

FRIENDS OF KELLY'S BUSH

Special Edition

50th Anniversary Event 31 October 2021

Dear Friends

What a special time we had on Sunday 31st October when we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the world's first Green Ban - onsite at Kelly's Bush!

We finally got together and, in spite of not having the big event we had planned, the occasion proved to be an intimate and happy affair.

50 years' ago, the 'Battlers' took a stand to fight for their children's right to play in a bushland environment. In this anniversary year, the Friends of Kelly's Bush wanted to pay homage to the courage and determination of those fearless women - and the principled and community-minded men who supported them. We were very honoured that Dr Joan Croll, the last of the band of 'Battlers' and Judy Munday, Jack's widow, were both able to join us.

The event started with a warm welcome to everyone for coming to celebrate this significant anniversary and then proceeded with a formal acknowledgment of the Traditional Owners of the land on which we met.

Before handing over to Mayor Ross Williams to start the proceedings, the secretary thanked him for his constant and enthusiastic support of the Kelly's Bush bushcarers and told the audience that the Mayor had been working tirelessly behind the scenes to find the funds to upgrade the walking track - which has now been achieved and work will start next year!



Two special ladies! Judy Munday (left) and Dr Joan Croll

The Mayor introduced the event with a brief history of Kelly's Bush and the incredible struggle of saving this bushland. He reminded us of the legacy of the world's first Green Ban including inspiring the creation of Germany's Green movement.

We then heard from our two excellent speakers, who have both been intimately connected with Kelly's Bush over the years, and who gave us their own insights into this story.

Meredith Burgmann, former activist, academic and author of *'Green Bans, Red Union, The Saving of a City,'* explained the vital part that the Unions had played in the struggle. Then local celebrity Tim Ross, author, TV personality, and presenter of *Summer Night Walks* video, shared his love of this special piece of bushland and the importance of preserving these natural places.



Meredith Burgmann

In recognition of the young people who supported the Battlers, a Kelly's Bush Junior Art competition had been held, sponsored by the Hunters Hill Trust, and the three winners from the Marist Sisters College were presented with their prizes. One of the young ladies planted a memorial tree on behalf of their school.

And finally, and most importantly, we were delighted that the last of our wonderful band of 'Battlers', Dr Joan Croll, at 94, managed to be with us on the day. It was a moving and memorable occasion!



Tim Ross

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A montage of happy scenes from the day