



ANNUAL DINNER 19 OCTOBER

Our 31st Annual Dinner will be at the Scots Club again this year, at 29 Burrows St, Arncliffe, right near Arncliffe railway station.

Dr Stephen Gapps, author of *The Sydney Wars: Conflict in the Early Colony 1788-1817*, and curator at the Australian National Maritime Museum, has very kindly agreed to be our guest for the evening.

Stephen is a hugely engaging speaker, and some of you may have heard him in the media relating the fascinating and yet largely unknown history of the military conflict between Europeans and Aboriginal Australians around the Sydney region in the early days of the colony. He will also talk about the Wolli Creek and Cooks River region at the time of white settlement.

Stephen will have copies of his book for sale on the evening, and will be happy to take questions and sign your copy!

The dinner will start from 6 pm onwards, with pre-dinner drinks available from the cash bar.

For bookings there are two main options:

1. **By credit card** [through Eventbrite](#). With this option the cost is \$60.00 and includes one year's membership of WCPS. If already a member this will extend your membership by another year.
2. **By direct deposit:** WCPS Inc, BSB 032 067 (Westpac), a/c no 288295. Please make sure you include your surname and "ADin" as the identifier, and also please send an email to info@wollicreek.org.au so that we are alerted to the deposit. The cost for this option is \$50.00 for members and \$60.00 for non-members. The non-member price includes one year membership of WCPS, with attendees to sign up at the dinner.

You can also pay by cheque made out to Wolli Creek Preservation Society Inc. and posted (with a cover note) to PO Box 270, Earlwood, NSW 2206. Price as per the direct deposit option. *Please book now!*

THE
Sydney
WARS

S T E P H E N G A P P S



*Conflict in the
early colony
1788-1817*

WOLLI VALLEY WALKS AND WANDERS

Wildflower Walk on Sunday 26th August

It looked like longed-for rain might actually wash out this walk, but this turned out not to be case. It did rain a little, but thankfully over the next week.

The lack of rain was apparent in the paucity or lack of flowering of some species. Although for other species it was a case of business as usual. This was a bit similar to last year too, as the extended dry period we have been experiencing was noticeable from about last winter onwards.

These walks have been held annually, either in late August or early September since 2012.

This year half a dozen members joined leaders Maggie Aitken and I on a leisurely botanising walk from Girrahween Park through to Turrella Reserve.

We started the morning with an introduction to identifying plants, covering some simple botanical terms and concepts. This process was helped by having some cut plant specimens, fruits and seeds on hand. I reassured everyone that no Wolli plants were harmed in this exercise, as I raid my own garden and my collection of seed cases before the walk.

The members who came along said they had learned new things, and had enjoyed the walk. Such positive feedback is important for all of us volunteers in the Society who take walks, or take a lead in other events. It helps to know we are on the right track.

Deb Little



Some of the 'botanisers'. Photo by Liz Kopecny.



Great nature blog with Wolli Valley wanderings.

Members who have been along to any of the annual Fungi surveys held in the Valley, usually in April and July, will have met David Noble, who helps co-ordinate these surveys. David's background is as a teacher of science, and he has a strong interest in fungi, which is reflected in the many postings on this subject in his blog. But he also has some great posts with beautiful photos about other aspects of nature, which really make you want to head on out to the location he is writing about. He also spends a bit of time in our local natural areas, and has posted quite a bit on his findings in the Wolli Valley - on birds, bats as well as fungi. David has a lovely chatty style, so do check it out. Visit his home page here: <http://www.david-noble.net/blog/> and search for "Wolli Creek".



Willie Wagtail at Turrella Reserve. Top: *Dipodium punctatum* (Hyacinth Orchid), Wolli Valley. Photos by David Noble.

Biodiversity walk

In celebrating biodiversity month this September the city of Canterbury Bankstown collaborated with WCPS to run a community walk along Wolli Creek. This walk was definitely a highlight of the Biodiversity Month celebrations and generated much interest from the community booking out in a very short period of time.

It was a gorgeous September morning and I was lucky enough to meet two members of the bird survey team setting out on their morning activities. Getting some local knowledge before a community walk always makes me feel more at ease in sharing knowledge of the local area! This walk has been my sanctuary from busy life in the inner west and it was fantastic to learn the history and hear the knowledge of Gina, Heather and especially Judy sharing the local history, along the walk with the group. After the end of the formal proceedings and walking back with a smaller group we were lucky enough to see three yellow-tailed black cockatoos gliding up the valley across Turrella Reserve.

This was a great collaboration between the city of Canterbury Bankstown and the Wolli Creek Preservation Society. For me and the walking group it highlighted the incredible passion, knowledge and commitment the members of the WCPS have shown in keeping the valley a safe haven for our local flora and fauna.

Dave Lowery
Education Officer Environmental Sustainability
City of Canterbury Bankstown



16 September walkers on a break with Judy Finlason.

Updated Amazing Wolli Creek Valley leaflet

Members who have been on general Valley walks this year led by Gina, Maggie and Heather will have received a copy of our revised and expanded Amazing Wolli Creek Valley leaflet.

The first version of this leaflet was a great initiative, and was originally written and illustrated by members Damon and Ulrike as an aid to the full-Valley, and shorter, interpretive walks that the Society has been running now for more than a decade.

An opportunity arose last year to revisit the content of the leaflet, and incorporate new or additional historical, and other information - for example from the updated archaeological study that had been carried out, from changes brought about through our Bushcare activities, the existence of the Flying-fox camp, and other Valley features thought interesting to highlight. We were approached by newish WCPS member, Xanthe Robinson, an undergraduate history student who was seeking a 'real life' project for one of her assignments. What resulted via a collaborative process with members Peter and Deb, was a revised, updated and expanded Amazing Wolli leaflet, which is given to participants on our Valley walks. Damon Bassett also assisted greatly via his graphic skills, as he has done many times in past years with WCPS projects.

Xanthe scored a High Distinction for the assignment, so definitely a case of win, win.

Deb Little



Xanthe Robinson. Photo by Deb Little.

WOLLI CREEK BIRDOS AND BIRDLIFE

Citizen Science

Bird surveys occur regularly in the Wolli Creek and Bardwell Valleys. A small but keen group of enthusiasts from all walks of life and all ages survey birds once a month. Observations are noted while walking one of on these survey routes for an hour or so (usually an early weekend morning).

These observations are later entered into the "[Atlas of Living Australia](#)" (ALA), which is a collaboration between CSIRO, Australia's museums and herbaria, universities and the Australian Government. ALA is an "open access" database available to researchers, industry, government and the community.

With over 50 hectares of diverse bushland habitats, around 100 species of birds are recorded each year in our Valley. This type of citizen science is an extremely important contribution to environmental monitoring and reporting, conservation planning, and biodiversity data management.

We would be thrilled to welcome you to one of our teams; no experience is necessary, just lots of enthusiasm and the ability to get up early one morning a month!

Email info@wollicreek.com.au for details regarding the location of the various survey areas so that you can choose one that is suitable for you.

We also have available for purchase Neil Rankin's *Birds of Wolli Valley* (revised edition) Wolli Creek Preservation Society, 2006. It is an updated and expanded version of the 1989 guide to birdwatching in the Wolli Creek Valley by Neil Rankin (1923-2001), 'The Birdman of Wolli Creek'.

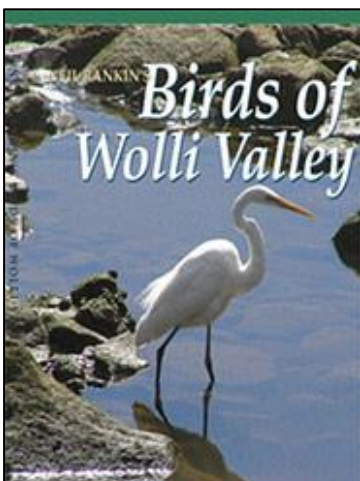
This edition has 80 pages with tables, maps, photographs and sketches and includes bird observation data in taxonomic order from 1940 to 1999. There is also an analysis of the bird species present in the valley and their frequency since 1982. The guide contains a detailed introduction to birdwatching for beginners and local residents and information about the best places to see birds.

Exciting sighting!

Sacred Kingfishers have been seen visiting the garden at Waterfront Park at the Discovery Point Development, Wolli Creek. Ann Fardell, who coordinates our bird survey team, said that a male had been in the garden everyday recently. Then one day he appeared with another Sacred Kingfisher. It has been suggested that they could be preparing a nest nearby.



Photo courtesy of Ann Fardell.



For purchasing details please see our website: <http://www.wollicreek.org.au/publications/books>

RAFFLE

Our fabulous multi-prize raffle will be held once again at the Annual Dinner. Any donations, especially home-made or home-grown items would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us at info@wollicreek.org.au

MANY MEETINGS

July Action Meeting Report

On 23 July we held our WCPS action meeting to discuss communication. This is a summary report for interested members. The final section is a list of ideas. If you are inspired to run with one of them, please contact us.

In April we conducted a survey. It was only promoted to members via email. Most respondents were over 40. Those that responded said (in the most part) that:

- they are happy with email for communication and happy with the number of emails
- we should continue to email members as currently
- we should consider how to attract and communicate with under 40-year olds

We discussed our Communication objectives as being broadly to:

- promote awareness and appreciation of the valley
- encourage involvement via volunteer work and membership
- maintain the WCPS reputation which will assist in any future lobbying.

Target audiences we may not be reaching or accommodating via our current communication methods:

- under 40s / younger people
- families with children
- new residents in the area
- migrant /non-English speaking background.

Ideas for actions needing volunteers to lead them:

- Create an Instagram account
- Use handles and hashtags such as #protectwolli, @protectwollicreekvalley, @wolliwombat,
- Guide more walks, possibly for local community groups based around schools, churches etc.
- Engage with a student on a communication project
- Run a schools competition for the Rankin Award

- Run an art competition
- Produce a calendar (possibly with art competition entries)
- Issue good news stories to the media
- Be present in the open space debate
- Undertake more project based ad-hoc activities
- Have a WCPS Youth Group

The discussion at this meeting has led to some great ideas that will continue to make WCPS relevant to our local community. We encourage members who are interested in leading any of these actions to please contact us via info@wollicreek.org.au.



Biodiversity Month Walk, 16 September (Story on page 3)

The Cooks River Catchment Congress - *United action for a healthy Cooks River and catchment*

On the 22 August I attended this interesting meeting that was organised by the Cooks River Alliance. As Wolli Creek is part of the catchment for Cooks River we were interested to attend this meeting.

The Cooks River Catchment Congress brought together organisations committed to ongoing actions for improving the health of the river and catchment. On the night we heard from some of Australia's influential thinkers who spoke on water, catchments, culture and possibilities for the future of the Cooks River and catchment. Speakers included:

- Prof. Bruce Thom AM, Chair *NSW Coastal Council* who spoke about The Coastal Management Program in an urban estuary.
- Nathan Moran, CEO *Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council* who discussed Partnerships with Aboriginal organisations
- Rodd Simpson, Environment Commissioner *Greater Sydney Commission* who gave an interesting talk about the connected elements of green infrastructure and what it means for the Cooks River catchment organisations
- Prof. Tony Wong, CEO *Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities* who discussed what is possible in a water sensitive Sydney and its catchments

The evening created a lot of discussion and for me a lot of hope as to what is possible for the future of our local waterways. While change is slow it's good to see that the work of the alliance is having an effect and that there is a lot of interest in continuing the improvements to the Cooks River and its catchments.

At the evening the Alliance's new strategic plan, *The Cooks River People's Plan*, was launched. For further details about the evening and to view a copy of this plan see <http://cooksriver.org.au/united-action-needed-improving-cooks-river-catchment/>

The event program was also streamed live on Facebook and can be replayed and shared via the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/CRAcongress18>

WCPS Annual General Meeting - 19 Nov at 7pm

Notice of this meeting will be sent to members closer to the date inviting you to attend and also to nominate for the committee. We have a small but very dedicated committee and I would invite you to consider nominating to join the committee. New committee members are always welcome and the more we have the less work we all need to do.

The committee meets monthly on a Monday night and works towards meeting the aims of the WCPS. The Wolli Creek Preservation Society constitution states that the aims are to ensure the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Wolli Creek Valley, its tributaries, associated corridors and their ecological communities, and the ecologically sensitive restoration, expansion and maintenance of these areas.

I joined the committee a few years ago as I recognized the amazing work of the WCPS and wanted to contribute in some way. While there are many valuable ways to contribute – bush care, bird survey, bat count etc – being on the committee helps with the overall management of this amazing society. We are all volunteers. I want to ensure that WCPS continues to be a highly effective group that is recognized in the community for its achievements. Being on the committee is one way to do this.

Gina Svolos, President

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

If you would like to find out more about joining the committee please contact me by emailing info@wollicreek.org.au

HIGH RISE DEVELOPMENT HORROR

It is with some foreboding and frustration that we have recently heard about a proposal to re-zone the industrial area alongside the railway line (just opposite Turrella Reserve). The proposal is for up to 20-storey high residential development, adding an extra 5000 residences! Imagine towers higher than the buildings in the suburb of Wolli Creek. This proposal is coming while the Priority Precincts proposal announced by the Planning Minister in June last year has disappeared from sight. (See the *Sept. 2017 Update*). We've heard nothing more since last year's shambles of a community 'consultation' by the Department of Planning and Environment.

There is a current re-zoning proposal to Bayside Council, which seems to have been advised only to those **directly** affected (ie to factory owners, and possibly adjacent homeowners). It has been lodged by Turrella Pty Ltd (closely connected to Sydney Civil, which is the owner of 1-3, and 5-9 Henderson St. Turrella). We've reported in past years' Updates, indeed over several years now, the Society's frustration at the activities on the 1-3 Henderson St site, right beside the creek. Here, with apparent impunity, the owner has been operating a large-scale storage and materials handling yard and vehicle depot, *without any development approval*, and has trashed the riparian zone in the process. DAs have been lodged, inadequately prepared, withdrawn, refused, re-submitted, and all the while it has been delay, delay, stall, stall, on the part of the proponent and to some extent the Council too. All

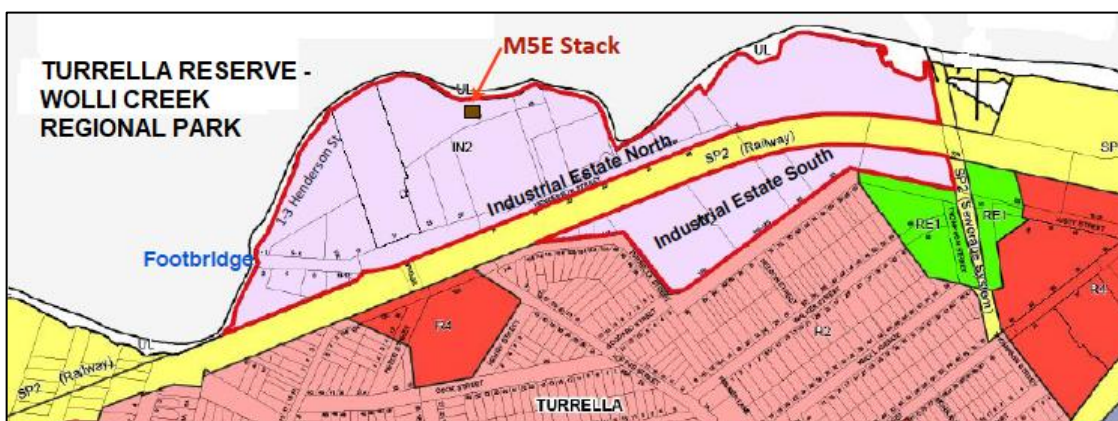
this delay has had a purpose, and now with the acquisition of more land at 5-9 in recent times, the owner(s) can be expected to go for it with this re-zoning proposal for gross residential over-development.

The Genesis apartment complex, which is on the southern side of the station is 6 and 7 storeys high. Turrella Pty Ltd/Sydney Civil was also involved in this development, the start of which caught us and other locals by surprise back in 2012 (we were again not notified). Imagine a development 3 times bigger than this!

We've often thought that the processes that have been going on in relation to the Henderson St sites might deserve the kind of investigative journalism we have seen from *SMH's* Kate McClymont et al.

In the coming month we hope to have more information to share with members about this re-zoning application, and what action the Society, members and others in the community can take. So watch out for a future email, and check local newspapers for stories.

Save Our Valley is holding their AGM on 8 October at 7 pm at the CDF Offices at 11-13 Hartill-Law Ave, Bardwell Park. They are well worth supporting (well worth joining: see [membership form](#) on their website) and are also in need of new committee members. For more information contact Peter at saveourvalley@gmail.com or on 9554 3176. Also check out their Facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/saveourvalleyBET/>



SAVE OUR
VALLEY
JOIN UP
NOW!

TERRIFIC T-SHIRTS

Wearing a WCPS Possum T-shirt is an easy way to promote the Society. When a whole family or a group wears them at a working-bee or demonstration, they really stand out.

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Sizes

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| - | - | 16 (47cm) |

To order, email Abi at info@wollicreek.org.au with:

- Your name, email and phone number
- Size, style and number of shirts and how you have made payment

Payment:

- Option 1 - direct deposit to WCPS - BSB 032 067, account number 288 295. Please include your surname and 'T-shirt' as ID.
- Option 2 - pay by cheque made out to WCPS and posted to Abi Curtis C/- WCPS PO Box 270 Earlwood

Collection. We will place a print run in November 2018, or as soon as we have 25 orders. Please order ASAP to help us reach the 25 required. We will contact you when T-shirts are ready for pick up.



Only \$25
per shirt

CALENDAR

Annual Dinner: Fri 19 Oct, Scots Club, 29 Burrows St. Arncliffe from 6 pm. Book and pay now. Great guest speaker, and raffle.

Wolli Walk: Sun 21 Oct. Full Valley walk for WCPS members. Registration essential. See our website for more info.

Kayak Trips: Sat 10 Nov trip has limited places left (starts at 8.45 am). 27 Oct trip is now fully booked.

Bushcare Dates: Expected dates for **Oct** are Sat 6th, Wed 10th, Sun 14th, Fri 19 and Sat 20. For **Nov:** 3, 11, 14, 16 & 17, **Dec:** 1, 9, 12, 14 & 15. Get more details from the WCPS website, including locations.

All sessions will be starting at 8 am from Oct on to end of daylight saving period. bushcare@wollicreek.org.au

Bat Counting: Generally, third Friday of the month, but this Oct it will be Fri 26 Oct. To join the bat e-list for notification of fly-out count times and other Wolli batty matters email: bats@wollicreek.org.au

Bird Surveys: Join a team doing regular monthly surveys in different locations along the Valley. Contact info@wollicreek.org.au to join a team.

Committee Meetings: Mon 28 Oct and Mon 19 Nov (AGM followed by committee meeting) at Community Development Forum office: Suite 1, Ground floor, 11-13 Hartill-Law Ave, Bardwell Park. Members are welcome to attend, but please let us know beforehand, so we can you help you access the building.

Wolli Creek Preservation Society
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FB Protect Wolli Creek Valley
www.wollicreek.org.au

