



Dear Members,

Enclosed with this letter is the Notice of AGM, a flyer for Dr Leigh Martin's talk, a subscription form, and a summary of my address at the 50th Anniversary celebration.

The AGM is being held at 6 pm on 23rd March in the Mosman Art Gallery.

The AGM is usually held at the end of the year, but in 2014 this would have followed too closely upon the 50th Anniversary, so it was decided to hold the AGM early in 2015 instead.

Subscriptions: For many years subscriptions have been held at \$6 for a single member, \$10 for a household and \$3 for a pensioner or student.

Your committee has decided that an increase in these amounts is reasonable and we hope that the increase will not discourage your membership.

The new subscription rates will be:

- \$10 for a single member
- \$20 for a household
- \$5 for a pensioner or student

Usually requested during the first half of the calendar year, they were overlooked in the run up to the 50th Anniversary. So they are now due for the 2014/15 year.

The 50th Anniversary Celebration was a great success. Members, members of the public and Sydney environmental groups from Hornsby to Malabar were taken on tours of the Bradley Bushland Reserve and then gathered in the Drill Hall to view a display of native plants, a film (made for the 40th anniversary) and newspaper cuttings recording the Association's 50 years of activity.

Speeches detailing that history and congratulating the Association for its persistence were made by your president, by Mayor Peter Abelson, by the Total Environment Centre's Jeff Angel and by Greens MLC David Shoebridge to an audience of around 150. Current concerns such as the 10/50 Vegetation Clearance law and the Middle Head Aged Care proposal were also addressed.

The objective of the celebration was to raise the awareness of parks and bushland and their value to our suburb.

Thanks go to all who helped - committee, members, the devoted team of bush regenerators who worked (and continue to work) at the Bradley Bushland Reserve and to staff of Mosman Council for advice and for help on the day.

Looking forward to the next 50 years!

An association like this one will always have challenges. Here are some of the issues facing us at the moment:

1. The 10/50 Code for vegetation clearance. Intended to protect life and property from bushfire, it has been used in metropolitan areas and elsewhere to create views, to avoid nuisance and for development. 131 significant trees are known to have been lost in Mosman - none of them for fear of bushfire. Other suburbs report losses in the thousands.

2. The addition of kayak storage to the 3rd Mosman Bay Sea Scouts Hall at Harnett Park. The proposal would cover a large portion of this small green area of open space and will significantly affect views to and from the Harbour. There will always be competition for the use of public land. Your Association believes that urban and foreshore open space and bushland should be maintained for the benefit of the wider public - present and future.

3. Aged Care on Middle Head. At its meeting on 3rd February, Mosman Council resolved that -

i) "The Mayor write to our local Federal Member, Mr Tony Abbott, seeking his direct intervention, to request the Federal Department of Environment review its decision to approve a private aged care facility on public land at Middle Head citing reasons articulated in our previous submission to the Department of Environment"

ii) "Council write to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to request an urgent meeting with The Headland Preservation Group and Mosman Council to discuss the proposal for the aged care facility at Middle Head."

4. NSW Biodiversity legislation. The Biodiversity Legislation Review is now with the Minister for the Environment. The recommendations aim to "improve" legislation and policy for biodiversity conservation and native vegetation management. The Association is concerned that the proposal to amalgamate four current Acts which protect biodiversity will result in a weaker not stronger framework of protection.

We encourage you to attend the AGM on 23rd March to hear more from Dr Leigh Martin.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Eccles

President

February, 2015