

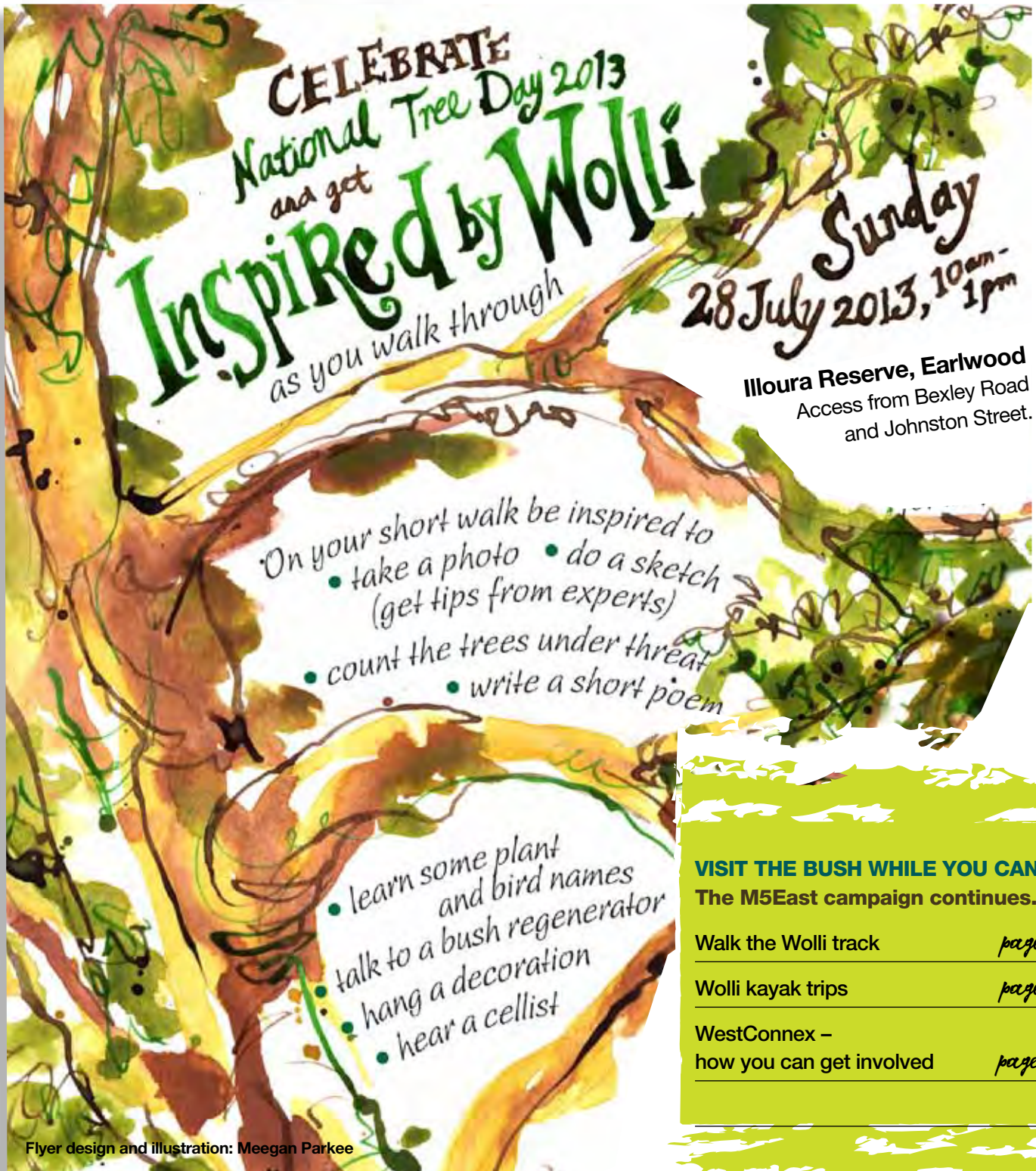


Wolli Creek Preservation Society

# Update

July 2013

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



**CELEBRATE**  
National Tree Day 2013  
and get  
**Inspired by Wolli**  
as you walk through

**Sunday**  
28 July 2013, 10am - 1pm

**Illoura Reserve, Earlwood**  
Access from Bexley Road  
and Johnston Street.

On your short walk be inspired to

- take a photo
- do a sketch (get tips from experts)
- count the trees under threat
- write a short poem

• learn some plant and bird names

- talk to a bush regenerator
- hang a decoration
- hear a cellist

**VISIT THE BUSH WHILE YOU CAN!**  
The M5East campaign continues.

Walk the Wolli track *page 9*

Wolli kayak trips *page 9*

WestConnex –  
how you can get involved *page 7*

## BENNELONG'S STORY

Dr Peter Mitchell's talk on 2 May was well received and inspired discussions by a very interested audience.

Dr Mitchell's research into the location of Bennelong's grave also gave us insights into the history of urban development in the Sydney area.



Photo: Dorothy Luther

## LOCAL SCHOOL WALKS WOLLI

Students from St Mary & St Mina Coptic Orthodox College visited the valley recently on a walk led by Dorothy Luther.

They are preparing an entry for the Neil Rankin award, producing a video about the preservation of natural forests. It was a special treat for the students and they asked a myriad of questions about Aboriginal history, wildlife and the forest on their adventure between Bexley Road and Turrella Reserve.

# Fantastic fungi!



Photo: Ute Foster

*"People may underestimate fungi, but they are a vital part of every ecosystem..."*

The first ever scientific study of fungi growing in the Wolli Valley took place in June.



Participants at the Fungi Foray. Photo: Joanna Robinski

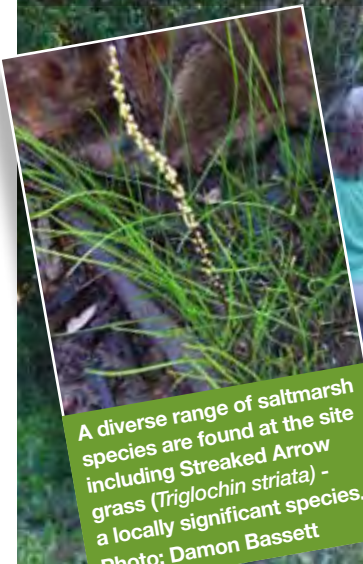
Don Gover, Dr Ray and Elma Kearney from the Sydney Fungal Studies Group gave introductory talks on 6 June on fungi of the Sydney Basin, followed by the 'Fungi Foray' on 8 June. About 30 volunteers participated, including members from Wolli Creek Preservation Society.

Over 60 species were discovered, including a very deadly *Galerina* species and a rare and endangered species, *Hygrocybe austropratensis*. One unfamiliar specimen was of the genus *Pleurotus*, found in the Bexley North bushland.

WCPS member and fungi enthusiast of the Valley, Joanna Robinski, who organised the study, said: "People may underestimate fungi, but they are a vital part of every ecosystem, without their huge role in recycling dead plant material, all new growth would soon come to a stop."

# SALTMARSH FIELD DAY

On Sunday 28 April we inspected the Saltmarsh below Jackson Place. It was a real pleasure to show the interested group an area that used to be market gardens, but is now recognised as an Endangered Ecological Community. We are delighted that the final report on the rehabilitation project has been accepted and final grant payment received.



A diverse range of saltmarsh species are found at the site including Streaked Arrow grass (*Triglochin striata*) - a locally significant species.  
Photo: Damon Bassett



Photo: Ulrike Schnabel



## Annual Dinner

**SPECIAL GUEST KEN SEARLE**  
**FRIDAY 18 OCTOBER 2013,**  
**ST GEORGE ROWING CLUB,**  
**LEVEY STREET, WOLLI CREEK**

**BOOK NOW!**

**This year's guest speaker, Ken Searle will speak about growing up with Wolli as his playground.**

Ken, a local, full-time artist, is best known for his oil paintings, depicting Australian suburban and industrial areas. Ken always begins his work by exploring the area, describing this method as 'walking into the landscape'.

Cost will be \$45 per head. Send payment to WCPS PO Box 270 Earlwood, 2206 or make a direct deposit to Westpac BSB 032 067 WCPS Inc 288295 with surname and 'AD' in information line and send an email to [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au) to confirm.

Any raffle donations, especially home-grown or home-made items would be appreciated. Please contact us on [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au).

## WALK WOLLI

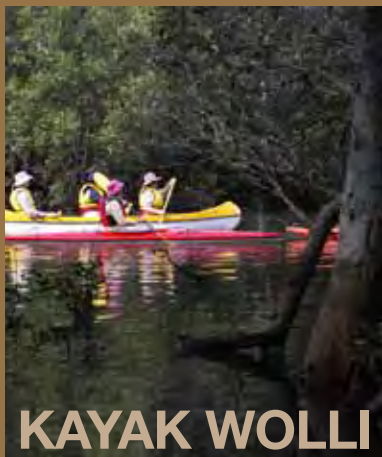
SUNDAY 18 AUGUST

Join us on another Valley walk with environmental and historical commentary, from Bexley North to Wolli Bluff above Waterworth Park. Focus will be on the renewed threat to the Western Gateway bushland, and the large number of bush restoration sites. Free to members, registration essential as numbers are limited. 4-5km, approx. 4.5 hours, start 8.45am. Email [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au)

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO NSW PLANNING LAWS

**WCPS put in a submission on the changes to the planning laws by the NSW Government.**

Our main issues were the weakening of the laws that protect the environment and an emphasis on the financial viability of development. Although the changes include proposals for community involvement, we are very concerned about their effectiveness. No proposals were made for precise and enforceable legislative provisions to back up decisions made by the community, and opportunities are left for planning professionals to by-pass community-made plans.



## KAYAK WOLLI

AUG / SEP / OCT

WCPS and the River Canoe Club are organising more of our popular kayak trips up Wolli Creek.

Enjoy a different view of the Valley from the water – mangroves and sandstone outcrops – and take the guided tour up onto Nanny Goat Hill. Sat 24/8, Sat 21/9, Sun 20/10.

Email: [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au) or phone 9554 3176. Cost \$40. About 4 hours, start 8 or 9am, depending on the tide.



## HENDERSON STREET INDUSTRIAL SITE

Ever-vigilant local WCPS members have kept their eyes on the activities on the industrial site alongside the creek. This enabled us to intervene with Rockdale Council to ensure the installation of proper silt fencing, but did not stop the continued removal of trees or ensure a shift of the proposed roadway into the site. The site is being further developed, so please keep your eyes peeled!

If you see any potentially threatening activity around the Valley, please notify the authorities and tell the Society. Email [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au). With the proposed new planning laws, your help will be even more important.

## In the Valley...

### WINTER BIRDS

LOCAL BIRD ENTHUSIAST AND PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER, VOREN O'BRIEN, VISITED THE VALLEY IN A RARE SUNNY GAP AMONGST THE DAYS OF RECENT RAINS AND CAPTURED THESE IMAGES.



Close-up of Intermediate Egret (*Ardea intermedia*)  
Photo: Voren O'Brien

Ibis were a stark white flock against the bright green lawn of the rain-soaked flats of Turrella Reserve. An Intermediate Egret landed to check out a very tall rival, the Pacific White-necked Heron. And two Nankeen Night Herons were observed sunning themselves in their usual position in an oak tree near the flying-fox camp.



Intermediate Egret (*Ardea intermedia*), White-necked Heron (*Ardea pacifica*) and White Ibis (*Threskionis molucca*) on Turrella Reserve.  
Photo: Voren O'Brien

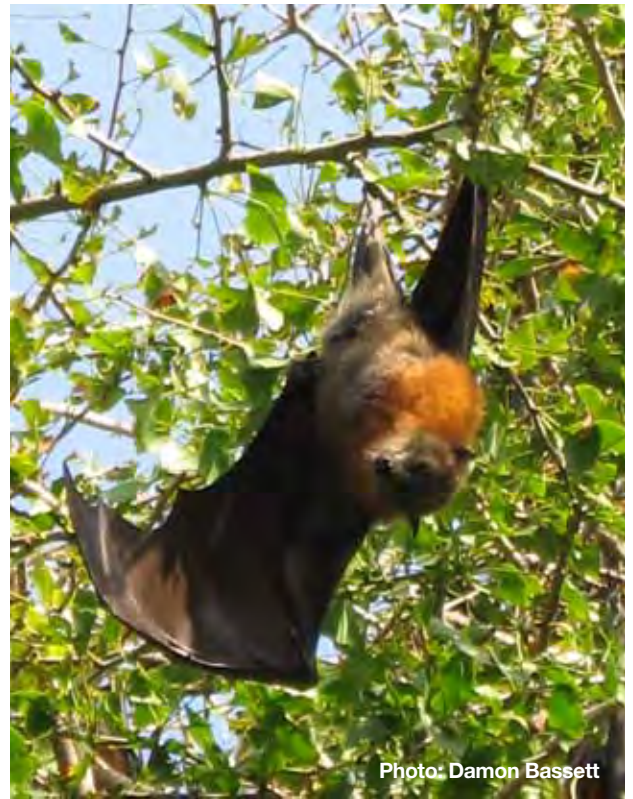


Photo: Damon Bassett

### 'OUR' FLYING FOXES

**With winter upon us, it's unusual for so many of the Grey-headed Flying-fox colony to still be at their camp by the creek in Turrella.**

We counted 4,390 Flying-foxes in June, and with the cold descending upon the Valley, counting can be quite challenging. Seeing these amazing creatures fly out and counting them is a real 'David Attenborough experience' and always worthwhile!

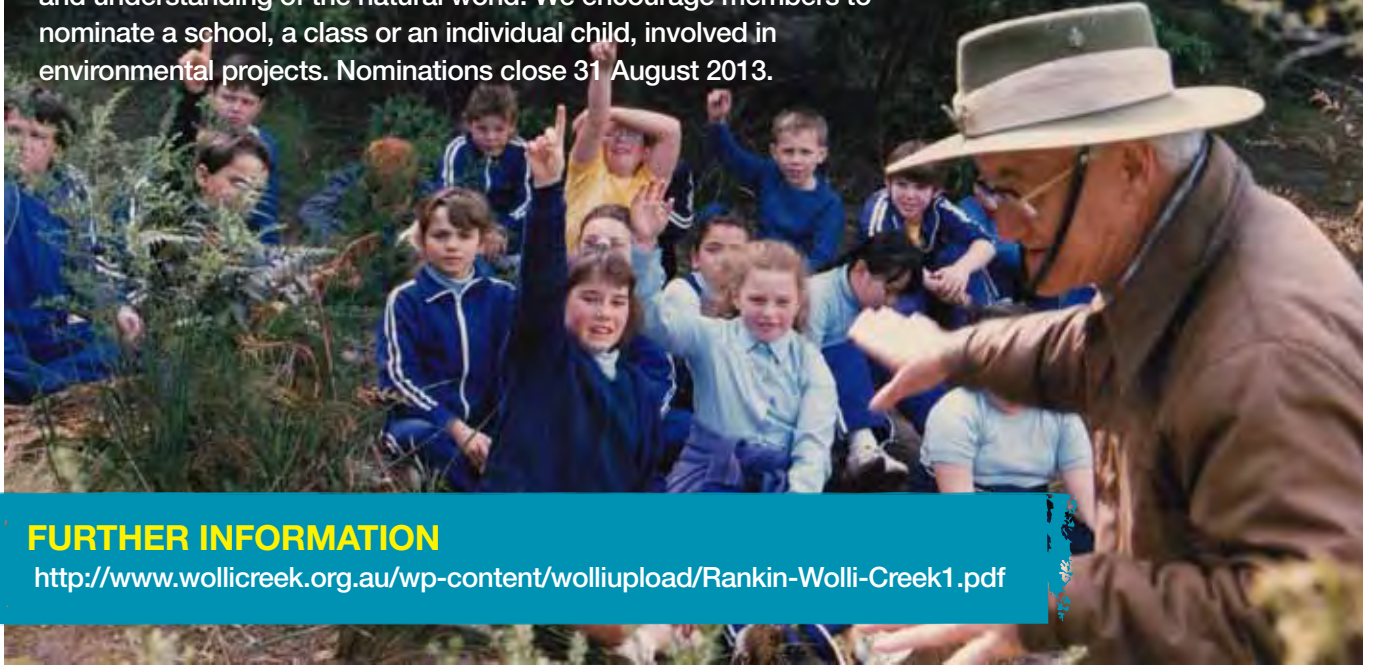
This year marked our fifth year of monitoring at the Wolli camp. Many thanks to our counting volunteers on a great achievement. Contact us on [bats@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:bats@wollicreek.org.au) if you'd like to be part of the ongoing monthly bat monitoring at Wolli.

This year also began a 3-year National Flying-fox census, and our data will be included in the National synchronized counts.

A grant application to NSW Environment Trust for a Management Plan for the camp, an initiative of Rockdale City Council, WCPS and Railcorp, was unsuccessful, but other sources will be tried.

# NEIL RANKIN AWARD

Calling for nominations for the Neil Rankin Award. The award is to be given in recognition of the work done to foster children's enjoyment and understanding of the natural world. We encourage members to nominate a school, a class or an individual child, involved in environmental projects. Nominations close 31 August 2013.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

<http://www.wollicreek.org.au/wp-content/wolliupload/Rankin-Wolli-Creek1.pdf>

# WOLLI BIRD SURVEYS



Photo: Laura Zusters

**Ten teams are doing regular bird surveys, with the team at Stotts Reserve being the latest addition. The survey data is recorded in the Atlas of Living Australia, along with Neil Rankin's survey records, ready for analysis.**

On average, 58 species are seen in each survey area, the most common ones being Rainbow Lorikeet, New Holland Honeyeater, Pied Currawong, Red-whiskered Bulbul and Superb Fairy-wren. Unfortunately, we don't see some finches and grass birds anymore, and sightings of Eastern Spinebill & White-plumed Honeyeater have declined. Worrying is the increased presence of Noisy Miners and Grey Butcherbirds. We are happy to report new species, including the Variegated Fairy Wren, the Black Fronted Dotterel, and a returned species, the Golden-Headed Cisticola.

We are ready to approach university researchers about analysis of the raw data, seeking suggestions about what we can do to balance the bird populations.

For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/WolliCreekBirdos>  
or contact [birds@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:birds@wollicreek.org.au)

# WESTCONNEX

## WILL DESTROY THE PLACE WE LIVE IN

A new broad-based community group is being formed to oppose the construction of WestConnex, and membership will be open to individuals and community groups from across Sydney. WCPS will be affiliating to the group.

For more information please email [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au).

# BUSHCARE GRANTS UPDATE

Grant funds have been increasingly difficult to come by! However, we won over \$6000 for further work on Bray Ave wetland over four months on the aquatic weeds (Hawkesbury-Nepean CMA), and over \$45,000 for two years of further work restoring the surrounds (NSW Environmental Trust).

An application for a grant to support our work on the Undercliffe Track was unsuccessful (Environmental Trust), but one for the Western Gateway Bushland (Commonwealth Caring for our Country program) is still pending, and there are hopes of funding for the Paperbark Creek site.



# TURRELLA FOOTBRIDGE

Councils are proposing a new bridge 3m wide (wide enough for a car!) and bank stabilisation using gabions (wire cages filled with rocks), which foster weed establishment. The design has also failed, despite our representations, to provide for a new landing space for kayaks. Sandstone blocks could form the landing as well as bank stabilisation.

Please write to your Councillors, if you live in Rockdale or Canterbury area, and urge them to have the plans altered.

# NEW MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE

*Spread the word!*

Our membership brochure provides background info to the Valley and the Society and how you can get involved. Please pass it on to your friends and neighbours.

Download at:  
[http://www.wollicreek.org.au/wp-content/wolliupload/Wolli\\_online1.pdf](http://www.wollicreek.org.au/wp-content/wolliupload/Wolli_online1.pdf)

## Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Join the many volunteers who help maintain and improve the beautiful Wolli Valley.

Wolli Creek Preservation Society Inc.  
 PO Box 270 Enfield NSW



Photo: Natalie Hitoun

## Bushcare profile

### UTE FOSTER

**Almost eight years ago, Ute began bushcare in the Valley. Once a month at first and then when she had extra time to spare, participated at more Wolli bushcare sites.**

Ute is an active WCPS member, not just as a committed bushcare volunteer, but in her roles over the years as committee member and society secretary.

“My love of bushwalking and interest in native plants is what drew me to the Wolli Valley” Ute said.

“It’s amazing how much I have learnt from other bushcare workers and by attending workshops through Wolli Creek Preservation Society. I recommend bushcare. It involves your body and mind, gets you out into the fresh air and puts you in touch with interesting people.”

## MPS VISIT WESTERN GATEWAY BUSHLAND

**Local member and Deputy Opposition Leader, Linda Burney, and Ryan Park, Shadow Minister for Roads, walked with us through the Western Gateway bushland on 13 June.**

They heard our concerns about the area becoming destroyed by the M5East proposal, part of WestConnex. Ryan Park – a keen bushwalker – was impressed by the bushland and by our arguments against the road construction. Let’s see what difference that will make to the ALP position on WestConnex.

## CALENDAR

**Bush regeneration:** Jul 6, 10, 14, 19, 20, 27; Aug 3, 11, 14, 16, 17, 24; Sep 7, 8, 11, 20, 21, 28. Details of locations from WCPS, bushcare@wollicreek.org.au or website Calendar.

**Bat counting:** Third Friday of each month, just after sunset. Come along to see the fly-out or join in counting. Please contact bats@wollicreek.org.au, also to keep up-to-date on bat news.

**Bird surveys:** Ten 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:** Jul 22, Aug 26, Sep 23. Inner south-west CDO, 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.

**Sunday 14 July** – 8.00am – 1.00pm *Addison Road Markets, Marrickville* WCPS will have a stall at these popular local markets. If you are able to help out to organise, set up and talk to market visitors we’d appreciate help for any length of time. Please contact WCPS on 9554 3176.

**Sunday 28 July** – 10.00am – 1.00pm *Inspired by Wolli, National Tree Day.* See front cover of this *Update* for more details.

**Thursday 1 August** – 7.00pm *Frogs of Sydney – are they in trouble?*

Illustrated talk by author Marion Anstis, Frog and Tadpole Study Group, NSW who will give an introduction to some of Sydney’s frogs and tadpoles, how they live and how they are surviving in present times.

CECAL, 15 Clarke Street, Earlwood (entry Lewins St).

Bookings contact WCPS info@wollicreek.org.au or call 0431 914 553. Last talk for the year! *Gold coin donation.*

**Sunday 18 August** – 9.00am start. *Walk the Wolli Valley – guided walk.* See page 4 of this *Update* for more details.

**Saturday 24 August** – 8.00 – 9.00am start (tide dependent). *Kayak Wolli Creek.* See page 4 of this *Update* for more details.

**Friday 18 October** – from 6.00pm. *WCPS Annual Dinner.* See page 3 of this *Update* for more details.

**Wolli Creek Preservation Society**

PO Box 270 Earlwood NSW 2206

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www.wollicreek.org.au

https://www.facebook.com/protectwollicreekvalley

