

Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Update #104

Sept 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. *Spring Walks & Eco-Paddles*
2. *Annual Dinner in October*
3. *Peter Stevens Steps Down*
4. *A Watershed Year*
5. *Hartill-Law Underpass Walkway*
6. *Bush Friendly Gardens*
7. *Wolli Valley Drawing at Library*
8. *Sign Up a New Member*
9. *Spring Wildflower Photos and Bat Count*
10. *Calendar of Upcoming Events*

COMING UP SPRING WALKS & ECO-PADDLES



Interested in taking a guided walk or paddle this spring? Follow these links to our events page for more information and to book. Grab your spot soon as places are filling up quickly!

Sept 14 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

[Wolli Creek Eco-Paddle](#)

Sept 29 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

[Walk in the Wolli Creek Regional Park – Bexley North to Turrella Reserve](#)

Oct 6 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

[Threats and Challenges-Current and Ongoing-Turrella Reserve to Tempe](#)

Oct 19 9.00 am - 12.00 pm

[Walk from Bardwell Park to Tempe](#)

Nov 10 8.00 am - 12.30 pm

[A Story of Survival - Walk from Bexley North to Tempe](#)



Speaker Matthew Huan

COMING UP ANNUAL DINNER BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

Bookings are now open for the 35th Annual Dinner to be held at the Bardwell Valley Golf Club, 2A Hillcrest Ave, Bardwell Park. Join us from 6:30pm and enjoy some refreshments as the sun sets overlooking Bardwell Valley, followed by dinner and guest speaker. Bar opens at 6:30pm. Our guest speaker is Matthew Huan from the Chau Chak Wing Museum at Sydney University.

Matthew is currently a Museum Officer who works with natural history collections, specialising in entomology. He will speak about Beautiful Lepidoptera and Other Wildlife of the Two Valley Trail, Wolli Creek. It will be about the butterflies, moths and other wildlife he has encountered in the Wolli Creek Valley.

Matthew says that *“as a new migrant to Australia seven years ago, I knew little of the local wildlife except kangaroos, koalas and the stereotype that ‘everything in ‘Straya is out to kill ya’! Over the years I grew a deep sense of appreciation for the uniqueness of this country’s biota, from species which are found nowhere else in the world to introduced ones that have successfully become naturalized. This includes several butterflies and moths I have encountered around the Two Valley Trail, and Sydney basin in general, each with their astonishing stories to tell and lessons to teach about our history, culture, environment and the rapid pace of changes we experience today”*.

There will also be multi-prize raffle, a silent auction and a quiz.

Don't forget to bring your cash to purchase raffle tickets as we have limited card facilities. Any donations for the raffle would be appreciated, eg bottles of wine, chocolates, any indulgence really, home-made or home-grown items, seedlings or handmade craft items. Please contact us at info@wollicreek.org.au.

The dinner will start from 6:30 pm onwards, with drinks available from the cash bar. Vegetarians, vegans and gluten free diets are catered for in the menu.

For bookings (and payment) :

<https://events.humanitix.com/annual-dinner-beautiful-lepidoptera-and-other-wildlife-of-the-two-valley-trail-wolli-creek-matthew-huan> The cost is \$75 plus booking fee of \$2.38 per ticket.

Ticket sales close on 7 October as final numbers are needed for catering purposes. Please book early to secure your seat! Don't be disappointed. Last year we sold out early.



NEW WCPS COMMITTEE PETER STEVENS STEPS DOWN

WCPS held its 2024 AGM on 28th August and elected the new committee for 2025.

Most committee members chose to continue their commitment to the work of the committee. Chris Jordens will again be President, Laura Zusters will be Vice-President, Abi Curtis continues as Treasurer and Gina Svolos continues as Secretary. Julie Deady, Susie Cornish and Julia Frencheville will continue as committee members, with Julie also continuing as Public Officer. Deb Little and Yasmin Mohamed also attended the meeting.

The main change is that, after many years, Peter Stevens stepped down from the Committee.

Chris Jordens says, *“This marks the end of an era. As well as leading major campaigns to fruition, Peter has for several decades had a hand in many if not most of the other activities undertaken by the Society. So, this is an appropriate moment to acknowledge his contribution and thank him for his tireless work.*

The departure of Peter Stevens, and Deb Little earlier, from the Committee marks a historical shift. The first wave of activists in the 1980s led campaigns that saved the bushland from destruction by a freeway. The second wave consolidated the successes of the 1980s through ongoing advocacy that has brought the bushland under the control of National Parks, and by establishing a program of bushcare which is now a core activity of the Society.

Deb Little was part of the first wave, and the second wave was led by the dynamic duo of Peter Stevens and Deb Little, who recently stepped down from the Committee after 34 years of tireless and effective work. While stepping away from the committee, Deb and Peter will no doubt remain active within WCPS through their various other activities.

On behalf of the Committee and all our members, I thank and congratulate them for all they have done and wish them all the best for the coming years—which will hopefully be a bit more relaxing!”

No doubt Peter will still continue badger Governments and Councils and hold them to account!



NPWS Ben Khan, WCPS Peter Stevens, local Labor members Jo Haylen, Penny Sharpe and Sophie Cotsis with Premier Chris Minns

A WATERSHED YEAR WCPS PRESIDENT CHRIS JORDEN REPORTS

In his Annual Report on 2024, and embarking on his second year as WCPS President, Chris Jordens reminds us of important wins this year.

“2024 has been a watershed year for the Wollie Creek Preservation Society. Two major campaigns came to fruition. The first was signalled by the Premier’s announcement on 8 March that \$13M had been allocated in the state budget to complete the Wollie Creek Regional Park.

It was no coincidence that this announcement was made at the foot of Nannygoat Hill, which is surely “ground zero” of Sydney’s urban conservation moment, given that the struggle to preserve it began in 1967. The announcement raises many questions about how the money will be spent, but it should also be seen in its historical context.

The Regional Park was first proposed by WCPS in the mid-1980s. Preservation of the bushland was promised in 1988 under a coalition government, and in 1998 a Labor government promised to establish a Regional Park in the Valley. Over the next two decades, WCPS ran four campaigns seeking to hold the government to its promises. In 2010 the slogan was “12 years is too long”. Who would have thought back then that the struggle was only half over?

As we know, the struggle is never over. The price of parks is eternal vigilance! But we should pause to celebrate the success of those who have campaigned tirelessly and successfully for the Regional Park.

Another campaign that came to fruition this year concerns the Odour Control Unit (OCU) that Sydney Water planned to build at the eastern entrance to the Regional Park. WCPS ran a campaign that featured an alternative location for this piece of infrastructure (Option W). In last year’s annual report, Peter Stevens wrote that Sydney Water had suspended its plan. One reason Sydney Water gave was for this was that the OCU could not have dealt with one of the pollutants affecting the sewerage system. On 15 August 2023, Sydney Water announced it had finally abandoned its plans. These two successful campaigns were led by our former President and Vice-President Peter Stevens.”

Neither of these campaigns would have been successful without Peter’s tireless persistence and considerable skills at dealing with Government Departments and Councils to press our concerns and interests.

[READ CHRIS’S ANNUAL REPORT IN FULL ON THE WEBSITE HERE](#)



WCPs committee members Peter Stevens, Gina Svolos, Julie Frecheville with Laura Zusters met with CBCity engineers Nameer Maleko and Alan Ethassian

HARTILL-LAW UNDERPASS WALKWAY EMBANKMENT REHABILITATION PLANNED

The Wollie Creek Preservation Society met with engineers from Canterbury Bankstown Council (CBCity) for a site meeting at the Hartill-Law Bridge in Bardwell Park to discuss upcoming rehabilitation of the embankment under the bridge. The eroded embankment is in poor condition and the walking trail there is overgrown with weeds, so we are pleased to see some progress at last.


In 2007, the City of Canterbury, in conjunction with WCPs, received a \$10,000 grant from the Cooks River Foreshores Improvement Programme for construction of a board walk under the bridge on the northern side of the creek, which would bypass the only road crossing in the 5 km Wollie Valley walking track. This underpass walkway is the missing link in the Wollie Track section of the Two Valley Trail.

But the planned works weren't carried out until Canterbury Bankstown Council finally scheduled this work for 2022/23 and planning is now underway.

Council will employ contractors to clear the existing weeds like Crofton, Morning Glory and Lantana choking the embankment. Council engineers will rehabilitate the embankment with shotcrete to stabilize the area and improve drainage on and under the bridge to provide some protection from flooding. Horizontal concrete will also be laid at the bottom of the slope to create the underpass walkway.

WCPs also discussed with the Council Bushcare Officers present at the briefing how the work could be carried out with minimal impact on the nearby bush restoration work, which is carried out by volunteers around and in the wetland to the west of the bridge, off Bray Avenue.

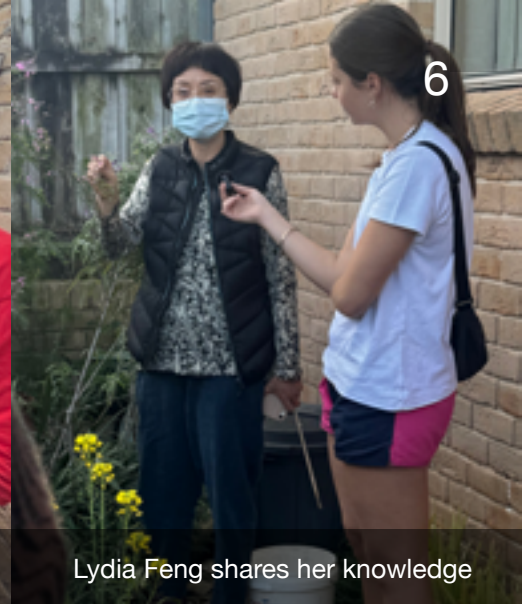
Works are planned to commence in January. If all goes to plan, bushwalkers will have pleasant bush tracks leading to the bridge from both sides and the new underpass as a welcome alternative to crossing busy Hartill-Law Ave.



CBCity Bushcare Officers Peter Goss and Paul Angel inspect weeds under the bridge



Chris Jordens with the UTS design students



Lydia Feng shares her knowledge

BUSH FRIENDLY GARDENS DESIGN STUDENTS TO HELP PROTECT THE PARK

The Wollie Creek Preservation Society is happy to have a group of final year design students working with us to promote bush-friendly gardening to residents living alongside the Wollie Creek Regional Park.

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) runs a Shopfront program which connects students with not-for-profit organisations to work on authentic real-world projects as part of their learning experience. The students will work with us to develop a video, flyer and online information about the impact gardens can have on the Regional Park.

WCPS President Chris Jordens and I walked with the students from Tempe station through to Girrahween Park. The first stop was to visit Lydia Feng whose small garden is close to the entrance of the Regional Park. Lydia took us through her native plantings, many of them indigenous to the area, and described the results she has had with insects and small birds visiting the garden. She also described the plants she has removed or avoided to prevent them escaping into the bush and becoming pests.

Our walk continued through the Regional Park, giving the students a chance to better understand the beauty and history of the valley, climbing Nannygoat Hill and visiting the bat camp. There were plenty of invasive weeds to show them, and areas where run off from urban stormwater is being managed. It was great to see young people enjoying the bush and to hear their enthusiasm for helping us protect it.

Susie Cornish
Committee Member



Susie Cornish and Chris Jordens with the UTS design students at Girrahween





Council staffer, Library Team Leader Ana-Margarida Moreira Gomes and Laura

WOLLI VALLEY DRAWING AT EARLWOOD LIBRARY

As a resident of Earlwood, living above Turrella Reserve, I feel very fortunate to live so close to the bushland of the Wollie Creek Regional Park. At TAFE in 2023, I created a large three-part drawing that features the cheeky birds who visit my home and also maps the narrow ribbon of bushland that helps local wildlife survive amidst the housing and development of our neighbourhood.

The library will be displaying this work for a month until the beginning of October, including during Native Plant Giveaway Week. Earlwood Library, on the corner of William and Homer Streets, is only a ten minute walk from the bushland at Girrahween Park. So, if you get a chance, pop down and have a look at my drawing of our neighbourhood, and maybe go for a walk in the bush as well.

Laura Zusters
WCPS Update Editor, Vice-President, Bird Surveyor

When you return bottles and cans to the Return and Earn machine, you can help support the Wollie Creek Preservation Society in its work at the same time.

Use the Return and Earn app to donate your eligible bottles and cans directly to us from machines located near you.

Visit returnandearn.org.au to locate your nearest machine.





KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

Do you know someone who follows us on socials, but is not yet a member? Someone with an interest in looking after the local environment? A keen bushwalker or bird lover? Someone who'd like to know about upcoming walks and eco-paddles? Or come to the Annual Dinner or March Bat Picnic?

Encourage them to join the Wollie Creek Preservation Society.

They'll get news of upcoming activities and campaigns, plus our regular newsletter. Annual memberships are \$25 for a family, \$15 for individuals and \$10 concession.

<https://wolliecreek.org.au/product/membership/>

All fees go towards ongoing education and awareness-raising work, campaigns and advocacy, bush regeneration work and operational aspects such as our fresh new website. We'd love extra support, both financial and to help when lobbying politicians.

As a member they will receive early notice of upcoming events and activities, including the bat picnic, walks, paddle trips, bushcare, bird surveys, bat (flying-fox) counts, talks and campaign activities. They will also receive our newsletter, the Wollie Creek Update.

Your friend or family member can help us make a difference! The more members we have, the more we can influence important decisions that affect the Valley.



Our latest Grey-headed Flying Fox count is in... the camp is down on previous months at 4,460.

Thank you to our enthusiastic new counters plus our core group of regulars



Hardenbergia violacea

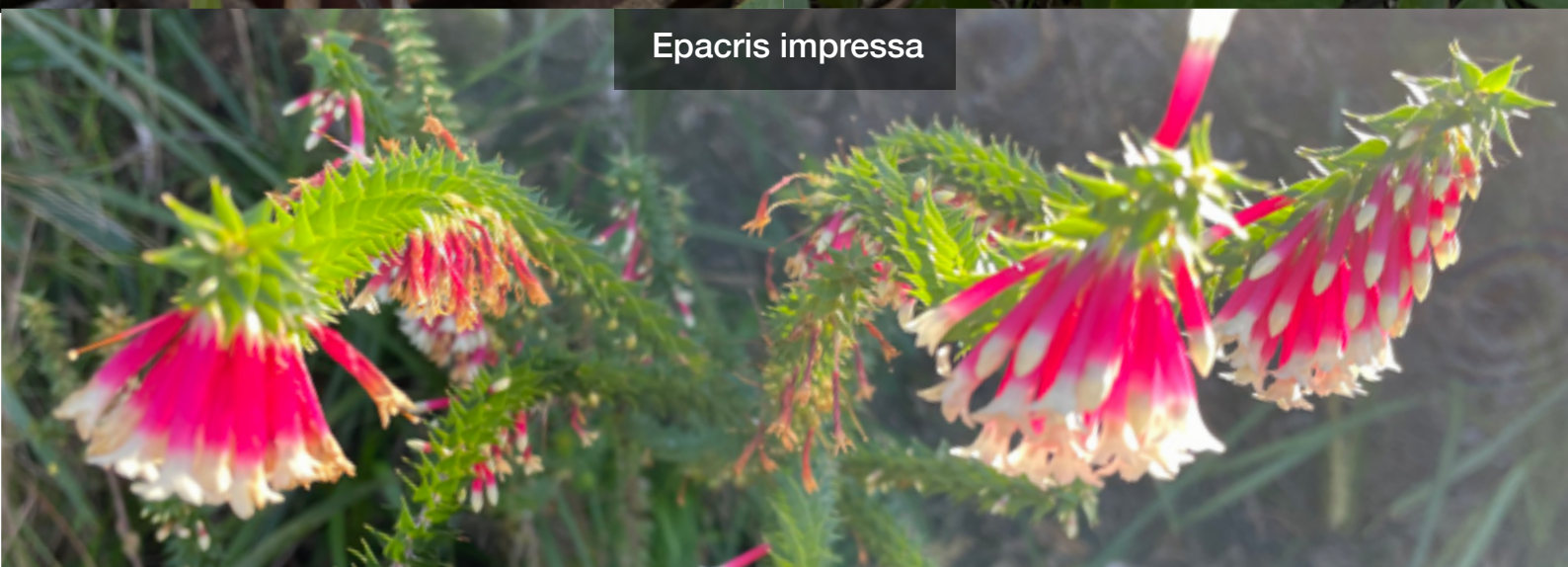
**SPRING WILDFLOWERS
PHOTOS BY UTE FOSTER**



'Running Postman' Kennedia prostrata



Pandorea pandorana



Epacris impressa

WCPS T-SHIRTS

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

T Shirts are \$30 each



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

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

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?
[CLICK HERE](#)

CALENDAR

Bush Regeneration

Paperbark, Saturday 7th Sep, 5th Oct & 2nd Nov
Bray, Sunday 8th Sep, 13th Oct & 10th Nov
Johnstone, Wednesday 11th Sep, 9th Oct & 13th Nov
Undercliffe, Friday 20th Sep, 18th Oct, 6th Nov
Turrella, Thursday 26th Sep, 24th Oct & 28th Nov
Details of locations via bushcare@wollicreek.org.au.
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
To book or get more information go to [Upcoming Events](#)

Guided Walks & Eco Paddles

Sept 14 and 29, Oct 6 and 19, Nov 10
Book via [Upcoming Events](#) or contact info@wollicreek.org.au

Committee Meetings

Committee 25 Sept, 27 Nov, 22 Jan
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

See previous issues of the Update at wollicreek.org.au/about/publications/publications/

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