply. The Greens are staunchly opposed to the exploitation of Coal Seam Gas because of its adverse consequences for water supply, agriculture, and climate change.

2) If elected, what would be your major environmental priority/priorities (max three)?

- An immediate moratorium on the 10/50 code in urban areas, and the development of a planning system adopting all the recommendations of the Community Charter for planning.

- Ensuring CSG remains in the ground. I see enormous opportunities in developing renewables to benefit the environment, employment and industry. 100% renewable NSW is feasible.

- Gore Bay Shell terminal. The Greenwich community has strong concerns about this new threat (refined fuels rather than crude oil), but also strong reservations about Shell (or the new owners, Viva Energy Australia) vacating this site. I believe the risks associated with the new use of this fuel terminal must be managed in a 'world's best practice' way and will work hard to achieve this. The storage and transfer of diesel, jet fuel or petrol in the middle of a thriving metropolis is unacceptable. I will work to ensure this site is eventually rehabilitated and returned to the community for community use.

I urge members to look at NSW Greens policies at <http://nsw.greens.org.au/policy>

Pierre Masse, Lane Cove Greens Candidate

Reply from Andrew Zbik, Labor Candidate:

1) What are your party's key environmental policies for the 2015 election?

To Impose a Ban Coal Seam Gas Exploration in NSW

Labor supports a permanent ban on coal seam gas activity in the core water catchment areas of Sydney and the Illawarra. The Sydney water catchment consists of Warragamba, Woronora, Upper Nepean, Blue Mountains and Shoalhaven. These supply drinking water to 60 per cent of the State's population.

To Create a Sydney Harbour Marine Park

A Labor Government will protect the world renowned Sydney Harbour by creating a dedicated Sydney Marine Park – to ensure its precious beauty and diversity will be enjoyed by future generations. The Sydney Marine Park will

extend from Pittwater to Port Hacking, incorporating Sydney Harbour, Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers, Middle Harbour, Pittwater, Narrabeen Lakes, Dee Why Lagoon, Botany Bay and Port Hacking. It will also extend three nautical miles off the coast to the limit of State waters. To ensure the new park is properly designed and effectively managed. Labor will establish an advisory committee consisting of representatives from marine conservation, marine science, Indigenous communities, Surf Life Saving Clubs, the tourism industry, recreational fishers, scuba divers, commercial fishers; and local councils.

To Halt The 10/50 Tree Clearing Rule

NSW Labor has called upon the NSW Liberal Government to halt the operation of the 10/50 rule until a Parliamentary Inquiry is completed.

To Reinstate a Renewable Energy Target

NSW Labor at the 2014 Labor State Conference called for the reinstatement of the Renewable Energy Target, which mandated 41,000 gigawatt-hours of solar, wind and other renewable sources by 2020.

To Return Local Planning Controls To Local Communities and Residents.

The bill that the Liberal – National Government brought to the Legislative Council in November 2013 delivered no balance either in the city or the bush, skewing the whole process toward developers and miners. There was no "returning planning powers to local communities", the community was left behind. The Total Environment Centre and Nature Conservation Council of NSW described the bill as "the most significant backward step in public participation and environment protection in more than a decade". Labor worked constructively to improve the legislation. In the Legislative Council, Labor gained the support of cross bench members for 46 amendments to the bill. It remains completely unclear what the Government intends to do with its own planning legislation. Months later nothing has happened. The amendments in the Legislative Council were aimed at:

- a) Restoration of the balance between economic, environmental and community needs
 - b) Restoration of the community's right to have its say
 - c) Restoration of provisions to allow the inclusion of affordable housing in new developments
- <http://lukefoley.com.au/lukefomp/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Planning-For-Growth.pdf>
<http://lukefoley.com.au/campaigns/planning>

2) If elected, what would be your major environmental priority/priorities (max three)?

- 1) To cease CSG exploration. Especially to protect water catchment areas and national parks.
- 2) To reinstate a renewable energy target.
- 3) To return local planning powers and the ability of local residents to have input into local planning and environmental policies (As outlined in Luke Foley's summary above).

Andrew Zbik, Labor Candidate for Lane Cove

Reply from the office of Anthony Roberts, Liberal Candidate:

"Anthony Roberts has been contacted and a personalised response will be coming shortly".

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