

Wolli Creek Update

PO Box 270, Earlwood NSW 2206

MARCH 2002



Proposed power cable bridge would mar Wolli Creek Regional Park

THE Preservation Society has opposed a bid by Transgrid to construct a concrete bridge over Wolli Creek to carry the new power cable for the CBD. The proposed location of the bridge, on the eastern (downstream) side of Bexley Road is within the areas being transferred to NPWS as part of Wolli Creek Regional Park.

The Society has written to Canterbury Council objecting to the proposed location of the crossing. We were advised of the closing date for submissions only on 14 February when the closing date for submissions was 28 February.

The Society believes the cable should cross the creek west of Bexley Road where it would not impact visually on the park and where there would be no construction impacts on the valley's bushland.

This issue illustrates the unfortunate fact that powerful government authorities and big business are constantly attempting to chip away at open space and natural areas like Wolli Creek for one project or another. Without constant vigilance by community groups our open space and urban bushland remnants fall victim to relentless stream of small encroachments. Another of these blatant encroachments is ...

The RTA's Wolli cycleway plan

The Nature Conservation Council has written to the Minister for Roads conveying the fact that, at its last annual meeting Council passed a strong resolution opposing creek-bank cycleway routes.

A year ago the RTA's M5 East engineers admitted to local government, NPWS, and community representatives that they had misunderstood how much space would be taken by the SRA's additional rail lines and how close the cycleway would therefore be to the edge of Wolli Creek. The RTA engineers said they would shortly present



Yellow-tailed black cockatoos are now often seen in the Wolli Valley. They're just one of the wonderful birds you'll hear about in Justin Cahill's 'Birds of Wolli', the first of our talk series *Treasures of Wolli 2002*. See page 2 for details.

revised plans for the cycleway but nothing has since been heard from them.

NPWS taking over the Wolli lands

Consolidation of the lands for Wolli Regional Park is progressing slowly. Girrahween Park and some other parcels of land have been transferred to the NPWS. Turrella Reserve is expected to be transferred later this year and design is already

underway for picnic facilities and other works in this part of the park.

Work to date has been concentrated at Girrahween Park with the creation of additional stormwater denitrification ponds below View Street and improvements to the main pond in between Flora Street and the Girrahween Park picnic area including plantings of native wetland species. Tenders for further capital works at Girrahween Park have now closed. This work will involve new picnic facilities, signage, minor road-works designed to create more open space and on-going bush regeneration. Some temporary fencing to protect bush-regenerated areas will be installed.

The Service's Area Manager, Robert Bird, will attend the the Society's next meeting in April to discuss the progress of capital works and the progress of establishment of the regional park.

M5 East stack

Throughout the whole saga of the RTA's single emission stack for the M5 East tunnel the RTA's engineers and the Roads Minister Carl Scully have asserted not only that the stack presented no risk to

residents but also that it would efficiently ventilate the 4 km long tunnel. Now there have been reports in the media that the tunnel is very smokey and smells of petroleum fumes! Residents Against Polluting Stacks (RAPS) are asking residents to fill in an observation diary on stack pollution. You can download details from their website: <http://savewollicreek.8m.com>.

Your membership for 2002 is now due!

Please sign up a friend or neighbour! Membership isn't expensive and we've enclosed a membership brochure.

Get to know your local bush valley
with the Wolli Creek Preservation Society's talk series

Treasures of Wolli in 2002

On the last Wednesday of each odd month!

Wed March 27

Justin Cahill

The Birds of Wolli - The rare, the familiar, the resident and the visitors; and where and when to see them in Wolli. How your garden can help support the maintenance and expansion of local birdlife.

Wed May 29

Dion Hobcroft &
Danie Ondinea

Other native wildlife of Wolli - Yes, it's still around - invertebrates, reptiles, frogs and mammals. What's there, how to spot it and what it needs to stay around. How to make your backyard wildlife friendly, and the benefits you gain!

Wed July 31

Paul Ibbetson

Native plants in Wolli - Much of the valley has been degraded by human activity around it but detailed surveys have shown that there are some great pockets left. Learn about them and what they contain and what can be done to expand them. Find

out how your own garden activities can be modified to support local bushland.

Wed Sept 25

Justin Cahill

Survival of Wolli - The valley's treasures have had some close escapes from destruction, past as well as present - from quarrying, railways, roads, and development. Get to know some history and key events. 1960s TV coverage of efforts to protect Nannygoat Hill from quarrying will be shown.

Wed Nov 27

Judy Finlason

Jackson Place, Wolli Valley - After he reached Wolli from England, William Jackson became, among other things, a quarryman. In one of his quarries he built the six sandstone cottages of what is now known as Jackson Place. It's a fascinating tale of the early days of the valley's occupation by Europeans.

The speakers are all knowledgeable and enthusiastic about Wolli. Presentations



Golden-headed cisticola: a resident of the valley's reedlands.

tations will run from 7:30 - 9:00 pm and will allow good time for questions and participation.

Sessions will be at the Earlwood-Bardwell Park RSL in Harthill-Law Avenue, adjacent to Bardwell Park station; buses 471 and 446 pass by. There is parking behind the club. The RSL has a wide range of dining venues and bars and you may like to eat there before, or share a drink afterwards, as part of your evening.

Sessions are free to WCPS members, \$5 for interested others. Family membership of Wolli Creek Preservation Society is \$10 for 2002 - membership enquiries 9554 3176.

Regular Wolli Creek Committee meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Community Development Organisation offices, 11-13 Harthill-Law Avenue, Bardwell Park at 7.30 pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Wolli Creek Book Coupon

\$10.00 The Wolli Creek Valley—A History of Survival
\$5.00 The Story of Stone
\$5.00 Birds of Wolli Creek
\$5.00 The Place that Jackson Built

plus \$2.00 postage

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