

Partner Programs

The GRCCC has been a partner in three Urban Sustainability Programs and sits on the Steering Committee of each. The GRCCC contributes to the strategic direction of each program and in some cases the identification and delivery on-ground works.

Lower Georges River Sustainability Initiative

The LGRSI found that stronger relationships between and internally within program partners are a critical ingredient of sustainability outcomes. The LGRSI developed a model for supporting change by focusing on council and community capacity to plan and act toward sustainability. The program was finalised July 2012.

PRIMARY PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS:

More Effective Urban Water Management

- ▶ 4 WSUD Action Plans enacted and implemented
- ▶ 4 medium-scale WSUD projects at each council
- ▶ Winner of a Stormwater Industry Award.

More Sustainable Practices of Community & Business

- ▶ 32 training, community days and activities held
- ▶ >1300 people participated in program activities
- ▶ >450 people changed behaviours through the program
- ▶ 4 marinas receive Clean Marina Program accreditation

More Effective Institutional Arrangements Within Partner Councils

- ▶ 4 Organisational Profiles and Action Plans developed
- ▶ 4 council groups with a sustainability agenda
- ▶ 4 Sustainable Procurement policies completed
- ▶ 4 Sustainable Events policies completed.

More Integrated Planning of NRM Programs

- ▶ Implemented four riparian revegetation projects based on results from GRCCC River Health Program data
- ▶ Developed and delivered Stormwater Conference/Cruise
- ▶ Identified and collated baseline studies toward better organisational capacity and improved catchment health



Lower Georges River
Sustainability Initiative



Photo by Tina Ebejer

Upper Georges River Sustainability Initiative

The UGRSI has concluded; the project as a whole is switching from delivery phase to a reporting phase.

PRIMARY PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS:

WSUD RAPID ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

- ▶ Model taken from LGRSI (above), Liverpool, Campbelltown and Wollondilly councils completed a Rapid Assessment workshop and are developing WSUD Action Plans for their respective LGAs.

WEED REMOVAL PROJECT

- ▶ Targeted 4 Georges River sites identified as point sources of seed dispersal, removed weeds across 3.5 ha, and conducted 1200 plantings to enhance two Endangered Ecological Communities.

WATERWISE GARDEN

- ▶ Public garden in Marsden Park to educate community on waterwise species and techniques

THE C3WEST PROJECT

- ▶ Awareness-raising project with Museum of Contemporary Art highlighting the impacts of dumping, arson and littering and creating local stewardship among the Airds Bradbury communities.



Improving Prospect Creek Sustainability Initiative

A goal of the IPCSI Strategic Management Plan is to extend the Core Riparian Zone on Prospect Creek. The grant funding phase of the project will be complete by October 2012, with an extension to be requested until March 2013.

Current works include:

- ▶ A widening of the riparian corridor on lower Prospect Creek within Fairfield LGA involving weed removal and tree planting using the local volunteer network
- ▶ Mirrambeena Regional Park received bush regeneration support from the GRCCC Riverkeeper Program
- ▶ Designs being conducted for a gross pollutant trap and rock plunge pool at Little Street, Smithfield. Construction is planned for October 2012.



Revegetation works to protect remnant Blue Box species at Cook Park.



A Summary of Achievements by GRCCC & Partner Programs



The 2011 - 2012 financial year has been a productive year for the GRCCC. We have seen several of our large, multi-year, partner programs conclude; namely both the Lower and Upper Georges River Urban Sustainability Initiatives. These projects, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, have involved 8 of our member councils and delivered good outcomes, and increased knowledge for all GRCCC councils. The last financial year has also focussed on laying the foundation for the GRCCC's future. The Executive and managers from our member councils have met several times throughout the year to develop funding proposals to underpin the incorporation of historically grant funded programs (the River Health Program and Communications Program) into our suite of core programs. Finally the 2011 - 2012 year has been a year of program recognition for the GRCCC, as highlighted below. The GRCCC is also one of 3 finalists in the Australian Riverprize Award.

I commend this Executive Summary document to you and invite you to participate enthusiastically in GRCCC programs.
- GRCCC Chairperson Julie Bourke

Awards & Recognition



✓ Winner 2011
NSW Urban Landcare

✓ Finalist 2012 (Sept 2012)
National Urban Landcare Award



✓ Winner 2011
NSW & Regional Litter & Waste Management Award

✓ Winner 2011
NSW & Regional Environmental Protection Award



✓ Finalist 2011
Green Globe Public Sector Sustainability Award

✓ Finalist 2011
Green Globe Local Government Sustainability Award



✓ Finalist 2012 (Oct 2012)
National Riverprize

Partnerships

▶ In the 2011-12 period, the GRCCC has partnered with its nine member councils and several state and federal government agencies to achieve our shared goals of quality catchment management. These partners include National Parks and Wildlife Service, Office of Environment and Heritage, Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority, Department of Primary Industries, Corrective Services NSW, NSW Education & Training (Georges River Environmental Education Centre), Roads & Maritime Services, OceanWatch Australia, Sydney Water and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Population and Communities (formerly DEWHA).



For more on our programs:

www.georgesriver.org.au



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Georges River, NSW



Georges Riverkeeper Program



- ▶ 115.4 tonnes rubbish collected from river catchment and foreshores
- ▶ 27,171m² area bush regeneration, including 1939 plantings and 1,250 m³ of green waste removed
- ▶ 32,214 volunteer hours contributed
- ▶ New Corrective Services NSW worksites approved: 111 (previous year: 69)

- ▶ Significant increases in team productivity and rubbish collection outcomes for all member councils
- ▶ Design and launch of the first Riverkeeper Report Card
- ▶ Clean Up Australia Day at Bolga Gong Island, Chipping Norton Lakes - 930kgs of rubbish removed
- ▶ Kurnell Saltmarsh Restoration Project - 14.7 tonnes rubbish removed, in partnership with SMCMA and Sutherland Shire Council in the Kurnell 2020 Project.
- ▶ Partners with SMCMA Botany Bay Water Quality Improvement Program (BBWQIP) to maintain 5 real time water quality buoys.

Georges River Community River Health Monitoring Program



- ▶ 34 Freshwater and 13 Estuary sites monitored in the Georges River
- ▶ 8 councils in Cooks River catchment joined River Health Program - 9 Freshwater and 2 Estuary sites - adding value to GRCCC councils who share both catchments
- ▶ 2400 total hours of community participation in program since 2009
- ▶ Data sharing agreements established with councils for water quality data

- ▶ Incorporates data from 5 real time water quality buoys from BBWQIP
- ▶ Program results lead to on-ground bush restoration works in 5 council LGAs, including Bankstown, Hurstville, Kogarah, Rockdale and Sutherland councils
- ▶ River Health Program develops two peer-reviewed publications in collaboration with University of Western Sydney and Macquarie University on urban waterway health.
- ▶ River Health Program will be used to monitor ongoing estuary health as a component of the Georges River Coastal Zone Management Plan.



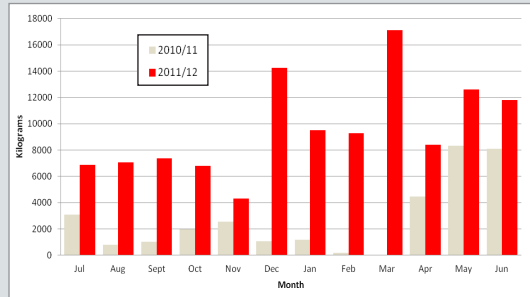
River Health volunteers, below, take macroinvertebrate samples at Mill Creek near Menai (Sutherland LGA).



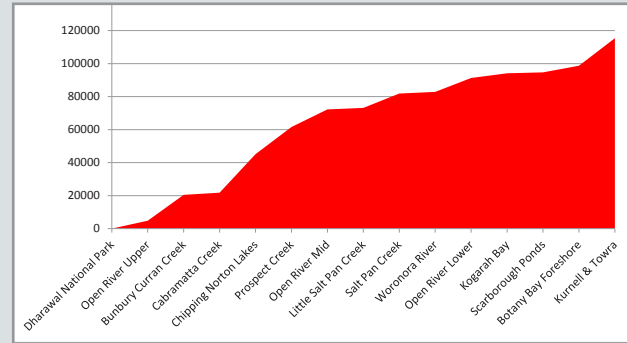
GRCCC Executive Committee

- ▶ The Executive Committee delivered operational, financial, business administration and strategic planning activities for the year 2011-12. Following recommendations from the Strategic Review in May 2011, the duties of the Finance & Administration Program were absorbed into the Executive Committee. Highlights include the broad-scale expansion of three GRCCC programs, Riverkeeper, River Health and the Communications Programs. The Executive also focused on developing funding strategies for the continuation of the River Health and Communications programs beyond current grant periods to ensure their longevity as core programs. This included working with member councils to build support for necessary budget bids in the lead up to the 2013-14 financial year.

TOTAL CATCHMENT RUBBISH COLLECTION HISTORICAL COMPARISON



CUMULATIVE RUBBISH 2011-12 (TONNES)



GRCCC Estuary Management Program

Thanks to the active participation of our estuarine councils, the Georges River Coastal Zone Management Plan (GRCZMP) is nearing completion, and is scheduled for public exhibition in late 2012.

Top 9 Management Aims

- Water Quality** - Optimise water quality within the Georges River estuary and its tributaries
- Aquatic & Riparian Habitat** - To protect, enhance and restore aquatic habitats and foreshore vegetation
- Landuse Planning & Development** - To minimise the negative impacts of development in the catchment on waterway health
- Bank Erosion & Sedimentation** - To actively manage bank erosion and sedimentation
- Climate Change & Sea Level Rise** - To plan for and adapt to the potential impacts of climate change on the natural and built environments of the estuary
- Foreshore Protection** - To manage existing built foreshore assets while maximising environmental values

Estuary Study and Plan

- ▶ Following the Data Compilation and Estuary Processes Study phase, there was a lengthy consultation process with the Estuary Management committee, agencies and the community
- ▶ generated three workshops to develop nine broad aims and 27 management objectives.

- ✓ Actions were developed for each LGA in consultation with councils.
- ✓ Councils are eligible to apply to OEH for 50% of the cost of implementing management actions identified within the plan.

- Natural & Cultural Heritage** - To identify, acknowledge and protect natural and cultural heritage
- Monitoring & Evaluation** - To develop and support coordinated monitoring
- Recreation & Amenity** - To protect and enhance public access

GRCCC Communications & Engagement Program

- ▶ Communications & Engagement Strategy implemented, including Media Policy, Media & Statistics Policy and Communications & Engagement Workplan
- ▶ Corporate Sponsorship Policy and Branding & Acknowledgement Policy in development
- ▶ Participation in numerous community engagement events across the catchment
- ▶ GRCCC promotional, technical, educational and advocacy materials for all GRCCC programs
- ▶ Application and media for Keep Australia Beautiful NSW State and Regional Awards, NSW Urban Landcare Award, and application to the National Landcare Award
- ▶ Generation of new partnerships with agency, community and corporate stakeholders
- ▶ Upgrade of website and development of GRCCC Councillor Voting software

Supporting GRCCC Programs



- ▶ In-house design and release of Riverkeeper Program report cards: 2010-11, 2011-12
- ▶ Coordination of Clean Up Australia Day at Bolga Gong Island
- ▶ Secure website delivery of monthly Program statistics
- ▶ Media articles published, video and photographic records of sites.



- ▶ Co-ordination and PR to support the release of all River Health Monitoring Program report cards
- ▶ Volunteer recruitment and coordination
- ▶ Development of Volunteer Field Guide, program flyers and posters, and web materials.



Below, Clean Up Australia Day at Bolga Gong Island, Chipping Norton Lakes in April 2012.

