

Wolli Creek Preservation Society

# Update

February 2012

[www.wollicreek.org.au](http://www.wollicreek.org.au)

## Guerilla bushcare!

OVER THE SUMMER, SMALL GROUPS OF MEMBERS PUT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ASIDE FOR A FEW HOURS TO TACKLE SOME QUICK ONE-OFF PROJECTS IN THE WOLLI VALLEY. THE CALL WENT OUT AND PEOPLE TURNED UP AT SHORT NOTICE TO REMOVE WEEDS, IMPROVE A SITE OR PROTECT A REGENERATING AREA.

Photos: Laura Zusters



### TURRELLA POND

Fifteen volunteers worked around the Turrella Reserve pond and filled 10 big bags with weeds. They focussed strongly on *Cyperus* and *Aster* but found lots of other species to remove as well. Another follow up session is expected in February or March.



*"So good to be able to make use of these cooler mornings while they last. Just a couple of hours work makes a real, visible difference."*

Peter Stevens, Bushcare Coordinator

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# Guerrilla bushcare!



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## KINGS TRACK CLEAN UP

Seven members tackled Kings Track off Johnston St. Ron and David worked up a sweat moving rocks and sandbags to form a silt preventative barrier, while Deb and George installed a new interpretation sign to await its text panel. Prue and Dorothy filled nine bags with weeds from the retention basin.

## REGEN AT BRAY AVENUE

Small patches of Kangaroo Grass, Kunzea and Lomandra have been slowly regenerating at Illoura Reserve in the lawns below Bray Avenue near Richard Street, but were in danger of being accidentally mowed by Council. A small team descended to put down new protective mulch barriers around them by creating a clear 'no-mow' area.



## WAVELL CLIFF

The cliff on the path from Wavell Parade down to Turrella Reserve was transformed by a small, dedicated team of fourteen volunteers and residents. Metre-thick ivy covering the cliff was totally removed, many weeds were removed and tube stock planted.

It's amazing what can be achieved in a short burst of action. Go for a walk and have a look at the results for yourself. Emails announcing guerrilla actions are sent to those on the bushcare volunteer list - to join in email [bushcare@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:bushcare@wollicreek.org.au) or ring 9554 3176.





# JOHNSTON ST BIOFILTER

After significant weeding by volunteers in October, the new plants are looking very healthy and well-rooted now and water is now being let into the basin over the summer.



## Clean Up Day

Why not get out your gardening gloves and join us? It's fun and very satisfying. Last year about 30 people joined forces and together we removed a huge amount of rubbish from the bushland and the creek near Wolli Bluff.



### WHERE + WHEN

Sunday 4 March. Meet at 9am in the playground, corner Sutton Avenue and Minnamorra Avenue, Earlwood. Gloves and rubbish bags provided but if you bring your own bag and gloves it will ensure that we don't run out.

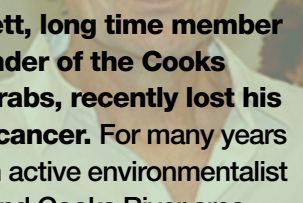
*All volunteers need to be registered to participate.*

### REGISTER ONLINE

[www.cleanupaustriaday.org.au/Girrahween+](http://www.cleanupaustriaday.org.au/Girrahween+)

For more information contact Ute Foster: [fosteru44@gmail.com](mailto:fosteru44@gmail.com) or 9559 2363 or check our Facebook and Twitter pages.

## VALE CHRIS BARTLETT



**Chris Bartlett, long time member and co-founder of the Cooks River Mudcrabs, recently lost his battle with cancer.** For many years Chris was an active environmentalist in the Wolli and Cooks River area. Now affiliated with the Cooks River Valley Association, The Mudcrabs grew enormously and moved beyond rubbish removal to prevention of rubbish entering the waterway and revegetation of the riverbank with native species. His example and leadership drew many more people into active involvement with improving the Cooks River. Chris was also an active member of the Wolli Creek Preservation Society. The transformation of many spots along the Cooks River is his enduring legacy. He will be missed.





Photo: Laura Zusters

## HENDERSON STREET CLEARED AGAIN

**The eastern bank of Wolli Creek near Turrella Station, directly opposite the new salt marsh, has been stripped of vegetation again.**

There is still no sediment control fencing to stop run off into the creek and residents overlooking Turrella Reserve are now confronted with an ugly, barren eyesore. However, together with representatives of Rockdale Council, WCPS members recently met with the new owner of the land to discuss landscaping work for the creek bank. Discussions were positive and we'll keep you informed.



Photo: Laura Zusters

## OCTOBER BIRD WALK

**Pleased that torrential rains had finally let up, Alan Leishman led a keen group of thirteen birdwatchers for a very pleasant walk through the Valley.**

A damp gully was popular with the grey fantail and scrub wren, whereas the more open heath revealed wattlebirds and the occasional call of the lone whip bird still looking for a mate. Down at the weir in Turrella Reserve, a pair of Black-faced Cuckoo Shrikes were building a nest. Moorhens and a Grebe enjoyed the water, as did a Long-necked Turtle at the Big Bend.



Photo: Laura Zusters



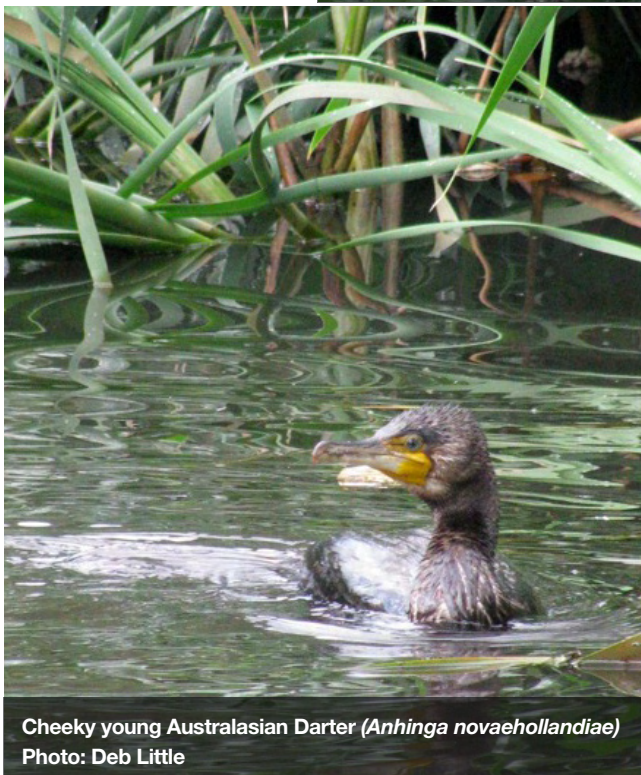
# In the Valley...

## SUMMER BIRDS

THIS SUMMER HAS BEEN GREAT FOR SPOTTING BIRDS IN THE VALLEY.



Many people, including Deb Little, noticed the family of five visiting Nankeen Night-Herons relaxing at Big Bend. Since the group included juveniles, they have probably bred in the valley.



Channel-billed Cuckoo (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*)  
Photo: Voren O'Brien



Eastern Great Egret (*Ardea modesta*)  
Photo: Voren O'Brien

We've all heard the Channel-billed Cuckoos screeching over the summer. Voren O'Brien caught this one on camera near the Adora Chocolate Shop. She also caught some great shots of a Great Egret at Turrella Reserve.

*If you have fauna or flora pictures you want to share send them in to the Society.*





WCPS

Photos: Laura Zusters

## ANNUAL DINNER

The St George Rowing Club was once again the venue for the WCPS annual dinner.

More than seventy people enjoyed the food, caught up with friends and vied for prizes in the raffle. Guest speaker Dr Peggy Eby entertained the audience with interesting stories from her many years of studying the Grey-headed Flying-fox. She gave us all a better understanding of the challenges that this threatened mammal species faces.



## Christmas Cheer

Our monthly flying fox counting group made the most of the last count of the year at Turrella Reserve. Molly and Deb made 'bat art', then welcome new counters helped us tally about 3,500 Flying Foxes flying out after sunset.

Photo: Laura Zusters

## CALENDAR

**Bush regeneration:** Mar 3, 11, 14, 16, 17, 24; Apr 7, 8, 11, 20, 21, 28; May 5, 9, 13, 18, 19, 26; Jun 2, 10, 13, 15, 16, 23. Details of locations from WCPS or website Calendar.

**Bat counting:** Third Friday of each month, just after sunset. Come along to see the fly-out or join in the counting. For detailed times and other bat news contact WCPS and join the bat group email.

**Bird surveys:** Nine teams are doing regular monthly surveys of bird species and numbers present. They work to their own timetable, but we can get you involved on a team if you contact WCPS.

**Streamwatch:** We are monitoring water quality monthly at six sites in Wolli and Bardwell Valleys. We'd love more volunteers to join this. If interested contact WCPS.

**Committee Meetings:** Feb 27, Mar 26, Apr 23, May 28, Jun 25. All members are welcome to attend the meetings, notification to WCPS essential due to security at the building.

**Saturday 10 March *Wolli from creek to crest.*** Our very popular 4 hour kayak trip up Wolli Creek with River Canoe Club kayaks. Includes training, commentary and light lunch. Cost \$40 and as always limited places are filling fast, so act soon if you want to go. To register and for more details contact WCPS.

**Thursday 26 April – 7.00pm – 10.00pm *National Trust Heritage Festival: Why Wolli Works Work.*** Panel Discussion with local practitioners using examples of innovations in the Wolli Creek Valley today and over the past 30 years. Bush restoration from the Bradley sisters to today. Waterways, rain gardens, artificial wetlands. Innovation and ideas for action Information and displays. CECAL Hall, 15 Clarke St. Earlwood. Gold coin donation. Bookings essential: 02 9559 2821.

**Saturday 28 April – 12.00pm – 4.00pm *National Trust Heritage Festival: Wolli Works – Workshop and Walk.*** Meet in hall for light refreshments, Workshop and information session explaining innovations in natural restoration in the Wolli Creek Valley. Guided walking tour to visit new and established bush regeneration areas, rain gardens and artificial wetlands. Easy walking grades through natural bushland. Wear good walking shoes. Numbers strictly limited. Senior Citizens Hall, Homer Street (in Shopping Centre Car Park). Gold coin donation. Bookings essential: 02 9559 2821.

### We Need a Walks Coordinator

WCPS hosts popular guided walks through the Valley several times a year. Our knowledgeable guides help people explore the Valley, providing commentary about environmental or historic features.

We need a member to put up their hand for publicising and organising these walks and leading some if they want. This valuable job needs someone with good organisational skills, but won't be very demanding of your time. Could this be you? Please contact the Society if you want to find out more.

### Wolli Creek Preservation Society

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