



Wolli Creek Update

From the Wolli Creek Preservation Society Inc

Implement Kirby recommendations now!

The RTA has announced that the F5 EIS and the thousands of hostile responses to it will be passed back to the Department of Planning in March to be 'determined'. The massive opposition to the EIS has been a telling blow to the Roads and Traffic Authority plan.

The most likely course the Greiner Government and its closest bureaucratic confidants will adopt is to hold a commission of inquiry into the project.

This would enable them to go through the motions of a 'democratic' review. The matter would then be passed to the Minister for Planning David Hay.

Avalanche of opposition to F5 plan

The Society's campaign for a mass rejection of the notorious Kinhill Environmental Impact Statement on the Wolli Creek section of the F5 freeway got a fantastic response. We understand that a record-breaking 6,000 plus submissions were received by the RTA, the majority of them highly critical of the proposal. Over 2,000 submissions were collected and handed in by the Society's officers and thousands more were mailed. Lengthy and detailed responses were made by the Preservation Society, the National Trust, the Coalition for Urban Transport Sanity, the Railways Union, The SPCC and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Our hearty thanks to all who took part! □

Minister for Planning David Hay.

Hay, who many commentators believe has little political future, and whose electorate is far from the scene of the intended crime, would then rubber-stamp the RTA's Wolli Creek freeway plan.

We should all reject such a move. The Wolli Creek issues have already been examined at length by the Kirby Inquiry. Even if a new Commissioner were to make enlightened anti-freeway findings, the Government is under no legal obligation to act on them. There have been enough inquiries: the Government should act on the Kirby recommendations now.

But as the bitter experience of the Kirby Inquiry has shown, governments have no respect for the planning process if their friends in powerful lobby groups flex their muscles.

Carnage

Now is the time to press home our fight to save the Wolli Valley. The Road Lobby is starting to panic. The public is turning against them. They realise that a lot



Creek clean-up

On Sunday January 21, members of the Society took to Wolli Creek as part of the Australia Day 'Clean Up Sydney' campaign. Over 20 bags of rubbish were removed. Bottles, tyres, tennis balls, foam fruit boxes and styrofoam hamburger packages from a certain global fast-food chain featured heavily. It's time they received a Big Whack!

We borrowed Canterbury Council's flat-bottomed boat and also launched a canoe. With the aid of these, the heavy build-up of litter on the bend of the Creek between Nannygoat Hill and the Chinaman's Swimming Pool was removed. Our thanks to the Council for the loan of the boat and for removing the rubbish. □

of the blame for the carnage on our roads and the decline of our urban quality of life is due to the Road Lobby's greed and influence, which has pushed government funding away from safer, more efficient, rail, and other public transport.

Canterbury Council, for example, has voted unanimously for a moratorium on all freeway construction pending a full inquiry into Sydney's real transport needs.

The underlying issue is: who should plan for transport; the public or the Road Lobby and their friends in the RTA bureaucracy. Our right to plan and manage our environment is under threat and we can only reclaim that right by political and direct action! The Greenpeace campaign against toxic waste dumping by Caltex has shown how carefully prepared action can carry environmental struggles forward.

We must all step up our efforts in opposing the F5. Lobbying politicians, writing to newspapers and ringing talk-back radio all play a vital part in raising our profile but by themselves they are not enough. Creative direct action against the RTA, the State's biggest promoters of pollution is now on the agenda. □

Annual Dinner launches Wolli birds book

The Society's second Annual Dinner at Earlwood-Bardwell Park RSL was attended by about 70 members and supporters. It was also the occasion for the launch of Neil Rankin's *Birds of Wolli Creek*, which summarises many years of bird watching in the Valley.

The book was launched by legendary 'birdo' Allan Morris, President of the Field Ornithologists Club of NSW. Entertaining and provocative speeches were given by the Robyn Read, the independent MP for North Sydney, and her predecessor, the veteran independent, Ted Mack, now independent candidate for North Sydney. Robyn and Ted urged the Society to investigate options for independent candidates in the next elections.

Our thanks to Publimedia and Alex Thompson for organising platemaking and printing of *Birds*.

Birds of Wolli Creek is doing exceptionally well: nearly 150 copies having been sold already! At \$5.00 its a bargain. Ring Neil or Danny Rankin on 559 1269 to order a copy. □

Kids' songs celebrate our threatened valley

The children of Earlwood had '*Eyes On Wolli*' for the launching of a cassette of original environmental songs and a songbook at Girrahween Park, Earlwood, on Saturday 21st October last year.

The children's songs - full of childhood humour and observations about threats to the environment - are a plea for the preservation of the Wolli Valley. The cassette's title song, *Eyes on Wolli* is a catchy call for positive solutions to pollution and to '*Give us a chance*'.

Other songs are: *The camping place* (the meaning of the Aboriginal name 'Wolli'), *Environment*, *Listen*, *Walking in the Bush* and a funky rap number, *Pollution Rap*.

The event opened National Children's Week in the Canterbury area. The official launch by the Mayor of Canterbury, Alderman John Gorrie, was the culmination of a community arts project involving pupils from Earlwood and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary Schools in song composition, writing and illustration, inspired by walks in the Wolli Valley.

Members of the Wolli Creek Preservation Society assisted with environmental walks and liaison with the schools. This community project is the first time that these schools have been involved in a joint activity, fittingly brought together by concern for the Valley.

A welcome grant from the Australia Council enabled the Wolli Creek Preservation Society to employ composer John Shortis, well known for his highly successful Bicentennial Outback Spectacular, to work with the children.

During the school holidays community artists held workshops with the children to illustrate the book of songs and poems. The book and professionally recorded cassette have been made into an attractive kit, which is available from the Society for \$10.00. (Ring Judy on 559 2821). □

New office-bearers

At the Society's well attended Annual General meeting in November, the following office-bearers were elected. Please feel free to contact them if you wish!

President	Tony French	558 4412
Vice-President	Gavin Gatenby	598 502
Secretary	Jo Warrington	502 2896
Treasurer	Merrick Plater	558 5955
Committee	Nancy Caldwell	560 4563
	Judy Finlason	559 2821
	Brian Harris	512 379
	Melissa Lane	579 5507
	Anne Morgan	595 895
	Danny Rankin	559 1269
	Joanne Thomson	506 661
	Peter Warrington	502 2896

1990 meetings

General Meetings of the Society are held on the first Wednesday of every odd month. So this year they will be held on:

March 7	September 5
May 2	November 7
July 4	

Meetings start at 8.00 pm and are held at the Community Resource Centre, Hartill-Law Avenue, Bardwell Park.

☛ Be there or be square...

On Sunday 18 February the Society is presenting 'Twilight in the Park', free entertainment for all the family in Girrahween Park, Earlwood! The evening starts at 4 pm with children's games and activities. From 6 'til 8 there'll be didgeridoo and other musical performances. Bring a picnic or barbeque. Enter the park from Fauna Street, Earlwood Carpark, or Sutton Avenue. For more info: 559 1269.

☛ The last word - FUNDS!

Fighting for a cause takes money. During the last year your Society has waged an effective fight to save the Valley. We printed many thousands of leaflets and form letters and even a newspaper-sized edition of Update! We thank our members for many magnificent donations and fundraising efforts...KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. Please keep the donations rolling in!