

2009/2010 MGRSI Report for GRCCC Annual Report

In 2008, Bankstown and Sutherland Councils, along with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Georges River Combined Councils Committee (GRCCC) successfully secured three year's of funding from the NSW Environmental Trust to help improve the management of the mid Georges River. The Mid Georges River Sustainability Initiative (MGRSI) aims to create a healthy, balanced ecosystem and a shared vision for the Georges River by the community, stakeholders and all levels of government.

The 2nd year of the project has seen a focus on the implementation of actions identified in the Yeramba Lagoon Masterplan and Mill Creek Catchment Strategic Management Plan. Bush regeneration activities commenced at 20 sites in the Mill Creek catchment to protect endangered communities and also near stormwater impacted areas. Track rehabilitation was also undertaken in the Georges River National Park at Sandy point to repair damage caused by recreational vehicles. Bush regeneration in the Yeramba Lagoon catchment commenced focusing on the drainage line from Amberdale reserve, targeting woody and aggressive weeds. Track markers were created for the Loop Track and detailed designs were developed for a grassed stormwater treatment swale in Amberdale Reserve. These activities will contribute to improving the overall health and amenity of the Georges River.

Education and community engagement was also a key undertaking of the 2nd year following the development of the Education Strategies. A photography competition was held in the Mill Creek catchment to encourage people to share with others the natural beauty of the Mill Creek area. This was preceded by photography bush walks for community members. The Yeramblers Bushcare group commenced at Yeramba Lagoon and we have undertaken stormwater drain stencilling throughout the Yeramba catchment.

The project has continued to work with the GRCCC in various activities including River Health monitoring and progressing the corrective service teams within the two project sites. The MGRSI continues to provide reports for each Committee Meeting.

The 3rd and final year of the project will see on-ground works completed, further education with community and councillors and a large component of reporting.

IMG_1282 - Removing aquatic weed from Yeramba Lagoon

DSC1050 - Mill Creek photo walk

IMG_1146 - Yeramblers Bushcare Launch