



Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Update

February 2016

wollicreek.org.au

COMING UP

SOCIAL BATWATCH PICNIC FRIDAY 11TH MARCH FROM 6PM

Please record the date and invite friends and family to come along to **TURRELLA RESERVE**

GREAT FOR KIDS

Bring a picnic and a glass of wine to the area near the footbridge over the creek. Then lie back and watch the Grey-headed Flying Foxes fly out at sunset.

We recorded almost 15,000 bats flying out from the camp at the last count, so it's a sight to see! It's a fantastic opportunity for kids to experience this huge natural event. There will be plenty of activities for them to enjoy.

The Flying Foxes sleep during the day in their Turrella Camp, between Wolli Creek and the railway line. Every night at sunset, they fly out in search of nectar, blossom and fruit all over Sydney. Lately, large numbers have been flying down the Bardwell Valley to feast on flowering gum blossom down south.

These animals are a protected species, because they are vital to the spread of native plant pollen, yet their habitat is steadily being eroded.



Some 'batty' craft from last year's picnic

Around 200 people came for the experience last year
It's a great atmosphere



TURRELLA RESERVE

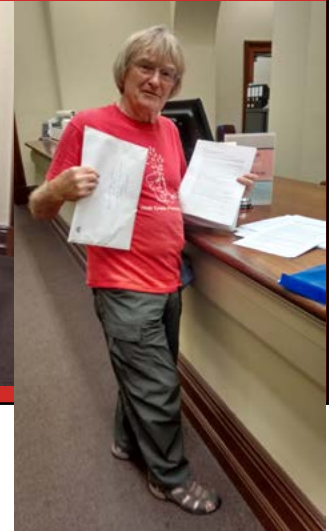
Our regular monthly Flying Fox counters will be meeting here the following week on Friday 18th of March, to record the numbers flying out.

If you want to come and help us count for an hour at sunset, please contact Deb on bats@wollicreek.org.au.

LOCALS OBJECT to NEW M5

RECENT ACTIVITY

Over 120 objections against the New M5, signed by residents of Canterbury and Rockdale, were handed in to the Department of Planning on Friday 29th January



Peter and Joanna handing in the objections at the Department of Planning

Just before Christmas, Westconnex released their 5,000 page Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the effects of Stage 2 of Westconnex, the new M5. This left very little time for residents and WCPS members to digest the huge document and respond to it by the deadline.

A full length objection was prepared by WCPS members who gave up much of their summer break to read and make sense of the enormous EIS document.

WCPS objected to the clearance of Critically Endangered Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest at Kingsgrove, to the destruction of foraging habitat for the Grey-headed Flying-fox, to the likely extinction of the Green and Golden Bell Frogs located on the Kogarah Golf Course at Arncliffe, and for many other reasons.

We held stalls over a couple of Saturdays in Earlwood and Wolli Creek, to explain to locals how the New M5 would impact the area. Many locals knew very little about the road and were interested to hear why we were objecting. And some remembered promises that the existing M5 would solve traffic congestion!

We had prepared a short version of our submission to the EIS and many people were keen to sign.

You can read the full WCPS submission on the website here: www.wollicreek.org.au/wp-content/wolliupload/New-M5-EIS-WCPS-sub.FINAL270116.pdf.

Thanks to the many people who were able to participate and collaborate in this action - Jenny Beer, Deb Little, Peter Stevens, Deryn, Tim, Kitty & Peter, Pat Thomas, James, Catherine and Joanna.

A wonderful team effort!

Joanna Robinski
WCPS Committee Member



Deb Little at the Tempe Reserve drilling rig occupation, by Sharon Laura.



Stall outside Coles in Earlwood, by James Sen Gupta

There were also many other individuals and groups campaigning against the WestConnex EIS and we have been advised that over 9,000 objections have been submitted to the Department.

WHAT AN AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT

RECENT ACTIVITY

WEED & WINE

Now that the NSW Government has announced that Westconnex will NOT affect our bushland at Bexley Road, a group of dedicated bushcarers and WCPS members met in late September to reclaim this important area of bush.

This area, at the start of the Two Valley Trail, has now had a much-needed weed and spruce up. After a productive morning, the bush carers retired to nearby Illoura Reserve for a well-earned lunch, where they were even serenaded by the Ecopella Choir.



The Society is now embarking on a program of action to have the remaining lands for the Wolli Creek Regional Park transferred from RMS, Sydney Water and private landholders. We will be starting with this area of RMS land first.

Already, Linda Burney has asked a question of Roads Minister Gay in Parliament, asking "When would the land be transferred, now that it's no longer needed?" and received an RMS response saying all would be revealed in the M5 Environmental Impact Statement. It wasn't.

If you are a good letter-writer, join in the process by talking to Peter Stevens on 0412 596 874.



This area that we worked on, from Bexley Road to Illoura Reserve, is owned by RMS, and includes a vital part of the Two Valley Trail walking track.

DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

Despite contrary advice from Council officers and objections from the public, Canterbury Council seems to be determined to proceed with a bicycle safety facility at Gough Whitlam Park and an Archery Range at Waterworth Park, situated at the mouth of Wolli Creek.

However, as the parks are on Crown land, Council is required to develop a plan of management before it can get approval from the Department of Planning to proceed with the proposed development.

WCPS supports the development of a plan of management for the entire precinct that would take into account the needs and expectations of the many community groups that use the parklands as well as the environmental values of the area. We want to ensure the public has unrestricted access to the Two Valley Trail which traverses Waterworth Park. We also support Council's long standing proposal to restore coastal salt marsh along the banks of Wolli Creek, which would provide valuable habitat and improve water quality.

Public consultation on the draft plan of management is expected in the next few months.

Tim Pullen
WCPS Committee Member

COMING UP

FUNGI FORAYS

Sat 9th April and 9th July

With all this wet weather we've been having, are you keen to come out and see what fungi are growing in the Valley? They're pretty amazing. There's lots to learn.

Put these dates in your diary. We will send out more information closer to the time. For both dates, the 23rd will be the wet weather cover.



All photos by Laura Zusters



TAKE A WALK



Xanthorrhoea in flower on the Girrahween Track

Callicoma in flower in spring

COMING UP

We are taking part in this national event again & have registered a site at Wolli Bluff in the Wolli Creek Regional Park

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Sunday 6 March

We need as many volunteers as possible to help us make the Wolli Valley look even better. We need people to help with the collection and removal of rubbish and we are **urgently seeking a few people** (your family or a group of friends?) **to put on morning tea**. This is one of our traditions, because things go so much better with a cup of tea and a tasty bite to eat. We have all the equipment. Are you able to help provide some food? Could you organise and oversee the provision of morning tea on the day?

CAN YOU HELP?

The Site

It is the **same site at Wolli Bluff where we cleaned up last year**. This has been a favourite dumping area in the past, but we hope that with your support this year we will manage to finally remove all the rubbish from there. Access is from the top end of Unwin Street in Undercliffe, at the easternmost point of Wolli Creek Regional Park. Enter via Tempe St, off Bayview Avenue.

Children

Children of school age and older are welcome to help, provided they are accompanied by a responsible adult.

Registration

Online at <http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au/Wolli+Bluff>, or contact Ute by phone or email.

For more information or to offer to help, contact Ute Foster

fosteru44@gmail.com - mob 0424 646 877

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/1679053312334133/>



Last year, volunteers carried out 55, yes, 55 bags of rubbish, plus a lot of metal, guttering, old TVs and carpet.



In the Valley...

A recent report stated that Kookaburra numbers in Australia have fallen by 40%, which is sad news. But in the Wolli Creek Valley, the news is good, as the resident Turrella Reserve Kookaburras had three babies. On 26th November, the first of the youngsters fledged from the nest, followed two and then four days later by the other two.

All three are still alive, doing well and making a lot of noise.



Two of the Kookaburra fledglings only a few days out of the nest, with tiny beaks and not much tail

THREE NEW KOOKABURRAS

On one of our bird surveys last year, we also saw that the pair of Kookaburras near Girrahween Park were feeding one fledgling, so that's good news too.



Now a few weeks older, a Kookaburra youngster gets the hang of hunting

Unexpected VISITORS in Judy's Shed

In September last year, I noticed a small White-browed Scrub Wren flying out of my very untidy garden shed every time I entered. Then I discovered two more of the funnel-shaped nests, made of casuarina needles, tucked away in bags and on a shelf. The birds didn't leave until well into December. I don't know if they had any young. But I hope so.

Gavin Gatenby brought along his camera and managed to capture a photo of one of the birds. Seems there are some advantages in having a messy shed!

Judy Finlason,
Jackson Place





*Coats and beanies
in January!?*

Last month's Flying Fox
Count was held on
a surprisingly chilly
Friday evening

If you'd like to take part,
contact Deb at
bats@wollicreek.org.au

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If each of us got just one other person to join, we would double our membership. Know some who loves the Wolli Creek Valley and might want to get involved in our activities? Or would just like to support us financially?

**DOB IN A FRIEND OR
NEIGHBOUR AND
SIGN THEM UP!**

- Family One Year \$15
- Individual One Year \$10
- Concession \$7
- Group Membership \$30

See payment details on next page



Want to join a bird survey group?
Contact Dorothy, coordinator of Wolli
Creek Birdos on birds@wollicreek.org.au

MEMBERSHIP

Direct Deposit Westpac BSB 032 067
WCPS Inc 288295, with your
SURNAME and RENEW in
the information line

Email info@wollicreek.org.au to confirm
years and any donation included

EDITOR & LAYOUT: LAURA ZUSTERS



CALENDAR

Bush Regeneration: Feb 6, 10, 14, 19, 20, 27. Mar 5, 9, 13, 18, 19, 26. Apr 2, 10, 13, 15, 16, 23. May 7, 8, 11, 20, 21, 28. Get details of locations via email bushcare@wollicreek.org.au or from WCPS or website calendar, or phone 9554 3176. Always check in case of changes at short notice.

Bat Counting: Generally, third Friday of each month, just after sunset. For up-to-date details, join the bat group email list by contacting bats@wollicreek.org.au and come along to see the fly-out or join in the counting

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 birds@wollicreek.org.au

Committee Meetings: Feb 22, Mar 28, Apr 25, May 23. Inner south-west CDO, suite 1, Ground Floor, 11-13 Hartill-Law Ave Bardwell Park. All members are welcome to attend the meetings, notification to WCPS essential due to security at the building.

Kayak Trip: Wolli Creek to Crest - Sun, February 21, 6:55am for about four hours. From River Canoe Club, on Cooks River, Tempe. For enquiries, and to register, contact info@wollicreek.org.au Book early to avoid disappointment.

Clean Up Australia Day: Sunday 6 March, 9 am to 12 noon. Come and help us make the Wolli Valley look even better. See this issue for registration and more details.

Bat Watch Picnic: Friday March 11. From about 6 or 6:30pm. Enjoy the amazing sight of our Wolli bats, flying out at dusk over Turrella Reserve.

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