



Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Update

September 2013

INSPIRED BY WOLLI

National Tree Day, Sunday 28 July



Graphic designer Meegan Parkee hosted a popular sketching group for adults and children.

Ulrike Schnabel



Jenny Templin

More than 120 people were inspired to visit Wolli Creek and walk through the bush to help art and nature come together. The Wolli Creek Preservation Society hosted the day to alert people to the Bexley bushland threatened by plans for an M5 expansion.



Deb Little

“We want to increase both community awareness of the threat to the bush and politicians’ awareness of the community’s commitment to it,” said Deb Little, the Society’s Vice-President, who put in tremendous work organizing the event.



Natalie Hitoun



Jenny Templin



John David

In her 'Crime Scene' installation, Catherine Keyser made bundles of branches fenced off by tape and 'evidence' pictures to eloquently represent the trees that would be lost and animals affected if the M5 tunnel duplication went ahead.



Jenny Templin

Walkers along the track added decorations and poems, made sketches and took photographs while Bronwen Whyatt played her cello, delighting people passing by on the track.



Natalie Hitoun



John David

Invited artists and performers added their creative skills by making art in the bush, including professional photographers Jenny Templin, Philip Le Masurier and Peter Solness. Bushcare volunteers also demonstrated the Art of Bush Regeneration.



Jenny Templin

At Illoura Reserve, people were greeted by refreshments generously donated by volunteers and were entertained by the Jazzouche band. Catherine, Judy and Lee made sure there were plenty of art activities for children including sketching and haiku.

It was a fun day with a serious edge. Bushland of this quality in the inner parts of Sydney is rare and clearly endangered by the proposed WestConnex project. Thanks to everyone who voluntarily gave hours of their time and made a significant contribution to the enjoyment and success of the event.



Deb Little



Deb Little



Jenny Templin

THREE BUSHCARE GRANTS GET THE GO AHEAD

“Wolli’s mid-week volunteers are jumping for joy at the news,” says Bushcare Co-ordinator Peter Stevens.



Georgina San Roque Roque

Illoura Reserve

A Community Environment Grant under the Commonwealth Government’s ‘Caring for Country’ initiative has been awarded to the Society for its work near Illoura Reserve in Earwood.

The grant of almost \$50,000 will run from now until February 2015. “This excellent funding will enable the Society to protect biodiversity by rescuing the canopy of a two-hectare site from exotic vines and Lantana,” Peter said, “We will also be reaching out to inform and recruit volunteers from the Korean, Chinese and Arabic-speaking communities to help us deal with other issues on the site.”

Wolli Billabong

The Society has also received two significant grants to further assist its work on the wetland area near Bardwell Park station. The Hawkesbury-Nepean Catchment Management Authority has awarded the Society over \$6,000 for 2013/4 to treat a number of noxious aquatic weeds in the wetland itself. The NSW Environmental Trust has granted over \$45,000 across two financial years to maintain and extend the work being done on the wetland surrounds.

Volunteers Welcome

These are big programs in a fascinating area and our volunteers are looking forward to it. New volunteers can contact Peter at bushcare@wollicreek.org.au or on 0431 914 553. People can learn on the job, while enjoying some light exercise in the bush.

Congratulations to Peter Stevens for the many hours of work putting in the winning applications for the grants. His hard work has really paid off.



ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 18 October 2013, St George Rowing Club, Levey St Wolli Creek

The date for our Annual Dinner is drawing closer, so buy your tickets now.



Guest Speaker Ken Searle

Ken, and his partner, author Nadia Wheatley, have published environmental story books for children and both have worked extensively with central desert aboriginal communities. Their book “Going Bush”, set in Wolli Valley, has just been republished in paperback and will be available at the dinner along with others of their books such as “My Place”, “Playground” and “Australians All”. Ken will be entertaining us with stories of his engagement with Wolli as a child and his later life as an artist and illustrator

Last year we raised \$900 from our popular raffle!!



Deb is short of produce for the ‘hamper baskets’ and would love to include home-made treats like jams and chutneys and any ripe garden offerings. Donations of wine or vouchers for local services are also gratefully accepted. Please contact us on info@wollicreek.org.au.

'NOW PUBLIC TRANSPORT' LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

A new alliance of individuals and community groups across Sydney has formed to oppose the WestConnex project that threatens 2 hectares of Wolli bushland and so much more besides. Membership will be open soon. We'll let e-members know and post out to anyone else who lets the Society know of their interest. WCPS has had a significant role in the formation of the group and is keen to see it grow. For more information go to <http://westconnex.info/> and for Wolli-specific information go to http://www.wollicreek.org.au/wolli_valley/issues.

There is a petition to sign and the Society has produced a postcard you can send to the Premier.



Black Shouldered Kite, seen in Jackson Place this month. Photo by John Duffy.

ELECTION DAY STALL IN EARLWOOD

Dedicated WCPS volunteers manned a stall at Earlwood Public School on Election Day as part of the school's fundraising fete. We took over \$200 in cash and sold \$56 worth of books. 21 new members were signed up, which is a very pleasing result. It was a tough day working in the sun, so thanks to all those who took time out to help on the stall.

In the Valley... Turrella Footbridge

A new, much bigger footbridge over Wolli Creek has finally gone into place at Turrella Reserve. Locals and commuters are grateful they will no longer have to leap over the creek to get to work. But the new bridge doesn't include a sorely-needed kayak landing site at its base, as was recommended by WCPS.



Photos: Laura Zusters

RANKIN AWARD PROJECT

Migrant Students Visit Bush for First Time

We received varied and interesting nominations for this year's Neil Rankin Award, given to schools and community groups to recognize their special efforts fostering children's enjoyment and understanding of the natural world.

The Beverley Hills Intensive English Centre (IEC) prepares newly arrived migrant students for integration into a regular high school. Francine Harvey, an ESL English teacher at the school, took students on a walk through the Wolli Valley to learn about the Australian natural environment and then describe their experience through written expression, artwork and videos. Most of the sixty students participating had never visited the Australian bush before.



The students' work was displayed as part of the school's Spring Music Festival and showed creativity and talent. Science broadcaster Bernie Hobbs presented the Neil Rankin Award to the school on behalf of WCPS and each student received a certificate to include in their folio of achievements.



Visit vimeo.com/74035840 to watch a video of the bushwalk and vimeo.com/bhiec/videos to see all of the student videos.

Visit www.facebook.com/BeverlyHillsIntensiveEnglishCentre to view photos of the Spring Festival.

By Judy Finlason



THE BUSH

We see the plants,
Green, shaking, life.
We feel the sun,
Yellow, shining, hope.
We listen to the birds,
Happy, singing,
freedom.

Zeraph Zhang, Year 10

'Welcome to Wolli'

Community picnic at Girrahween Park, Sunday 29th September

Wolli Creek Society members are invited to join with families from the Intensive English Centre at Beverley Hills High School for a picnic, held in the barbeque area from 12 o'clock. Bring a picnic lunch.

Deputy Principal Michael Harmey, teacher Francine Harvey, Bernie Hobbs



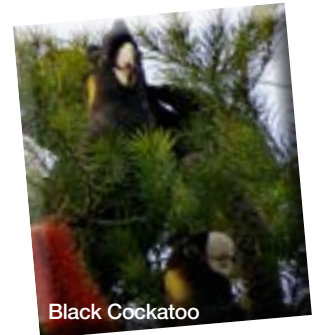
Spotted Pardalote



Boy's Eye View

Growing up next to the bush in the Wolli Creek Valley provides lots of opportunities often denied to city kids. Callum Duffy, aged 10 years, enjoys observing the many creatures he sees around his home, especially the birds.

"I'm Callum and I live in Jackson Place. It's great living next to the bush. I see lots of birds and Mum lets me borrow her camera to take photos of them. I like looking for the birds in bird books to try and work out what they are. Sometimes I draw them too. I think we're very lucky to have so many nice birds in our area."



Black Cockatoo



It's AGM Time Monday October 28

At the offices of the Community Development Organization at 11-13 Hartill-Law Avenue in Bardwell Park at 7pm.

All members are eligible to stand for election to the committee and while we will approach a few people personally, please don't wait upon this as we may well not know of your interest and you shouldn't be shy. WCPS is able to fight for the Valley's preservation because up to twelve members serve as decision-makers and organizers each year. But we need some turnover to bring new ideas and approaches. We hope that you might be one of those who will take a turn on the committee. To find out more please contact the President, Tim Pullen via 0425 252 875 or pullent61@gmail.com or the Vice-President, Deb Little via 0422 156 632 or deblittle@iinet.net.au.

Nominations need to be with the Secretary or President by 14 October. See nomination form attached.

WESTCONNEX GREINER'S FOLLY - VIDEO #3

Gavin Gatenby has released his latest compelling YouTube video for Eco Transit Sydney, highlighting problems with Nick Greiner's WestConnex motorway proposal. With co-star Jesse the Dingo, Gavin explains how car use has fallen to the level of 20 years ago, while demand for public transport has surged beyond peak-period capacity. With projects and policies far cheaper than WestConnex, it's possible to dramatically reduce road traffic and build a more liveable and sustainable Sydney.

Part 1 Part 2 Part 3

www.ecotransit.org.au

Flying Fox Pups Escape The Heat

See Gavin's new video about the Wolli Creek bat rescue on 18 January 2013, the hottest day ever recorded in Sydney.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFcyC1njzTs>

FROGS OF SYDNEY – ARE THEY IN TROUBLE?

Renowned author Marion Anstis shared her knowledge of Sydney's frogs at a talk organized for Wolli Creek Preservation Society on 1 August in Earlwood. Despite the chilly temperatures, about twenty members found ourselves enthralled by the speaker's expert knowledge and obvious passion for her subject. The highlight of the evening came when Marion's little frog she had brought called out for us.

Of the two dozen frog species once common around Sydney, sadly only four remain common here today. Those four can still be found in the Wolli Valley – the Common Eastern Froglet, Peron's Tree Frog, Dwarf Tree Frog and best-known of all, the Striped Marsh Frog with its call that sounds like the 'twock' of a tennis ball being hit.

By Ute Fotster



ICE CREAM FACTORY MAKES WAY FOR MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Local residents were taken by surprise when the old Streets Ice Cream Factory next to Turrella railway station was demolished. The site is being excavated to make way for the building of the 'Genesis' project, with 280 apartments over 6 storeys. A development of this density could be setting a precedent for further developments in Turrella and will impact both Wolli Creek Regional Park and residential areas across Wolli Creek Valley. The DA conditions say that landscaping on this site 'must be non-bird attracting'. Does anyone know why?

If you see any potentially threatening activity around the Valley, please notify the authorities and tell the Society. Email info@wollicreek.org.au.



Laura Zusters

NEW BLOOD NEEDED

Bushcare Coordinator

Peter Stevens is standing down as our Bushcare Co-ordinator after 11 years. We are hoping to find a couple of people willing to take on organizing our regular bushcare groups. Peter will still be around to help and to work on grants, but will be taking a much less active role in the week-by-week activities.

Publicity Officer

We need one or two people to act as Publicity Coordinators and focus on publicizing the Society's events and activities via the papers and flyers. You won't need to be involved in the organization of the events, but will need to enthusiastically advertise what we do.

Treasurer

Next year we will need a new Treasurer as Peter Stevens is planning to step down from that role as well. Learning the task over 2013/4 would be a useful lead-in to assuming responsibility for the following financial year. Does anyone know of a retired accountant or bookkeeper who might be interested in using their skills by taking this on?

No-One Will Be Thrown In The Deep End

Each of these roles would allow for a gradual take-up of the work. We have many experienced folk to assist while you learn the ropes and the roles can be reshaped to suit those who take them on.

If you think you might be able to take on any of these roles, please discuss with Peter via 0412 596 874 or PeterStevens@inet.net.au.

CALENDAR

Tuesday 24 September: School Holiday walk in the Wolli Valley. Please contact CECAL (Canterbury Earlwood Caring Association) for more details. Phone: 9559 4013

Sunday 29 September: Welcome to Wolli Picnic. In connection with Rankin Award; for details phone 9559 2821

Sunday 20 October: Approx 8am start (depending on the tide): Kayak Wolli Creek from River Canoe Club, Cooks River. Some places still left but going fast. Bookings essential.

Bush regeneration: Oct 5, 9, 13, 18, 19, 26; Nov 2, 10, 13, 15, 16, 23; Dec 7, 8, 11, 20, 21; Jan 25. 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. New counters always welcome, please contact bats@wollicreek.org.au.

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 coordinator on 0458 230 251.

Committee Meetings: Oct 28 (including AGM), Nov 25. 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.

Monday 28 October: Annual General Meeting 7pm CDO Bardwell Park

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

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