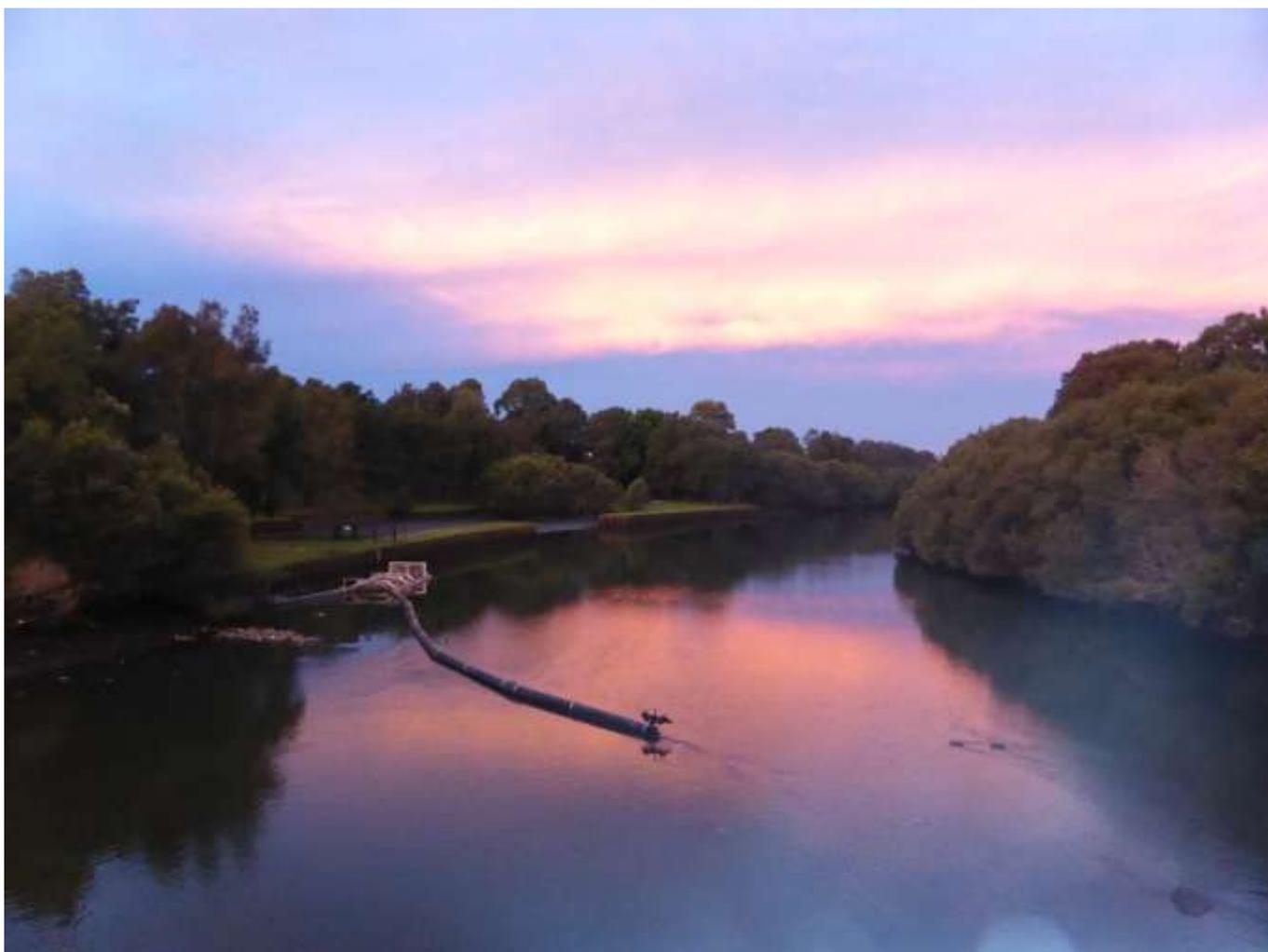


COOKS RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16



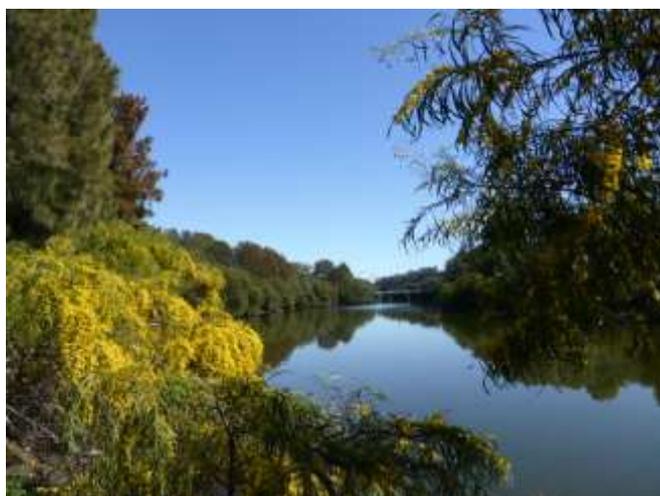
COOKS RIVER VALLEY



association

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Cooks River Valley Association Annual Report 2016

Executive committee for 2015/16

President	John Butcher
Vice-president	Peter Munro
Secretary	Jennifer Newman
Treasurer	Christopher Shanley
Publicity Officer	Ann Leahy
Membership Officer	Peter Munro
Committee members	Nadia Wheatley Julie Corkery



President's Report

"The land, and how we treat it, is what determines our human-ness. Because land is sacred and must be looked after, the relation between people and land becomes the template for society and social relations. Therefore, all meaning comes from land. The land is a sacred entity, not property or real estate; it is the great mother of all humanity.

The two most important kinds of relationship in life are, firstly, those between land and people, and secondly, those amongst people themselves, the second being always contingent upon the first."
Mary Graham

The above words of Aboriginal educator, Mary Graham, well reflect the aspirations and goals of the CRVA as we Cooks River people continue to work towards restoring the Cooks River and connecting the community of the Cooks River Valley. We are constantly learning from the original custodians of this land how to care for the country of the Cooks River Valley.

The Cooks River Valley Association constantly lobbies various levels of government to address problems concerning the health of the river and the welfare of Cooks River people. We also gather together to celebrate the many aspects of the River and our various connections with it.

Achievements in 2016

Restoration of the River

The CRVA has continued to lobby politicians and government bodies to take the necessary action to restore the river to health. CRVA members have continued to monitor water quality and have worked with Marrickville Council, Sydney Local Health District Public Health Unit and Beachwatch in order to realise our goal of being able to swim in a healthy river with a focus on Kendrick Park which Marrickville Council has nominated as a potential swimming spot. The CRVA has also participated in Cooks River Alliance initiatives which have brought together relevant stakeholders to address water quality issues and to improve the ecological health of Cooks River.

Container Deposit Legislation

The Mudcrabs have continued to conduct regular river clean-ups including on Clean-Up Australia Day and the CRVA has continued to campaign for a container deposit scheme. The campaign led by the Boomerang Alliance has been successful as the NSW state government has begun the process of introducing a statewide scheme and the Queensland government has recently committed to its introduction in that state. The CRVA is represented on various committees advising the Environment Protection Authority in the development and implementation of the new Container Deposit Scheme due to commence operations in July 2017.



Masterplan for Cooks River parklands

The CRVA together with the Wollie Creek Preservation Society and local residents raised concerns with the former Canterbury Council about proposed developments in Gough Whitlam and Waterworth Parks and has called for all river catchment councils to work through the Cooks River Alliance to develop a masterplan for all the Cooks River parklands which will respect the ecology of the river valley and also cater for the active and passive recreation needs of park users. The CRVA has also participated in consultation processes to develop plans of management for parklands in areas covered by the former Canterbury and Ashfield councils.

The CRVA has also raised concerns about the proposed Sydenham – Bankstown development corridor and also supported local residents in their opposition to inappropriate developments within the Cooks River catchment.

The CRVA is also monitoring proposals for the future of Canterbury Racecourse.

Ewen Park Community Building and Cafe

After years of lobbying by the CRVA and extensive consultation with community members, Council has completed its design for this much-needed facility, and it is currently under consideration as a Development Application. The CRVA believes that the proposed design meets the brief, and we look forward to the successful completion of the DA process, and indeed the construction of the community building. *More details in the body of the annual report.*

Fatima Island

The CRVA has led an ongoing campaign to stop the continuing erosion of Fatima Island. Along with other actions CRVA members joined with Marrickville Council staff in planting mangrove seedlings on Fatima Island in an attempt to stabilise what remains of the island and to help prevent further erosion. The CRVA continues to support the “Boulder Rock Revetment” option outlined in the Erosion Assessment Report commissioned by Council. This would involve the expenditure of about \$450,000 for a functional life of over 50 years.

Council Amalgamations

Over the years the CRVA has developed constructive relationships with river councils especially Canterbury and Marrickville and also with the Cooks River Alliance of councils and we had representation on relevant council committees.

With the state government initiated amalgamation of local councils, the former council committees have been dissolved, The CRVA has initiated discussion with the administrators of both the Inner West Council and the City of Canterbury-Bankstown Council in order to acquaint them with CRVA aims and objectives and to reestablish constructive working relationships.

Events on the River

Candles on the River

The CRVA held a Candles on the River event to mark Earth Hour. The event was held at Kendrick Park opposite Fatima Island and also focused attention on the campaign to save the Island

Sorry Day Reconciliation Walk

The CRVA marked Sorry Day with a candle lit walk along the river commencing at Richardson's Lookout-Marrickville Peace Park and concluding at the Living on the Land site at Steel Park. The walk drew attention to the invasion and dispossession of the Aboriginal Peoples of the area and the resistance involved in the Frontier Wars.

ANZAC Day

The CRVA supported a reflective gathering at Richardson's Lookout – Marrickville Peace Park organised by the Gallipoli Centenary Peace Campaign.

Communication

The CRVA communicates with the community by means of the CRVA website and Facebook. Mudcrabs also have a Facebook page.

We in the Cooks River Valley Association see ourselves as Cooks River People caring for Country in the Cooks River Valley. The body of this annual report contains more information about our ongoing efforts to achieve the CRVA objectives of Restoring Our River and Connecting Our Community.



Ken Searle with his pelican sculpture for Earth Hour at Fatima Island



Pelican on the pop-top, cormorants and darter on the boom at boat harbour

Rosedale Reserve summary of major activities 2015-16

Russell Cail

August 2015 saw the start of the Government's work for the dole scheme run by Max Employment in cooperation with Canterbury Council. It was a 6-month trial. A site supervisor (Irene) was appointed to organise the workers and the program was begun in the section at the Eastern end (towards the Korean club), of the Rosedale site, on land largely cleared and prepared by our group. Irene did a great job but unfortunately the scheme was not as successful as hoped and few people turned up. The site was primarily planted with *Microlelea stipoides*. After the program was terminated in February this year we continued the planting program with the aim of carpeting the area with the grasses to help suppress the weeds (this has been quite successful). This work was essentially completed on National Tree Day. The event was organised by Peter Goss from Canterbury Council and three Council workers who set up a sausage sizzle, drinks and provided the plants together with a number of our regulars who assisted with the planting. We had a great turn out of people who planted the area with 400-500 grasses and quite a lot of trees (wattles, kunzeas and hakeas) plus some ferns. One group deserving special mention consisted of about 15 or so adults and children from the Phillipino social and community service organisation, Triskelion, who enthusiastically did a lot of the planting.



August also saw us celebrate the 10th anniversary of our group of Mudcrabs working at Rosedale with a party and BBQ (thanks to Naomi). We cleaned up around Chris Bartlett's commemorative sign and did quite a lot of planting in a number of areas. We were lucky that the threatened rain held off.

In March this year we were given the keys to our new tool shed in the new amenities block, by the Council. It is a great space. We have put in a couple of free standing shelf units to help organise our equipment.

Overall we undertook a very solid program of papering and heavy mulching a number of areas particularly in sections 4/5 and 15/16, plus we placed more logs across some of the steeply sloping areas to help trap the mulch. We continued removing the usual nemeses, primarily madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*), moth vine (*Araujia sericifera*), turkey rhubarb (*Acetosa sagittata*), balloon vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*), asthma weed (*Parietaria judaica*) and of course the ever present farmer's friends (*Bidens pilosa*). While these weeds are still a major nuisance, we have got to a stage where we have reduced the major infestations to more manageable levels. Our planting program apart from the Eastern end with *Microlelea stipoides*, consisted of planting about 60 native sedges (*Carex appressa*) in section 15 and some *Pultenaea villosa*, *Kunzea ambigua*, *Banksia spinulosa* and *Gahnia clerkei* around the site.

The whole site is really looking good. The bracken (*Pteridium esculentum*) we planted last year is going well, as are the paperbarks (*M. styphelioides*) and kangaroo apples (*Solanum laciniatum*), the wattles are in full bloom, the grevilleas (*Grevillea serica*) and the correas (*Correa reflexosa*) also flowered well this year. Our frog ponds have seen some breeding cycles and the insects, lizards and birds are flourishing - lots of blue wrens and red-browed firetail finches.

The Rosedale Group would like to thank Peter Goss and Canterbury Council and the CRVA for their help and provision of plants and tools. Joy and I would also like to thank all our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers who do such great work. Altogether our volunteers put in 393 hours at our regular working bees (plus a lot of informal time) and collected 80 bags of rubbish not to mention quite a few truck-loads of sticks, branches and cestrum, etc. While the bag numbers may be down, our truck loads are well up as part of our policy to save on bags just going to waste.



Cup & Saucer Creek Report 2015-16

Peter Munro

In 2015-16 there were eight working bees with 70 volunteers attending contributing to 156 hours of work completed. Due to the volunteers' work, the Wetland continues to look fabulous, and the working bee groups have been able to keep the weeds down and the pathways pruned: The usual suspects have been removed including, new shoots of casuarina, balloon vine, removal of weedy grasses and annuals. The Wetland continues to do its job removing sediment and nutrient loads from the river.



Purple swamp hens are breeding at the site



Cup and Saucer Creek Wetlands

Wave Rock (Marrickville Golf Course) Bush Regeneration Site

Peter Munro

The Mudcrabs Wave Rock site, tucked away in the Marrickville Golf Course on the edge of the Cooks River, is now 4 years old. The site has had a dedicated group of volunteers who work mid-week on this beautiful sandstone outcrop. This work was strongly supported by Marrickville Council. Hopefully the new Inner West Council will continue this support following the forced council amalgamations.

The site was expanded by more than 50% in 2016 and the newly planted area is doing well. The site will be expanded even further in late 2016 following a grant from Roads and Maritime Services to develop the riverside area as a fish breeding habitat.

The site has a beautiful collection of sandstone heath plants just coming into spring flower. It provides a beautiful backdrop to the riverside track widely used by the community and is a vital extension of the riparian zone.



Report from Foord Avenue site 2016.

Liz Millen

The Foord Ave site is a small but varied site running along the Cooks River between Foord Avenue and Keir Avenue at Hurlstone Park. It contains a rocky sandstone outcrop that was once the site of a small quarry, with very different environments suitable for a variety of plants - at the top there is shallow soil in full sun, and below at the foot of the cliff, a damp and largely shaded area, with a rock face between on which various ferns can be found.

After many years and hundreds of hours of volunteer input, the past year has seen the site really coming in to its own as a diverse riverine habitat with well- established shrubs and grasses. It is attracting an increasing number of birds as well as some small skinks, and this year we have added New Holland honeyeater, figbird, white plumed honeyeater and olive-backed oriole to the list. Most exciting of all, last spring we finally achieved our long-standing goal when some superb fairy wrens took up residence and proceeded to raise some young – the first time they have nested there since we first began work on the site 7 years ago.



Skink enjoying the sun



Male superb fairy wren



Western End after one year

Canterbury Council has consulted with us on their plans to install a new water garden to slow the storm-water run-off from Keir Avenue, so we look forward to the opportunity to develop our site further to the west to blend in with the council's new work, at the other end of the plants next to the path by the footbridge.



Bursaria in flower



Banksia serrata



Doug, Rowan and Ranjith mulching and planting

Ewen Park Bush Site

Sue Bishop, Keith Foulcher, Nadia Wheatley

This year we celebrated the seventh birthday of the Ewen Park Bush Site. It's now difficult to remember this part of the riverside as it was in April 2009, when so many volunteers from the Mudcrabs and the Friends of Ewen Park gathered to plant tiny tube stock into a huge area of exposed mulch.

The various bush care sites along the Cooks River all have their own unique eco-systems and their own individual post-settlement history. Until about 100 years ago, the area that is now Ewen Park was part of the wide alluvial floodplain of the river. It was riddled with creeks and freshwater springs, which still appear every time there is a decent downpour of rain. Owing to the frequent inundation of the area with salty river-water, there was little natural bush. The predominant vegetation was paperbark trees, which the early European settlers called 'tea-trees'.



These can still be seen growing alongside the bush site in their natural environment. (See above) In acknowledgement of this floodplain environment, the whole area now called Ewen Park was known by the early settlers as 'Tea-tree Swamp'. The raised levee bank that is now the main feature of the Ewen Park Bush site's topography was created during the 1920s when the river was realigned to control flooding.

Because of this eco-history, at Ewen Park we did not begin with the idea of 'bush regeneration' — of re-creating and restoring the natural environment of the place. Rather, we are trying to build a bush garden for the enjoyment and education of the community of people who visit this part of the river. At the same time, we hope to build the Cooks River community itself, both through the friendships created among our volunteers and the use of the site as a walkway and meeting place for local children and adults. Indeed, one of the unique features of this site is the series of linked pathways that invite walkers to explore the bush. (See right.)



At the moment the site is going so well that we have reduced our program of monthly working bees. New plantings this year have been concentrated on the western section. We have put in junkus, native geraniums, indigofera, and correas, as well as many native grasses.

Sadly, the site continues to suffer vandalism and rough treatment from time to time. We just continue to plant two new plants for every one that is destroyed.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who have worked on the site this year. Thanks, too, to Nell Graham and Peter Goss at Canterbury Council for provision of plants and mulch and a hose. Finally, thanks to the Cooks River Valley Association, which pays for the insurance for our volunteers as well as tools and gloves.

The Friends of Ewen Park

Nadia Wheatley and Sue Bishop

The Friends of Ewen Park are a group of people committed to the balanced use of the resources of Ewen Park for varying community needs — both for passive recreation and organised sport. We want local children and adults to enjoy a range of recreational activities in the park. In addition, we believe that the environmental capacity of this flood plain area must not be over-stretched, and the impact of park use should be shared.

From 2005 to 2008, Friends of Ewen Park initiated the campaign persuading Canterbury Council to develop a specific Plan of Management for Ewen Park. Over the period, 2013 to 2015 we were active in the CRVA campaign urging Canterbury Council to honour its commitment to provide a multi-purpose community building at the eastern end of Ewen Park, in accordance with the Plan of Management. Currently, the design for this building is at DA stage (see separate report next page).

The Plan of Management also required Council to provide a mini soccer field towards the eastern end of the park, for the young members of the Hurlstone Park Wanderers Soccer Club, which uses the two playing fields at the western end of Ewen Park. As well, the design for the Community building includes storage facilities for the soccer club.

This mini field, including lighting, was provided a few years ago (See right.) So far, this has not been regularly used, either for competition or for training, but we hope that when the HPWSC is able to store its nets and equipment in the community building it will start making use of these fields. The amenities that will be provided in the new building will add to the attraction of the mini-field for families and young children.



In addition to the community building, the Plan of Management also promised an upgrade of the facilities in the Ewen Park picnic area. These include provision of additional barbecues and shelters and a complete upgrade of the play equipment, together with landscaping and re-vegetation of eroded mounds. Thanks to lobbying by FEP, two new shelters have been installed, but there is still a long way to go before the picnic area is completed. (See right.)



With more and more families moving into the new apartments that are being built in our area, the picnic area of Ewen Park is increasingly playing a role in the development of community. It is not uncommon to see people setting up in one of the picnic shelters as early as 8 am, in order to be sure to have a place for a family party, and sometimes the one shelter can host a series of three or four gatherings in a single day and evening. As well, the park's play area provides a space for the kind of free and imaginative play that is a vital part of a child's development.

As our community grows, the Friends of Ewen Park are committed to ensuring that Ewen Park remains a place for everyone.

Ewen Park Community Building and Cafe

Welcome news this year was the allocation of approximately three million dollars in Canterbury Council's budget for the construction of a community building, including a café and a children's playground, at Ewen Park, on the site of the ugly old white clubhouse, now demolished. (See right). This funding was in fulfilment of one of the main provisions of the Plan of Management for Ewen Park, passed by Council in 2008 after a three-year campaign by the CRVA and its affiliated groups, the Friends of Ewen Park and the Mudcrabs.



Over recent years there have been numerous submissions by the CRVA to Council in support of this much-needed community facility, including in 2014 a petition with 650 signatures. That same year, Council held three well-attended consultation workshops at which community members discussed the building's location, function, size, layout, and security. In September 2015, Council followed this up with a well-attended public information session at which the consultants gave detailed information about the designs, and sought further feedback. On the basis of this extensive consultation, a Development Application for the new facility is currently under consideration.

The building has been offset at a slight angle to the river, so that it faces towards the water rather than the housing on the opposite bank. Although the size is modest, the main room will be large enough to provide a meeting space for community organisations and groups. The storage area for the Hurlstone Park Wanderers Soccer Club, at the western end of the facility, does not have windows, as obviously they would not be appropriate in a storage area. The small café at the eastern end has outdoor seating, leading into an enclosed children's play area.

Obviously, any public project will give rise to a 'wish list' of alternative proposals. It is impossible to satisfy everyone. However, having been involved for over eleven years in the campaign to achieve a community building in Ewen Park, we feel that the design meets the brief.

We wish to applaud Canterbury Council for the level of community consultation and engagement that has been part of this process, and we look forward to the successful completion of the DA process, and indeed the construction of the community building.



Thornley St sites

By Bernie Hobbs

Thornley street covers two sites, behind #58 and #62:

Update on #58:

The group has replanted and maintained the land behind #62, which saw damage from trucks and pipes during the repair work to the overhead pipes. Interflow paid \$270 to the group for replacement plants - two thirds of those have been obtained and planted across both sites. The remaining seedlings will be planted behind #64 in spring.



Update on #62:

The site has been weeded and some seedlings put in, but the soil is very sparse and sandy. A group session involving Duke of Edinburgh students from Malaysia took place in December.

The site is tended most months, with a small group of regulars - average 4-5 people, occasionally bolstered by the boys from the air league cadets and their squadron leader.

The land between the two existing sites was sold in 2015 and the new owner has said she doesn't want volunteers working on the land. (All sites are private property backing onto the river/cycle path.)



Air League Cadets and regular volunteers Gina and Leonie weeding up a storm

Gough Whitlam Salt Marsh

Working Bees Reports 2015-16

Russell Cail

The Gough Whitlam Saltmarsh was constructed by Canterbury Council in 2007 and consists of small succulent plants that are nourished by the high tides of the Cooks River. Saltmarsh is an important and endangered ecological community that is established on the landward side of mangroves, and provides valuable and rare habitat for fish, crabs and birds.



Working bee May 2015

In the last 12 months the Mudcrabs and other community volunteers have met monthly to work to remove weeds, plant and conduct monitoring. There were 10 working bees, 50 volunteers worked, contributing to 100 hours of bushcare.

This year the group has targeted the usual weeds such as farmer's friends, plaintain and couch. An extensive program of papering and mulching was commenced to help suppress these weeds. This has proved to be very successful and will be an important part of our ongoing program of weed control. Further plantings have been undertaken in areas closer to the river and the "islands" dominated by the casaurinas. These plants are now beginning to grow well and fulfill our plan to create an understory to attract and protect small birds and other fauna. Our regular surveys have shown that the health of the marsh is very good with a typical mix of salt marsh species and lots of invertebrates (crabs and snails) which are attracting wading birds. The results of these surveys can be found on Canterbury Council's website: <http://www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au/Environment/Getting-Involved/Saltmarsh-ecological-monitoring>

Marrickville mangrove clean-ups

Martin Puchert, Site coordinator

Mudcrabs continued to clean up the Cooks River mangroves next to Marrickville Golf Course, between the clubhouse and Wardell Road. A total of 92 bags of litter were collected plus larger items such as plastic milk crates, in three clean-ups. The largest clean-up was on Australia Day 2016 when over 30 volunteers collected 55 bags of litter.

The good news is that a number of scheduled clean-ups were cancelled due to an insufficient build-up rubbish at the time. It seems the floating boom near Boat Harbour has made a positive difference to the amount of downstream rubbish. Let's hope the trend continues!



March 15, Clean Up Australia Day

Canterbury Racecourse Clean-Up Site Report 2015-16

Pete & Michelle

This site is the original clean-up site for the Mudcrabs. The cleanups are organised by Peter Tregillgas and Michele Moss.

It continues to trap rubbish although in recent years the amount is much less thanks to the gross pollutant traps installed along the River. In early Mudcrab times this site was cleaned every month.

This year we had a cleanup on 30 April 2016. On the day 18 dedicated Mudcrabs gathered 50 bags of rubbish.

Predominately the rubbish items picked up from these banks are plastic bottles which have floated in on the tide and become trapped in the mangroves.

Many thanks need to go to the volunteers as this site is not easily worked. The Mudcrabs Research vehicle is a great help as well as other bike trailers and wheel barrows brought by Mudcrab volunteers to help carry the bags and big items the long distance to the street pick up point.



The four Peters



Clean-ups turn up the darndest things



Another mighty effort from Callum

International and culturally diverse connections through the Cooks River

In early 2016 the CRVA hosted 15 Malaysian Duke of Edinburgh students who joined us to do some landcare work at the Gough Whitlam Reserve Saltmarsh. With great support from Russell Cail, these students donated a much appreciated day's work.



Malaysian Duke of Ed students having a well-earned break

In February this year we also hosted 12 university students from the USA completing an Environmental & Cultural Enrichment Program through the American Institute of Foreign Studies. With fantastic support from John Butcher and Brent Jones, these students did some intensive work with us at the Wave Rock site and at the Children Garden on the Cooks River.

The CRVA also led several groups from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds on educational tours of the Cooks River as part of the Sustainable Living Project, supported by the Ethnic Communities Council and the Cooks river Alliance. Groups from Korean, Arabic, Vietnamese and Chinese backgrounds took part.



Rosedale Reserve, International Plant a Tree Day 2016

Summary for Publicity Officer
Ann Leahy

The Cooks River Valley Association has been involved with many community campaigns, concerned with the river itself, and reaching outwards to concerns over Council Amalgamation and plans for huge change and development of the area around the Cooks River.



The Wolli Creek Preservation society have been very active in coordinating strategies to stop the threat of the WestConnex motorway from destroying vital sections of bushland around Wolli Creek area, and fighting to stop further destruction of people's homes and parklands. In February 2015 a large rally was held at Sydney Park to express community opposition to this development. As we go to press homes are being demolished in heritage areas and the struggle to retain green space continues.

The CRVA has grave concerns with the proposed increased urban density and impacts on the riparian areas of the river in relation to the Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor. The CRVA, along with thousands of residents sent submissions to the NSW Department of Planning to express concerns about the plans to massively increase urban density in this area with a proposed population increase of 100,000 along this corridor. This will undoubtedly put our precious and popular parks and green spaces along the river under stress.



Clean up Australia Day: Mudcrabs and community members collected hundreds of sacks of rubbish from the river. This site alone behind the dog park in Hurlstone Park filled up 100 sacks in one morning (see right). We really need the container deposit scheme to get off the ground as soon as possible.

Cooks River Alliance: Cooks River Big Day Out

The Cooks River Alliance is a partnership between the councils involved in the river catchment. They held a very successful Cooks River Big Day Out in Gough Whitlam Park in August 2015, which involved the CRVA and many other community groups connected with the Cooks River (see right). This was a great family day out with around 1,000 people attending. This will become an annual event to bring people together around the river.



Earth Hour:

Earth hour was held this year at Fatima Island, to draw attention to the rapidly dwindling last remaining island on the river. A campaign to try to save Fatima Island has been undertaken by the CRVA. This was a very enjoyable gathering, with paper boat making activities, which were then waxed and floated out onto the river after sunset, with the help of the River Canoe club to retrieve the boats (see right). A jazz band and evening picnic made this a very pleasant occasion.



The CRVA and Mudcrabs have very active social media sites on Facebook and Twitter. The CRVA and Mudcrabs Facebook pages have a combined following of over 1,400 people who regularly read and interact with stories, photos and events along the river. This is a very immediate way of sharing stories, pictures and events along the river, such as this white faced heron swallowing a fish almost half its own body length recently at Cup and Saucer Creek.



<http://www.crva.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CooksRiverValleyAssociation>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mudcrabs/136923289836251>

<https://twitter.com/themudcrabs>



Financial Report

Cooks River Valley Association Financial Report 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2016

Balance Sheet	
Brought forward from previous year	9,988.13
Assets	
ING account	10,517.63
CBA account	1,216.63
Total assets	11,734.26
Liabilities	
Unpresented Cheques	404.00
Net Assets	11,330.26
Income and Expenditure	
Income	
Bank interest	210.38
Membership fees	805.00
Donations (Richard Grayson funeral/ Albanese office/other)	1,093.26
Sales (T-shirts and books)	310.00
GST refunds (for previous three years)	743.00
Total income	3,161.64
Expenditure	
Insurance	370.00
Association fees	92.00
Support of affiliated groups	85.71
Printing and post-box rental	136.00
Events (Xmas party/Earth Hour/Sorry Day/ Dimity Figner memorial)	935.80
Donation to Total Environment Centre	200.00
Total expenditure	1,819.51
Operating surplus	1,342.13

Chris Shanley
CRVA Hon Treasurer 12 July 2016

Membership Report

Current membership of the CRVA is 89 financial members. This includes several family membership and one corporate membership.

Membership numbers have remained steady and we have had an increase in members signing up for multiple years.

More members are continuing to make use of the direct deposit facility to pay their membership fees. We have also had an increase in people making donations to the CRVA when they renew their membership.

Peter Munro
Membership Coordinator

Streamwatch and Water Quality Testing

Ann Leahy

Streamwatch testing has been continuing on the Cooks River at the River Canoe Club site and also at Foord Avenue behind Ewen Park.

Results of our tests are within normal parameters for the indicators of dissolved oxygen, phosphates, pH, temperature and turbidity. However, after heavy rain events, the tests for E. coli are far in excess of that which is acceptable for human contact.

Since the joint project by Canterbury Council and Sydney Water of the litter collection boom at Boat Harbour, the visual pollution, bottles, wrappers, and litter are no longer an everyday sight on the river downstream from the boom.

Vale Dimity Figner

Dimity Figner, CRVA member, long-term Mudcrab and true friend of the Cooks River, passed away in April this year. Feminist, artist, sculptor and activist, Dimity will always be remembered as a committed environmentalist in the community of Cooks River People.



Rest in Peace Dimity