

# Wolli Creek Update

From the Wolli Creek Preservation Society Inc

PO Box 270 EARLWOOD 2206



## THE STRUGGLE - Tony French - President

The story so far: political doublespeak, bureaucratic bulldozing, frustration, apathy and occasional progress.

**The immediate past:** The public meeting at Bardwell Park RSL, February, 19th, exposed the RTA's cyanide pill dipped in honey. But opponents of the freeway spoke, questioned and criticised from the floor with vigour and sting.....We won the night.

The Casula/Beverley Hills Tollway tender has been let. Don't forget this road is designed to feed the traffic into 2 single lanes when it reaches to Beverley Hills. The Society asks why has a new EIS not been undertaken when what was to be a Freeway is now to be a TOLLWAY. No doubt this development will give rise to the usual chorus from misguided souls calling for The Wolli Creek "extension". We must resist !

**The immediate future:** Almost certainly, an early State elections, which will have to fight on several fronts, now that "they" have seen fit to abolish the seat of Earlwood. Out of sight, out of mind ?

The Society is still high profile, still fighting worthily and still needs any and all the support you can give. How about you contact us with offers of blood, sweat, tears and dollars - especially with the State poll on the horizon.

## Award of Excellence for 'Eyes on Wolli'

School use of a community resource came to a happy conclusion on Friday, 22 March when Earlwood Public School was presented with a Certificate of Excellence for work done in environmental education. The award was presented by Helen Jones, Cluster Director of Schools, Tempe on behalf of the Director of Education.

The project funded by Wolli Creek Preservation Society, from a grant made by the Australia Council, involved the pupils in environmental walks leading to practical activities, musical composition and song making. Thus the local environment became a basic part of the children's educational experience.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Neil Rankin, congratulated the pupils and staff on their work and referred to a frog survey which is currently being conducted and suggested his need for pupil assistance which was readily forthcoming. He also referred to the Wolli Creek Valley being an integral part of an Australia wide bird survey being conducted by the Royal Australian Ornithologists Union.

It should not be overlooked that the project "Eyes on Wolli" was also strongly supported by Our Lady of Lourdes School, Earlwood. This joint venture by both schools proved to be a happy an enriching experience for the pupils and staffs of both schools.

## Macintosh Skills Needed!

Your expertise is required to assist with our publications - we have access to Macintosh facilities and laser printer.  
Do you know a Pagemaker freak?

## GOOD NEWS

We are asking all residents to assist with a Heritage Study of the Wolli Creek Valley Area.

A grant from the NSW Department of Planning and the Federal Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories will enable the Society to employ a professional community historian to undertake the study which will be completed by February 1992.

We would like to hear from people who can help with the study. Photographs, press clippings, knowledge of local families or any written material would be useful. Further details will be distributed when the professional consultant is chosen. The input of community members will be vital to the success of the study. Please let us know if you have any material which could be useful or if you could assist in any way.

# Wolli Creek Update

## 'Back to Wolli' Weekend - 13-14 April - a Heritage Week Event

YARN SPINNERS are welcome at our "Back to Wolli" Weekend in Girraheen Park. Come and have a cuppa in "Yarn Spinners Tent" and help get our Oral History Project off the ground.

Were you one of those people who wagged school to spend happy days down the creek? Whenever we run street stalls or campaigns we always hear stories from people who have lived in the valley for years and have wonderful memories of their childhood in the valley.

Come along to the Yarn Spinners tent and share your memories with us!

There will be lots of activities for everyone. From midday on Saturday with an early start on Sunday for birdwatching, bushwalks and a community bush breakfast the day will continue with children's activities, games and walks.

The Environment Tent (kindly lent by Butlers) will be stacked with information for parents, teachers and children. We have also been lent live exhibits of lizards and snakes by the Herpatology Society. Children can join in all activities for \$2.00 with a chance to win the lucky entry prize - a BMX Bike.

**Come along and relax.  
Bring a picnic -  
stay an hour or a day.**



Heritage Week Walks anyone wanting a guided valley walk weekdays (8-12 April) during Heritage Week should contact the Society.

### WILDLIFE WATCH

Echidnas seem to be on the march in the Valley, there have been definite sightings at the corner of Jackson Place and Highcliff Road, also near Nanny Goat Hill in Finlays Avenue and along the valley closer to Girraheen Park.

Neil Rankin - the Birdman of Wolli Creek - has seen a Night Heron flying along the Valley and recently had an excellent view of this bird perched on a tree at Coolabah reserve.

Have you noticed a Grey Goshawk gliding along the valley. This magnificent bird was seen perched in the lower branches of a gum tree at the end of Jackson Place.

Small native birds are also in abundance in this spot - a half hour watch of a bird bath revealed a Blue Wren family, Eastern Spinebill, Redbrowed Finch, Spotted Pardalotes, Silvereyes, a gang of New Holland Honeyeaters, Willy Wagtail, Eastern Robin as well as Bul- Buls, Blackbirds and Doves.

Neil Rankin reports that in excess of 50 species have been recorded in the Valley each month.

Don't forget records of your observations are most important for the battle to save the valley.

The photograph of the Great White Egret taken in the Valley in 1988 has been invaluable in disproving the statements in the Kinhill EIS that 'none of these birds have been seen since 1970'. Ben Hills' article in Spectrum SMH on March 23 'Disturbing Developments' was an expose of the EIS process. This confirms what residents of the Valley already know.

### IMAGINE IF.....

"Imagine if I lived in Wolli Creek Valley....." - a journey into the past, present and future - is the theme for the Society's - school /community project for 1991. Young people will be invited to contribute stories, poems and illustrations for an exhibition which will be launched during Children's Week in October 1991.

Details of the project will be sent to all schools. Contact us of you would like a brochure.

### SUCCESSFUL CLEANUP

Members of the Society organised a station for Clean Up Australia Day on 24 March. We decided once again to use Council's boat to clean up the creek and banks immediately above the weir at Turrella. Thirty five bags of rubbish were collected, mostly plastic containers and Big Mac containers - also a car door and train seat. Let's hope next year there will be less rubbish and people will become aware of the pollution caused by the run-off from suburban streets.

Thanks to all our helpers.

**CONTACT FOR SOCIETY: 559 1269**



Wolli Creek  
Preservation  
Society Inc.  
membership  
application

Yes, I would like to join the Wolli Creek  
Preservation Society Inc....

Name .....

Address.....

Postcode..... Phone No.....

Please Tick

Family \$10

Individual \$7

Concession \$5

Donation \$

By mail to: WCPS, PO Box 270, Earlwood NSW 2206