

# Wolli Creek Update



FROM THE WOLLI CREEK PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

November 1999

## Urgent responses needed

### Parliamentary Inquiry into the M5 East Stack

Successful lobbying and a highly professional campaign by members of RAPS (Residents Against Polluting Stacks) has resulted in a Parliamentary Standing Committee being established to investigate various aspects of the M5 East Stack. Full details in the enclosed RAPS newsheet. We urge members to make a submission to this committee. It presents a unique opportunity for a full and frank investigation and get the facts into the public arena and a chance for our voices to be heard.

#### Help needed.

Can you lend a hand to help with the RAPS campaign?  
See list of contacts in RAPS newsheet

## Cycleway through Wolli Creek Valley

A regional cycleway from Beverley Hills to General Holmes Drive was part of the conditions of consent for the construction of the M5 East Motorway. The Society supports a cycleway but has serious concerns about the location and design of the cycleway as planned by the RTA. A bicycle strategy developed by the RTA last December indicated that between Bexley North and Arncliffe, where the M5 East is in tunnel, the RTA plans are for a commuter cycleway to run between the south bank of Wolli Creek and the amplified East Hills Rail Line.

Initially, from Henderson Street Weir at Turrella to Tempe the cycleway was to cross the salt marsh, wetlands and mangrove swamps requiring massive earthworks and destruction of this sensitive environment. We understand that the RTA has now abandoned this section in favour of an on road route. However we consider that the route from Bexley North to Turrella must be redesigned. There simply isn't enough space to construct a 3.5 metre wide commuter cycleway between the rail line and the creek without causing extensive damage to the creek bank. We maintain that the banks should be revegetated not developed.

There was no consultation by the RTA with local environment groups before this proposal was developed. Alternatives are possible. An on road option is also

planned as the proposed route would be underwater when the creek floods. Representations have been made to MP Kevin Moss and the relevant Ministers. We understand that the RTA is now studying all options. We will continue to press for full consultation with community groups and for an environmental assessment of any proposed route.

Any members interested in this matter should contact Judy 9559 2821 or Deb 9554 3176

## Wolli Valley Regional Park

Community consultations by Cloustone's the NPWS consultants have now been finalised. Two community meetings were held at Undercliffe PS and meetings have been held with other relevant groups. A Plan of Management and Master Plan is being prepared. It was due to be on exhibition in mid October, however we now understand that this may not happen until early next year. Details contact

Yma ten Hoedt NPWS Tel 9895 7440

## Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner on October 22 was a great success with about 60 people attending. Local resident Mark Curran plant physiologist at Sydney University for 30 years gave a fascinating talk about his experiences studying mangroves. Of particular interest was Mark's account of the subsistence lives of the people who cultivate and harvest the vast mangrove swamps of Brahmaputra Delta in India. Ever present is the threat of tigers also struggling for survival in their threatened habitat.

All proceeds from the dinner and the raffle \$600 will be donated to help RAPS campaign to stop the stack.

## *Thankyou Tony French.*

Tony French retired as President at our AGM. Tony was a foundation member of the Society and has played an active role in the battle to save the valley. He has now moved out of the district. We'll all miss Tony. His wit, wisdom and sound knowledge of management and financial matters have been a great asset to the Society.

## WCPS Membership

Memberships are based on the calendar year. Your membership fees help us maintain the basic work of the Society. Although the Regional Park has been established we still have to remain vigilant, there always seems to be some matter that we have to follow up. Our thanks to everyone who has maintained their membership. The enclosed slip indicates your financial status.

## Membership and Donations

Our thanks to everyone who has made donations to help with those extra expenses. This year has been a costly one. We supported the court cases mounted by TAGAM against the RTA's failure to conduct an EIS for significant changes in the M5 East. Unfortunately, this was lost 2 to 1 in the appeal to the Supreme Court.

**We also have significant ongoing expenses in the campaign to fight the M5 East Stack**

**All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible**

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