

Threats to saltmarsh (and what you can do to help)

Trampling. Saltmarsh is fragile and easily damaged (*stay out of the area*).

Plant removal/harvesting. Saltmarsh may take years to recover (*report any instances to the Wolli Creek Preservation Society as soon as possible*).

Weed invasion. Some exotic salt-tolerant species can grow in saltmarsh areas (*remove any spreading weeds that grow in your garden*).

The saltmarsh on this site is also threatened by **increased freshwater** (Reeds expanded from the west during the La Nina (wet) cycle recently) and by **rising sea-levels** and the resulting **spread of Mangroves** and loss of suitable space for saltmarsh species.

For more information visit www.wollicreek.org.au or contact Wolli Creek Preservation Society via info@wollicreek.org.au



The White-fronted Chat is one of the native species that may return to the Wolli Valley if we look after our saltmarsh areas.

It has not been recorded in Wolli since 1946, but two separated populations still exist at Sydney Olympic Park and Towra Point, where there are large areas of saltmarsh.



Black-fronted Dotterels, also not seen in Wolli for over 50 years, have already returned, using artificial 'beaches' of crushed sandstone to nest and a nearby constructed saltmarsh area to rear their chicks.

Photo: Toby Bromley



Catchment Management
Authority
Hawkesbury-Nepean



Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Saltmarsh - Site Inspection Invitation



Sarcocornia quinqueflora - Samphire - a saltmarsh plant

10-11 am Sunday April 28

Meet in clearing opposite 8 Jackson Place, Undercliffe

View the site and the scope of Wolli Creek saltmarsh, see 'before' photographs and samples of the key plants, and learn more about the rehabilitation project

Follow up with a short walk through adjacent woodland also being rehabilitated.

Enclosed flat shoes are the only dress requirement.



Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest (EEC)

Phragmites reedland

Coastal Saltmarsh (EEC)

Mangrove

- The dense slope was formed by major illegal dumping in the 1960s, covering a rock face.
- The whole area had been a market garden for many years previous.
- Tides higher than average bring salty water on to the site.
- Some plant species are better adapted to saltiness than others.
- These have established at different levels, according to salt tolerance
- With the Catchment Management Authority funding two phases of work have cleared many weeds and thinned Mangroves to protect the saltmarsh, an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC).

Saltmarsh is important because:

- It provides habitat and food for invertebrates such as crabs and insects including shrimps, molluscs and spiders; and for fish, birds and microbats, which all feed on the invertebrates.
- It is thus a breeding and nursery ground for many forms of marine life.
- It also filters nutrients that would otherwise enter estuarine waters and perhaps promote algal blooms.

This **Undercliffe saltmarsh** is significant because:

- It is part of the diverse range of ecological communities in Wolli Valley.
- It may be the most species-diverse saltmarsh patch in the Sydney Basin.
- It is the largest natural saltmarsh area in the Cooks River catchment (and there are important small patches fringing the creek on both sides).

Pictured opposite l to r are some saltmarsh species:

Juncus kraussii (Sea Rush); *Suaeda australis* (Austral Seablite); *Triglochin striata* (Streaked Arrowgrass).

