

Wolli Creek Preservation Society

# Update

September 2012

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

## Tree Huggers show the love!

SUNDAY 29 JULY 2012 – NATIONAL TREE DAY

AS GUIDES LED THEM THROUGH IN THE EARLY MORNING LIGHT, WALKERS DISCOVERED THE BUSH OF THE WESTERN GATEWAY TRANSFORMED INTO A WONDERLAND.



They found trees covered in colourful fabrics and welcoming knits. Bright colours drew their eye to old giants they hadn't noticed before. Bushcarers proudly showed off their years of work in restoring the natural beauty of the bush. Children delighted in finding favourite trees to give them a great big hug.

On National Tree Day, rather than planting new trees, we decided to show how much we love the beautiful old trees that are under threat from a second M5 tunnel. Our 'Hug-a-Tree' event attracted over 130 adults and 50 children who registered to walk through. Many local residents and visitors from the inner west hadn't known this beautiful bushland area is so close at hand. Others were surprised to learn about the variety and value of the remnant forest species growing there.

> Continued on page 2

Above: Alison Orme and daughters Stella and Lily Olive.

Right: Childrens Hug signings. Photo: Stine Baska.



*Tree huggers show the love!*  
**SUNDAY 29 JULY 2012 – NATIONAL TREE DAY**

> *Continued from page 1*

Andrew Lambkin commented, “It’s heartbreaking that all the battles of the 80s to protect this significant bushland from the M5 East, followed by a decade of regenerative stewardship by volunteers, could come to nought because successive generations of RTA/RMS idiots have learned nothing from the ‘capacity trap’ of simply building more motorways. What would \$4.5 billion achieve if spent on public transport in and through the district instead?”

Walkers emerged from the track for further information and discussion, plus a welcome cup of tea and a delicious array of cakes and biscuits, baked by members and volunteers. Children’s activities included drawing favourite trees and wearing koala masks. A splendid day was had by all. It was truly heart-warming to see so many people willing to ‘embrace the concept’ and show their love for the bush.

Thanks to the many volunteers who put in a huge effort to make the event such a success and thanks to those walkers who sent in their photos. We want to say, “A Big Thanks!”

*How can you continue to show your love for the threatened bush at the Western Gateway?*

Left: Happy Tree Huggers. Photo: Voren O’Brien.  
 From top:  
 Matilda Jones Sinclair. Photo: Voren O’Brien.  
 Ann Porter & Nancy Griffiths.  
 Spirits in the Banksia. Photo: Dorothy Luther.  
 Hands. Photo: Stine Baska.

## Annual dinner



**SPECIAL GUESTS BERNIE HOBBS AND DR MICHELLE ZEIBOTS**  
**FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER, 6.00PM**  
**ST GEORGE ROWING CLUB,**  
**LEVEY STREET, WOLLI CREEK**

### **BOOK NOW!**

ABC Science Broadcaster Bernie Hobbs and transport planner Dr Michelle Zeibots will give us the latest on the current challenges and breakthroughs in sustainable transport, including the proposed M5E extension that threatens the Western Gateway of Wolli Creek Regional Park.

This dinner is always popular and a great event to bring family, friends and neighbours along to. Booking form is included in this email.

Please make sure you book in early for the dinner as we have to settle catering numbers a week ahead of the night!

*If you have a little treasure you'd like to donate to the raffle, contact WCPS.*

## WCPS AGM

With almost 400 members, we are always keen to find new members to help with the running of the Society. We are particularly keen this year as two executive members are stepping down and there are other vacancies as well.

The Society's AGM will be held on Monday October 29 at 7.00pm at the Community Development Organisation offices at 11-13 Hartill-Law Avenue, Bardwell Park.

The outgoing committee will be seeking approval for the Annual Report to 30 June 2012 and for the annual accounts. We will also be seeking nominations for the incoming committee. Nominations have to be with the Society two weeks ahead of the AGM by close of business on Monday 15 October. A nomination form is with this Update, but you might like to discuss what's involved with current committee members. Contact WCPS to be put in touch.

## SALTMARSH RESTORATION DELAYED



The initial Roads and Maritime remediation works to the former tip site above the saltmarsh area. Photo: Peter Stevens

Restoration work on the natural saltmarsh area below Jackson Place, Undercliffe is temporarily held up by extensive remedial works being carried out by Roads and Maritime Services to the former illegal tip site above the area (shown left).

Works are expected to begin at the end of the year on the unusually diverse saltmarsh – one that is rare in the Cooks River catchment and is an Endangered Ecological Community. It is threatened by surrounding weeds, but also by encroaching Mangroves and the grant supported works will address both of these issues. To learn more contact bushcare@wollicreek.org.au or ring 9554 3176.

# MOTORWAY MADNESS

*Peter Stevens' letter to the St George Leader, 6 August*

## *Reflections on M5 Congestion*

Duplicating motorways is no solution to congestion, except in the short term. The M5E was close to capacity within two years. Los Angeles has 20-lane highways that are congested.

More road space attracts more cars until congestion frustration is reached again. It sucks passengers off public transport. Patronage on the East Hills line dropped when the M5E opened.

Motorways cost megabucks and suck limited infrastructure funds away from public transport projects. For our money we get a continuation of congested roads and inadequate public transport.

As with energy supply and air-conditioner use, capacity gets built to service the peaks and is often underused. Road peaks are largely due to solo drivers commuting. Draw more of them off the roads and existing capacity can cope.

Congestion is self-limiting, provided there are good public transport alternatives available. People reach their congestion frustration limit and switch. It's also more egalitarian, as wealthy people cannot buy priority use, unlike using road charges to reduce congestion.

Climate change and peak oil issues already make it foolish to build more fuel demand into our future planning.

## NEW HERITAGE WALK FOR DISCOVERY POINT

Lovers of local history will soon be able to follow a new Heritage Walk around the grounds of Discovery Point and Tempe House. Ten sponsored plaques will be placed around the grounds to give information on specific heritage points of interest. The first ten sponsored plaques were snapped up within thirty minutes by members of the Spark family, Heritage Societies, Sisters of the Good Samaritan, Australand, Strata Management companies and residents of Discovery Point.

There will be another sponsorship of plaques, presently at \$300 per plaque, in 6 to 12 months time. If you are interested in sponsoring a Heritage Plaque at Discovery Point, email Ross Berry, Honorary Historian at Tempe House Estate at [friendsoftempehouse@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftempehouse@gmail.com).

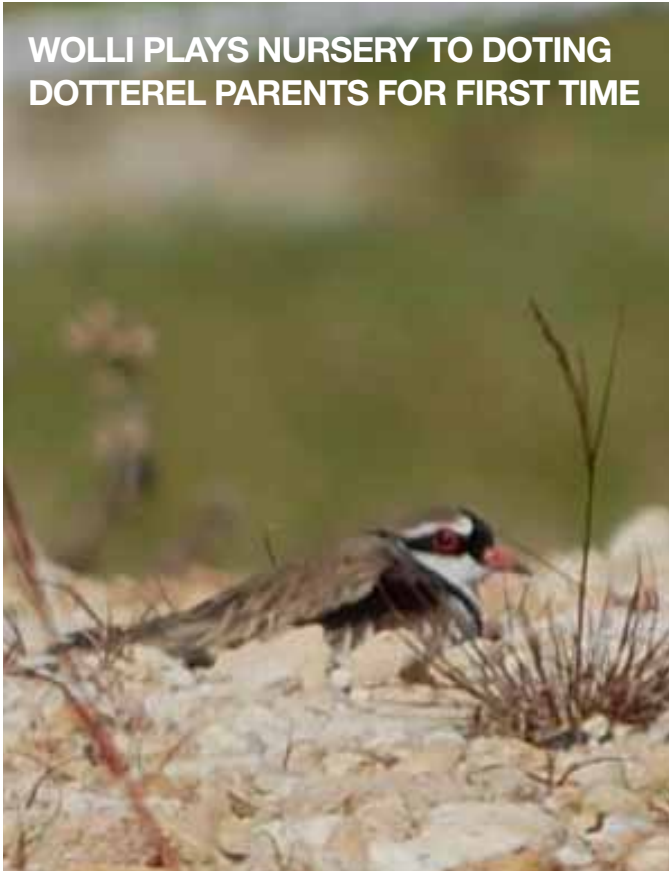
You could even suggest a heritage subject you would like to see sponsored.



Above: James Clark's Nineteenth century painting of the Cooks River Dam and Tempe House. Courtesy of the State Library of Australia.

## In the Valley...

### WOLLI PLAYS NURSERY TO DOTING DOTTEREL PARENTS FOR FIRST TIME



Black-fronted Dotterel (*Elseyornis melanops*) sitting on nest  
Photo: Voren O'Brien

A young couple of the feathered kind have settled in Sydney's inner west with plans of starting a family to the delight of Sydney's bird watching community and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

For the first time on record, the pair of Black-fronted Dotterels has set up home on a stony patch of ground at Wolli and NPWS Ranger, Paul Ibbetson, said parks staff were thrilled that the birds had chosen a site that was recently created for migratory birds and local species.

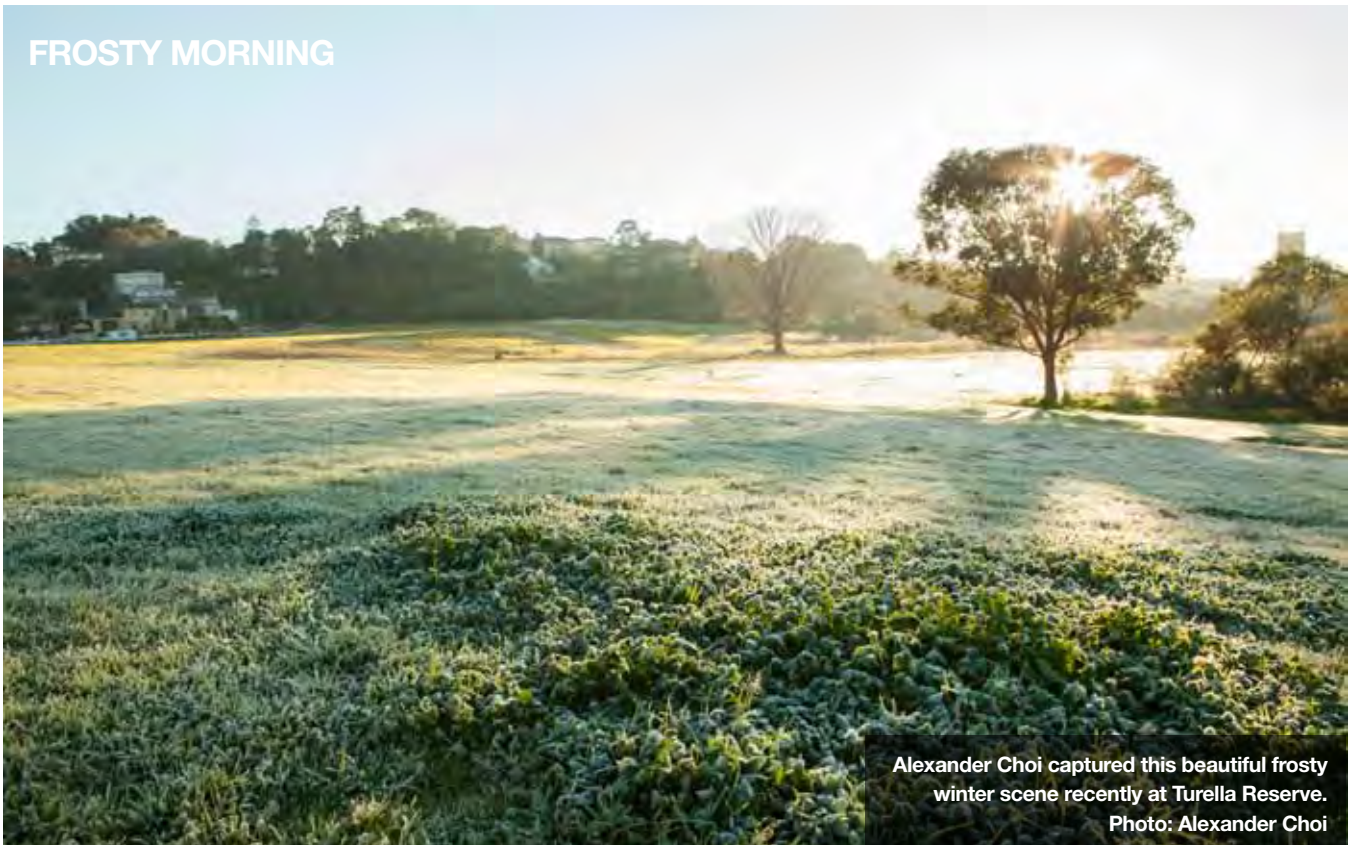
"This is an exciting event for Wolli because it's the first breeding attempt by Black-fronted Dotterels here that we know of ever, which makes all our efforts creating this new habitat worthwhile," Mr Ibbetson said.

"We've been seeing these birds regularly at a salt marsh that we built at Wolli two years ago, but to have them nest on this newly created area nearby is really special.

"Both parents incubate the eggs and we're hoping that they are successful in hatching out and raising their new chicks despite the challenges of city life. As ground nesters they are extremely vulnerable to attack from dogs, foxes and cats."

Mr Ibbetson said NPWS had cordoned off the area with an exclusion zone and have alerted local dog walkers to avoid the area and keeps dogs on leash at all times.

### FROSTY MORNING



Alexander Choi captured this beautiful frosty winter scene recently at Turella Reserve.  
Photo: Alexander Choi



## FIX THE BRIDGE

Closure of the bridge over the Henderson Street Weir has angered many local commuters who now find their path to Turrella railway station blocked.

Recent flooding has seriously weakened the bridge supports so Canterbury and Rockdale Councils have boarded up the bridge until decisions can be made on a safe temporary shoring up while designs are drawn up for a new bridge and it is built, a process that will take up to two years.

Photo: John David



## Wolli Walks

### BUSH TUCKER WALK

**MONDAY 1 OCTOBER, 9.30 – 11.30AM**

Led by Les McLeod, Aboriginal Discovery Ranger, with Ben Khan, Ranger, National Parks and Wildlife Service. *Numbers limited, bookings to [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au) or 0431 914 553.*

### WOLLI NIGHT WALK

**NOVEMBER – DATE TBC**

A rare chance to walk Wolli at night and spot nocturnal animals. *Register interest with [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au) or 0431 914 553 to be informed when details available. Numbers will be limited so get in early!*

## CALENDAR

**Bush regeneration:** Oct 6, 10, 14, 19, 20, 27; Nov 3, 11, 14, 16, 17, 24; Dec 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 22. No sessions planned for January. Details of locations from WCPS or website Calendar.

**Bat counting:** Third Friday of each month when bats present, just after sunset. For up-to-date details, join the bat group email list by contacting [bats@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:bats@wollicreek.org.au) and come along to see the fly-out or join in the counting.

**Bird surveys:** Eleven 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.

**Committee Meetings:** Sep 24, Oct 29 (also AGM), Nov 27, Jan 28. Inner south-west CDO, Suite 1, Ground Floor, 11–13 Hartill-Law Avenue Bardwell Park. All members are welcome to attend the meetings, notification to WCPS essential due to security at the building.

**Saturday 22 September *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. **Next dates are Saturday 17 November and Saturday 1 December.**

**Monday 1 October – 9.30 – 11.30am *Bush Tucker Walk.*** To register and for more details contact WCPS.

**Sunday 7 October – 2.00pm *Indulgence Walk from Bardwell Park to Bexley.*** Optional light lunch at 12.30pm at Earlwood-Bardwell Park RSL. Free to members. To register and for more details contact WCPS.

**Friday 19 October 6.00pm *Annual Dinner.*** St George Rowing Club, Levey Street, Wolli Creek. More details on page 3 in this *Update*. Cost \$45.

**Monday 29 October 7.00pm *Wolli Creek Preservation Society AGM.*** Inner south-west CDO, Suite 1, Ground Floor, 11–13 Hartill-Law Avenue Bardwell Park. All members are welcome to attend the AGM but notification to WCPS essential due to security at the building.

**Wednesday 7 November 7.30pm *Lewin Wild Art.*** Speaker from the Friends of the State Library on the birds of the Lewin Wild Art exhibition earlier this year. CECAL Hall, Lewins St, Earlwood (opposite Coles carpark). Extra information on WCPS website during October.

**November – date to be confirmed *Wolli Night Walk.*** To register and for more details contact WCPS.

**Wolli Creek Preservation Society**

PO Box 270 Earlwood NSW 2206

T 0432 914 553 E [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au)

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

<http://twitter.com/wollipossum>

[www.facebook.com/protectwollicreekvalley](http://www.facebook.com/protectwollicreekvalley)

[www.youtube.com/wollicreekvalley](http://www.youtube.com/wollicreekvalley)

