

# Wolli Creek Update

FROM THE WOLLI CREEK PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

NO. 17, AUGUST 1992

## Thanks for the great effort!

Support for Proposal P easily crushed a feeble showing for the freeway-based proposal, Proposal R.

On the morning of the final day for submissions to the Botany-West Transport Study, a small demonstration was held outside the RTA offices at Milson's Point and Proposal P activists delivered a whopping 8,600 submissions in support of the public transport option!

Of these some 6,400 were specifically opposed to the F5 (now called M5) expressway going through the Wolli Valley.

This is well up on the 4500 or so submissions opposing the F5 during the 1990 environmental impact statement.

Supporters of Proposal R are claiming only around 4,000 submissions.

The crushing response to the RTA's plans got good coverage in the media with a page 2 story in the *Telegraph-Mirror*, a big piece in the *St George Leader* and coverage on Channel 9 and ABC radio.



## Rockdale Council supports rail option

In an historic vote on Wednesday 22 July, Rockdale Council rescinded a motion of support for Proposal R—passed the week before—and went on to vote 8 to 6 to endorse Proposal P.

In favour of the rescision and Proposal P were aldermen Charles and Elizabeth Daly, George Pinniger (First Ward), Bill Morrison, Phil Lang (Second Ward), George Moore, Steve Holroyd (Fourth Ward), and Noel Seiffert (Fifth Ward).

Opposed were Dennis Callaghan (First Ward), Bill Saravinovski, Anne Field, Geoff Hedge (Third Ward), Brian Peacock and Mayor Peter Bryant (Fifth Ward). Alderman Ron Rathbone was absent.

The vote is a stunning rebuff for the RTA because Rockdale Council has always been regarded by the Authority as a reliable supporter of freeway-type roads. A major factor in the defeat suffered by Proposal R is the

growing public opposition to another freeway planned for Rockdale Municipality—the F6. This road would wipe out or severely degrade most of the parkland on the east side of Rockdale.

Excellent speeches were made by aldermen supporting Proposal P. George Pinniger demolished the ERTAG position, showing that the only way to clear Bexley shopping centre of its heavy traffic load was to build a Bexley bypass (which was specifically included in the successful motion by way of an amendment proposed by Alderman Holroyd). Charles Daly spoke movingly of the immense heritage value of the Wolli Valley, Bill Morrison drew on his overseas experience to point out that freeways hadn't worked and were now falling from favour and George Moore spoke of the RTA's failure to answer serious questions about air pollution in the narrow valley.

If you live in Rockdale, please make your support and appreciation for the Council's

decision known! Write to The Town Clerk, PO Box 21, Rockdale NSW 2216. You could also address letters to individual alderman care of the same address.

### Wolli Watchers Club launched

TV naturalist John Dengate of Bourke's Backyard fame launched the Wolli Watchers, an environmental club for young people at a tree planting ceremony on Arbor Day, Monday 27 July. The club will conduct a range of activities for children during weekends and holidays.

Annual membership is \$2.00. For further information contact Lee on 567 8502.

### Annual Dinner

**13 NOVEMBER**

Leagues Bowling Club  
Mackey Park, Tempe

\$30 per person  
Meal & speaker

Great night assured—please  
book early! Phone 559 1269

**TWO DAYS OF TALKS, WALKS, DISPLAYS AND VIDEOS!**

### The Great Wolli Weekend

On September 12 & 13 the Society is sponsoring a whole weekend of educational Wolli Creek activities. Whether you're an old Wolli Creeker, you've just joined the Society, or you simply want to know more, there's something for you. Find out what you can do for Wolli Creek! Details on reverse. Phone Lee on 567 8502 for more information! All activities start at the Senior Citizens Centre, cnr Homer St and Hartill-Law Avenue.



# WHAT'S ON DURING THE GREAT WOLLI WEEKEND...

## Saturday 12 September



9.00 - 12.00

### Birdwatching walk

Over 150 bird species have been recorded from the valley. This is a remarkable tally for such a small area. The secret lies in a fantastic variety of habitats and the fact that the valley acts as a migratory corridor through the surrounding suburbs. On this walk the Birdman of Woll Creek, Neil Rankin, and other keen local 'birdos' will introduce you to the richness of the local birdlife. Bring binoculars, wear sensible shoes and a hat.

12.00 - 1.00

### Lunch

A simple lunch with sandwiches and fruit will be available at the Senior Citizens Hall for bringing your own. An opportunity to meet members of the Preservation Society.

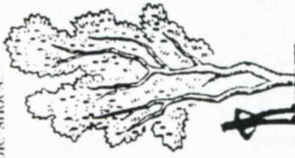
1.00 - 3.30

### The plants of Woll Creek

More than 240 species of native plants have been recorded in the Woll Creek Valley which is the last significant area of bushland in inner south-western Sydney. Over several years, trained bush regenerators have been methodically removing invasive weeds like lantana, pampas grass and tradescantia and restoring native species to degraded areas.

This walk will be led by Lyn Whitley, a senior bush regeneration supervisor with the National Trust and Les Robinson, author *Trees of Woll Creek* and the recently published *Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney*.

What's the difference between a bloodwood and a bangalay? When is a she-oak a he-oak? What did the Aborigines use paperbarks for? Why is a Sydney red gum not a eucalypt? Come along and find out! Wear a hat and sensible shoes



3.30 - 4.00

### Afternoon tea



## Sunday 13 September

1.00 - 2.00

### Lunch

A simple lunch with sandwiches and fruit will be available at the Senior Citizens Hall for bringing your own. A good opportunity to meet members of the Preservation Society and take in the *Insects of Woll Creek* display.

10.00 - 1.00

### Woll Creek ramble

If you've never taken a stroll through the Woll Valley, this is the walk for you! A bit of botany, a bit about the birds, mammals and reptiles, a bit of Aboriginal and European history, a pleasant stroll to many scenic vantage points. We'll start at the Senior Citizens Hall and walk through to Tempe where we'll catch the train back to Bardwell Park. (If you don't want to go all the way you can take your leave at Turrella and walk back or catch the train).



12.00 - 3.30

### Insects of Woll Creek

A display at the Senior Citizens Centre assembled by John Martin, local entomologist and Associate of the Australian Museum. Find out about 'Nobody's Fly' and other fascinating local insects.

## Fighting for the valley, looking to the future

3.30 - 5.00

Find out about the history of the struggle to save Woll Creek from the M5 (F5) expressway and what you can do to help us win. This talk by a member of the Woll Creek Preservation Society will explore the stranger-than-fiction saga of the fight against various government plans which would have severely degraded this precious heritage.

We'll look at the implications of the recent Botany-West Transport Study and the new rail line proposal which emerged from it. If you want to find out what you can do to help you must attend the discussion session which follows.

- All talks will take place at the Senior Citizens Hall.
- All walks start from the Senior Citizens Hall.
- The Hall will be attended by members of the Preservation Society throughout the weekend and a range of Woll Valley publications will be available for sale.

**KEY**

- ..... Roads
- ..... Walking Track
- ..... Rail Line, Station
- ..... Open Space

