

Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Update ^{#98}

October 2022

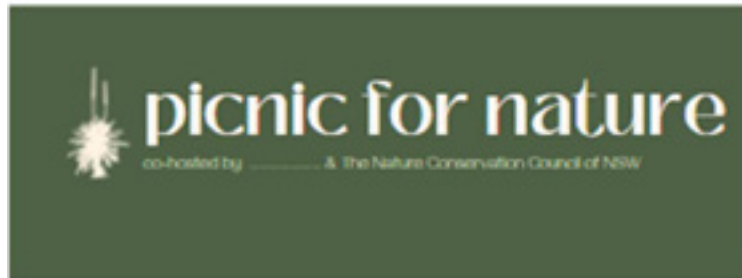


The Wolli Creek Preservation Society would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners, the Cardigal and Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation

1. Picnic for Nature this Sunday
2. Wolli Creek Corridor Plan
3. Unwin Green Street Proposal
4. Complete the Regional Park
5. Jackson Place Remediation
6. New Bushcare Coordinator

7. Wolli Creek Eco-Paddles & Fungi Foray
8. NPWS Plans for Turrella Reserve
9. Waterworth Park Birds
9. New T Shirts
10. Membership Changes
11. Calendar of Upcoming Events

COME ALONG TO THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL PICNIC



**APS Harbour Georges River Group and
Wolli Creek Preservation Society
Invite you to a relaxing picnic, bush walk and lunch
Sunday 16th October, 10:30 am to 2 pm
At Girrahween Park Earlwood**

Please check the web site for details
And to register your interest

https://www.nature.org.au/earlwood_picnic_for_nature





CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN COUNCIL THE WOLLI CREEK CORRIDOR PLAN

Early this year, Canterbury Bankstown Council released a draft Green Corridor Plan, under the State Government’s Metropolitan Greenspace concept, and called for comments from interest groups. The Woll Creek Corridor Plan has been put on exhibition for public comment [here](#).

In 2020 the Council commenced planning for land which forms part of three broader open space corridors - The Cooks River, Sydenham to Bankstown and Woll Creek Valley. A Stakeholder workshop for the Woll Creek Corridor was held online in April 2021, attended by Inner West Council, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Sydney Water, Transport for NSW, Sydney Metro and the Cooks River Alliance. WCPS was not directly notified of the plan or invited to the workshop.

While some of the proposals are good, there is much of great concern in the plan, not least because they didn’t tap into the vast knowledge of the valley and its history that WCPS has. The plan also assumes that the valley’s main value lies as a ‘corridor’ for human movement through it.

WCPS made a submission as a Society, which can be found [here](#). Thanks for pulling that together Peter. A lot of excellent work. Several WCPS members also submitted detailed and thoughtful comments.

WCPS UNWIN GREEN STREET PROPOSAL

As part of our critical submission on Canterbury-Bankstown City’s Woll Creek Corridor Plan, WCPS proposed the retention of vacant blocks in Unwin St, Undercliffe as open space and their re-vegetation with plant communities akin to those of the Regional Park. See a brief outline of the proposal and an aerial shot of the area [here](#).

Also included are the spread of similar vegetation into street trees and residents’ gardens and increased vegetation in Waterworth Park. It would also see a raingarden at the bottom of the often-flooded Unwin Street area with a bridge over it and interpretive signage installed. The aim is to create a strong connection between the two parks, to enable the movement of native wildlife between the Regional Park and Waterworth Park, actually increase greenspace and close a missing link between two corridors identified by the State Government: Cooks River Corridor and Woll Creek Corridor.

Already the proposal has been adopted by many residents of Unwin Street. WCPS wrote to the CBC Mayor and councillors seeking its adoption by the Council. Approaches have also been made to the Ministers for Planning and Environment, shadow ministers, local MLAs and the Greens.

Peter Stevens



WCPS Proposal for how the eastern entrance to Regional Park might look

COMPLETE THE REGIONAL PARK

We are seeking to have motions of support for completing the Regional Park passed by Councils in the inner south west Sydney region. InnerWest, Georges River and Bayside Councils have already done so, each unanimously. We have been lobbying local MLAs and other politicians and have generally been getting a very favourable reception. Press releases, a poster and flyers are under way.

Many members helped last year in gaining signatures for our petition about Sydney Water's proposed development of an Odour Control Unit within Wolli Creek Regional Park (WCRP). The impact of over 5,000 voices objecting to the proposal was considerable and played a major role in Sydney Water's decision to put the proposal on hold and seek an alternative site. It now seems highly likely that the suspension will become permanent.

This makes it possible to press forward on completing WCRP after decades of delays. Members have already received an email asking them to sign an Open Letter to parliamentarians. If you haven't already signed, go here to do so: https://www.nature.org.au/wolli_creek_open_letter.

Over a thousand people have signed the Open Letter already and we have an interim target of 5,000, so there's still a lot to do. I think we may finally make it this time, but we need your support, so please be in touch via info@wollicreek.org.au if you can help with putting up posters or handing out flyers.

Peter Stevens



OUR TREASURER ABI CURTIS GETS RECOGNITION IN THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT TREASURER'S AWARDS 2022

Congratulations Abi! All of us on the Committee are so grateful for the wonderful work you do as Treasurer, looking after the Society's finances



Photo by Gavin Gatenby

JACKSON PLACE REMEDIATION LANDSCAPING FINISHED

Landscaping on the Jackson Place remediation site is finally finished, bringing with it an end to the convoy of trucks bringing in fill, boulders and mulch. Thousands of mixed species of native seedlings have been brought in and planted on the upper levels. Logs with holes drilled in them provide habitat for lizards and insects. The site looks bare now, but the habitat loss is temporary and with a few years' growth, groundcover will return.

"I'm impressed with how the remediation is looking. The batter down to the creek has already been mulched and planted out with thousands of *Lomandra longifolia*. I imagine more species will follow. I gotta say the area created is large. Bigger than I'd imagined, with nice views down into *Casuarina* copses, reed-land and mangroves. From the look of it, there's going to be another layer of topsoil on the level areas at the top."

Gavin Gatenby

We ask everyone to keep off the site until the plants have had a year or two to get fully established - they are very vulnerable to damage at this stage.



Photo by Laura Zusters



NEW BUSHCARE COORDINATOR PETER SEMPLE

Wolli Creek Valley bushcare teams are welcoming new coordinator Peter Semple, who has been involved in volunteer bush regeneration within Hurstville and Sutherland council areas, both as a volunteer and as a supervisor.

“I am recently retired and hope that I can contribute in a small way to the enhancement of the Wolli Creek bushland and look forward to working with so many keen volunteers.

I gained my interest in bushland early in life as both my parents were from farming families and I grew up adjacent to bushland and the George’s River. I followed a career in vegetation management and worked for the Department of Agriculture before joining NSW Railways to oversee statewide vegetation management programs, including bush regeneration projects often in threatened vegetation communities.”

Peter says the bush is bursting with new growth, along with the weeds, and there is lots of work to do at the bushcare sites. He will be issuing a newsletter each month for those interested in Bushcare activities in the Wolli Valley.

Georgina San Roque will continue to supervise bushcare sites in the valley along with Deb Little and Pat Thomas. Thanks Georgina for all your hard work in coordinating our bushcare over the last few years.

There are vacancies for people to join. Contact bushcare@wollicreek.org.au.



Leucopogon lanceolata



Spring on the Girrahween Track, by Laura Zusters



Pandorea



photo by Helen Addison



photo by Kate Flannery

WOLLI CREEK ECO-PADDLES

In spite of the weather, Wollli Creek Preservation Society has successfully relaunched its popular Wollli Creek Eco-Paddles, hosting guided kayak trips up the Wollli Creek to the footbridge at Turrella Reserve.

Luckily, Sat 1st October dawned clear and gave keen kayakers a chance to get in the water and explore Wollli Creek. With paddle guiding from Sydney Rivers Canoe Hire and information on the history, culture and ecology of the creek from WCPS, participants got a unique view of the Regional Park and an opportunity to learn about the creek like never before.

"We had a fabulous time thank you!" Helen, Leah & Ollie

The Society is partnering with the River Canoe Club for another paddle on 12 November, from 12noon to 2.30pm. The ticket price is \$75 per person. Participants must be aged 10+ years of age. For more information, contact info@wolllicreek.org.au.

Kate Flannery

RECENT FUNGI FORAY IN JULY



The foray was led by the very knowledgable David Noble, photos by Abi Curtis



NPWS PLANS FOR TURRELLA RESERVE

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are currently in the process of finalizing a master plan for Turrella Reserve. WCPS has been consulted on this plan and we have contributed some ideas. We will also make a formal submission by the November 7 deadline.

NPWS is planning to update the existing playground and add a small toilet block. They also want to expand the footpath system, increase planting and create additional parking on Banks Road. WCPS is keen to have an outdoor space for school classes to be able to gather for education about local bushland. This is currently difficult to do with no shelter or seating. You can take a look at the masterplan, with 3 pages of diagrams, [here](#). WCPS members have already received an email on Oct 5 setting out WCPS concerns about some of the proposals, particularly in relation to paths.





Red Wattlebird

Photos by Rod Byatt



Channel-billed Cuckoo

WATERWORTH PARK WORTH A LOOK

REPORT by BIRD SURVEYOR and PHOTOGRAPHER ROD BYATT

Waterworth Park has always provided sightings of fewer bird species than elsewhere along Wollie Creek, but remains home to a range of birds, both typical of Sydney and common to any open parkland environment.

A section entitled Waterworth Park in Neil Rankin's book, "Birds of Wollie Creek", published around 2006 by the WCPS, forms the historical basis for monthly bird surveys which continue to this day.

Rankin mentions 26 species in the area and lists 17 species of birds often seen. Interestingly, almost all of the most common species have remained unchanged since Rankin died in 1979. After a recent brief hiatus, surveys recommenced in July 2020 and have continued despite COVID lockdowns and recent heavy rain. These days, 30 or more species are possible in the period October-December. Numbers will drop off in January and February because of the open, exposed nature of the habitat, but numbers and species will return in March-April.

Originally a swampy flood plain, the area from its inception as public land in 1911 to the 1980s was essentially a large sports oval fringed by a garbage tip. In the 1950s, the eastern section of Waterworth Park was a treeless, rocky desert. It reverted to parkland in the 1960s and an upgraded velodrome was added in 1982. The velodrome is now surrounded by a large grove of casuarinas, too dense and too homogenous to encourage many birds though along the shoreline can be seen Olive-backed Orioles, Figbirds in season and most recently, Sacred Kingfishers.

In most recent times, the overgrown rubbish infill along the foreshore has been replaced with a footpath and low-lying vegetation and it's obvious that since the 1980s mangroves have re-established themselves along both banks of Wollie Creek. The mangroves now form a means of protection for passing Silvereyes and the sunny northern side of the mangroves works well for Wrens.

The paperbarks and eucalypt trees along Bayside Avenue are normally the home of Noisy Miners and are popular with Lorikeets when the trees are in flower. As you'd expect with great swathes of sports oval, flocks of Starlings, Magpie-larks and Mynahs take advantage of the mown grass, along with Swallows, Ibis and Herons, with visiting Tawny Frogmouths, Galahs and Plovers visiting from nearby Gough Whitlam Park. Bird boxes help promote Eastern Rosellas.

Gone are the days when Rankin recorded House Sparrows, Pipits and Cisticolas; Rock Doves have been relegated to the Tempe railway bridge and White-plumed Honeyeaters are certainly rarely sighted. Shorebirds such as Gulls and Cormorants are seen travelling up the river from Botany Bay, especially at very low tide.



MEMBERSHIP FEES UPDATED

At a recent committee meeting we reviewed Membership fees and Membership year.

As our **membership fees** had not been reviewed for 7 years, the committee decided it was time to review them. The increase in membership fees is as follows: Household \$25; Individual \$15 & concession \$10. We hope that members will understand our need to do this.

The **Membership year** will change from calendar year (Jan-Dec) to financial year (July-June) to align our membership year with our financial year and our reporting year. The good news about this is that current members will have their membership extended for six months. So, for example, if your membership is paid till December 2022, it will now extend till June 2023. (ditto for those who paid to Dec 2023, 2024, 2025 etc) giving all members an extra six months of membership. That gives everyone an additional six months before they need to pay the increased fees.

We thank all members for their ongoing support of the WCPS. Our work in the Wollie Creek Valley continues to be essential to ensure the completion of the Regional Park, which will become the focus of our campaign work in the lead up to the State Government elections next year. We need to get the park finished. Our presence in the valley is essential to help preserve this special bushland in so many ways including monitoring what is happening in the valley, bushcare, and citizen science activities such as bat counting and bird surveys. We look forward to your continued support.

Gina Svolos
Membership Secretary & Vice President

MEMBERSHIP

Family \$25
Individual \$15
Concession \$10
Group Membership \$50 p.a.

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

Email membership@wolliecreek.org.au to
show number of years and any donation

Click on JOIN on the website homepage to
download the membership form.

GET READY FOR SUMMER

Summer is coming and the Wolli Valley is beckoning. It might be time to update your wardrobe with one of our shirts, long or short sleeve. They are the perfect way to show your support for the Valley. Wear them on the walking track or at the park, they're a great conversation starter.

Once we have enough orders, we can place an order with our suppliers. We'll let you know when the shirts have arrived.

WCPS T-SHIRTS

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



T Shirts are \$30 each
Children's \$25

The order form is available at
[Supporters T shirt](#)
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

October 1, 9, 12, 14, 15. November 5, 9, 13, 18, 19.
December 3, 11, 14, 16, 17.

Details via bushcare@wollicreek.org.au, website calendar or phone Peter Semple on 0411 021 440. Always check in case of changes at short notice.

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 October 20, Bardwell Valley Golf Club

For more information, contact info@wollicreek.org.au

Kayak Trip

November 12. Morning guided paddle on Wolli Creek

For more information, see page 6 or contact info@wollicreek.org.au

Guided Walks

None currently planned

For more information, contact info@wollicreek.org.au

Committee Meetings

Regular Meetings November 23, January 25.

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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