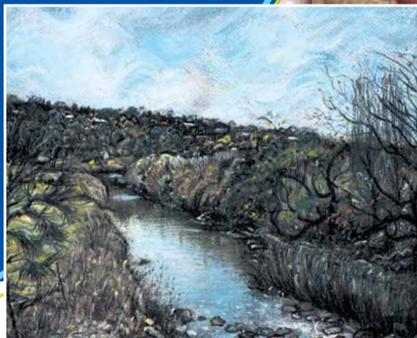




Creativity & Learning

The Wollie Creek Valley is a creative inspiration for many people.



In the early days of settlement many artists painted the waterways near the junction of Cooks River and Wollie Creek. Brodie Spark commissioned the colonial artist Conrad Martens to paint his home 'Tempe House'. Sydney Long's painting, *By tranquil waters*, hangs in the Art Gallery of NSW. These artists' impressions, if somewhat Idyllic, are valuable records of the past.

In more recent times, individuals and school children depicted the valley through painting, poetry, verse, story telling, music and photography.



Music

Eyes on Wollie

In 1989, Children from Earlwood PS and Our Lady of Lourdes took part in a WCPS community music project, with musician, John Shortis, to write and record songs about the valley. The project culminated in a launch at Girrahween Park of the *Eyes on Wollie* book and cassette.

Photography

Images of Wollie Creek

For years, professional and amateur photographers have captured the Wollie Creek Valley, in all its moods and happenings. WCPS organised a successful exhibition, in 1990, of photographs taken by primary and secondary students. The results were excellent showing individuality and creativity.

Two Valley Trail

In 2006, local photographers were invited to take photos of Cooks River and Wollie Creek to publicise the opening of the Two Valley Trail. Several of the outstanding images have been used in this exhibition.



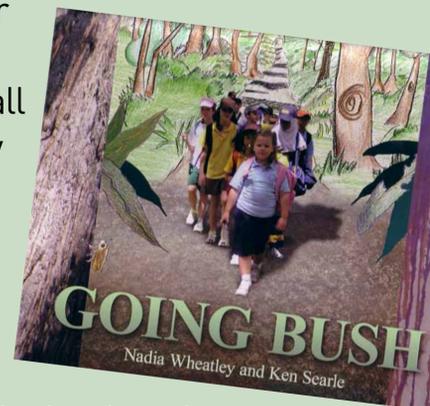
Schools programs

The Wollie Creek Valley is an easily accessible '**outdoor classroom**' for schools. It is a valuable resource that can be linked to key learning areas and encourages a creative approach to learning. Volunteers from WCPS and other groups frequently act as guides. To assist teachers, members of local environment groups developed curriculum resource material for the **Two Valley Trail**.



Why Wollie is Wonderful

This project involved a partnership between five primary schools, Rockdale Council and WCPS. Children enjoyed hands-on experiences including bush walks and a World Environment Day Celebration in Wollie Creek Valley. The project culminated in the production of a calendar with children's painting that was distributed to all schools and community centres in the Rockdale Council area.



Going Bush

In 2005 Nadia Wheatley and Ken Searle developed a Harmony project with sixteen children from eight schools near the Wollie Creek Valley. After walking through the valley, the children learnt about more than plants, animals, water, soil and rocks. *Going Bush* tells their story in their own words and pictures.

“ On this journey I experienced the bush and life. I also found a brand new way to learn and know new things.

Christine, student