

# Wolli Creek Update

FROM THE WOLLI CREEK PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

JULY 1995

## The long, convoluted M5 East saga continues...

BELOW we've included excerpts from a media release issued by our President, Justin Cahill on 11 May.

The release was considered necessary because of the announcement by the Federal Minister for Transport, Laurie Brereton, that the M5 tollway would be extended from Beverly Hills to Mascot Airport and from Prestons to Badgerys Creek as part of a deal with the Carr Government to improve Sydney's transport infrastructure for the Olympics. If this was to go ahead it would place New South Wales in a financial crisis and create an environmental black hole in Sydney's south-west.

Justin wrote: "Economically and environmentally, the Carr-Brereton deal is a sick joke. The Carr Government is looking at a total cost of \$960 million for the M5 East extension, \$560 for the road itself along with ancillary road works, such as road widening, which have been conservatively estimated at \$400 million. If, as Premier Carr says, there is to be no toll on the M5, how will his government fund this extension and carry out its part of the deal?"

"As the New Southern Railway removes the need for the M5 from Beverly Hills to Mascot, there is no point in extending the tollway. The proposed rail line from Badgery's Creek to Prestons should be built instead. Why concentrate on extending the western end of the M5 at Prestons out to Badgerys Creek, when it's cheaper and less polluting to move passengers by rail? Carr is planning by political whim.

"Proof of this came with Premier Carr's

### BUT WOLLI PARK LOOKS CLOSER!

suggestion on radio today that his government may return to a surface option for the M5 between Beverly Hills and Mascot, instead of the current primary option of a tunnel from Bexley Rd to Turrella. Any move towards this will be bitterly resisted by legal, political and direct action."

A few days later, a story in the *St George Leader* indicated that Rockdale MP George Thompson, at least, was pushing for a tunnel all the way from Bexley North to the Cooks River in the vicinity of Barton Park. This news was viewed with extreme caution by your committee. State governments regularly allow their local members to 'forcefully' express views which would be popular in their electorate but which the government (and often the local member) knows full well will not be considered.

Nevertheless, the extra-long tunnel option seems to be firming in the betting, as evidenced by a story in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 20 July. The same story quoted documents obtained from the Environment Protection Authority by the Preservation Society under freedom of information. The documents shows that the EPA had serious reservations about the quality of the environmental impact

### M2 struggle set to hot-up again soon

Enclosed with this newsletter you'll find a copy of a special M2 Blockade edition of *Hell on Wheels* and an M2 Blockade pledge form. We urge you to give whatever support you feel you can to this struggle (as detailed on the back page of *HOW*). Non-violent action against construction is set to hot-up again in the coming weeks and there's also the prospect of legal actions shortly. Every blow struck against the M2 greatly assists our struggle against the M5.

We have to congratulate Freeway Busters and north-west Sydney residents on their dogged resistance to the M2. This road will destroy beautiful bushland, somewhere in the vicinity of 115,000 trees, and will prevent the development of public transport infrastructure for the next 45 years. Local environment groups have been fighting the M2 for many years and now it's a head on collision that could continue for years.

statement for the M5 East.

It now seems that a supplementary EIS for the M5 east will be issued shortly—so get yourself in campaigning mode!

Any option for the M5 East will have the effect of generating extra traffic and dumping tens of thousands more vehicles on local streets—with all the congestion, noise, and air pollution that that entails. Your society will strenuously oppose the M5 East on these grounds. Stand by for further announcements from the Society.

We should add, however, that the long tunnel option would leave no impediment to the immediate creation of a Wolli Park since the Wolli open space would be bypassed completely. We will be making this point to the Government most strongly.





*In Brief...*

**World Environment Day** was celebrated in the valley with a planting in Turrella Reserve by Bexley North Primary School carrying on a tradition that's included a number of the local schools. The small areas of bushland planted over the years give food and shelter to native birds and in the area where there's sandstone, to the small local lizards.

**Bush Regeneration** If you're interested in getting your hands dirty and learning a lot about the Valley's flora (and fauna) then becoming a volunteer bush regenerator may be the thing for you. Working in conjunction with the National Trust we are looking at a one day (Saturday) a month bush regeneration day. Please contact Debra Little on 914 5103 if you're interested.

**WCPS Publications** We're very happy to announce that the Society will publish two books this year. A marvellously illustrated book with the working title *Insects of Wolli Creek*, by John Martin and *A History of the Wolli Creek Valley* by Lesley Muir and Brian Madden, which will give residents a historical perspective on our precious valley.

**Turrella Mail Exchange** As you may know Australia Post's huge sorting complex in Henderson Street Turrella is to close. The land is owned by the Commonwealth Government. Residents of Turrella will be very interested in the future usage of this site.

**TAGAM Campaign** The TAGAM (Transport Action Group Against Motorways) campaign during the state election, supported two candidates—Nola Taylor and John Warrington. It was a well organised campaign that served to expand people's awareness of the RTA freeway construction program and the very serious threat this presents to Sydney's south-west. Congratulations TAGAM! Nola is running in the Rockdale Council elections.

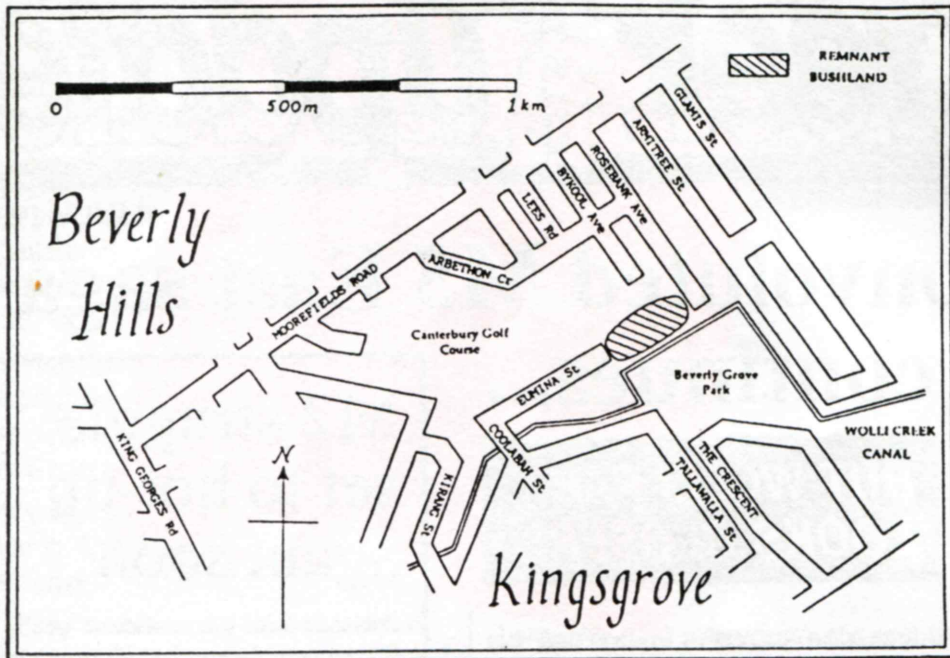
**WCPS Meetings** The Society's general meetings are held at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of every month at the Community Resource Centre, Hartill-Law Avenue, Bardwell Park. We invite you to attend. Meeting dates for the rest of 1995 are; 2 August, 6 September, 4 October.

**Annual General Meeting** Will be held on 18 October at the Committee Room, Bardwell Park RSL, at 7.30pm. This is your opportunity to nominate for a position on the Society's committee, and to get more involved in local issues that affect the Valley.

**Annual Dinner** The Society's annual dinner will be held at Bardwell Park RSL club on Friday 20 October. We'll let you know who our speaker will be. Please mark the date in your diaries.

**Donations**

Please! Your contributions towards the society's running expenses are always welcome. Please make cheques payable to Wolli Creek Preservation Society and post to PO Box 270 Earlwood NSW 2206.



**Remnant bushland tour**

The Society will be conducting a guided tour of native bushland at the Beverly Hills end of the Wolli Valley on 17 September to increase public awareness of its value.

This significant remnant contains stands of turpentine, paperbark (*Melaleuca nodosa*) and a wattle (*Acacia pubescens*) which rarely occurs naturally in the Sydney region.

While most of the Wolli Valley's bushland occurs on Hawkesbury sandstone, this remnant is shale-based and all options for the M5 tollway will ensure its destruction. Currently less than

5 per cent of the Sydney region's shale-based vegetation survives.

Beverly Grove Park, which adjoins the remnant, contains a small colony of Fairy Martins, a migratory, swallow-like bird which builds bottle-shaped nests from pellets of mud. The tour is timed to coincide with the flowering of remnant vegetation and the martins' residence. Plenty of room is available for a picnic lunch.

Meet at the end of Rosebank Ave, which leads off Moorefields Rd, Beverly Hills, at 10am.

Inquiries: Justin Cahill at 567 1697.


**Can you help 'Watch the Wind'?**

*Bring the kids to the Wolli kite flying festival*

**Tuesday 3 October & Wednesday 4 October from 10 am to 3 pm**

This year, once again, we'll be holding our 'Watch the Wind' kite-flying festival in Turrella Reserve. As well as kite flying and kite making there will be craft activities for kids and bushwalks. A couple of years ago we got over 200 kids so we'd really appreciate all the help we can get!

If you can help please contact Judy Finlason (559 2821) or Lee Hoffmann (567 8502).



**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  Concession \$5

Individual \$7  Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

*Help stop French nuclear tests!*  
*Show your anger and concern!*

**HIROSHIMA NEVER AGAIN RALLY**

**Sunday 6 August**  
**Town Hall Square**  
**12.30 pm**

March to First Fleet Park for 2 pm rally

Organised by Hiroshima Day Committee.