



Blue Mountains Conservation Society
Annual General Meeting 30 March 2017

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

A very busy year for the Society has seen our campaign subcommittee members and general membership enthusiastically engaged in a huge volume of activity. This has occurred in the face of an unprecedented attack on environmental values from certain sections of government and the corporate world.

It is a positive note that so many of our membership and the public enjoyed events including the Woman Pioneers in Conservation, Winter Magic, Mick Dark Talk for the Future, Sunset Get-together, Bat Night, regular nursery stalls, and Family Bush Day for which our Environmental Education Officer accepted major responsibility.

Excellent performances by our Treasurer, Society Administrative Officer, Website Officer, Meetings Secretary, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Plant Nursery Coordinator (now retiring), Walks Convenor and others have underpinned the tireless work of campaign subcommittees, especially regarding the proposed airport, Land Use, the Western Blue Mountains and the Gardens of Stone.

Maintaining a sense of participation in broad based state-wide and Australia-wide pro-environment movements is crucial to our morale. Our actions have been complementary to numerous bodies whose interests overlap with our own. These include the Bushcare Network, anti-Western Sydney airport groups, the Lithgow Environment Group and the Environmental Defenders Office as well as the Environment Liaison Office and its many constituent organisations, especially the Colong Foundation for Wilderness and the Total Environment Centre. TEC's interest in the Greater Sydney Commission may help us to defend our very hard won gains in the Land Use area in recent years.

As we face another year, we have a sound platform for the multi-disciplinary approach that will surely be needed in the face of what one retired politician has called "a culture war against nature conservation".

Dealing with excessive urban growth, the proposed airport and dam wall raising, coal mines, resort development, Radiata (Elphinstone) Plateau threats, the horse riding, off-road vehicle and privatisation lobbies will tax the Society's resources to our limits. But we can be cautiously optimistic that we possess the necessary numbers, skills and determination.

Don Morison
President
Blue Mountains Conservation Society
March 2017.