



Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Update ^{#97}

July 2022

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners, the Cardigal and Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation

1. *Wolli Bluff OCU On Hold*
2. *Wolli Bushland Trashed*
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WOLLI BLUFF REPRIEVED FROM OCU ...FOR NOW

The Sydney Water's Wolli Bluff Odour Control Unit project has been put on hold for 6 to 8 months while an alternative site further down the system in Arncliffe is investigated.

At our [last Update](#), we were expecting a further workshop on the three location options for the OCU in the Wolli Creek Valley. After being postponed a couple of times, the workshop was cancelled at short notice.

There are two significant contributing factors to this decision that we know of:

- Sydney Water has discovered that sewer gases in our area contain ones that are toxic to humans. To treat them requires a further element to be added to the OCU, making it bigger. All three sites in Wolli are space constrained.
- Via our petition, over 5,000 people effectively proclaimed themselves stakeholders in the Wolli proposal and this is believed to have been a shock to Sydney Water.

We've written to Sydney Water to ask that the final set of questions that we raised about the Wolli options be nonetheless answered and that at least Option A, the most damaging to the bushland, be removed from further consideration.





Photos by Deb Little

SYDNEY WATER CONTRACTORS TRASH WOLLI BUSHLAND

Another disaster for our bushcare work has been perpetrated by Sydney Water to gain access to a sewer shaft. Workers cleared a three-metre swathe of bushland for 40 metres from Johnston Street to the shaft and cleared an area of 10-metres by 8-metres around it. The bushland affected is part of the Wollie Creek Regional Park.

Sydney Water said the work was undertaken by sub-contractors and the area cleared was outside the original scope of approved works.

The sub-contractors trashed one of our regenerating sites with a triple injury:

- clear felling and whipper-snipping all plant life forms, mostly native
- dumping the felled material onto other areas of regeneration
- opening up the area to intrusion, dumping, and weed invasion

For a fuller account see our [media release](#) and [pictures](#).

You may need tissues, particularly if you do bushcare work yourself.

Sydney Water is clearly taking the issue seriously, issuing apology letters and conducting an internal investigation of how it came about. We certainly hope that such things will no longer happen and have made suggestions to improve their processes.

An on-site meeting with multiple parties was held on Wednesday June 22. We focussed on how to deal with the situation with minimal additional damage, while enabling the necessary sewer lining to proceed. WCPS was able to achieve commitment to much of what we saw as essential to be done by way of restitution. Our next Update will report on the outcomes actually achieved.

Peter Stevens



Photo by Peter Stevens



ANNUAL DINNER THURS 20TH OCTOBER

After waiting a couple of years, the Committee are pleased to announce we will dine and make merry again at our 2022 Annual Dinner, to be held on Thursday evening 20th October from 6:30pm.

This year, the venue will be The Bardwell Valley Golf Club with its expansive and beautiful views over the golf course at sunset. Our guest speaker will be announced soon.

Put the event date in your diaries for a long overdue catch up with friends and other members. We'll let you know the link to book in the next Update newsletter and email members with further details soon.

Julie Muir



Common Eastern Froglet and Striped Marsh Frog, courtesy of climatewatch.org.au

Recently two members of WCPS have become interested in surveying and documenting Frog amphibians along the Wollli Creek, from Wollli Creek to Bexley. They have been looking for places that could be permanent frog habitat.

The Common Eastern Froglet and Marsh Frogs were heard in daylight, but most frog calls commence around nighttime. We are looking at previous records and hoping to get a more accurate picture of what the creek supported previously and in the present, especially after all the rain with La Niña.

We have identified 4 spots to collect frog data along the creek and will identify species by their call, photographs and habitat. Frogs are generally more noticeable between September and April when they mate and this is the time to go out and find them.

The surveys will commence at the end of August and will require 4 visits per site over the season at night. All data will be added to the Frog ID App to add to citizen science in suburban bushland in Wollli Creek.

We are calling on all Wollli Creek enthusiasts to join us and make it a memorable season of getting to know the Wollli Creek froggies. Please call Alice 0404 173156 or Julie 0425 785070 if you'd like to come with us.

Wolli Creek Update

FROM THE WOLLI CREEK PRESERVATION SOCIETY INC.

1 JULY 1999

Yes, believe it or not, after all these years of struggle, **Wolli Creek Regional Park is about to happen!**

The Society has been campaigning for years for the declaration of a regional park in the Wolli Valley in tandem with the lifting of the MSE road reservation.

Things are starting to happen on this front, and it is a cause for celebration after all the years of 'on again, off again' road reservations and associated motorway

Please be there to have your say!
Wolli Park Consultation Meeting
 Thursday 15 July, 6.30 pm
 (5 Wednesday 11 August, 6.30 pm)
**Undercliffe Public School
 Bayview Avenue, Undercliffe**

also represented: NPWS, Canterbury Council, Rockdale Council, Friends of Wolli

and the meetings, and planned surveys will canvas a range of ideas and issues. For example:

- What sort of infrastructure (such as buildings, kiosks, picnic facilities, playgrounds etc) should and shouldn't be incorporated?
- Where should any cycleway be located? (we certainly believe, as does Bicycle NSW that it should not go through the



Photo by Laura Zusters

COMPLETING THE WOLLI CREEK REGIONAL PARK

It's 24 years since the completion of the Regional Park was promised, so it's well and truly time for us to focus again on seeing this promise fulfilled. WCPS has been running campaigns to have a Regional Park declared and completed for a long time, as you can see from the 1999 Update extract, 2018 photo, 2011 leaflet, and 2010 video on this page.

Now that the Odour Control Unit issue has been suspended, we will be turning our attention to campaigning again for Sydney Water land in Wolli Valley to be handed over to National Parks. We will be seeking specifically to have the Wolli land proposed for the OCU 'Option A' location handed over.

Sydney Water land is a key element for the connectivity of the Wolli bushland. Jackson Place land is currently being remediated, as you can see on the next page. Apart from these locations, only the inaccessible bottom sections of four privately-owned long blocks near Wolli Bluff remain to be acquired and we will be seeking to have that process accelerated.

In Dec 2010, the Wolli Creek Preservation Society rolled out over 3,000 signatures on a petition to demand that the Regional Park be finally completed. The New South Wales State Labor Government had promised to save the Valley twelve years earlier. See [The Big Roll Out for Wolli Creek Valley](#) here.

See also these articles from earlier Updates:

[Wolli Update June 2006](#)

[Wolli Update June 2010](#)

and [Wolli Update Feb 2017](#)

All these campaigns had some success in gaining Park expansion. Now, with a NSW election coming next year, it's time for the last big push.

Peter Stevens

Wolli Valley timeline

STILL WAITING

We've been waiting twelve years for the 1966 promise to be fulfilled. At every step along the way there has been procrastination and delay despite continuing community agitation. Here we are in 2010 and still almost half of the lands, mainly in the hands of Canterbury Council and various State agencies, have not been transferred to the NPWS. The NSW Labour Fight will be fighting to stay in office next year. Help us convince them that they will need to deliver on this old promise to get our vote.



The "Big Roll Out for Wolli Creek Valley" video, made by Laura Zusters



The track at Wolli Bluff
photo by Chris Jordens



The track below Bray Ave before boardwalk
photo by Valerie Atkinson



New boardwalk below Bray Ave
photo by Alan Mitchell

EXTREME WET WEATHER AND TRACK DAMAGE

The torrential rains of March and April didn't just flood homes and businesses. The already saturated soil in the Wolli Creek Valley struggled to hold the tremendous amounts of water that fell in those months. Walkers reported seeing the condition of the track rapidly deteriorate and several said they'd never seen the track so boggy before.

Committee members Chris Jordens and Valerie Atkinson sent in photos of the damage caused by walkers and particularly by mountain bikes. Chris Jordens said of the eastern end of Undercliffe track, "There's ample evidence of bicycle tyre tracks at the eastern entrance to the park near the SWOOS. The bikes clearly did a lot of damage to the track in the wet conditions."

One benefit of the La Nina weather is that it made clear where the boggiest section of the track are. Track Monitor Alan Mitchell spotted that NPWS has recently fixed up a particularly bad section with this welcome boardwalk, between Illoura Reserve and Paperbark Creek, below Bray Ave.

JACKSON PLACE REMEDIATION

After a long wait of quite a few years, Sydney Water is finally remediating the land in Jackson Place. Because of historical contamination of the soil, the land needs to be re-profiled, capped and re-vegetated before it can be handed over to National Parks.





Photo by cityhubsydney.com.au

WOLLI POSSUMS AND FRIENDS LIGHT UP LANEWAY

In April, committee members Deb Little and Julie Deady and Julie's husband Bernie attended the launch of the Fox's Lane permanent public art work in Ashfield called "There Will Always Be a Light On for You". Featuring hand-crafted hanging copper lanterns, the work was commissioned by Inner West Council as part of its Fox's Lane urban renewal project.

Long-term WCPS members and artists Selina Springett and partner Alessandro Bellini, along with Jayanto Tan, created the installation. They collaborated with each of the 26 community groups now represented by a lantern, working closely with each group on the particular images and symbols that were thought to capture the group's role and presence in the community.

Selina approached WCPS in May last year, keen to see us represented on a lantern. Following discussions with Selina and her fellow artists, our WCPS Possum logo and variations on this were chosen to illustrate WCPS activities. Additional designs by the artists were then created around the various possums, to create the images depicted on the 6-faced WCPS lantern.

The WCPS lantern now hanging as part of the installation features the WCPS possum logo, plus some variations, such as Possum bushwalking, bushcaring, birdwatching, kayaking and protesting.

As darkness fell on a fine night, it was great to see the lanterns illuminated after the official launch and to check out the other community group's lanterns with their various shapes and images depicted. Do check out the art installation, especially after dark if you are over that way.

Thanks to Selina for the invitation to participate in the project.

[See here for more background to the project and the Artists' Statement](#)

BIT OF BACKGROUND: Our original Wollie Possum logo was created by a former WCPS President, Les Robinson, also the author of the book 'Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney', the 'must have' reference book for bush regenerators and native plants enthusiasts.

The current version of the Wollie Possum and the variations showing the Possum bushwalking, bushcaring, bird watching, kayaking and protesting have been created over the years by another former President, Gavin Gatenby.

Deb Little



Auricularia cornea



Hygrocybe giseoramosa
Photos by Dave Noble



Clavulinopsis amoena

WEIRD AND WONDERFUL IN WOLLI FUNGI FORAY

As a kid in the Riverina I knew mushrooms - you eat them. And toadstools - poisonous, don't eat! That's all. Now as an oldie I feel like a kid discovering a magical world on the Wolli and elsewhere as I'm introduced to fungi and their essential but under-studied role in our ecology.

A couple of WCPS members joined the Sydney Fungal Studies Group on Saturday 21st May for one of their regular surveys, led by David Noble. Have a look at [David's blog](#) for superb photographs of fungi, orchids, birds and grey headed flying foxes on the Wolli and elsewhere. Special thanks to Ray and Elma Kearney for helping with some of the identifications.

Weird shapes - branching coral, shadowy black blobs, teeny cream hats, jelly-like wobbly mounds, timid worm-like sticks, bold and large brackets heading up a tree trunk. Dave told me we saw approximately 40 species and at least one quite rare, a pale silvery-grey, gelatinous *Hydrocybe giseoramosa*.

Wonderful colours - glowing rust, soft mauves, lurid green caps with dark green stipes or stalks, brilliant reds, vibrant yellows and oranges.

To me, a bit blind and not very observant, it is so helpful when others find them and point them out peeping from leaf litter under dead branches, on trees, rocks, hiding in moss, maybe camouflaged, maybe standing boldly. Discovery for big kids.

But little kids could be sharing this rather hidden world in the fungi seasons, finding out how weird these peculiar living organisms are - not animal, not plant, but a kingdom of their own. Mycologists are in short supply, often not supported by universities or government. The field needs enthused youngsters for our environment's sake, for the Wolli Creek. Have a look at the book *Entangled Life* or ABC podcast *Fascinating Fungi, The Intelligent Kingdom*, by Merlin Sheldrake.

I reckon we all need a bit of the weird and wonderful in our lives. I loved delving more into the magic of the Wolli Valley.

Valerie Atkinson

The next Fungal foray by the SFSG is planned for Sat. July 23. Details tbc.

And here's a nice piece in *The Conversation*, spotted by Deb Little in an ABC news feed.
[Get out and go fungal: why it's a bumper time to spot our native fungi](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Family \$15, Three Years \$45
 Individual \$10, Three Years \$30
 Concession \$7, 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 to
 show number of years and any donation

Fees are being reviewed

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

July 2, 10, 13, 15, 16. August 6, 10, 14, 19, 20.
 September 3, 11, 14, 16, 17. October 1, 9, 12, 21, 22.
 Details via bushcare@wollicreek.org.au, website calendar or Georgina on 8958 4801.
 Always check in case of changes at short notice. Special conditions due to COVID-19.

Bat Counting

Generally third Friday of each month, just after sunset
 Meeting at the footbridge, Turrella Reserve
 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

Teams are doing regular monthly surveys of bird species
 Teams work to their own timetable, but we can get you involved in a team
 if you contact birds@wollicreek.org.au

Annual Dinner

Thursday 20th October, Bardwell Valley Golf Club
 For more information, contact info@wollicreek.org.au

Kayak Trip

Saturday 3rd September, morning guided paddle on Wolli Creek
 For more information, contact info@wollicreek.org.au

Guided Walks

None currently planned due to COVID-19 restrictions.
 For more information, contact info@wollicreek.org.au

Committee Meetings

Regular Meetings July 27, September 28, November 23.
 Currently held bi-monthly by Zoom
 If interested to attend please contact 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

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