



# Lower Blue Mountains Conservation Society

P.O. Box 119,  
Springwood, 2777.

## NEWSLETTER-DECEMBER, 1986.

CONTACTS: George Threlfo 39 5125  
Aleen Hanley 39 4079  
Besse Bramsen 51 2787

### DECEMBER MEETING

Friday 12th December Our final meeting for the year, bring along some goodies and enjoy a talk and slide show. Jill Dark will be showing some slides from her and Mick's recent trip to Queensland.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT A.G.M.

The past year has been an amalgam of activities which consolidated the strength of the Society and initiatives which led us in new directions and generally broadened our horizons.

Our change of meeting venue has placed us in more congenial surroundings and introduced us to a new group of members. A number of our meetings have been quite notable and have attracted large numbers e.g. Richard Wells' reptiles night and Tony Curry's talk on the Botanic Gardens. Our meeting program has also sought to introduce to members a series of issues e.g. the proposal to add the Pagoda Lands to Wollemi National Park, woodchipping and toxic wastes.

Members of our Society have been instrumental in pursuing the concept of a Blue Mountains Environment Council and the following year should see it on a secure footing. Our members were closely involved with the B.M.E.C. forums on Blue Mountains sewerage and recycling. Already our efforts on recycling have partly been implemented by the local council and we will continue the close dialogue with them on this matter. The sewerage issue is of state and national interest and will probably be the foremost issue in 1987. Help us to fight it in every possible way. We have forged close links with all our affiliated Sydney and State groups and are preparing a basic strategy with them to ensure that an environmental acceptable solution is arrived at.

Our full range of activities are too numerous to detail here, but are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. However, I must make note of significant submissions produced through the year by various members e.g. the magnificent Faulconbridge Mallee submission which will now require long-term carefully considered actions to bring it to a successful conclusion. As well we have formally proposed the



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT contd.

inclusion of Florabella Pass into the National Park. Submissions were produced during the year on items such as Sydney's Second Airport, Penrith Lakes, South Coast Woodchips, Tasmanian Woodchips and Regional Open Space lands in the Blue Mountains. Our biggest "fights" have been over the F4 freeway on the escarpment and the water activities in Fairlight Gorge. The past year has also seen a lot of our time expended on Ald. William's proposal for a woolshed, dam and aviary and cricket stadium. While the citizens group and us were not successful, we learnt a lot on environmental matters and still have not exhausted individual options for actions.

Our treasurer has finally placed the Society on a firm financial base and we congratulate Eunice for this and for the generous use of her house for lengthy Works Meetings - the amount of business conducted in these is quite staggering. I personally thank all individual members for their contribution through the year.

The coming year also promises to be an exciting and exacting one. We have a strong and active membership and a firm base to be very effective. Initiatives such as a re-designed leaflet, Society T-shirts and posters, new interest in walks etc. all point to a vigorous group made up of member with particular skills and the motivation to use these skills to further the environmental cause.

I find it a privilege and a pleasure to work with you in these causes.

G. Threlfo

## RECENT EVENTS.

Submission on Winmalee Environmental Management Plan.  
Submission on Mulgoa Valley Plan.  
Submission on Castlereagh Liquid Waste Centre extension.  
Support for anti-woodchipping campaign in S.E. N.S.W. & Tasmania.  
Proposed actions on Faulconbridge Mallee.  
Preliminary kit on Blue Mts. sewerage to be sent to all N.C.C groups.  
Following up the successful Echo Point action (in concert with the citizens' action group through the Environment Council).  
Further discussions with the President of Scone Shire Council on the Liverpool Range rainforest pockets and Cameron's Gorge.

## SOME OF THE SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES DURING 1986.

### Local and Regional.

Blue Mountains sewerage strategy, Blue Mountains recycling, Toxic wastes, Fire policies, Blue Mountains roads system, Powerline route Mt. Piper - Marulan, Echo Point and Leura Resort, Bell sandmining, Agnes Banks sands, Pagoda lands-Lithgow, Mt. Werong.  
Submissions - local, Hawkesbury-Nepeansystem, Mulgoa, Airport sites, Penrith Lakes, Escarpment land -DEP, Singles Ridge development, Blaxland Quarry, Fairlight Gorge, F4 on escarpment, Regional Open Space lands in Blue Mountains, Bushrock.  
National Park additions - Florabella, Faulconbridge Mallee.  
Car Dumps, Escarpment 530A Committee, Woolshed/Dam/Aviary/Bodyfit-Blaxland, CEP funding for walks, Glenbrook Bowling Club extensions, Winmalee Environment Plan, Cockatoo Survey.



## 1986 ACTIVITIES cont'd.

### State.

Macquarie Marshes, Murray River redgums, Sugar Creek Reserve, Liverpool Range rainforests, Reform of the Forestry Commission, Wilderness legislation, Woodchips - S.E. N.S.W., Protection of Coastal lands.

### National.

Kakadu, Gt. Barrier Reef, Tasmanian woodchipping and western lands, Daintree, Lord Howe Is., Christmas Is.

### International.

Funds to - World Wildlife Fund, Antarctic World Heritage Park and Greenpeace.

### OFFICE BEARERS 1986/87.

President;	G. Threlfo
Vice-Presidents:	R. Bridle
	C. Cleary
Treasurer:	E. Holmes
Publicity:	C. Stickley,
	assisted by R. Phillipps
Minutes Secretary:	C. Ramsey
Librarian:	A. Hanley
Editor:	Z. Manners
Assistant Secretaries:	M. Esson - National Parks
	B. Bramsen - Flora, Bush Regeneration
	R. Phillipps & P. Mobbs - Walks
	G. Threlfo & C. Linn - Local Environment Plan
	R. Chapman - Bushfires
	M. Baker - Penrith District
	A. Hanley - Talks
	S. Threlfo - Membership

AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION FOUNDATION MEETING - at the Australian Museum, 18th November, 1986.

The speaker was Alan Fox, environmental consultant, photographer and A.C.F. Councillor.

His topic was "The Present and Future of Kakadu, Uluru and Other Heritage Areas", and was illustrated with a wealth of slides. His talk was direct, honest and unapologetic in any direction. He began by castigating the A.C.F. for a recent TV episode in which it seemed they were comparing, in likeness, the disasters of Kakadu and Ok Tedi. Here I was not able to grasp the full significance of what was said because I had not seen that film. But there was comparison between the rather flat, alternately wet and dry of Kakadu and the altitude of the New Guinea mines and the swift flow of the rivers from them. On slides he showed us first several types of national parks, particularly in America - from the high, snow-covered mountains to the desert areas, told of the generous staffing to manage and run these parks and described some amusing incidents in visiting them. Then Kakadu with its many diversities and problems,



## A.C.F. REPORT cont'd.

its wildlife and vegetation and told of vicissitudes of life there.

Among the horrifying scenes were buffalo despoiling waterholes - not only cutting the edges with weight on cloven hooves and eating out the lilies and other vegetation of billabongs, but, with the fact that they contain faeces and urine until entering the water and then release it, they are filling the waterholes with some much nutrient as to completely alter its nature. Also there were slides of stretches of erosion in which the head of a man standing was below the original surface - these had been roads.

On the question of fire the history was of original management for convenience of travel and hunting, the aborigines spot-fired areas in rotation, though it was not known with what frequency to each set of spots, Now the aborigines acquiesce in the annual wide-acre burning by white "management". ( As an aside one wonders at the reason. Is it merely a fact of giving in to the white bosses? Or is it that with expansion of the aboriginal population that they need to cover so much more country in collecting native foods ? Whatever the answer, the practice augers ill for the future of the park.

Alan also told of one, almost unbelievable experiment being carried out by CSIRO where an expanse of land is populated thickly with buffalo to see what damage they really do.

Then on the better side was shown an area where the animals were fenced off and recovery is good. Aboriginal paintings and etchings are being better protected, and education in nature is excellent.

A problem of the future which appears to remain unnoticed by the authorities is the people of the land. This park is Aboriginal land and home to the people. With their new-found wealth and largely white-oriented way of life now they are increasing at a rate to cause concern of overpopulation in the foreseeable future.

It was a long and interesting discourse, but it was unfortunate that I had to leave before discussion took place to catch a train home.

Besse Bramsen

## WALKS PROGRAM.

The Society, with the assistance of Richard Phillipps and Peter Mobbs has decided to re-introduce the walks program. The dates of which are listed below, if you would like to attend any of the walks could you please contact the walk leader no later than the evening before the walk you wish to attend.

### Walk at North Faulconbridge.

Margaret Esson led the first of our new series of walks on Sunday 23rd November. The group spent an enjoyable morning admiring the Eucalyptus deanei and had a pleasant lunch at Peggy's Pool. The walk was well attended and five local groups were represented.



### Faulconbridge Sub-committee.

Ajoint sub-committee has been formed to further the aims of this submission. The committee is made up of some members of the Blue Mountains branch of the National Parks Association and some members of our own Society.

### November Meeting - Graham Alcorn on Birds.

At our November meeting Graham Alcorn gave an interesting and informative talk and slide show on birds and their breeding and nesting habits. He also brought part of his collection of nests to delight and enthrall us. He emphasised that these nests had been under observation for some time and were only collected long after they had been abandoned by their owners.

### Society T-Shirts.

Our Society now has its own t-shirts, so if you would like to help spread (?) the word and also contribute to our funds, order yours now. We have some pre-printed Chinese style shirts available or the design can be printed on your own shirt. We will have some at the next meeting. The Society will get \$2 for each t-shirt printed or sold.

*The print is available in black or dark green.*

#### Pre printed shirts

Chinese style \$11.00

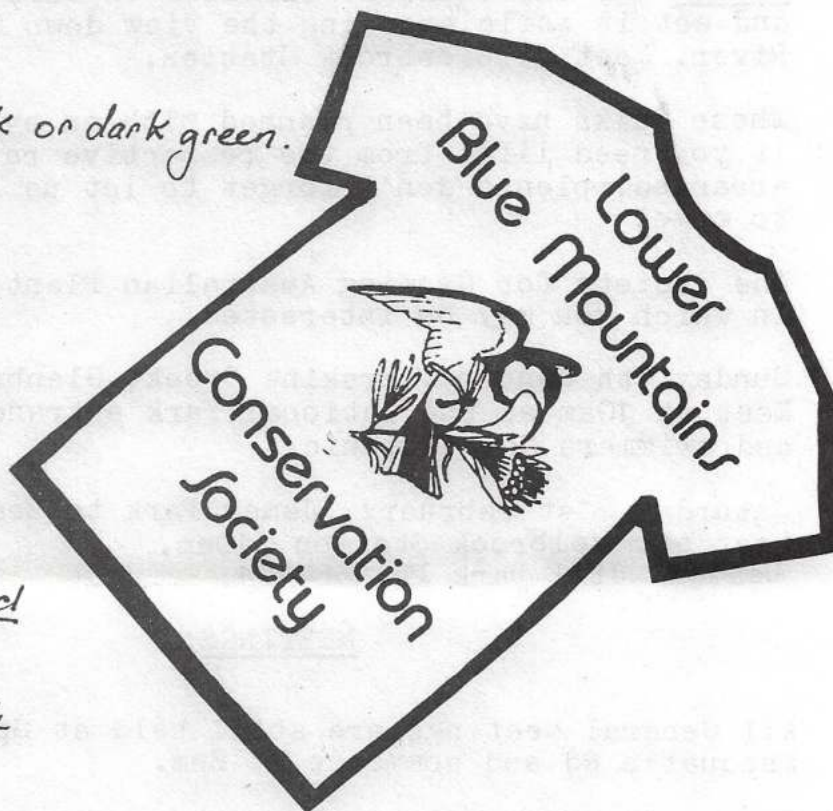
Sports style \$9.00

Kids sizes \$7.00

OR

Get your own shirt printed  
for \$4.00

Enquiries : phone 514664



### Wilderness Calendars.

We still have some calendar available at a cost of \$7.65.

### Change of Address.

The Environment Centre of N.S.W. has moved to: "Lilyvale",  
176 Cumberland St,  
Sydney, 2000.

## WALKS PROGRAM.

Sunday 18th January 10am. Florabella Pass.

Leader: Richard Phillipps Phone: 39-2568.

Meet at 10am at Warrimoo station. A delightful, easy three hour walk. Bring swimmers and lunch to have along the way, it's on the south side so will be a wonderfully cool place to spend a cool few hours on a hot January Sunday. So come and have a look at this lovely area which we hope is to be included in the National Park.

Saturday 28th February 6pm. Blue Gum Swamp.

Leader: Peter Mobbs Phone: 54-2319.

Meet at the end of Whitecross Rd Winmalee, bring supper and a torch. An easy 3-4 hour walk.

Sunday 22nd March 10am. Birdwood Gully and Coachwood Forest.

Leader: Zoe Manners Phone 51-4664.

Meet at Springwood Station at 10am. Bring some lunch. Admire the natural plant community and be horrified at the weed infestation as we walk out of the gully towards Boland Ave..

Sunday 26th April 10am. Dark's Common.

Leader: George Threlfo Phone: 39- 5125.

Walk along the historic tramway and admire the wonderful Angophora bakeri and the abundant birdlife of this lovely area. Bring your lunch and eat it while enjoying the view down Glenbrook Gorge to the Nepean River. Meet at Glenbrook Station.

These walks have been planned with an eye on the train timetables so if you need lifts from the respective railway stations, this can be arranged, please don't forget to let us know beforehand if you intend to come.

The Society for Growing Australian Plants is also having some walks in which you may be interested.

Sunday 4th January. Erskine Creek, Glenbrook National Park.

Meet at 10am at the National Park entrance Glenbrook. Bring lunch and swimmers for a picnic.

Saturday 21st February. James Park to Bedford Creek, Hazelbrook.

Meet at Hazelbrook Station, 10am.

Leader: Jill Dark Ph. 587061.

## MEETINGS.

All General Meetings are still held at Springwood Pre-School in Macquarie Rd and commence at 8pm.

Friday 13th February - Margaret Esson will give a talk and slide show on her recent travels in Kakadu.

Friday 13th March - Jill Dark will be talking on Rainforest flora.

Friday 10th April - Margaret Baker will give us a talk on the Geology of the Blue Mountains.



"A-Z OF CHEMICALS IN THE HOME".

A comprehensive guide, with almost 200 entries, chemicals ranging from aerosols to wood preservative are discussed. Written in easy to understand language, the book also contains an explanation of technical terms and 30 illustrations.

Special Offer Until 5th January.

Pre-publication price \$7.95 + \$1.50 postage.

Available from ; The Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals Committee.

C/- T.E.C.,  
3rd Floor,  
18 Argyle St,  
Sydney, 2000

Please make cheques payable to T.H.C.C.

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE.

At our Annual General Meeting in October it was decided to increase our membership fees to the following amounts;

Single: \$7  
Family: \$10  
Life: \$50

---

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.



NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....PHONE.....

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.  
LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION  
SOCIETY.  
BOX 119,  
P.O.. SPRINGWOOD, 2777.

LOWER BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT AT 1st October, 1986.

INCOME:

	\$	\$
Balance from Commonwealth Bank	673:37	
Ivy Market	692:20	
Membership Fees	490:00	
Sale of Books	62:50	
Interest	23:38	
Donations	4:00	

1945:43

EXPENDITURE:

Subscriptions & Donations;	
Australian Conservation Foundation	225:95
National Parks & Wildlife	53:00
Darks Commonwealth Trust	50:00
Wilderness Society	27:00
National Parks Association	25:00
Friends of Hacking River	25:00
World Wildlife Fund	25:00
<sup>NATURE</sup> National Conservation Council	20:00
Far South Coast	10:00
Australian Trust Conservation Volunteers	19:00
Penrith Arts Council	6:00

481:95

Expenses;

Reimbursements T. Threlfo	430:00
S. Threflo	15:00
M. Esson	200:00
C. Cleary	20:00

665:00

Shares Blue Mountains Credit Union	10:00
Legal Fees	62:00
Petty Cash	50:00
Photocopying	3:00
Advertising	2:40
Post Office Bbx Rental	23:00
Woodchipping Conference	16:00
Maps	25:00
B.M.C.C. Minutes <i>132 funds bill</i>	48:59

240:50

1387:43

=====

Balance at Blue Mountains Credit Union

557:98



# The new threat to conservation

SMH 24/11/86

**Economic issues have the greens on the run, writes BOB CARR.**

**J**UST WHEN you thought it was safe, all the battles have to be fought again. At least that's how conservationists must feel.

The Colong Caves, Myall Lakes, NSW rainforests, the wilderness of south-west Tasmania: from 1970 to 1983 these were the landmark conservation victories. They have brought Australia close to international recognition for excellence in nature conservation.

Now, in this hour of economic darkness, all that has been saved is once again a resource to be exploited for profit. It is all up for grabs.

The timber industry is running a \$1.4 million advertising campaign to deride conservationists and soften-up opinion for a roll-back of these gains. At its last State conference the National Party resolved to "reduce park sizes where necessary" and reopen mining along that third of the coast now in the park system. Mr Greiner has given National Party MPs responsibility in his shadow Cabinet for planning, local government, mining, timber, water and lands.

It has been suggested that Kakadu National Park — which contains, among

other minerals, the largest uranium province in the world — be opened to mining. The suggestion that uranium mining be allowed there has now, rightly, been discounted by the Prime Minister. Even so, once mooted, the idea adds to the threats which hang over the conservation movement.

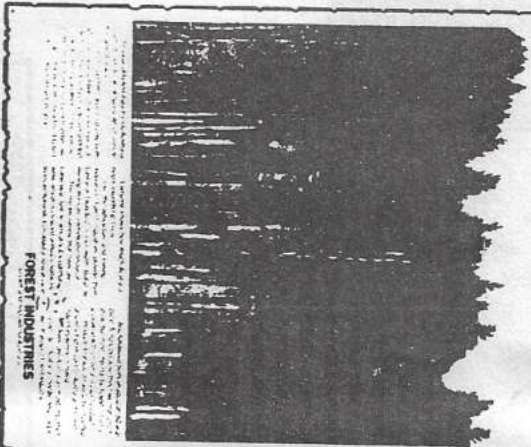
Where is the all-powerful greenie movement? Answer: on the defensive.

Yet the conservation imperative should be stronger than ever. In under 200 years of white settlement we have removed an estimated two-thirds of the continent's trees. Over half the land used for agriculture is now in need of treatment for erosion. An estimated 78 species of plants have been destroyed; another 410 are rare or endangered. Since 1788 we have extinguished 20 of 100 mammals known in N.S.W.

The surge of anti-conservation propaganda suggests the greens have gone too far. But where? Rainforests are the richest concentration of plant and animal species on this continent, the least-forested in the world after Antarctica. Three-quarters have been cleared. In 1982 NSW saved what remained. Were we too hasty? Should we have waited until only one-eighth or one-sixteenth of rainforests remained before creating the parks now being considered for World Heritage listing?

Take another vital natural system — the coastal wetlands, the estuaries, mangroves and swamps that sustain our fishlife and much of our bird population. Again, an

IS THIS AUSTRALIA'S MOST IMPORTANT CROP?



FOREST INDUSTRIES

**Forests as product ... an advertisement promoting Forest Industries.**

estimated 60 per cent had been destroyed. We introduced our State wetlands policy earlier this year. Did we move too soon? Should we have waited until only a few token mangroves were left? The same argument applies to wilderness,

those tracts of land that remain essentially unmodified by human activity. A report presented to me by conservationists suggests only 4 per cent of the State's land remains as it was in 1788. Roughly half is already in national parks, half outside in land managed by other government authorities. There is a case for a Wilderness Act to ensure our remaining wilderness is not nibbled at.

In the current climate it should be repeated that economic growth and conservation are not at odds. Again the case of wetlands is instructive. Our latest research shows about 70 per cent of the value of the State's fish catch spends part of its life cycle in coastal wetlands.

The conservation argument must be seen in an international context. Acid rain has fatally poisoned the great forests of Europe. The lowland rainforests of South-East Asia will have been cleared by the end of this century. Desert is spreading through the world by a size equivalent to double that of Belgium each year.

And in Australia? A fluke of history has given our people possession of a vast and unusual continent. It has plants, animals and landscapes that have bedazzled visitors since Sir Joseph Banks. We try an affluent and intelligent nation. With great natural areas left, we have the chance to do better at conservation than any other people on the globe.

Bob Carr is NSW Minister for Planning and Environment.



## " FIRED INTO LIFE" ???????????

Interpretive signs in the heart of North Head Scenic Area in Sydney Harbour National Park help visitors understand the significance of some of the components of the scenery they have come to enjoy

Photo: C. Hagr



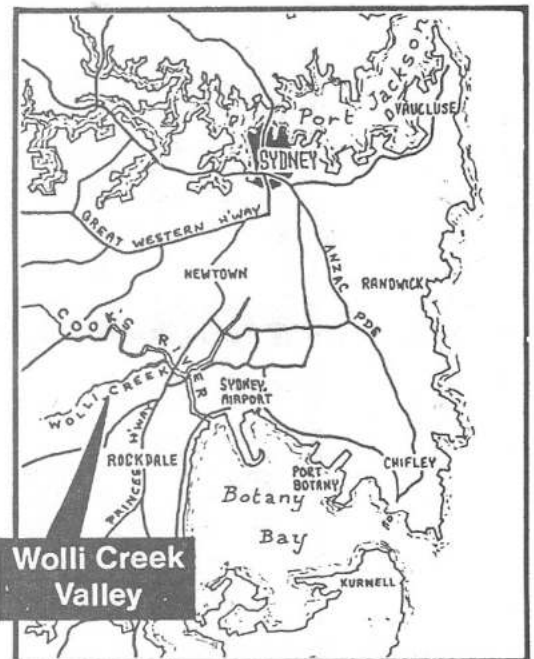
"Fired into life, imagine depending on fire to start your life. Many heath species depend on fire for their survival, as the intense heat releases trapped seeds and helps in the initial growth of the tiny plant."

This is the wording on the "interpretative" sign below this Banksia in the North Head Scenic Area.

From: "Heaths in N.S.W.", N.P.&W.S. publication.

## HANDS OFF WOLLI CREEK.

"In the huge portion of Sydney that lies between Port Jackson and the Northern edge of Botany Bay the Wolli Creek Valley is the only large area of bushland that remains."



The D.M.R. plans to build an elevated six-lane freeway (basically a container road) through the valley, destroying this bushland and open space.

Why is Wolli Creek Valley important ?

Because ;

The valley is the last remnant of natural bushland in the inner South of Sydney.



## WOLLI CREEK cont'd.

It is only 20 minutes away from Central by train and 5 minutes by car from the densely populated inner-city suburbs of Tempe, Marrickville, St Peters and Arncliffe.

It contains Mangrove stands, heaths, dry sclerophyll forests, extensive wetlands, impressive cliff lines and lookouts and a pocket of rare Sydney rainforest.

The creek is the only stream left in the vast catchment of Cooks River that retains its natural vegetation and fauna.

It is the site of thousands of years of Aboriginal occupation evidence of which is abundant.

Remnants of pioneer industry and settlement remain in the valley.

Within a 5 Km radius are over 120 schools. The valley is the only major field resource for environmental education in the Southern suburbs.

Over 150 bird species have been recorded as inhabiting the area.

The National Trust surveyed part of the bushland of the Wolli Creek Valley in 1984. Its report concluded, "The value (of the Wolli Creek Valley) to residents as a scenic, educational, scientific and recreational resource cannot be over-stated."

### What is the History of the Proposed Wolli Creek Freeway?

The D.M.R has had a road reservation through the Wolli Creek Valley since 1948. But the Kirby Inquiry into the proposed Kyeemagh to Chullora road (1979-80) specifically recommended that the land be returned to the people as a park. The Inquiry cost the Government  $\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars.

### What is the Alternative to the Wolli Creek Freeway?

The Kirby Inquiry found that the proposed "South-West Option" for the F5 could not be justified on environmental, social or economic grounds. It examined and rejected 3 alternate Freeway routes and recommended that Port Botany container traffic should be removed from roads and be railed to and from depots in the Western suburbs.

### What are the Wider Implications.

This is far from being a local issue; If the DMR is to go ahead, the State Government's progressive urban bushland & wetlands protection policies will be the first victims of the bulldozers. The decision to ignore the Kirby Inquiry recommendations is an attack on all the advances on environmental & planning policy made in the last decade. The working class population of southern Sydney, traditional labour voters, desperately need the bushland of the Wolli Creek Valley as a place for peaceful, passive recreation.

### What Should Happen to the Wolli Valley?

The road reservation must be lifted, the valley place under government control and a management plan drawn up to foster the valley's preservation as a bushland park for the people of southern Sydney.

To help save Wolli Creek Valley you can write to the following politicians; Barrie Unsworth- Premier & Member for Rockdale, Electoral Office, Suites 5&6, Rockdale Chambers, 534-536 Princes Hwy, Rockdale, Ph. 597-1414. Laurie Brereton- Minister for Main Roads & M.L.A. for Heffron, Electoral Office, McKell Bldg, Rawson Pl., Sydney 2000 Ph. 2704563, Bob Carr Minister for the Environment & M.L.A. for Maroubra, Electoral Office, 691 Anzac Pde, Maroubra, 2035, Ph. 349-6440 & Ken Gabb - Minister for Aboriginal Affairs & M.L.A. for Earlwood, Electoral Office, 31 Kingsgrove Rd, Kingsgrove 2208, Ph. 502-4934.

The information for this article was taken from a broadsheet prepared by the Wolli Creek and Bardwell Valley Preservation Society, they can be contacted by ringing the Bardwell Park Community Resource Centre on (02) 599 2522.

---

STOP PRESS.

PRO-FORESTS MEETING.....WEDNESDAY 18th FEBRUARY.

The Blue Mountains Branch of the National Parks Association will host a Talk/Video/Slide Show by a member of the Total Environment Centre on the WOODCHIP ISSUE.

They will be talking about Coolangubra and Tantawangalo, proposed additions to the National Park in S.E. N.S.W. Visitors and donations welcome.

TIME: T.B.A.

PLACE: T.B.A.

---

Alan Hanley  
7 David Street  
Alexandria 2773