

Wolli Creek Preservation Society

Update ^{#110}

Sept 2026



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. *Eco-Paddle bookings open*
2. *Guided Spring Walks*
3. *Annual Dinner 15th October*
4. *Kogarah Golf Course Development*
5. *Govt Land at Wolli Bluff Update*
6. *Unwin Street Remediation*
7. *Vale Lee Hoffmann*
8. *Wildflowers in the Valley*
9. *Calendar of Upcoming Events*

SPRING TOURS IN THE VALLEY PLACES GOING FAST



Partnering once again with the River Canoe Club, we're delighted to open bookings for the Wolli Creek Eco-Paddle on Sunday, 27 September.

We have a new booking system as registrations need to be through the Paddle Australia booking platform, to ensure participants are covered by insurance. Please let us know if you have any difficulties booking.

You will get a very different view of the Wolli Creek Valley from creek level whilst learning about local wildlife, history and the environment. The tour is also a great chance to get a gentle and short introduction to paddling as we cater for beginners. We will provide paddle guidance, and all the gear including canoes and life jackets.

[Further details and the link to bookings are on our website.](#)



Walkers on the Girrhaween track



'Eggs and Bacon', *Dillwynia retorta*

GUIDED VALLEY WALKS SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Welcome spring in the valley with our upcoming program of walks, featuring a new Art in Nature event, a guided wildflower walk, and two bushwalks through the valley. Find all the details below. All are free for members and registration is essential.

Art in Nature-guided art session and short walk in the Wolli Creek Regional Park

Saturday 12 September 9.30am till 12 noon

Spend two hours drawing and painting in nature, where you will learn to appreciate familiar landscapes through a variety of drawing and painting techniques, under the guidance of an experienced illustrator. An optional guided, easy short walk will precede the drawing/painting session. Come and try your hand at sketching the beautiful bush. <https://events.humanitix.com/art-in-nature-wolli-creek-regional-park>

A Story of Survival-Walk from Bexley North to Tempe

Sunday 13 September - 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Would you like to explore the full length (5km) of the Wolli Creek Valley Walking Track. On this walk volunteer members of the Wolli Creek Preservation Society will guide you from Bexley North to Tempe via the Wolli Creek Valley Walking Track. **ALREADY BOOKED OUT**

Wolli Wildflower Walk

Sunday 27 September 2026, from 8.45 am

Ever wondered what that lovely flowering plant was that you saw on your walk through the Wolli Valley – or another Sydney bushland area? Then come along to this leisurely and (plant) informative walk from Girrahween Park to Turrella Reserve. wollicreek.org.au/event/wolli-wildflower-walk-sunday-27-september-2026/

Walk in the Wolli Creek Regional Park from Bardwell Park to Tempe

Saturday 17 October - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Would you like to find out more about the Wolli Creek Valley Walking Track? This will be a 3.5km leisurely Saturday morning bush walk from Bardwell Park to Tempe along the Wolli Creek Valley Walking Track.

<https://events.humanitix.com/walk-in-the-wolli-creek-regional-park-from-bardwell-park-to-tempe-3-5km-c6u5kemd>

Gina Svolos
WCPS Secretary



ANNUAL DINNER OCTOBER

MATTHEW MO TALKS BATS

Join us for our annual dinner on Thursday 15 October at 6.30pm. Our guest speaker this year is Matthew Mo, who is a senior threatened species officer with the New South Wales Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, primarily working on flying-fox conservation and management. His topic is Flying Fox Ecology, Conservation and Management.

Conserving flying-foxes and addressing human flying-fox conflicts is hugely complex. The Grey-headed flying-fox, in particular, is listed as a vulnerable species and faces several threats. Ultimately making a difference is going to require a huge number of stakeholders, including the Wolli Creek Preservation Society, continuing to contribute to flying-fox conservation and management. Matthew's presentation will take you on a refresher on flying-fox ecology and explore what's currently happening, including the National Flying-fox Monitoring Program, research projects and initiatives to improve how the general public perceive flying-foxes.

Come and support the Wolli Creek Preservation Society and participate in our fun Trivia Quizz, raffles and a silent auction.

Don't forget to bring your cash to purchase raffle tickets as we have limited card facilities.

Book your ticket now. For catering purposes bookings for this event will close on Sunday 4 October. If you miss the closing date please email info@wollicreek.org.au to see if you can book direct.

The dinner is buffet style and will cater for vegetarians and gluten free diets. If you require a vegan meal please check the box indicating this when you register. It will be followed by desert. Drinks and coffee available to be purchased from the bar.

[Tickets on sale through Humanitix.](#)

[More info about the dinner on our website.](#)



KOGARAH GOLF COURSE REVELOPMENT WCPS SUBMISSION OBJECTS

You may be aware of the proposed Redevelopment of the Kogarah Golf Course along the Cooks River (the “Cooks Cove Precinct”). The proposal is for a logistics and warehouse centre across the Cooks River from Sydney Airport, with some other businesses including a data centre.

Our objections uphold our commitment to our mission to “ensure the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Wolli Creek Valley, its tributaries, associated corridors and their ecological communities, and the ecologically sensitive restoration, expansion and maintenance of these areas”.

This is a link to an excellent letter written by the Deputy Mayor of Bayside Council, Heidi Lee Douglas. It addresses many of the issues we have outlined. <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19CmTiYj8o/>

The Wolli Creek Preservation Society objects to the proposed development for the following reasons.

- 1.It is a massive overdevelopment of the site that will overshadow the river and adjacent public space.
- 2.The development has not had an adequate community consultation process. Online documents claim that WCPS has been consulted. This is not true.
- 3.The development will lead to a loss of vegetation and local biodiversity. The biodiversity report understates the value of existing vegetation and other site attributes which provides habitat and foraging areas for a range of species including Grey-headed Flying foxes (a threatened species). Biodiversity surveys were of very limited duration and were primarily diurnal. The river and its wider catchment have enormous ecological importance for our city. We ignore this at our own peril.
- 4.This development will also lead to a loss of open green space on the Cooks River foreshore. We remind members that on 8 March 2024 Premier Chris Minns said in a public statement that “We have to build world class beautiful parks, and that means preserving every bit of green space that we can possibly get our hands on.”
- 5.The cumulative impacts of the development have not been adequately addressed. This is an already highly developed area of Sydney with limited open space for nearby residents and others in the LGA and wider catchment.
- 6.It is proposed that the development will house a data centre. This is an industry that is taking hold in Australia without due consideration to (among other things) its intensive use of water and energy and its contribution to global warming.



Temporary fence below Wolli Bluff marking boundary between Regional Park (left) and private blocks (right)



Machinery loading native Kunzea into Mulcher

GOVT LAND AT WOLLI BLUFF UPDATE ON THE SELL OFF

Readers may recall that the NSW Dept of Planning recently sold off two blocks of vacant land at the foot of Wolli Bluff in Earlwood (see Updates #106 and #107).

In August 2026, contractors cleared these blocks of vegetation, which was mostly regrowth of native Kunzea. The clearing was done in preparation for a private residential development planned by the new owner.

Wolli Creek Preservation Society was on site during the clearing operation to ensure the machines did not stray onto a 5-metre-wide strip of land at the base of Wolli Bluff. This strip of land was not part of the land sell-off. It was transferred to the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service in June 2026 and is now part of the Wolli Creek Regional Park.

Although it's only a tiny addition to the park, this narrow strip provides a buffer between Wolli Bluff and any future development. It will also provide access to the Eastern entrance of the Regional Park from Bayview Avenue, after the soil is tested for contamination and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service clears the block of historical dumping.

Chris Jordens
WCPS President



Native Kunzea regrowth being mulched on site



The only tall tree on the block is felled during operation



UNWIN STREET BLOCKS REMEDIATION WORKS

The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure is well underway with remediating the vacant site at 14-18 Unwin Street near Wolli Bluff. It will create a safe public space as part of the expanded Wolli Creek Regional Park and will contribute to the green corridor from Waterworth Park below to the Regional Park bushland.

Teams are removing surface building water, capping with clean clay and topsoil to contain contaminants, stabilising the site with native plantings and installing soil erosion prevention works.

Extensive plantings of native vegetation can already be seen and are expected to be completed in September 2026. The site will be eventually be transferred from The Office of Strategic Lands to NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. NPWS will manage all future works, including restoration of native vegetation, ongoing site management and planning for future public access.

The government website says “The site will then become part of Wolli Creek Regional Park, supporting recreation, enhancing biodiversity, and contributing to a healthier natural environment for the community”.



Looking toward the SWOOS



Lee recently protesting the proposed OCU at Wolli Bluff



Lee second from the left in a 1980s demo

VALE LEE HOFFMAN WCPS MEMBER

The successful fight to save and protect the Wolli Creek Valley bushland rests on the shoulders of many dedicated and passionate individuals from the early days in the 80s and 90s, who may not be known to more recent members of the Society. We recently lost the lovely Lee Hoffman. She was a delightful, cheeky and humorous individual and will be sorely missed. Lee's long-time partner Gavin Gatenby, a former President of WCPS, has written this tribute:

"Lee and I bought a cottage in Turrella in early 1980, but weren't recruited to the WCPS until 1986 when I was working as a tour guide at the historic NPWS-run North Head Quarantine Station, and was persuaded to join by a fellow guide, Martin Smith, who had grown up in the Wolli Valley. At that stage the Department of Main Roads (DMR) was proposing to build an 8-lane surface motorway through the valley in two 4-lane stages.

Almost immediately upon joining, Lee and I were pitched into an ugly struggle over the nature and leadership of the original group. After a split, the old leaders departed and WCPS was reformed as a modern, incorporated, community-oriented group. Lee had previously had a career as an infants' teacher, so when the Society began doing walks through the valley for school groups, she was well-qualified to help develop this work.

Lee also served on the Committee for many years and threw herself into a succession of public campaigns to save the valley. This involved much letterboxing of leaflets and WCPS campaign tabloids and gaining signatories on letters and petitions, culminating in the success of the campaign to force the concept of a rail line to the airport onto the government's agenda as an alternative to the M5 East.

Lee was subsequently involved in various campaigns against motorways. In 1995, during an action by Macquarie University students against the M2 Motorway, she was arrested after locking-on 12 metres up the boom of a crane. Her subsequent account of the incident was published in the SMH on 22 May 1995 under the title "Citizen arrested". She was later involved in the EcoTransit campaigns to bring light rail back to Sydney.

Lee was precipitated into severe Alzheimer's-type dementia by the death of her beloved dingo, Jesse, in late 2024. For many years, she and Jesse had been much-loved members of the local dogwalkers group in Turrella Reserve. Lee passed away in the course of an operation on a broken hip following a fall at her home in Batemans Bay."



Acacia fimbriata on Johnston St
Photo by Paul Ibbetson

SPRING WILDFLOWERS IN THE VALLEY TAKE A WALK AND CHECK THEM OUT



Dodonaea viscosa, Native Hop Bush



Hibbertia dentata, Golden Guilinea Flower



Hardenbergia violacea



Pandorea pandorana, Wonga Wonga Vine

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

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 - 1st Sat of mth - Sep 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5, Jan 2, Feb 6,
 Bray Ave - 2nd Sun of mth - Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13, Jan 10, Feb 14
 Johnston St - 2nd Wed - Sep 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10
 Undercliffe - 3rd Fri - Sep 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18, Jan 15, Feb 19
 The Bluff - Sat after U'cliffe - Sep 17, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19, Jan 16, Feb 20
 Turrella - Thurs Sep 25, Oct 23, Nov 27, Dec 11, Jan 28, Feb 25
 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.
 Start times 9am, but 8.30am for Johnston, Paperbark in Jan, Feb & Turrella Nov to Feb.

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

Events and Eco-Paddle

Eco-Paddle Sun 27 Sept See page 1
 Annual Dinner 15 October 2026 See page 3
 Bat Watch picnic March 2027

Guided Walks

Art in Nature Sat 12 Sept See page 2 for all walks
 Story of Survival Sun 13 Sept, booked out
 Wildflower Walk Sun 27 Sept
 Bardwell Park to Tempe Sat 17 Oct

Committee Meetings

Weds 6.30pm, 23rd Sept, 25th Nov with AGM
 Held online. To attend please contact info@wollicreek.org.au

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

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