



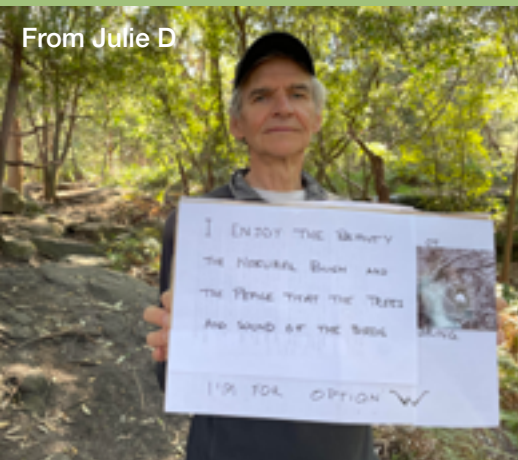
# Wolli Creek Preservation Society

# Update

September 2021

- 1. OCU Option W
- 2. Valley Damage During Lockdown
- 3. Golf Course Bird Boxes
- 4. Bird Data on Seasonality
- 5. Fungal Foray
- 6. New Member Inspired
- 7. Development in the Valley
- 8. Flying Fox Camp
- 9. Calendar of Upcoming Events

## ODOUR CONTROL UNIT LOCKDOWN PROJECT FAVOURS OPTION W

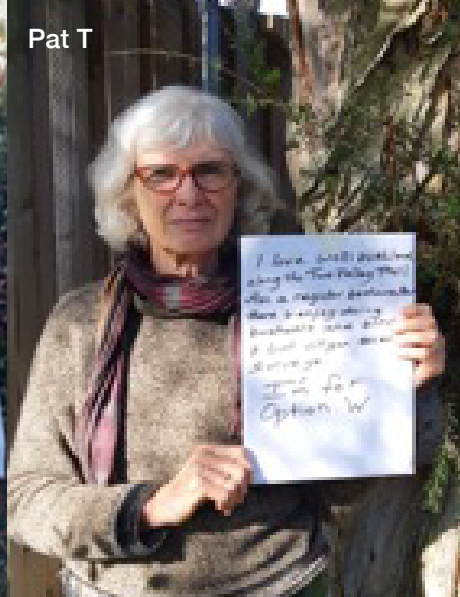


Some of the images sent to Sydney Water in support of WCPS's clever alternative proposal for the location of the Odour Control Unit

**OPTION W**

Get cracking on your own photo message





# WCPS PUSHES FOR OCU DISCUSSIONS

In May, WCPS delivered a petition against the proposed Sydney Water Odour Control Unit to NSW Minister for Water Property and Housing, Melinda Pavey, at NSW Parliament House.

Since the lockdown, we've had to rely on electronic persuasion, plus a little bit of letterboxing. But numbers on the petition have continued to grow, now past 4,750, with 5,000 within sight. [Sign the Petition.](#)

For those of you who want to know more detail:

Back in May we submitted a GIPA request (Government Information Public Access) for material relating to the process of selecting the OCU site. The material we received on 19 July allowed us to develop a new proposal, called Option W, sent to the Minister on 28 July. [WCPS Option W here](#)

A media release about the new proposal was issued on 5 August. [WCPS Media Release](#)  
It resulted in an [online article in the St George Leader](#) on 12 August.

Sydney Water responded on behalf of the Minister on 9 August, committing to include our Option W in a new Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) of potential sites, and involving WCPS in the MCA process.

On 10 August we [proposed criteria to be used in the MCA](#) and weightings to be applied to them.

Sydney Water 'appreciated' our suggestion, and proposed discussion sessions late this year with 'interested stakeholders' to settle the criteria and weightings and to carry out the MCA. We are arguing that there is no reason why the first of these sessions couldn't be held in September.

There continues to be a series of email exchanges between Sydney Water and WCPS. Sydney Water claims to have a new location and layout on their land which "alleviates all the concerns that have been raised". No details have been provided. A further delay to construction is promised until the second half of 2022. There has been an exchange of our stakeholder list for their 'partial' one.

If you'd like to be on the list for more frequent updates, or would like more detailed information on this issue, please email [PeterStevens@inet.net.au](mailto:PeterStevens@inet.net.au).

**Peter Stevens**



## VALLEY DAMAGE DURING LOCKDOWN

The walking tracks of Wollli Creek Regional Park have been taking a bit of a beating during the recent lockdown, particularly on weekends.

The warmer spring weather is tempting even more people outdoors into nature. But some areas of the TVT tracks and bushland are being trampled and damaged. Illegal mountain bikes are seen on the tracks more often and Greenhood orchids and stone have been removed along the Johnston Street track, which is heartbreaking for local volunteer bushcarers. Residents of Jackson Place say numbers have increased enormously. Most people take care in the bush, but there are too many people and bikes causing damage.

Stacy Wilson, the NPWS Ranger for the Regional Park, provided WCPS with statistics via NPWS data loggers on the increase in track use between July 2020 and June 2021, building on the already higher numbers of walkers last winter.

	July 2020	May 2021
Highcliffe/Turrella Track	1843	4563
Girrahween Park	2885	5468
Turrella/Girrahween Track	4364	5771

Deb reports,

**“With National Parks’ blessing, Peter and I put up 3 x NPWS laminated ‘No bikes and dogs on leads’ signs at the Bexley North end of TVT. When I went back, all signs had been removed. Someone on a bike had been through too and chipped off chunks of sandstone and left scrapes across rocks.”**

These signs are being replaced as needed and it’s hoped that the permanent NPWS signs can be installed soon, once the current restriction on NPWS staff entering the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA is reviewed. If you are walking through the Wollli Creek Regional Park, please help WCPS monitor how the public are interacting with the TVT and bushland. Please contact NPWS on 9337 5511 to report concerns about things like mountain bikes, dogs off lead, dumping of rubbish and theft. Please also send an email to [bushcare@wolllicreek.org.au](mailto:bushcare@wolllicreek.org.au) and/or [info@wolllicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wolllicreek.org.au), so WCPS also knows, as we can help with any follow up if needed.

You can point out politely to people that the bushland and tracks are part of the Wollli Creek Regional Park and that volunteers spend many hours helping to look after it, so it needs to be treated with respect. The Park is home to birds, lizards, turtles, bats, fungi and a great variety of native plants that need our protection and respect.



Ann and Angus with nesting boxes

## NEW BIRDBOXES A HIT AT BARDWELL VALLEY GOLF COURSE

**Ann Fardell is Co Ordinator of Wolli Creek Birdos. Recently, she and her husband Tony, a Director at Bardwell Valley Golf Club, successfully applied for a small Bayside Council grant of \$2,000 to install nest boxes for birds at the Golf Club.**

Bayside Council Environmental Officer Madeline Hourihan also chipped in with a Council donation of 10 sturdy marine ply nest boxes. Ann & Tony painted the nest boxes, then two installers from Naria Environment spent a day in August climbing trees to install them. All 10 nest boxes are now in place.

Hopefully native birds will occupy some of the nest boxes this spring. However it can take some time for local birds to accept them, so it might not be until next spring that activity is seen.

**“We are thinking mainly parrots will take up residence. However as long as it is native we don’t mind! On the golf course we have Rainbow Lorikeets mainly, but also see Scaly Breasted Lorikeets, Musk Lorikeets and Galahs. An owl would be lovely!”**

Most parrots, kookaburras, most owls, some ducks such as Wood Ducks, Tree Martins, Dollar Birds, some Kingfishers and many, many other species nest in tree hollows. Nest boxes are needed because tree hollows can take over 50 years to form and large hollows suitable for nesting are only found in old trees. Unfortunately, many of those trees continue to be cut down as residents worry they are unsafe, which is usually not the case.

**Some tree hollow breeding species are in trouble.** Powerful Owls, which mate for life, only nest in tree hollows. They also stay in the same territory all their lives. If their nesting tree is destroyed and they cannot find another one in their territory, they won’t move and cease breeding.

There are reports that local Kookaburras have learnt to dig burrows in the soft tops of Canary Palms, due to the lack of suitable hollows in their territory.



Kookaburra at hollow  
Picture courtesy of Blendspace



## ANOTHER PECK AT OUR BIRD DATA ANALYSING SEASONALITY

Dorothy Luther, the Wollie Birdos data administrator, is supervising a new group of Macquarie University students this year to collect and further analyse data from our monthly bird surveys.

Dorothy has been busy the last few months collaborating with Holly Parsons at Birdlife Australia to move all our bird data over to their database, which is more accessible and searchable than the CSIRO Atlas of Living Australia. The students will be analysing data from Coolibah Reserve, Girrahween Track, Illoura Track, Stotts Reserve, Undercliff Track, Western Track and Wollie Bluff. We are waiting for Bray Ave Wetland data to be added soon. Last year's study compared the abundance of bird species seen in the Wollie Creek Valley in the time periods 1994-1999, 2008-2013 and 2014-2019.

**The study this year is about seasonality. The students plan to identify:**

- Which bird species visit the Wollie Creek valley seasonally
- Whether there are greater populations of all species during spring
- Any changes in the seasonal patterns over the last forty years

Dorothy hopes to have their full results by the end of October and it will be interesting to see how our surveyors' observations of the seasonality of particular species compares with the statistics.

“I've had very enthusiastic meetings with the stats students from Macquarie. They're all really excited about doing this project, particularly looking at changes over time. I had a discussion with a bird enthusiast friend who pointed out that migratory behaviour is a complex thing. It will be interesting to compare our results with the official stories. We have to take into account habitat changes & flowering seasons in analysing the results.”



Silvereyes are common in the Valley, at least at certain times of the year.

But there are supposedly two races in the valley – migratory & non-migratory.

This Tasmanian Silvereeye has pink flanks, unlike the local race.



Photo by Deb Little



Photo courtesy of Friends of Warwick Bushland

## FUNGAL FORAY JUST AS FUN AS THE YEAR BEFORE

At the end of May, before the current lockdown, WCPS members were again able to take part in the popular twice yearly Fungal Foray, organised by the [Sydney Fungal Studies Group](#).

“I really enjoyed going on the Foray and it was amazing how many different tiny little mushrooms and plants there are that we have no idea about. It was really eye opening. I liked how jolly it was and it was just as fun as the year before, when we even found quite a big one that glowed in the dark. And one that when you brush it, it turns bright blue! This time, I found a whole load of tiny red ones which were almost invisible, but when you saw them, you couldn't not see them any-more! Overall, I really enjoyed The Fungal Foray.”

Local Undercliffe resident and year 6 student George Wilson

Have a look at [Dave Noble's blog post about the Foray](#) here.

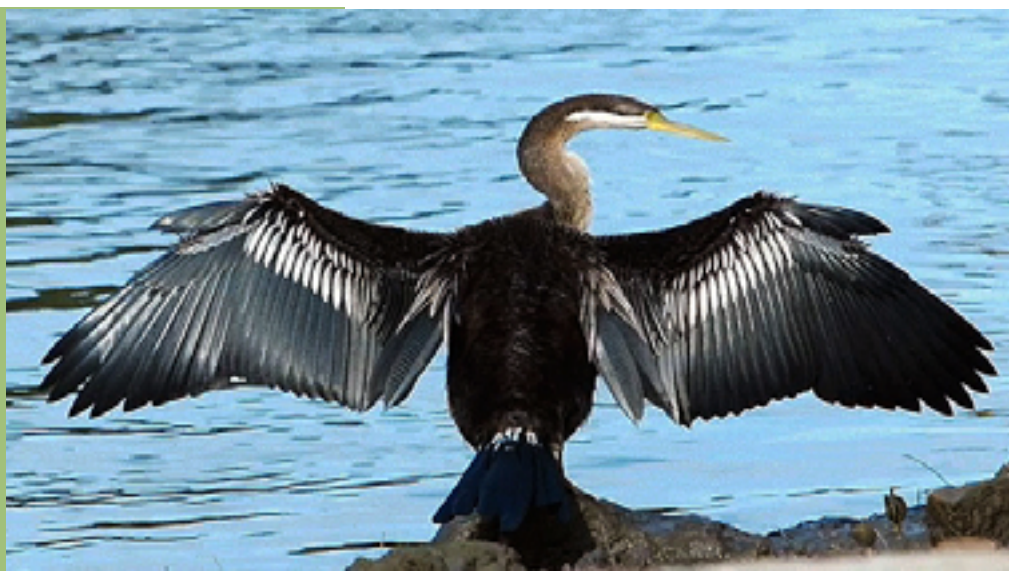
Check out Dave's post for some pictures of some of the fungi located, including the one that runs bright blue when bruised - *Austroboletus lacunosus* - and the little red ones - *Hygrocybe miniate*.

Pictured above is the 'glow in the dark', or ghost (bioluminescent) fungus - *Omphalotus nidiformis*, which glows a beautiful bright green at night.

### THE AMAZING AUSTRALASIAN DARTER

Take a look at Gavin Gatenby's latest video about these amazing pre-historic looking birds, whose lineage stretches back 50 million years

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)





Photos by Adrian



## NEW MEMBER INSPIRED BY OUR BUSH

Adrian Cardinali was recently walking in the Wolli Creek bushland and met one of our members, fitting in her permitted exercise during the lockdown restrictions. The walk was fairly deserted and they chatted. The member told him about the Wolli Creek Preservation Society and the work we do in the valley. She encouraged Adrian to take a look at our web page to learn more about what we do and how we help to protect the valley.

Adrian wrote to us that he was impressed with what he saw and decided to become a member.

**“I thought to myself that I should have joined an eon ago, so yes I am very happy to do that. See attached the completed form. Note that I have just paid \$30 for three years.”**

Inspired by his experience in the bush and talking to our member, Adrian sent us his entry to a ‘Fifty Word COVID Top Tips’ writing competition at his university.

### *IMMERSION IN THE URBAN BUSH*

*I used to swim each morning immersed in flowing water. Now I walk encased by inner Sydney bush, embraced by community. It inspires and says celebrate what’s beautiful, good and just. It motivates me at my desk. Find somewhere that speaks to you. Listen. Let it help you through.*

**ADRIAN TITO CARDINALI SEPTEMBER 2021**

Thanks to Adrian for joining the Society and for giving us his Top Tip for surviving lockdown.

Membership helps to give us a voice. Help us to recruit new members and build our membership base by spreading the word on the benefits of supporting the Society.

**A three year membership only costs as little as \$30, or \$45 for a family.**

**12 years is...**  
*Emily's childhood*

Emily is a hypothetical child growing up in inner south-western Sydney.

<b>1988</b>	<b>Primary School</b> Emily is introduced to the Wollie Valley through a school excursion in year 2.	<b>High School</b> Emily's year 8 class takes part in the Streamwatch program, monitoring water quality in Wollie Creek.	<b>Tertiary Education</b> After completing her HSC, Emily decides to study Environmental Management.	<b>Post Education</b> Emily finished her studies in 2010, now works in the Environmental sector, is an active member of the WCPS and is eligible to vote.
-------------	---	---	---	--

In **1998** the **NSW Government** promised to protect the **Wollie Creek Valley** by making it a **Regional Park**... it's barely half done.

No more delay! Sign the petition today at [www.wolliecreek.org.au](http://www.wolliecreek.org.au)



Watch [The Big Roll Out for Wollie Creek Valley](#) on the WCPS YouTube Channel

## KEEPING AN EYE ON DEVELOPMENT IN THE VALLEY

**Recent sales and residential development on Bayview Ave near Wollie Bluff highlight how much bushland in the Regional Park is still threatened.**

Four long blocks in private hands run all the way from Bayview Ave right down to Wollie Creek. The lower third of these blocks falls within Regional Park boundaries. The former owner of 28A twice cleared parts of his lower portion. The block was recently sold and it is unknown what plans the new owner will have for it.

These blocks and the Sydney Water land at the Bluff are the only blocks within the Regional Park boundary that are not yet in the pipeline for transfer to NPWS. We expect that once the Sydney Water issue is resolved, the State Government will move to purchase the relevant section of the private blocks and may even use compulsion as a last resort. The funding for these purchases comes from the sale of public land originally acquired to make way for the M5East and the Cooks River Road. State Treasury a long time ago insisted that the completion of the Regional Park be cost-neutral for the government.

So we still have a fair way to go to see completion of the Park. It is important that members support the long-running push for it. Next year it will be 24 years since the Regional Park was promised and 12 years since we ran a big campaign in 2010 to push for its completion.

**Following a tip-off about possible illegal work activity, WCPS kept a close eye on activity at a site immediately adjacent to Wollie Creek, close to the southern end of the SWOOS aqueduct.**

After alerting Bayside Council's Compliance section, and preliminary enforcement action by Council, a Development Application (DA) was subsequently lodged by the site owner. The owner planned to use of the rear of the property as a depot for the storage of trucks, trailers, plant, and materials, operating from 6:00am to 6:00pm, seven days a week.

With terrific input from past Committee member, Joanna, a detailed and authoritative objection to the DA was submitted by WCPS, highlighting the many potential negative effects on Wollie Creek and its environs. Bayside Council assessed the DA and WCPS's submitted objections in accordance with the provisions of the Rockdale Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011. We have been informed that the application has been REFUSED. That's a win for Wollie Creek, and the Regional Park, averting noise and dust pollution.

Thank you once again, Joanna. Your hard work made all the difference.





## “KEEP YOUR SOCIAL DISTANCE, MATE!” FLYING FOX CAMP UPDATE

**During our lockdown, the Flying-foxes have of course been able to continue their nightly travels of up to 25 km radius for feeding and exercise.  
No QR Code check-ins needed!**

The Flying-foxes have been present in their camp continuously during winter, with no mass jaunts elsewhere. But we haven't been able to count the camp since June this year, when there were 7,000 estimated to be roosting. When I last visited the camp a couple of weeks ago, I imagined them looking down on me as one representative of the trapped humans with our puny immune systems.

Have a look at these references on bats and their immune systems and you'll understand what I am talking about.

[Bat Super Immunity to Lethal Disease, CSIRO](#)

[Why Bats Can Carry Deadly Disease, Australian Geographic](#)

and something just a bit more technical

[ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7025585/](https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7025585/)

Last year we missed one month of counting due to Covid restrictions. This year things are shaping up to be missing several months of data. The [Flying-fox National Monitoring Program](#) which we contribute data to has also had to suspend the quarterly counts involved for that project.

Given another huge increase in people walking through Wollie Creek Regional Park this year, after a 150% increase last year, the FF's must be getting quite used to seeing a stream of visitors through their sleeping and social quarters. Interestingly, for some unknown reason, they now favour the area on the north side of Wollie creek adjacent to the TVT and have done so for some time. They originally roosted on the south side, between the rail line and Wollie creek, but now seem to just visit there briefly rather than hang around. That could change of course in future.

If you would like to be put on the bat e-list to get further updates and other interesting batty information from time to time, just email me at [bats@wolliecreek.org.au](mailto:bats@wolliecreek.org.au). We are also coming into 'pup season' soon so do report to WIRES (8977 3333) or Sydney Wildlife (9413 4300) any FF's in trouble, particularly any you see that have come to grief on power lines .

See [GHFF and Powerlines.pdf](#)

Deb Little  
WCPS Bat Co-ordinator

## MEMBERSHIP

Family Three Years \$45

Individual Three Years \$30

Concession Three Years \$21

Group Membership \$30 p.a.

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

Email [membership@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:membership@wollicreek.org.au) to  
confirm years and any donation included

## WCPS T-SHIRTS

If you would like a t-shirt  
please let us know



T Shirts are \$25 each  
Short and long sleeved

The order form is available at  
[WCPS-T-shirt-Order-Form.pdf](#)  
or via our website/ About Us/ Support Us

We will be printing as soon as we have sufficient  
orders to make it financially viable.

# CALENDAR

### Bush Regeneration

**No meetings during lockdown. Subject to the situation improving**  
Oct: 2, 10, 13, 15, 16. Nov: 6, 10, 14, 19, 20. Dec: 4, 8, 12, 17, 18.  
Details via [bushcare@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:bushcare@wollicreek.org.au), website calendar or phone Georgina  
on 8958 4801. Always check in case of changes at short notice.  
Stotts Reserve Bushcare no meetings, usually every fourth Sat of the month

### Bat Counting

**No counts during lockdown.**  
**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](mailto:bats@wollicreek.org.au) and come along to see the fly-out or join in the counting

### Bird Surveys

**Regular monthly surveys of bird species and numbers present**  
**Some teams on hold during lockdown**  
Teams work to their own timetable, but we can get you involved in a team  
if you contact [birds@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:birds@wollicreek.org.au)

### Committee Meetings

Sept 27, Nov 22  
Currently held bi-monthly by Zoom  
If interested to attend please contact [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au)

### Guided Walks

**None currently planned**  
For more information, contact [info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au)

EDITOR & LAYOUT: LAURA ZUSTERS

All photos by Laura unless otherwise credited

See previous issues at  
[wollicreek.org.au/publications/update-newsletter](http://wollicreek.org.au/publications/update-newsletter)

Wolli Creek Preservation Society  
PO Box 270 Earlwood NSW 2206  
[info@wollicreek.org.au](mailto:info@wollicreek.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/protectwollicreekvalley](http://www.facebook.com/protectwollicreekvalley)  
[www.wollicreek.org.au](http://www.wollicreek.org.au)  
[twitter.com/wollipossum](https://twitter.com/wollipossum)  
[youtube.com/user/wollicreekvalley/videos](https://youtube.com/user/wollicreekvalley/videos)

