

Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Update #103

July 2024

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

1. NSW Govt Supports Green Space
2. Return and Earn for WCPS
- 2a. Annual Dinner in October
3. Bushcare at Girrahween
4. Proposed development Bexley Nth
5. Wolli Valley Archive

- 5a. Tackling Graffiti
6. Celebrating Volunteers
- 6a. Eco-Paddle Report
7. May Fungal Foray Report
8. Calendar of Upcoming Events

CHRIS MINNS COMMITS GOVT SUPPORT FOR GREEN SPACE



In March, Premier Chris Minns, local ministers, WCPS members and a media scrum met at Turrella Reserve to announce the great news that 4.7 hectares of bush have been added to the Wolli Creek Regional Park. An unbroken corridor of Wolli Creek bushland is one big step closer to completion.

Chris Minns said that this ribbon of green space, which runs through dense suburbs in Sydney's south, is incredibly important and that WCPS have been tireless in campaigning for decades to protect and preserve it. Local members Sophie Cotsis, Steve Kamper, Penny Sharpe and Jo Haylen are big supporters of the Regional Park and were all in attendance to show their enthusiasm. Sophie Cotsis was beaming and saying "What a great day!" and Steve Kamper said "This regional park is a national treasure. We said we'd do it and we are so proud to be here." Penny Sharpe said, "Peter and the WCPS have fought off development from the beginning to save this valley."

The Minns government added the additional 4.7 hectares after a \$13m election commitment to complete the park, which borders Wolli Creek and was first promised by the Carr government in 1998. See the [Government press release](#) and a short video of [Chris Minns' statement](#) here.



SUPPORT WCPS WHEN YOU RETURN AND EARN

Do you return bottles and cans to the Return and Earn machines? Now you can help support the Wollie Creek Preservation Society in its work at the same time as helping the planet simply by returning your recycling drink containers! Donate your eligible bottles and cans directly to us from ANY machines located near you using the Return and Earn app.

Simply:

Open the app, download the [FREE app HERE](#)

Look us up under the “Charities” menu

Press “Set as Payout” to set up donation as your active payout method

Scan the app and start returning containers

Press “TRANSFER” on the RVM screen when finished

100% of the refunds will be transferred to us and help us to continue to protect and preserve the Wollie Creek Valley. Thanks for your support.

Visit returnandearn.org.au to locate your nearest machine

With @ReturnandEarn @myTOMRAAustralia



ANNUAL DINNER THURSDAY 17th OCTOBER 2024

We are pleased to announce that Matthew Huan from the Chau Chak Wing Museum at Sydney University will be our guest speaker this year. Matthew works on the insect collection held by the Museum. His talk will be about Butterflies.

Further details will be available on our [Blog](#) on our homepage soon.



BUSHCARE AT GIRRAHWEEN SITE OF NPWS HAZARD REDUCTION BURN

In late March, National Parks and Wildlife Service did a Hazard Reduction burn in the bush from the eastern side of the Girrahween picnic ground down along part of the lower Girrahween track. The ongoing HR program manages the ecosystem in bushland and reduces the risk of fire for nearby houses.

In early April, Bushcare Coordinator Paul Ibbetson organized two sessions to weed out introduced species that remained around the edges of the burn site. A keen group of bushcarers tackled the site.

Paul is pleased National Parks were able to do the burn in this area, “The bushland is adapted to frequent irregular fires, but since European settlement, fires have been suppressed. These burns help not only protect nearby houses, but they restore the health of the bushland. It’s great to see that after only a couple of weeks, the green shoots of some native plants are already showing.” We saw Kookaburras, Ravens and Currawongs closely inspecting the site for tasty snacks.

The two bushcare groups made a great start on removing introduced species such as Privet, Ochna, Asparagus Fern and Corky Passion Flower around the edges of the burn. In the burnt areas, hard-coated seeds like Acacia, Hardenbergia and Kennedia quickly started to germinate. Walkers on the track can also see plenty of Dianellas and Lomandra resprouting as well, well-watered by our recent rains.



Within a few weeks, seeds were germinating



Proposed plan in DA proposal for Salvos Training College in Bexley North

HOUSING AND GREEN SPACE LOCAL TEST CASE NEAR STOTTS RESERVE

As WCPS, we are concerned to ensure that green spaces in our existing suburbs are not adversely impacted by any drive to increase density. We have the Premier's commitment that "we can't just build houses [in these suburbs]. We've got to build world-class beautiful parks," and for that "we need to preserve and protect as much green space as we possibly can," and "that means preserving every bit of green space the we can possibly get our hands on." See [Chris Minns' speech here](#).

We have a prominent test case right now with a development application (DA) for the Salvation Army Training College site in Bexley North near Stotts Reserve, sitting on the ridge between the Wolli and Bardwell valleys. The DA proposal represents overdevelopment at its worst. On the plan above, the building envelopes are shaded in dark grey, filling almost each entire site. It is the antithesis of what the Premier has called for, swallowing up an important green space that helps link two important green corridors.

WCPS has lodged a lengthy objection to the DA. It joined 66 other individual submissions (as at May 31), overwhelmingly critical of the development. WCPS has put forward an alternative, shown below, which allows for some densification (in three areas outlined in white in Plan 2), but preserves the green space (outlined in yellow). We have also put the submission on Planning Alerts and sent it to local Councillors and MPs and to the Leader newspaper.

Peter Stevens

You can see the WCPS submission and all the others [here](#), where the DA documents are also available.





WOLLI VALLEY ARCHIVE NOW AT CAMPSIE LIBRARY

Long-time WCPS member and bushwalk guide Ute Foster recently completed a year-long labour of love. Since Judy Finlason's death a year ago, Ute has been using her skills as an ex-librarian to sort and catalogue Judy's many boxes of old Wolli Creek Valley memorabilia and historical documents reaching back to the early days of the Society's fight to save the Valley from development in the 1980s.

Ute recently delivered three more boxes of these WCPS archives to Campsie Library. Campsie now have two boxes of 25 scrapbooks and three boxes of other materials like bound copies of early Updates (1987-2006). The local history librarians Jennifer Madden and Courtney Simpson are excited to add these items to the library's local history collection.

You can contact the library if you would like to go in and have a look at this fascinating historical material. The library plans to eventually digitize the collection so it can be accessible online. They also look forward to receiving historical material still held by other older Society members. If you have anything of interest, please contact the library. You can also have a look at [Voren O'Brien's photo archive here on Flickr](#).

Thanks for making this happen Ute!



Our treasurer Abi Curtis and her husband Mark took time out of their busy lives to tackle graffiti and tagging that have appeared on the Girrahween Track and in Turrella Reserve. Abi said, "We don't want the tagging to encourage more tagging. We wanted to see what we could accomplish with a few old rags, some elbow grease and an assortment of solvents. We took eucalyptus oil, metho and turps. Each worked for different paints."

Good on you, Abi and Mark, job well done!



Julie Deady, Linda Burney and Lydia Feng

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS MORNING TEA WITH LINDA BURNEY

In May, long-time local Federal Member for Barton Linda Burney held a morning tea and awards ceremony to celebrate local volunteers.

The event was held at the Kogarah Storehouse Hall and attended by about 100 people, representing 15 local volunteer organisations. Committee member Julie Deady and Unwin Green Street campaigner Lydia Feng attended on behalf of WCPS and received a Certificate from Linda “In Recognition of All Your Volunteers’ Valuable Contributions to our Community.” Linda Burney has long been a passionate supporter of our Society.

ECO-PADDLE ON A SUNNY SUNDAY

Persistent wet and windy weather forced the postponement and then cancelling of one of the May paddles. A second paddle went ahead as planned thanks to a gap in the rain at last.

It was a real team effort, with thanks to Kate Flannery for organising and guiding the paddle, Thor Blomfield for support on and off the water and Society President Chris Jordens for overall assistance and an informative presentation about the Society. Julia Frecheville also deserves thanks for proving a great afternoon tea back at the River Canoe Club.

Future paddles are planned for spring 2024, so keep your eyes out.



Eco-paddlers set off from the River Canoe Club on the Cooks River



David Noble shares his knowledge with the group



Oliver, foray photographer

MAY FUNGAL FORAY

Report by Helen Addison, with photos by her son Oliver

Many mushroom enthusiasts gathered on a beautiful Saturday morning. The group, led by David Noble of the Sydney Fungal Studies Group Incorporated (SFSGI), headed out from Girrahween Park on a trail of fungi discovery along the Two Valley Trail.

A huge thanks to everyone who came along today and to David for sharing his invaluable knowledge. Our walks along the trail will forever be more interesting armed with this “mush” knowledge. Many species were identified and keenly photographed. We found many varieties, here are just a few of them.

Ghost mushrooms – *Omphalotus nidiformis*. This amazing species of fungus is known for its bioluminescent properties. There are only a handful of places that you can see these growing in the wild and here they are right on our doorstep!

Waxcaps – often brightly coloured and have a dry to waxy cap. This one is the Verdigris Waxcap *Gliophorus viridis*. They were very sticky to touch.

Bolete mushrooms – Boletes can be identified due to their unique mushroom cap. The cap is clearly different from the stem. On the underside of the cap there is usually a spongy surface with pores, instead of the gills typical of mushrooms. These mushrooms can grow to huge sizes.

We also saw *Lycoperdon* puffballs. Puffball fungus when mature burst on contact or impact releasing a cloud of spores.

Due to the recent hazard reduction burn, we were lucky to see post-fire mushrooms. These *Anthracoelia muelleri* are tiny disc-shaped fungus that fruit prolifically on burnt soil.



Ghost Mushrooms



Verdigris Waxcaps



Bolete mushroom



Lycoperdon puffballs



WCPS T-SHIRTS

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

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



You can order from [our online shop](#).

We currently have a range of sizes available for adults
See website for further details.

CALENDAR

Bush Regeneration

July 6, 14, 17, 19, 20, 25. August 3, 11, 16, 17, 21, 22.
Details of locations via bushcare@wollicreek.org.au, or phone 9554 3176.
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 17 October
For more information, check [Upcoming Events](#) in coming weeks

Eco Paddles

Currently in planning
Check [Upcoming Events](#) in coming weeks for dates.

Guided Walks

Currently in planning
For more information, [Upcoming Events](#) or contact info@wollicreek.org.au

Committee Meetings

Committee 24 July, AGM 28 August
Currently held by zoom. If interested to attend please contact
info@wollicreek.org.au

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All articles and photos by Laura unless otherwise
credited

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