

# Wolli Creek Update

From the Wolli Creek Preservation Society Inc



## Clean Up Australia Day

March 6th 1994 8am to 12 noon

**N.B New Location - Bushland below Highcliff Road, Undercliffe**  
Meeting Place 12 Jackson Place Undercliffe (Park cars in Highcliff Road, no parking available in Jackson Place)

This year we have chosen a different site as we consider that our efforts over the past years have made a considerable impact on our usual Clean Up area at the Henderson Street Bridge, Turrella Reserve.

Instead we will work on the bushland area below Highcliff Road between Jackson Place and the mangroves. This is an important part of the valley's ecosystem, with heath, woodlands and a mangrove forest. A nationally significant geological feature in the rock-face below Highcliff Road has recently been identified.

Unfortunately parts of this area have been degraded with exotic weeds caused by urban run-off, garden waste and dumping of rubbish from Highcliff Road.

A bushland regeneration program is planned for this area during 1994 so it is important that we remove as much rubbish as possible.

We need lots of volunteers, so give what time you can.

Wear strong shoes, bring gloves and a metal rake if you have one.

Can anyone lend us a strong wheelbarrow?

For further information contact :

Judy 559 2821 or Debbie 554 3176



## Good news from the NSW Minister for Transport - Airport rail likely to be 'a goer'

In a reply to a letter from the Society (December 1993), expressing our strong support for the Airport Rail Link, Bruce Baird said as follows -

"The (Airport Link) Association completed a Detailed Feasibility Study in July this year which assessed among other things the patronage, financial, technical, urban planning and economic aspects of the proposal. Among the findings of this study were that Airport Link would have a major impact on improving accessibility to Sydney Airport both for visitors and employees and would be important for the future of the Central Industrial Area.....The Government is currently considering the findings of the study prior to making a decision about further development of Airport Link.... ..I appreciate your support for Airport Link and hope that the issues critical to the project's future can be resolved so that Airport Link can proceed".

### UPCOMING DATES

**28 FEB:-**Deadline for submissions in relation to the Integrated Transport Strategy.

**6 MARCH:-** Clean Up Australia Day. See article above for details about where the Society will be participating in this event.

**19 MARCH:-** Information Street Stall, focussing on the proposed Wolli Park Bill. Those interested in helping out, and finding out about the issues in more detail, Phone 559 2821

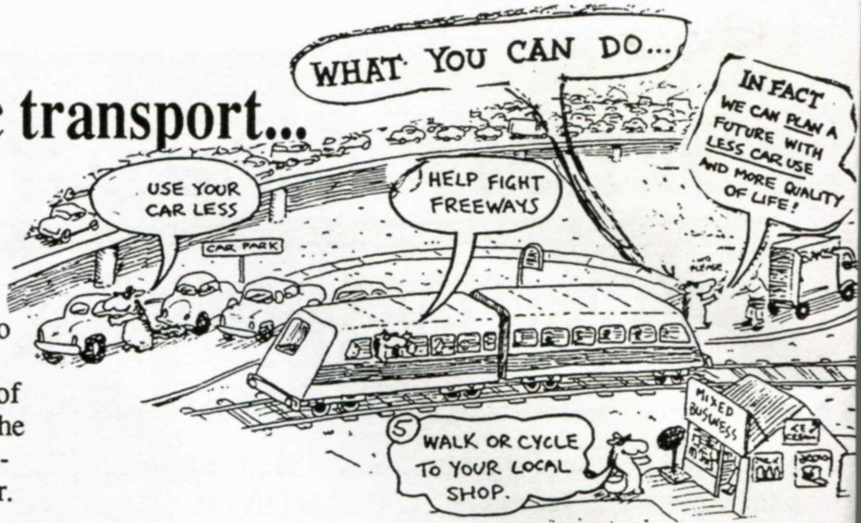
**LATE APRIL:-** Our publication, "The Story of Stone in the Wolli Valley" is due to be launched during Heritage Week. (actual date to be advised). We have a great venue in mind and entertainment will be provided.

**MAY:-** Release of the EIS. The Society will be preparing a formal response, and further information street stalls are also planned.

### WOLLI PARK BILL

Tabled in Parliament by independent MP Clover Moore last August, the Wolli Park Bill moves to consolidate 80 hectares of public land between Bexley North and Turrella into a Regional Park to be administered by a Trust similar to those managing Sydney's Centennial and Bicentennial Parks. The Bill has attracted strong support from prominent conservation groups. Jeff Angel, Director of the Total Environment Centre, described it as a "historic opportunity for a major new urban park". Support has also come from the Nature Conservation Council. At its Annual Conference last October, it pledged to lobby forcefully for the Bill's passage into law. In a massive concession to the Valley's environmental importance, the RTA's "current and primary option" for the M5's extension, a tunnel between Bexley North and Turrella is designed to preserve its native bushland. If the RTA is committed to this option, there is no reason for not passing the Wolli Park Bill. However, should the Bill not be passed, local residents can only assume the RTA intends to revert to its previous plans for an elevated six-lane tollway through the Valley, destroying its environmental integrity.

# Some chance for public transport... but we need your help!



Time is quickly running out to make a submission to the *Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS)*. The ITS, released for public discussion with the Department of Planning's *Sydney's Future* in October, represents the first serious attempt by the Government to plan Sydney's transport and land use in an integrated manner.

As such, it is not surprising that the Strategy contains some major flaws - 50 years of pro-road, anti-public transport thinking won't evaporate overnight. But the ITS is a major step in the right direction. For the first time, it acknowledges the nexus between land use and transport, it admits that the pro-road, pro-car policies of the past have brought the city to the brink of a Los Angeles-style disaster. It calls for a large increase in spending on public transport, and identifies priority passenger transport corridors such as the Campbelltown-East Hills- Airport-CBD link.

For these reasons, the Preservation Society feels that the ITS deserves your **qualified support**.

The ITS has three major flaws:

1. It perpetuates the major urban freeway plans of the RTA, this time disguising them as 'dedicated freight routes'. The ITS fails to examine options for the railing of freight to depots. It also fails to explore the impact of passenger traffic that would need to use these freight routes to make them viable - tens of thousands more cars would clog the city and draw patronage away from existing and planned public transport links.

**There should be an immediate moratorium on freeway and tollway planning and development, and an integrated freight strategy should be completed as a priority.**

2. It locks in the current decision-making processes, which have contributed to the poor transport planning of the past. For instance the undue influence the RTA exerts on planning in Sydney needs to be diminished.

**The Government should establish an independent Urban Transport Planning Commission, which would plan transport in Sydney, to allow a better mix of public and private transport and rail and road construction.**

3. It also provides no details on how funds for public transport construction are to be raised. This is a vital issue, because authorities such as State Rail currently have no dedicated source of funding, and therefore cannot plan future expansion with any certainty. The RTA, however, have access to the massive revenue raised from the '3 x 3' fuel levy.

**The government should allocate a percentage of road fuel levies, such as the '3 x 3' fuel levy, to a public transport construction fund, administered by the Urban Transport Planning Commission.**

Submissions to the ITS close on February 28. The document will be finalised and presented to the Premier in July - it's important that you make your voice heard now!

Please write raising the above issues to:  
Mr John Smith Integrated Transport Strategy  
Department of Transport GPO Box 1620  
Sydney NSW 2001

**Go on write today, Sydney needs your help!**  
N.B. Closing date February 28

## EIS NOW APPEARS DUE FOR RELEASE IN MAY 1994.

The consultants for the RTA, Manidis Roberts are still stating that their primary option is for a tunnel between Bexley North and Turrella. One current option is for the tunnel route to be under the creek itself! The issue of where a tunnel would exit and become an above ground tollway is of great concern and it seems at this stage that the consultants are not certain on this point. The implications for the eastern sector of the Valley and the residents of Turrella and Undercliffe would be horrendous.

Your membership is OK

Your membership is due for renewal

## Wolli Creek Preservation Society Inc

**The Wolli Greenspace is too precious to pave...  
Rejoin and support the fight to save it for future generations**

Please renew my/our membership in the WCPS...

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

POSTCODE .....

PHONE: Bus .....

Home .....

SIGNATURE .....

POST TO: PO Box 270 Earlwood NSW 2206

- \$10 Family
- \$7 Individual
- \$5 Concession
- Donation enclosed
- \$.....

