



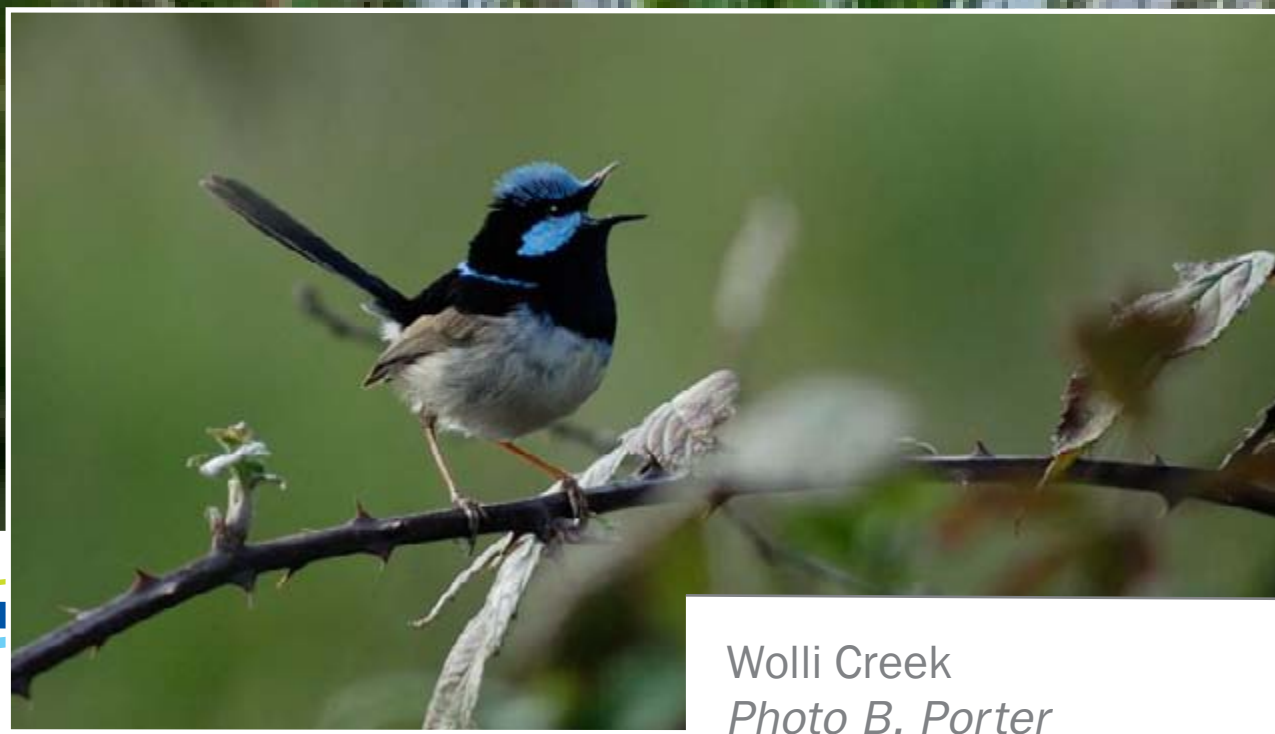
Wollie Creek Preservation Society
www.wolliecreek.org.au

The amazing WOLLIE CREEK VALLEY

We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, past and present,
and pay our respects to them as custodians of the land over many generations.

The Wollie Creek Valley is located in inner south-west Sydney, 10km from Sydney's CBD.

The valley contains the last major remnant of native bushland in the area. It includes a variety of habitats which support a rich diversity of flora and fauna.



Wollie Creek
Photo B. Porter



Superb Fairy-wren
(*Malurus cyaneus*)
Photo P. Byrnes

Copper-tailed Skink
(*Ctenotus taeniolatus*)
Photo D. Bassett

Since European settlement the valley has been used for grazing, timber getting, lime burning, boiling down works, stone quarrying, market gardens, pig and poultry farms and dairies. It has a major rail line running through it and, had the road planners succeeded, a major surface motorway would have been constructed through the valley. All these activities have had a major impact on the valley and its waterways.

What's in a name?

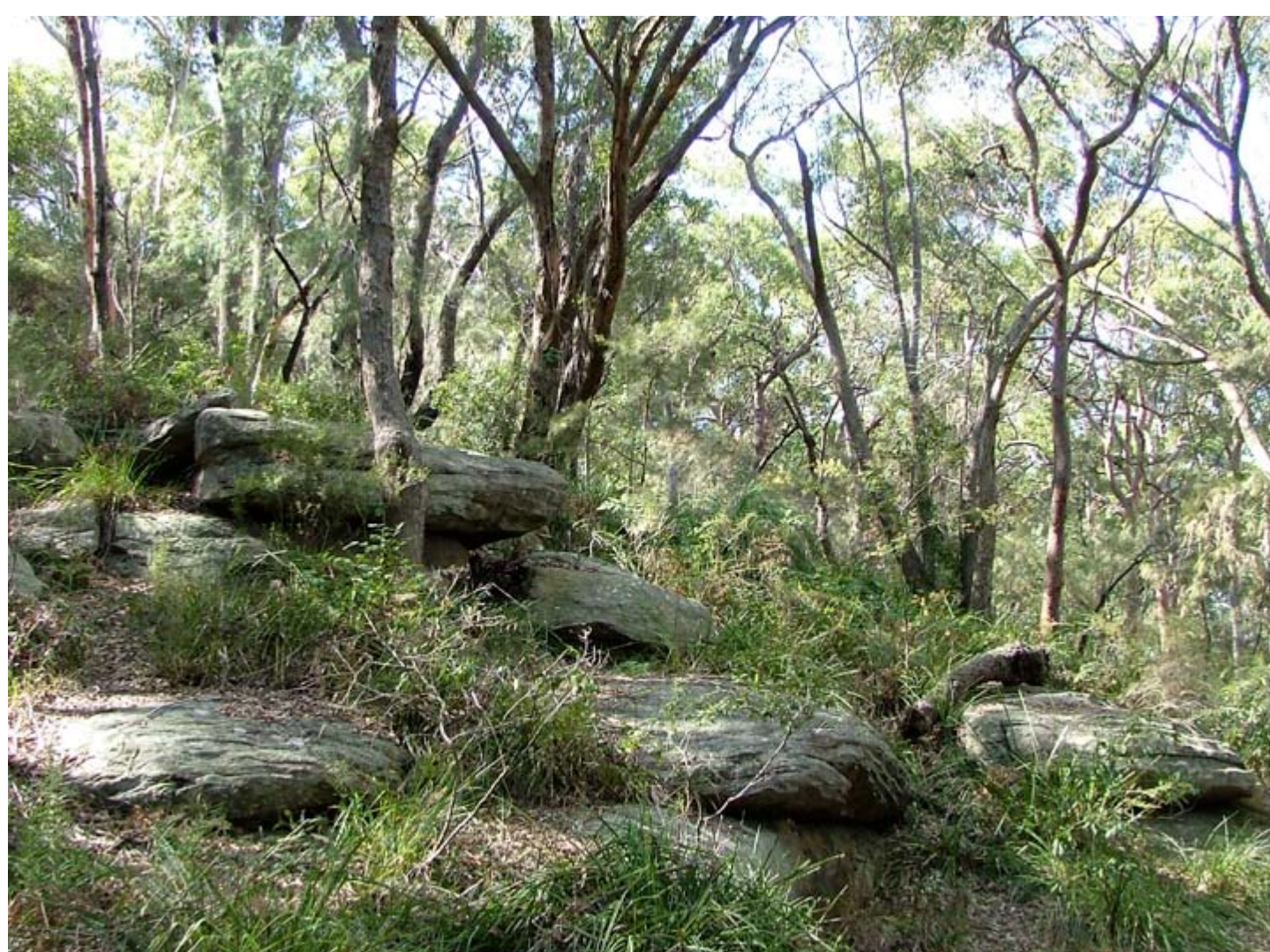
The name 'Wollar' was first used for the creek in 1834 and then in an auction plan as Woolli in 1834. Said to mean 'camping place' in the local Aboriginal language, there are no official records as to the name. It may be associated with an Aboriginal youth who was employed by Joshua Thorp who set up house near the junction of Cooks River and Wollie Creek in the early 1830s.

Wollie Creek is a tributary of the Cooks River and rises at Narwee from where it flows east. At Turrella it is joined by Bardwell Creek and shortly after, at the Henderson Street weir, the creek becomes tidal until its junction with Cooks River at Tempe.

HOW HAS THE VALLEY SURVIVED?

In many ways the history of the Wollie Creek Valley is one of an accident of survival. In spite of its proximity to the centre of Sydney and the many destructive and polluting activities that have taken place in and around its waterways, much of the Valley has survived in a near natural state. Many factors contributed to this:

- The topography, with its steep sandstone cliffs, poor sandy soils and frequent floods made it unattractive to farmers and subdividers.
- Fluctuating land values, depressions, wars and lack of access to rail transport meant the valley was not closely settled when the first settlers arrived and during the expansion of Sydney in the late nineteenth century.
- Ironically, it was protected from development later by reservations for the East Hills Railway Line and M5 motorway.
- In 1998, resident action opposing the M5 East led to the government's decision to build the motorway in a tunnel and make the Wollie Creek Valley a regional park.



Sandstone outcrops at Girrahween Park
Photo D. Little

Sweet-scented wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*)
Photo D. Bassett