

Wolli Creek Update

FROM THE WOLLI CREEK PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

1 JULY 1999

Yes, believe it or not, after all these years of struggle, Wolli Creek Regional Park is about to happen!

The Society has been campaigning for years for the declaration of a regional park in the Wolli Valley in tandem with the lifting of the M5E road reservation.

Things are starting to happen on this front, and it is a cause for celebration after all the years of 'on again, off again' road reservations and associated motorway plans for the valley. The Metropolitan Regional Parks Unit of the National Parks and Wildlife Service has just appointed consultants to prepare a masterplan and plan of management for the park.

The Park will extend from Bexley Rd, Bexley North, to Tempe St Undercliffe.

The consultants are Clouston Landscape Architects and Landscape Planners. In recent years Clouston's have prepared plans of management for the Bardwell Valley and for Cooks River foreshores. Those of us in the Society who have been involved in the community consultation processes for developing these plans, and who are familiar with the quality reports produced by Clouston's, are pleased with this choice.

Considerable work has apparently been going on within the Metropolitan Parks Unit over the past 18 months, laying the groundwork for the creation of the park by consolidating all the disparate parcels of land (both public and private) into one unit.

A steering committee has now been formed and the Preservation Society is represented on it. The following groups are

Please be there to have your say!

Wolli Park Consultation Meeting

Thursday 15 July, 6.30 pm

(& Wednesday 11 August, 6.30 pm)

Undercliffe Public School
Bayview Avenue, Undercliffe

also represented: NPWS, Canterbury Council, Rockdale Council, Friends of Wolli Creek, Bicycle NSW, Canterbury/Hurstville Resident Action Group, the RTA, Cooks River Foreshore Working Party and the Cooks River Catchment Management Committee. The omission of some relevant groups has been drawn to the attention of NPWS, so there will probably be additions to this list.

Additionally, public community consultation and workshop meetings are scheduled, with the first on **Thursday 15 July**, and the second on **Wednesday 11 August** at Undercliffe Public School, both **starting at 6.30 pm**. The draft report is due to be completed by October when it will go on display for public comment.

It's most important that as many Society members as possible come along to these workshops, particularly the July 15 meeting to have their say and help us ensure that the conservation values of the Wolli Valley that we have fought so hard to preserve will be respected and promoted in the plan.

Lots of issues are involved in establishing a management framework for the park,

and the meetings, and planned surveys will canvas a range of ideas and issues. For example:

- What sort of infrastructure (such as buildings, kiosks, picnic facilities, playgrounds etc) should and shouldn't be incorporated?
- Where should any cycleway be located? (we certainly believe, as does Bicycle NSW that it should not go through the bushland as has been mooted by the RTA)
- How can the natural bushland best be preserved and-regenerated?
- What sort of recreational opportunities should be accommodated or promoted?
- How should access to the park be promoted and accommodated? (we don't want to save the valley from a road only to see paving to accommodate car parking, especially given the good public transport access to areas along the length of the park).

There will also be a telephone survey as part of the consultation process, so you may be one of the households picked at random for this purpose.

If you have any questions, or want to raise particular issues, please feel free to ring either Debby Little (phone 9554 3176) or Judy Finlason (9559 2821).

Please put the workshop dates in your diary. This is a very important opportunity for you to have your say the process, and a really positive phase in the history of the Wolli Valley!

Bush regeneration in Girrahween Park – a call for volunteers

Since 1997, a small band of volunteer bush regenerators has been working in an area at Girrahween Park, Earlwood.

We received a small grant from the Cooks River Catchment Management Committee in July 1997, and employed a National Trust bush regeneration team to do some of the initial work in the area. Since then, we have been following up on the work on a one-Saturday-a-month basis, and seeing some good regeneration results, despite how chronically weed-infested the area was.

It is amazing how well areas of the valley's bushland have regenerated following

bush regeneration carried out over the past decade and more (by the National Trust), and yes, there is still a lot of work needed in the valley over a long period of time – a process which will be no doubt addressed in the Regional Park Plan of Management.

Some of the original volunteers have moved on to other things and other places (as people are wont to do) and we'd like to find more people interested in joining the group.

It's not a big commitment – the second Saturday morning of the month for 3 hours – and you don't need to have any prior training or bring any equipment. We have tools sup-

plied by the Society and Canterbury Council, and there are trained and professional bush regenerators in the group to give you all the guidance you need.

Interested?

Contact Debby Little on 9554 3176, or e-mail Little_Stevens@msn.com.au.

Wolli Creek Web site

Why not check out the Wolli Creek web site? It features some fascinating aerial photos of the valley:

www.brushtail.com.au/nick.possum/wolli.creek.html