- 1. Annual Dinner 16th Oct
- 3. Wolli Bluff The Latest
- 4. Council Spring Walks Coming Up
- 5. Report on August Wildflower Walk
- 6. Ash Ambihaipahar Walks the Valley
- 7. Jackson Place Spring Growth
- 8. Calendar of Upcoming Events

OUR 36TH ANNUAL DINNER BARDWELL VALLEY GOLF CLUB THURS OCT 16



HAVE YOU BOOKED YOUR PLACE AT THE ANNUAL DINNER YET?
OR ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT?

PLACES ARE FILLING FAST DON'T MISS OUT BOOKINGS CLOSE SUNDAY 6 OCT FOR CATERING

BOOK YOUR TICKET HERE NOW

Our 36th 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, followed by dinner, guest speaker, raffle, quiz and prizes. Information about this year's speaker topic on the next page.



BADLANDS: SWAMPS, STORMWATER AND THE STRUGGLES OF URBAN NATURE

Our guest speaker this year is Taylor Coyne, Human Geography PhD Candidate and Critical Design Theorist at UNSW Sydney, specialising in urban and historical geography.

Taylor's PhD research focuses in on the history and politics of Sydney's urban stormwater infrastructure. In particular, he asks how and why did Sydney's waterscapes come to be the way they are today.

Taylor says that places like Wolli Creek have been historically and culturally constructed as Badlands – undesirable, messy, marginal. This label isn't just descriptive. It's political.

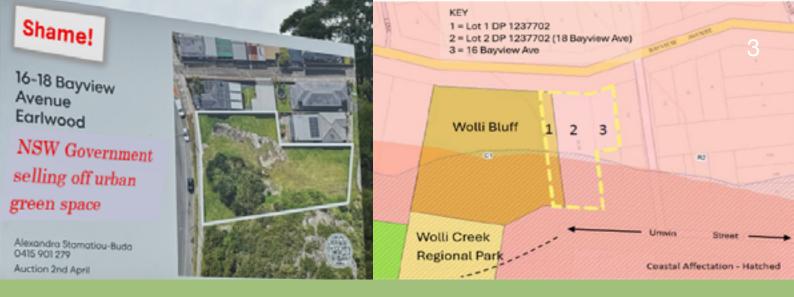
It reflects how power, value, and legitimacy are assigned to lands and waters, and who is involved in decision-making processes. The idea of a "badland" becomes a lens through which to unpack the history of Sydney's swamp drainage, the silencing of Indigenous landscapes, the ongoing politics of stormwater infrastructure, and the everyday resistance of communities, wildlife, and water itself.

Taylor is based in the Environment and Society Group at UNSW, working in the space of creating meaningful, community-centric, culturally inclusive, water sensitive urban design. He is currently involved in a number of collaborative projects in Sydney, Melbourne and Europe.

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 if you have something to donate.

The dinner will start from 6:30 pm, with drinks available from the cash bar. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten free diets are catered for in the menu. Tickets are \$75 each.

Bookings through Humanitix here



WOLLI BLUFF GREEN SPACE ONGOING CONCERNS ABOUT SALE

The NSW State government has now sold some of the urban green space that in <u>March 2024</u> the Premier undertook to "preserve and protect".

Members may recall that in April 2025, suddenly and without consultation, two blocks of land in front of Wolli Bluff were auctioned off by the Dept of Planning. WCPS campaigned against the sale on the grounds that the land was unsuitable for residential development, and we turned up at the auction to warn bidders as much. The blocks nevertheless sold for \$2.93M.

The buyer subsequently withdrew from the contract on a technicality, citing one of the many factors that make the blocks unsuitable, i.e. bushfire risk. WCPS resumed its campaign against the sale but, despite many eloquent letters sent to the Premier by our members and supporters, the Department of Planning has sold the land to a different buyer for a price that, despite our inquiries, remains undisclosed.

We have two main concerns.

- 1. The former Canterbury Council imposed a one-storey height restriction on the block adjacent to the Bluff. We do not want to see the Bluff disappear behind a multi-storey building, so we will seek to ensure the City of Canterbury Bankstown resists developer influence to remove this and other restrictions.
- 2. There is a 5-metre-wide strip of land at the base of the Bluff that was not part of the sale. It forms a buffer between the Bluff and the sold blocks, and it could be used to provide access to the Eastern entrance of the Regional Park from Bayview Avenue. This land was supposed to be transferred to NPWS in August 2025 for inclusion in Park, but this has not yet occurred. We will seek to ensure this transfer happens soon, to protect the Bluff during any building works and to preserve the access option.

WCPS President Chris Jordens



2025 Saturday 18 October, 11-6.30 WCPS will be having a stall at Bayside Council's first environment and resilience day, held on the banks of the Cooks River at Cahill Park, Wolli Creek.

Enjoy a full day of sustainability workshops, expert talks, and interactive stalls to inspire eco-friendly living.

Find out more □ https://www.bayside.nsw.gov.au/ whats-on/project-planet



COMING UP FREE GUIDED SPRING WALKS

As part of its spring Nature Fest program, Canterbury Bankstown Council is organising two walks through parts of the Wolli Creek Regional Park, led by WCPS knowledgeable volunteers. If you want to learn more about the cultural and environmental history of the valley and how it has been preserved by the actions of community volunteers, sign up for these free walks. Places go quickly.

The walks are not suitable for children under 12 years. Children under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian present for the duration of the event. It is not suitable for prams or people with limited mobility.

Sunday 12 October - Bexley North to Tempe 8am to 12.30pm

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1569235007149?aff=oddtdtcreator

Explore the full length (5km) of the Wolli Creek Valley Walking Track with local experts. Volunteer members of the Wolli Creek Preservation Society will guide you from Bexley North to Tempe via the Wolli Creek Valley Walking Track. This is a medium-hard grade 5km walk with some sections of the trail over uneven ground. It may include the pre-historic Wave Rock, the historic Jackson Place cottages and an ascent of Nannygoat Hill (optional).

Saturday 8 November - Bardwell Park to Tempe 9am to 12 noon

https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/1569262469289?aff=oddtdtcreator

Explore a 3.5km section of the Wolli Creek Valley Walking Track at a leisurely pace with a local expert. On this walk volunteer members of the Wolli Creek Preservation Society will guide you from Bardwell Park to Tempe via the Wolli Creek Valley Walking Track. This is a medium grade 3.5km walk with uneven ground and some minor ascents and descents, including an optional rocky path to Nannygoat Hill.





AUGUST WILDFLOWER WALK WITH DEB LITTLE

In August, a brisk morning turned into a perfect day to explore spring wildflowers in the valley, after wet weather had forced a postponement. Committee member Julia Frecheville joined the walk and reports on an informative morning.

We started the Wildflower Walk in Girrahween Park, where Deb Little introduced us to different leaf and plant types, and to the bible of local flora – Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney by Les Robinson, a former President of the WCPS. Walking through the Park we were able to see the effects of a controlled burn 18 months ago. The upper side of the path, where the burn had happened was filled with light and space and newly emerging plants – and yes, weeds! – whereas the downward slope had denser plant cover. This slope featured a cascading mix of purple flowering Hardenbergia and the yellow Hibbertia. For a good while along the path the Pimelea linifolia, or Slender Rice Flower, was making a wonderful comeback, its small white flower head accompanying us on our exploration.

One of the highlights was the number of orchids we saw. Tiny plants, tiny flowers on the edges of the path. There were Greenhoods (Pterostylis spp.) and even a patch of Maroon or Red Hood orchids (Pterostylis Pedunculata). I identified three wattles (Acacias) and spotted the creamy, pink-tipped Wonga-Wonga vine clambering over trees. The bell-shaped pink and white Native Fuschia (Epacris longiflora) became common on the sandier soil as we neared Turrella Reserve. Closer to Girrawheen Park we had seen the effects of run-off and wetter soils encouraging ferns and particular trees. Above the pond at the top of the steps down to the Flying Fox camp the Ring Fern and Coral Fern grew out of the rock.

Deb was very knowledgeable. I identified many plants from her list during our walk and am grateful to have a copy for reference on future walks. Thank you, Deb.

Julia Frecheville







ASH AMBIHAIPAHAR MP COMES TO SEE THE VALLEY FOR HERSELF

It was a pleasure to host our new local federal member for Barton, Ash Ambihaipahar, for a walk in the valley. She was guided through the eastern end of the valley from Waterworth Park to Turrella Reserve by WCPS President Chris Jordens and Committee Member Susie Cornish.

She shared this report on facebook.com/AshAmbihaipahar:

This week I joined the Wolli Creek Preservation Society for a walk along the eastern end of the Two Valley Trail in Wolli Creek Regional Park. It was so nice to be out in the sun after a rainy couple of weeks!

Chris and Susie showed me the incredible work they have been doing, from native planting in collaboration with council to protecting special spots like Wolli Bluff. We had some great conversations about the history of the area, their restoration projects, and their hopes for the future.

Ash Ambihaipahar

"I will definitely be back to walk with them again and see more of this beautiful part of our community."

<u>See Ash's Video about the walk here</u>

https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1HKWjs4x7H/?mibextid=wwXlfr





JACKSON PLACE REMEDIATION SITE SPRING GROWTH

WCPS Bushcare Coordinator Paul Ibbetson reports that the warmer weather is bringing the usual flush of new growth to all our bushcare sites.

"If you are walking the trail through the valley, have a look at the planting site opposite Jackson Place. This was created shortly before it was added to the Regional Park. With a lot of help from neighbour Julia, the previously very weedy site is now dense with native plants and wildlife is moving back in."

A National Trust bushcare team has been on contract with National Parks to maintain the site, after the remediated land was handed over in October 2022. The extensive plantings have certainly benefitted from several wetter than average years and so have the weeds. The team of four, headed by Drew, recently did a weeding session on the slope running down towards the creek.

Neighbour and committee member Julia Frecheville regularly does a sweep for weeds. She says, "The most common weeds I find are Fleabane, Japanese Hawksbeard, dandelions, some Erharta and Tradescantia". On a recent visit, Julia and I spotted Kookaburras, skinks and a possum in an old nesting box.

The site is now full of flowering Hardenbergia, Kennedia, Wonga Wonga vine, Native Geranium, Basket-grass and Hop Bush. Well worth a visit!





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.

CALENDAR

Bush Regeneration

Paperbark - First Sat of mth - 11th Oct, 1st Nov, 6th Dec, 3 Jan 9am Bray Ave - Snd Sun of mth - 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 14th Dec, 11 Jan 9am Johnston St - Snd Wed of mth - 22nd Oct, 12th Nov, 10th Dec, 14 Jan 9am Undercliffe - Thrd Fri of mth - 17th Oct, 21st Nov, 19th Dec, 17th Jan 9am The Bluff - Sat after Undercliffe - 18th Oct, 22nd Nov, 20th Dec, 18th Jan 9am Turrella - Thurs Not on in Oct, Nov, 18th Dec, 29th Jan 10am Details of locations via bushcare@wollicreek.org.au. Let them know if you are coming. Always check dates and times 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 16th October, Bardwell Valley Golf Club Speaker Taylor Coyne, UNSW "Badlands: Swamps, Stormwater, and the Struggles of Urban Nature"

Guided Walks & Eco Paddles

Guided Walks see page 4 Eco-Paddles will resume in autumn Contact info@wollicreek.org.au

Committee Meetings

Committee & AGM 26 Nov, nominations two weeks before Committee Weds 6.30, Jan 21, Mar 25, May 27, July 22

Held online. To attend please contact info@wollicreek.org.au

EDITOR & LAYOUT: LAURA ZUSTERS

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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