

Wolli Creek Update

From the Wolli Creek and Bardwell Valley Preservation Society

No.1 March 1987

Round one to the locals

The battle to save the Wolli Creek Valley is starting to show positive gains. In November the Government reversed its pre-election "promise" of 1986 and announced an "indefinite postponement" of the F5 Freeway between Beverly Hills and Tempe.

It appears the government is reassessing the immense financial and political costs of the Freeway proposal. \$370 million is a lot to pay for 25km of road!

Wolli Creek is the last viable area of natural Australia that remains between Sydney Harbour and Botany Bay. This same area supports Sydney's most densely packed residential zones, the majority of Sydney's industry and commerce, and is the city's most environmentally deprived region. The issue is regional not local.

The more the valley is studied the more its potential grows. During 1986, Aboriginal sites (over 20) were recognised, more than 200 species of native plants confirmed, and more native birds previously unseen in the valley were recorded. A large number of schools are using the valley as an outdoor classroom.



The Society realizes that economic rationality, good sense and an overwhelming proportion of the residents of Southern Sydney are on the side of preserving the valley.

Even the younger, more enlightened sections of the ALP support us! On a recent walk conducted by the Society through the Valley, for Young Labor, 100% of participants signed a petition supporting the Society's aims.

The government, or at least a large proportion of it, must have by now heard the clamour for the preservation of the Valley. The recommendations of the Kirby inquiry must be implemented now.

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society is growing rapidly, not only in membership, but also in the size of the campaign and that campaign's impact. Only when the issue of votes starts to raise its head, will the government wake up and respond to community resolve.

In the face of community feeling the Department of Main Roads continues to operate on the principle of "creeping inevitability". The government may be wavering but the DMR has not given up yet. Patches of yellow paint now deface the summit of Nannygoat Hill, evidence of the DMR's recent geophysical survey.

Complacency is the greatest danger to our campaign. The Wolli Creek Valley bushland is in danger of destruction as long as the Road Reservation through the Valley remains and the area remains outside the ambit of the Government's recent (and laudable) urban bushland policy. The lifting of the Road Reservation remains the Society's No1 priority.

Please note - our new address is P.O. Box 270, Earlwood 2206

Wolli Creek Update

Society launches petition campaign

Have your friends signed up yet?

The society has launched a petition based on the recommendations of the Kirby Inquiry.

The petition calls for the release of the F5 freeway corridor and the return of the valley to the people as open space. The petition also calls for all freight containers to be railed between Port Botany and regional distribution depots.

A recent Sunday doorknock in parts of Turrella and Earlwood resulted in 200 signatures in an hour. In some streets nearly every resident signed up. Special thanks to all those who took part; Sue, Judy, Merrick, Heather, Margaret, Pam, Lee and the Johnstons.

Top of the league however is Rhonda Gardiner of Earlwood who has collected

nearly 100 signatures. As we go to press over 1000 signatures have been collected. We need your help in spreading the petition. Copies can be obtained from the Bardwell Park Community Resource Centre (11-13 Hartill-Law Avenue) or by ringing 59 8502.

We the undersigned express our objection to any road through the Wolli Creek Valley including the recent viaduct proposals. We call on the state government to immediately implement the recommendations of the Kyeemagh to Chollara Road Enquiry, especially...

a. To rail all containers between Port Botany and regional distribution depots; and
b. To lift the road reservation in the Wolli Creek Valley and return the valley to the people as open space.

Name _____ Address _____ Signature _____

School's out (side)

Many teachers and students have realised the beauty and richness of the educational resources contained in the outdoor classroom of the Wolli Creek Valley.

An increasing number of schools are now using this bushland area as a resource for teaching a wide range of subjects including biology, maths, language, geography, art and almost every other subject in the curriculum.

The recent announcements of the Minister for Education, Mr Rod Cavalier, proclaiming environmental education as a major component of modern schooling, makes the retention of Wolli Creek as an educational resource an imperative.

Schools which have recently used the area have come from as far away as Liverpool, Annandale and Cronulla and have included

schools from nearby Narwee, Tempe, Earlwood and Rockdale. The Preservation Society has offered the services, skills and knowledge of a number of local people who are keen to show students the rich resources of the valley in a friendly and relaxed manner. Educational books on the Valley are available from the Bardwell Park Community Resource Centre.

On Nov 12 the St. George Teachers Association voted unanimously to support the Society's campaign to save the Valley and donated \$50.

In December an information stall was held at the annual conference of the NSW Teachers' Federation. The stall included a photographic display, Society literature and willing speakers. Keen interest was shown in the Valley.

The South West Sydney Environmental Health Committee is also engaged in the campaign to lift the road reservation. They have been conducting tours for students through the Valley on a regular basis.

Teachers or schools interested in using the resources and skills of the Society or its members should contact John on 398 3053.

FOR YOUR TELEDEX -
The South West Sydney Environmental Health Committee - (Ben Ridsdale) phone 558 519 6



News and gossip

New Birds in Valley

Birds recorded in the valley for the first time in 1986*

Brown Warbler (June)

Eastern Rosella (June)

Marsh Harrier (July)

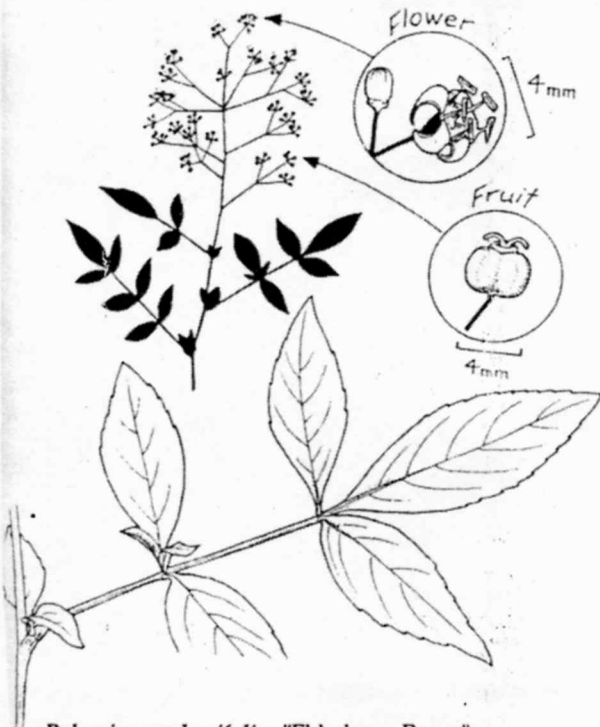
Olive-backed Oriole (Sept)

*by Neil Rankin

New native plant list

At last a definitive native plant list has been produced for the Valley. Les Robinson has combined 3 previous studies with his own fieldwork to put together a complete list of 203 species of native plants.

Copies of the list may be obtained from the Society.



Polyscias sambucifolius "Elderberry Panax"
- one of the dominant native plants in the valley.
Illustration from a book on the plants of Wolli Valley now in preparation.

Did you know?

Did you know that the Princes Highway is the only main route out of Sydney that has no S-lanes? Is the Department of Main Roads artificially increasing traffic congestion in the southern suburbs to support its F5 Freeway proposal?

Diary dates

- **Sunday 15 March**
SBS (Channel 0/28) TV
Be watching for a special community announcement on the Wolli Creek Freeway issue which will be screened in the "Open Window" public television program.
- **Sunday 22nd March**
Valley Walk
Informative picnic day and walk through the valley. Talks by society members on birdlife, plant life, Aboriginal and European history. Bring a picnic lunch, walking shoes, outdoor clothes, hat. Starts - Sunday 11am. Contact - John 398 3053 for information on this and future valley walks.
- **Sunday 29th March - from 9am**
Next petition doorknock.
We need your assistance to get the petition out to more residents in the affected areas and beyond. If you can spare two hours ring Gavin or Lee on 59 8502.
- **Sunday 29th March - from 2pm**
Wolli Creek speakers' training day
A seminar for those who want to speak at public and community organisation meetings on the Wolli Creek issues. Learn from society veterans the key issues in detail and how much weight is on our side. Starts 2.00pm at Bardwell Park Community Resource Centre; 11-13 Hartill-Law Drive, Bardwell Park. (Bookings please - Gavin or Lee on 59 8502)
- **Monday 30th March**
Special General Meeting
Voting on new constitution and incorporation (see next page).
- **Sunday 5th April**
Heritage Week Fair - Macquarie St., City
The society will be manning a stall and information display from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Help us if you can spare the time.
- **Sunday 17th May**
Cooks River Festival
Place - Gough Whitlam Park (near Tempe Station), starts 10am.
The annual celebration of food, fun, festivity, local community, and ecological awareness. Our society's contribution will be a floating protest flotilla and land-based information stall. Any members with boats, canoes, dingies, bathtubs..who can help us make a splash, contact the society or come along to our next meeting. [Ring Gavin or Lee on 59 8502 or John on 398 3053].

ATTENTION

Special General Meeting - 30 March

Members are invited to attend a special general meeting which will vote on the **proposed new constitution** and on **incorporation** of the Society.

A new constitution is necessary because the present constitution has been found to be unsuited to the needs of the present growing public Society. The Society needs to incorporate mainly to protect office-bearers and individuals and to formalise

ownership of bank accounts and property.

Some members have suggested that the present name of the society (The Wolli Creek and Bardwell Valley Preservation Society) is rather long and unwieldy. The change of constitution is a good opportunity to discuss and vote on a new name.

AGENDA

Motion 1

That the constitution of the society be replaced by the new constitution proposed by the executive committee of the society.

Time - 7.30pm

Date - 30th March

Place - Bardwell Park RSL Club Hartill-Law Avenue, next to Bardwell Park Station

Motion 2

That the society incorporate itself as an incorporated association.

[Copies of the proposed new constitution are available at the Bardwell Park Community Resource Centre.]

M. Smith, Secretary.

Dig deep to save the valley

The Society's campaign to save your valley is moving into high gear. **We need funds now to keep this campaign rolling.** Why not write a cheque now? (Payable to Wolli Creek and Bardwell Valley Preservation Society - post to P.O. Box 270 Earlwood NSW 2206?)



--- New Members / Old Members Renewal form ---

Yes, I would like to join the Wolli Creek and Bardwell Valley Preservation Society...

Name.....

Address.....

.....Phone.....

I enclose membership fee of \$.....

Signed..... Date.....

I could help the society by -

.....
.....
.....

Membership Fees:

Full fee: \$5 per year Concession: \$2 per year Families: \$7 per year.

**SEND TO - The Wolli Creek and Bardwell Valley Preservation Society
PO Box 270 Earlwood 2206**