



ISSN 0727 7717

# BUSH RANGER

Newsletter of the  
Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

May 2015

**Meeting 12 May 7.30pm**  
**Lane Cove Tennis Club, Blaxlands Corner,**  
**Kenneth St & River Rd.**

## 10/50 and Stop the Chop

### A new Minister and more challenges.

From the Daily Telegraph April 24, 2015:

' Emergency Services Minister David Elliott said he would now consider expanding regulations — which allow trees within 10m of homes to be chopped down to mitigate bushfire risk — to take in storms as well.

*"In the same way that we've got the 10/50 rule for bushfires, I think it is time to review whether or not to amend any regulation surrounding trees — particularly that place a risk to houses and electricity sources during storms and floods. This is something that is on my radar," Mr Elliott said. "Any changes would need to ensure that homeowners always acted within the spirit of the law."*

**We are sure someone will ask the Minister how he proposes to ensure that homeowners will act within the spirit of the law when we know that under the guise of the self-regulation provisions of the 10/50 legislation over 5000 trees have been cleared on the North Shore alone.**

Many of these trees are endangered and are home to hundreds of animals including possums, gliders and Koalas. Minister Elliot's statement has provided us with a unique opportunity to show him these ideas are most unwelcome and we will not stay silent while our beautiful neighbourhood trees are being destroyed under a totally unscientific premise. Please help us to send this message to David Elliot loud and clear. .

The most powerful thing that you can do is to visit Minister Elliott's office: The Hon. David Elliott, MP Suite 1/25-33 Old Northern Road Baulkham Hills

If you can't make it to his office, the next best thing is to give his office a call. Whilst it is unlikely you will be able to speak to the Minister directly, leaving a message with reception will ensure our message is heard. (02) 9686 3110 (Baulkham Hills) or (02) 8574 6290 (Ministerial Office).

If you simply don't have the time you can send an email or a letter to the Ministers office voicing your concerns. [baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:baulkhamhills@parliament.nsw.gov.au) and [office@elliott.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@elliott.minister.nsw.gov.au)

We understand that the review of the 1050 code and legislation is nearing completion or has been completed and that many within the RFS and the government would like to see them improved significantly or removed entirely.

### However the new Minister's pronouncement casts doubt on hopes for improvement.



### New roles

As you know, the Stop the Chop campaign is a subcommittee of the Society and is convened by Gaye White. However we are very pleased to announce that Kaine Johnson, Community Organiser NSW of The Wilderness Society Inc. will take over the 10/50 campaign's strategy and coordination. This will clearly add weight, experience and expertise.

**Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc**

**Inquiries** Ron Gornall 9427 1125

**e-mail** [lanecove\\_bushland@yahoo.com](mailto:lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com)

**Address** PO Box 989 Lane Cove NSW 1595

**News Distribution** Win Chandler 0418 932 639

**Website** [www.lanecovebushland.org.au](http://www.lanecovebushland.org.au)

This includes:

Issuing the regular newsletter  
Updating the Facebook page  
Regular updates to our Society  
Campaign planning and strategy  
Meetings and discussions with decision makers  
Ongoing communications with stakeholders  
... including key Stop the Chop supporters  
Campaign escalation as required  
Monitoring and tracking media and regular publications

### Keep in touch with the campaign:

[www.facebook.com/chopstoppers](http://www.facebook.com/chopstoppers) Twitter: @chopstoppers

## What we have done

### 10/50 vegetation clearing code & the RFS

Kerry Heatley LCC's Open Space Manager, gave us an update on her negotiations with the RFS over the classification of our reserves and new measurements were being submitted. We are aiming to have entitlement areas reduced to nil. The negotiations continue.

The RFS response to our letter on the 10/50 legislation and code is on our website.



Bookings are essential.  
[enquiries@lanecovebushkids.com.au](mailto:enquiries@lanecovebushkids.com.au)  
Keep in touch with  
[facebook.com/lanecovebushkids](https://www.facebook.com/lanecovebushkids)

Tea and coffee is provided at these activities. LCBCS members attend free. Non-members \$5 per

child. This program is supported by Lane Cove Council

### Bug Spot 2-5yrs Wed 13 May 10.00 – 11.30am

Learn about bugs and where to find them! Includes bug story, bug spot and bug craft. Tambourine Bay Reserve, Riverview.

### Water Wonders 3-5yrs Mon 25 May 10.00 – 11.30am

What will you discover as we go for a bushwalk following the creek at Smoothey Park? Includes a story and craft.. Smoothey Park, Greenwich.

### Lovely Leaves 3-5yrs Fri 12 June 10.00 – 11.30am

Have you ever looked closely at the myriad of leaves we have around us? Leaf discovery walk, story and craft.. Blackman Park, Lane Cove West.

**Bush Care (Adults)** Come and join other parents of Bush Kids to care for an area of bushland in Lane Cove. This is a fun hands-on activity. No experience required. We have a supervisor from Council on site.

## Rosenthal Development

We can bring you some more tidbits of information on this proposed development.

We learn from Council's October 2014 submission to the Minister for Local Government on becoming "Fit For The Future", that this \$45 million development

will: "Under the leasing arrangement in the medium to long term the project will provide a revenue stream to Lane Cove Council."

At its meeting on 20 April 2015 council resolved in **closed committee** on the motion of Councillors Bennison and Hutchens that Council:-

1. Receive and note the feasibility analysis for the proposed redevelopment of the Rosenthal Car Park site;
2. Proceed with further actions to progress the feasibility analysis as outlined in the report;
3. A further report to come back to Council on the outcomes; and
4. Note that the public parking arrangements for the Rosenthal Avenue Car Park is to be 3 hours free.

This raises more questions. Why can't the public know what the feasibility analysis proposes? Other than a "redevelopment of the Rosenthal Car Park site", what is being analysed?

Feasibility must involve costs and funding. When will Council release any information on these matters?

**The lack of disclosure under the cloak of "commercial in confidence" on this very significant development is disturbing and reduces one's confidence in Council's transparency.**

## In other news

### Wyong Council – Storm-Choppers!!

Most Sydney or near-Sydney councils have tree preservation orders similar to Lane Cove's, however Wyong Council seems intent on clearing trees, perhaps to encourage development. We hope other councils don't follow its example.



Wyong's Council's press release:

*"Council adopts new tree policy at Extraordinary Council Meeting:*

*"Council unanimously adopted a new tree policy to make it easier for landowners to remove trees, in response to the significant damage caused to properties by fallen trees in the recent storms.*

***"A landowner will now be able to remove any tree or vegetation, unless endangered, on residential properties less than 1500m<sup>2</sup> in size, without an application to Council.***

*"For landowners with properties larger than 1500sq metres, trees within 12 metres of any structure can also be removed without having to apply to Council.*

*"Council can assist landowners in identifying an endangered tree and residents are urged to contact Council if they are unsure.*

*"Whilst legally the policy comes into effect once the public notice appears in the local paper, within the next 5 to 10 days, Council will no longer be enforcing the old policy."*

Mayor Eaton OAM said:

*"On an average block in the Shire you will now be able to remove a tree without permission from Council. This is a logical and sensible reaction to what has occurred. We are cutting red tape and giving residents the right to protect their homes and families."*

***If this was applied to Lane Cove, denudation could occur everywhere.***



## Upcoming events:

### LCB&CS activities :

**Cameraygal Festival.** 7 August- 11 October 2015.  
LCBCS Plant Stall 12 Sept in Plaza (including Bush Kids activity).

LCBCS stall in Sustainability Lane stall including a Bush Kids activity.

A possible bushwalk around North Head or a trip to Mt Annan Botanic Gardens.

### NCC Grant: The trees in your street

We have a \$1,000 grant from the Nature Conservation Council to conduct an educational campaign to promote the role and value of trees in our suburb, bushland and gardens. At our last meeting, there was discussion as to how the Society could generate and forward ideas.

Lane Cove Council is also working on an 'adopt a tree' concept to replace the lost trees, promoted through BMAC.

We invite and encourage members to forward ideas to Win Chandler, Frances Vissel and Shauna Forrest who will bring them to the 12 May meeting. [Win.chandler@gmail.com](mailto:Win.chandler@gmail.com), [fvissel@gmail.com](mailto:fvissel@gmail.com) [shaunaforrest@bigpond.com](mailto:shaunaforrest@bigpond.com)

### New brochure

Shauna Forrest would also like ideas for new information brochures about the Society.

### NCC celebration

The Nature Conservation Council will be celebrating its 60th birthday later this year with an exhibition at The Australian Museum to which the Society will be contributing.

### Chemical CleanOut – Sunday 10 May 9 – 3:30pm

Lane Cove's Sustainability Newsletter informs us this is a free service for the safe disposal of a range of household chemicals, including pesticides, pool chemicals, paints, oils, gas bottles and fluorescent light bulbs. For the full list of items that can be collected and a list of alternative dates and venues throughout the year visit [www.cleanout.com.au](http://www.cleanout.com.au).

Medowbank Park, Netball Courts car park, Adelaide Street, Medowbank.

**Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc**

**Inquiries** Ron Gornall 9427 1125

**e-mail** [lanecove\\_bushland@yahoo.com](mailto:lanecove_bushland@yahoo.com)

**Address** PO Box 989 Lane Cove NSW 1595

**News Distribution** Win Chandler 0418 932 639

**Website** [www.lanecovebushland.org.au](http://www.lanecovebushland.org.au)