

COOKS RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



White faced heron taking off near Lang Rd bridge, Earlwood - photo by Simin Ordokhani

COOKS RIVER VALLEY



association

Contents

CRVA progress report	3
CRVA Grants and Advocacy	4
Funding	4
Stronger Communities Small Capital Works \$8,000	4
Volunteering \$5,000	4
Sydney Water \$10,000 (submitted)	4
Canterbury Bankstown Council (unsuccessful)	4
Research and Advocacy	4
Canterbury Racecourse Action Group	4
Canterbury Bankstown Climate Action Network	5
Canterbury Bankstown Council	5
Cooks Cove Planning Proposal	6
Cooks River Alliance	6
Cooks River Community Collective	7
Cooks River Corridor Plan	7
Cooks River Reports	8
High Pressure Oil Pipeline – vegetation management plan	8
Landcare	8
Peace Park Ashbury	8
Steel Sheet Piling	9
Sydenham Bankstown Alliance	10
Water Quality	10
Volunteer recruitment	10
Mudcrabs annual report	11
Mudcrabs bush care sites	12
Rosedale Reserve, Croydon Park	12
Summary of the year's activities at Rosedale:	12
The Saltmarsh at Gough Whitlam Park, Tempe	14
Sugar Mill, Hurlstone Park	15
Ewen Park, Hurlstone Park	16
Foord Avenue, Hurlstone Park 2022-23	17
18th Tee Bushcare site, Marrickville Golf Course	18
Southbank, Earlwood	18
Burnett St Reserve flowers, August 2022	19
Burnett St Reserve, Hurlstone Park	21
Informal bushcare sites	21
Mudcrabs river clean-ups	23
Close St, Canterbury Clean-Up	23
Canterbury Racecourse River Clean-up	24
Mudlarks	25
Mudlarks: Boat Harbour & Wave Rock	25
Mudlarks: Rosedale Reserve	26
Choice Bushcare site – Mackey Park	27
Mudcrabs Christmas party 2022	28
Financial report for CRVA	29
CRVA committee, 2022-23	30

CRVA progress report

Ann Leahy and Jennifer Newman

We begin our Annual Report acknowledging Country. Flowing east, the Cooks River Valley traverses Wangal, Gadigal and Gameygal Country. The river catchment and flow has nourished generations since the beginning of time, and has flourished with the care taken by those who have lived with the river. Today, we work together to refresh and revitalise the Cooks River, mindful of our non-human residents who return to Country in increasing numbers in return for the physical, social and spiritual nourishment we receive from the river and its surrounds.

It has been quite a significant year for the CRVA and our affiliated groups, the Mudcrabs and the Mudlarks. Next year we will celebrate 20 years of the Mudcrabs, founded by Chris Bartlett in 2004, and coincidentally 100 years of the CRVA which has existed in one form or another since the Cooks River Improvement League in 1924.

Coming out of a period of reduced activity due to COVID, the quiet and unceasing work of the Mudcrabs volunteers is starting to gain wider recognition. Mudcrabs coordinator, Ranjith Evas, was awarded the Jack Munday Environmental Award for his outstanding and tireless work improving the Cooks River riparian zones at the City of Canterbury Bankstown Council Australia Day awards in January. Unfortunately, he was still recovering from COVID at the time so was unable to accept the award in person.

An unexpected consequence of the lockdown periods was the resurgence of interest in the river and green spaces as a refuge and escape into nearby nature. Candles on the River was a joyous event this year, complete with family picnics and great music from the local folk band, aptly named Mangrove Swamp. This was held at the Kayak launch site near Lang Rd footbridge, spilling onto the riverbanks within the golf course and the newly landscaped area of Ewen Park. Simon Wilkes from the River Canoe Club and other Mudcrabs volunteers supervised the flotilla on the water. Special thanks go to Paul from Cooks River Kayaks who provided kayaks and kept the coffee machine going throughout the evening.

We joined Emilio Cresciani for a Cooks River photo walk with a group of students with varying abilities whose artwork will be publicly displayed along the river next year.

Thanks go to all the incredible Mudcrabs coordinators and volunteers, to the CRVA executive for their largely unseen but essential contributions, to all the guest speakers at our general meetings and to Canterbury Bankstown Council and Peter Goss for their consistent and untiring efforts in enabling the Cooks River Valley Association and all our volunteer groups to function so seamlessly.



Accepting Ranjith's award



Julie (CRVA) and Simon (RCC) Candles on the River



Cooks River photo walk

CRVA Grants and Advocacy

Gareth Wreford

Funding

Stronger Communities Small Capital Works \$8,000

This grant was received for the 2021-22 year and carried over due to Covid-19 lockdowns and resulting delays. It's been a long process though the final installation of sandstone seating at Ewen Park is complete and looks great. We're now in the process of finalising the surrounding landscaping which is expected to occur in August 2023.



Sandstone seating installed at Ewen Park

The Canterbury Bankstown Council project team, designers and the contractor who delivered the seating all deserve praise for their ability to consult, listen and for their flexibility in delivering the best possible outcome for the site. Council also liaised internally with its bushcare team on the landscaping which will be native grasses complementing, and in effect joining up, the final section of the Ewen Park and Foord Avenue Mudcrabs bushcare sites.

Thanks to Linda Burney's office for providing the grant.

Volunteering \$5,000

The CRVA has been successful with a \$5,000 grant towards equipment for Mudcrabs site coordinators. The grant can be applied to a range of needs from wheelbarrows, ladders and tools to tables, chairs and urns for the all-important post working bee morning tea. And thanks again to Linda Burney's office for the grant.

Sydney Water \$10,000 (submitted)

The CRVA submitted a grant application to Sydney Water for work on the South side of the Cooks River between Waterside Crescent and Riverview Road, Earlwood. If successful, the grant will help create further natural areas.

Canterbury Bankstown Council (unsuccessful)

With rising insurance costs for volunteers and public liability the CRVA is looking for ways of meeting these essential expenses. Knowing that these expenses are not eligible for Council's Community Grants Program we approached Council who suggested an alternative pathway of making a request directly to the Mayor via a Mayoral Minute seeking discretionary funding. We applied and the written response from Council referred us back to the program we already knew we were ineligible for.

Research and Advocacy

Canterbury Racecourse Action Group

The [Canterbury Racecourse Action Group](#) (CRAG) continues to advocate for the Racecourse to become public open space. As the 35 hectare site is on the Cooks River its future is also of great interest to the CRVA. We've kept in touch with the CRAG coordinators and in previous years we have supported their advocacy work and tried to secure student volunteer design support through the UTS Shopfront program to create a visual render of what the Racecourse could look like if it supported a range of community uses. In late 2022 we became aware of the UTS SOUL student volunteer program and created a proposal to develop a social media campaign to gain greater

awareness of the Racecourse and its possible future uses. The position is yet to be filled.

With CRAG the CRVA also met with Canterbury MP Sophie Cotsis in June 2023 to discuss the Racecourse and whether:

- There is any update or progress from a State Government perspective with the [Canterbury Racecourse Master Plan](#) process.
- Whether the new NSW Government plans to reintroduce [legislation for a moratorium on the sale](#) of the Racecourse.
- Whether [West Invest](#) (or any other source of funding) may be available to assist with the purchase of the site.

We await with interest the outcome of the Canterbury Racecourse Master Plan and, in particular, we expect a much greater level of community consultation and input regarding any recommendations for the future of the site.

Canterbury Bankstown Climate Action Network

The [Canterbury Bankstown Climate Action Network](#) (CBCAN) is a relatively new group that the CRVA is participating in. The CBCAN has sought clarification from [Ausgrid about planting in easements](#) near major power lines and pylons after Council suggested Ausgrid restrictions were preventing it from planting trees in some areas. CBCAN has kicked off a tree planting letter campaign to Councilors that the CRVA and Mudcrabs supported. The campaign prompted a meeting with senior Council staff and Councilor Clare Raffan where Council presented its overarching sustainability strategy including the forthcoming Urban Forest Strategy. In the three years to March 2023, Council stated it had planted 1,750 park and street trees (yet separate communication from Council in May 2023 says close to 2,000 trees in the last two years). It's unclear whether these trees are the same or different to those planted through the [\\$900,000 Premier's Priority](#) to increase tree canopy, and then how Council recognises the [10,000 native plants given away each year to residents or the 1,000 trees planted each year as part of National Tree Day](#). Council also does not appear to record the number of park and street trees that die, or trees that are removed from private land making it difficult to capture any net benefit from its tree planting. Where Council is notified of a dead tree it doesn't appear to have any set time frame to commit to replacing it. The long-term target of 40% canopy cover is one we all support and Council may yet get there. An interesting fact from the presentation is that Metro South West intends to plant 3,000 trees as offsets from its work by 2025. CBCAN is also working towards a meeting with the new Council Mayor to discuss its concerns and advocate for solutions.

Canterbury Bankstown Council

Over Christmas 2022 rubbish was dumped in a couple of parks and despite notifying Council and monthly follow ups it wasn't until the issues were raised directly with ward councilors in May 2023 that the rubbish was removed. Since May, notifying Council directly with a CC to the relevant ward councilors appears to be an effective way to keep parks clean.

Canterbury Ward Councilor Jessie Nguyen also met with the Mudcrabs and Cooks River Alliance to discuss our shared interest in continuing to work with Council to improve the natural habitat along the Cooks River.

The Council Bushcare team continues to be patient and responsive to our many requests. This year the bushcare team also funded some contractors to remove extensive balloon vine and most of the date palms on the Earlwood side of the river. We hope to see the contractors return next financial year to continue this valuable work which allows native vegetation to recover and expand.

Cooks Cove Planning Proposal

The [Cooks Cove Planning Proposal](#) is the latest in a long line of plans by developer John Boyd for a major site on the Cooks River opposite Sydney Airport. The current proposal is for multi-level logistics and warehousing, commercial office, hotel and visitor accommodation and retail uses of the Kogarah Golf Course site. In June 2023 the CRVA made a submission to the Department of Planning and Environment consultation process opposing the proposal. We then presented at a Bayside Council Planning and Environment Committee meeting and made further representations at a Public Hearing of the Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel opposing the rezoning of land held in trust to facilitate the development. We worked closely with the [River Canoe Club](#) and the [Cooks River Initiative to Transform the Riverbank](#) (yes CRITR) sharing resources and strategies to amplify opposition to the proposal.

In our view the proposal lacks merit on a range of criteria including: Foreshore rezoning and riparian corridor rehabilitation; flooding risk and climate change making the site more suitable for a park and wetlands, traffic impacts of trucks associated with container and logistics warehouses, a built form that blocks sightlines and connectivity with the river, and environmental concerns including the use of offsets which the NSW Auditor General has shown to be ineffective. To give just one example, the proposal includes a 20 metre foreshore 'upgrade' that realistically allows for about 15m of riparian zone once the pedestrian and cycle paths are taken into account. The Cooks Cove proposal falls well short of the [40m vegetated riparian zone](#) (i.e. in addition to any pedestrian or cycle access) required by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment for rivers influenced by tidal waters, and lacks evidence of meeting best practice [NSW Government guidance on riparian rehabilitation](#).

It is also unclear why Bayside Council is even considering an unsolicited developer driven proposal that directly negates its own master plan for the same site. In 2021 as part of the Metropolitan Greenspace Program Council developed the [Bayside priority green grid corridors spatial framework](#) that identified Kogarah Golf Course as part of the Rockdale Wetlands Corridor. Council's master plan aligns with NSW Government priorities and was informed by community consultation.

As a 'regionally significant development' the proposal is now in the hands of the Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel.

Cooks River Alliance

As a non-profit, volunteer driven community organisation the CRVA sees the value in the [Cooks River Alliance](#) and its paid local government positions working with Sydney Water and across all the major Councils responsible for the Cooks River catchment.

The funding Memorandum of Understanding between the member Councils and Sydney Water is up for renewal in 2024 and, with annual budget cycles underway, in April 2023 the CRVA wrote to all the members advocating for continued support of the CRA. In particular we noted the Cooks River and parklands are a vital part of Sydney's Blue and Green Grids that require coordinated planning and resourcing as population density increases. The continued cooperation of Councils and Sydney Water is essential to ensure there is a combined voice advocating for the river and local communities. This combined voice is especially relevant to achieve effective planning and resource allocation for longstanding community concerns like naturalising the riverbanks by replacing the decaying steel sheet piling, bringing forward the replacement of concrete channeling and improving biodiversity in the surrounding parklands.

The CRVA also wrote to the Cooks River Alliance Chair in May 2023 regarding the organisation's sustainability given its staff turnover. We noted CRA faces major challenges in the near future including:

- Managing the \$100,000 in funding promised as part of the 2023 NSW election.
- Influencing the \$10,000,000 in funding for the Cooks River promised as part of the 2022 Federal election.
- Continuing actions to deliver the Cooks River Catchment Management Plan.
- Supporting an ongoing community campaign to naturalise the Cooks Riverbanks by replacing steel sheet piling and concrete channeling.
- Renewed interest in storm water filtration and Water Sustainable Urban Design (WSUD).

The Chair's reply indicated they were well aware of the issues and committed to resolving them.

Cooks River Community Collective

The CRVA participates in the Cooks River Community Collective (CRCC) which is coordinated by the River Canoe Club and aims to bring together all the various community groups active along the River. The CRCC exists to share events, projects, funding opportunities and advocacy strategies.

In November 2022 the CRCC developed a written 'call for action' sent to local, state and federal stakeholders that called out the following priorities for immediate attention:

- The setting of water quality improvement targets specifically for the Cooks River, aligned with both environmental and recreational outcomes.
- A commitment to the established 50% litter reduction by 2024 target through funding commitments, infrastructure upgrades and education.
- A review by Sydney Water and each Council of stormwater assets that need to be upgraded to deliver water quality improvement targets.
- A commitment to improved recreation facilities – on, in and around the Cooks River. Let's for example bring the Cooks River Paddle Trail to life, delivering opportunities to enjoy being on the river.
- A clear strategy for progress with bank naturalisation. This has two distinct components, (a) steel sheet replacement, and (b) bringing forward the replacement of the concrete channeling. Bank naturalisation will require a significant level of investment, however the amounts involved are also readily achievable.
- Bush regeneration and habitat creation – not only for wildlife but also for passive recreation opportunities.
- The establishment of a regular on-water cleaning service - there are services on other waterways and the Cooks River should be included.
- A review of governance arrangements for the Cooks River, allowing all levels of government to effectively work together in partnership with the community. For example, are there models such as City-Deals that we can all learn from?

Cooks River Corridor Plan

The CRVA responded to the [Cooks River Corridor Plan](#) which is a product of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, connected to the Greater Sydney Commission District Plans, and appears to reflect a desire to increase amenity and facilities associated with growth along the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor driven by Metro South West. The Corridor Plan contains no timelines, targets, budget or identified sources of funding.

We understand that preparing the Corridor Plan may assist Canterbury Bankstown Council to seek State Government funding through the Metropolitan Green Spaces Program, though are concerned that actions under the Corridor Plan are a stimulus for further development in local neighbourhoods. The Corridor Plans are highly urban in character and appear primarily concerned with active transport and creating active recreation and formal landscaped spaces for people. For

the CRVA our purpose is the restoration of the natural environment, the riparian zone of the Cooks River and the creation of habitat and passive recreation spaces.

Of the 16 interventions listed (p18) in the Cooks River Corridor Plan the CRVA particularly supports 1, 2 and 3: increases to Canopy Cover, Naturalisation of the River (i.e., the Riverbanks) and tributaries, and the creation of Ecological Linkages between existing plant communities. These interventions could be applied across the entire Catchment and not just in existing Mudcrabs bushcare sites or the additional small sites identified in the Corridor Plan. What is missing is an overall approach to ecological restoration of the riparian zone and surrounding parklands that encourages people to appreciate and engage with nature.

Cooks River Reports

The CRVA has collated a summary [list of Cooks River research, reports and strategies](#). The inclusion criteria for what is almost a literature review is research, reports and strategies focused on the environment - primarily those with recommendations for action or highlighting the poor health of the Cooks River. The majority of the documents listed constitute 'grey literature' having never been formally published with an ISBN or available through libraries. A brief list of websites is also included where they are current and promote improvements to the Cooks River and surrounding parklands. The purpose of the list is to gather the various resources into one place and provide a starting point for a discussion about the gap between research, reports, recommendations, and the overwhelming community desire for action.

High Pressure Oil Pipeline – vegetation management plan

As with previous years the CRVA and Mudcrabs continue to monitor Viva Energy 'maintenance' activities along the High Pressure Oil Pipeline. Our understanding is that the vegetation management plan between Canterbury Bankstown Council and Viva is not finalised. Meanwhile Council and Viva have met and undertaken some site visits to discuss how Council, Viva and Mudcrabs volunteers can work together. The CRVA does remain concerned that Viva appears to be paying a disproportionate amount of attention to Mudcrabs bushcare sites containing native grasses and small shrubs where any risk to the safety of the pipeline is negligible.

Landcare

As part of ensuring that the CRVA and Mudcrabs' efforts are supported and recognised we contacted Landcare to discuss how the various [Mudcrabs sites](#) could also be listed on the [Landcare map](#). Searching by postcode on the Landcare site the only two relevant listings are for Ewen Park and the CRVA head office address. Landcare has had its own staff turnover and workload issues and we'll follow up this discussion later in 2023.

In the meantime through contact with Landcare we became aware of the [Sydney Landcare Creating Canopies](#) funding opportunity. Landcare has funding available for the next three years, including resources to maintain trees for an initial period after they are planted, and is open to considering a wide range of sites. Landcare is already working with neighbouring Councils though not Canterbury Bankstown. In May 2023 we passed this information and opportunity over to Council to pursue and the Canterbury Bankstown Climate Action Network is also following up with Council to see if it will participate.

Peace Park Ashbury

A large block of land known as [30 Trevenar Street](#) that is within the Cooks River catchment and effectively forms part of Peace Park Ashbury was sold privately in 2021. In July 2022, following Council's consultation process, the CRVA provided some advocacy advice and highlighted some buy back options to Ashbury residents working to ensure the land was made available to the public rather than developed. In what may be a longer term win for the community in late 2022

[Canterbury Bankstown Council approved a planning proposal](#) in September 2022 to rezone the land RE1 for public recreation and to investigate buyback options subject to the NSW Government providing funding for the land and nominating a relevant State agency as the acquisition authority. In the meantime, the land won't be developed and hopefully one day will be a significant addition to Peace Park.

Steel Sheet Piling

Identifying exactly which bit of the NSW Government is responsible for the steel sheet piling along the River is an ongoing issue. In March 2023 the CRVA approached Crown Lands for clarification and the reply indicated that:

- Approximately 4.2km of foreshore along the Cooks River is fortified with sheet metal piling on both sides.
- The sheet piling is located on several land tenures, including land managed by Crown Lands, council-owned land, Crown reserves managed by Councils and Sydney Water.
- The Cooks River Alliance (CRA) conducted an interim public safety study of the sheet metal piling in June 2022, with several options for temporary barriers to be installed along the riverbank identified.

Since then we've submitted a follow up Government Information Public Access (GIPA) request. We know the information about individual lot owners exists. The challenge is finding a way to match lot numbers with physical steel piling on the River and lot owners then collate the information in a useful format. Ideally this would be a map. As no such map currently exists the GIPA did not produce a result. What is now needed is either a local or state government initiative to pull this information together. At the moment, the various stakeholders refer us to the [Catchment Management Program](#) with the expectation that the issue will be resolved at some point further down the track.

Curiously Crown Lands did make a grant available to local Councils to erect temporary fences along sections of the River where the steel sheet piling presents an identified public safety risk. Canterbury Bankstown Council had commenced some survey work to determine the fence location and then Crown Lands withdrew the grant. This may yet prove to be a good thing as it highlights the need for resources to be allocated towards a more permanent solution.

In late June 2023 the CRVA met with Canterbury MP Sophie Cotsis, and Summer Hill MP Jo Haylen's electorate officer Mark Ney to discuss the steel sheet piling. The [2008 Ewen Park bank naturalisation case study](#) showing that the NSW Government (Dept of Planning) had responsibility for the steel sheet piling was discussed along with the Crown Lands and GIPA responses.

We also discussed the interface between Sydney Water concrete channeling in the non-tidal sections of the River and the steel sheet piling owned by other agencies, noting that Sydney Water had done some interesting work in the Alexandra Canal and [upriver on the Cooks naturalising banks](#).

Sophie Cotsis indicated interest in collaborating with other MPs and Councils to identify ownership of the steel sheet piling noting there have been many previous attempts with little success to date, yet the information exists and what is needed is some initiative to create a map.

Discussion also noted the NSW election promise of \$1m for the Cooks River Alliance, and the federal election promise of \$10m for the Cooks River via Tony Bourke as part of the [Urban Rivers and Catchments Program](#).

More to follow on this next year...

Sydenham Bankstown Alliance

The CRVA is part of the [Sydenham to Bankstown Alliance](#) (SBA) of community groups concerned about the impact of Metro Southwest and associated over development along the Sydenham to Bankstown Corridor with the risk of increased stormwater run-off and sewage overflows into the Cooks River.

With a new NSW Government elected in March 2023 there are two reviews into [Sydney Trains](#) and [Sydney Metro](#). The SBA has made submissions to both reviews and also met with advisors to Jo Haylen, Minister for Transport, presenting the case for improved digital signalling to deliver better services instead of Metro with the significant savings being redirected to areas of identified community need including greater open space.

Water Quality

Tangential to a discussion about the impacts of the [Campsie Town Centre Masterplan](#) and associated development on the Cooks River, the CRVA became involved in a desk top survey of available water quality data. And thanks to Russel Cail for his constructive advice and analysis. There are gaps in data sets and the available data is often a few years old. Protecting the water quality of ecosystems (the community of interacting organisms like aquatic plants, fish, macroinvertebrates) that depend on water is regarded as the best way to protect the water quality of many different beneficial uses. If it's good for entire ecosystems of aquatic life, it's probably good for most other uses. Equally you could ask is the [River safe for swimming?](#)

From 2007 until 2011 [the CRVA monitored water quality](#) as part of the Streamwatch program. The Cooks River Alliance also produced some [Eco Health Report Cards](#) until 2017.

There is a [2019 Sydenham to Bankstown precinct analysis](#) with case studies of Marrickville and Campsie that identifies ageing Sydney Water sewers as reaching capacity and unable to meet the demands of future development. Also from 2019 the [NSW Government's Central Resource for Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data](#) (SEED) [mapped data sets](#) for high ecological value waterways and water dependent ecosystems in the Canterbury Bankstown LGA. This document is due to be updated again in 2026. SEED also contains a data compilation specifically about [estuary water quality from 2007 to 2020](#) that includes data points for the Cooks River. None of these data sets necessarily tell us anything we didn't already know about the often poor health of the Cooks River.

An outcome of this work is that as a way forward the Cooks River Alliance intends to re-establish an ongoing river monitoring program. The CRVA will also continue to promote the longer term goal of establishing swimming spots in the Cooks River. If it's possible to swim in the [Parramatta River](#) and the [Georges River](#) then why not eventually the [Cooks River](#) also?

Volunteer recruitment

While bushcare activities have picked up again after Covid-19 the challenges of [attracting and retaining volunteers](#) are ongoing. In previous years the CRVA has run volunteer bushcare training and while feedback indicates the training has been well received it hasn't translated into a significant increase in Mudcrabs working bee participation. We have placed an [advertisement for volunteers](#) on the Seek employment platform though the most effective ways of attracting new volunteers continue to be word of mouth and informal contacts made with passers by during the regular working bees up and down the River. The [June 2023 Sydney Morning Herald feature on the Cooks River](#) also appears to have had an immediate impact with some Mudcrabs sites already reporting increased numbers of volunteers. The impact of the Mudcrabs work is only limited by the number of volunteers and site coordinators we can attract. The [Mudcrabs calendar of events](#) is online and new volunteers for one off working bees or ongoing participation are always welcome. We supply equipment and no experience is necessary to participate as you'll 'learn by doing' while also meeting others interested in improving the local environment.

Mudcrabs annual report

Ranjith Evas, Coordinator for the Mudcrabs

The Mudcrabs group grew out of a clean-up event organised by Chris Bartlett in 2004 and has grown to be the biggest environmental volunteer group in Inner West and Canterbury Bankstown Council areas of Sydney. We work at 15 sites along the river doing bush care and river cleanups and have more than 500 registered volunteers on our mailing list. Mudcrabs are often referred to as the most active river community in NSW as well.



Annual Chris Bartlett Memorial Walk

It has been a significant year for the profile of Mudcrabs and Cooks River, thanks to the article written by *Sydney Morning Herald* journalist Jordan Baker and subsequent discussion about Cooks River on the [ABC Drum program](#). (discussion on the river starts at the 40 minute mark).

The *YouTube* video made by Beau Miles named, "[Bad River, kayaking the sickest urban river in Australia](#)" also highlighted the challenges facing our river.

Our 20th anniversary is in 2024 and we are planning a big event in the year including a commemorative booklet.

I thank our site coordinators and volunteers who turn up for working bees week after week and their tireless work at 15



Close St clean up volunteers enjoy a cuppa

sites along the river. I would like to acknowledge the passionate work of the Cooks River Valley Association executive committee for the submissions to various levels of government for advocacy and wellbeing of our river. The work done by Gareth Wreford in this regard is much appreciated. The setting up of *Mailerlite* for group mailing, our calendar and refreshing and adding many features on the website was done by Chris Rapp, our IT specialist. This excellent work has made the task of sending out reminder emails much easier. I would like to thank Canterbury Bankstown Council staff Peter Goss, Brodie Smith, Alison Tran and Lachlan Prentice for working with our site coordinators for plants, t-shirts, signage for our group, removing bags filled with weeds and plastics and funding food for our Christmas event.

This year there will be a referendum put to Australian voters to say yes or no to the *Voice to Parliament for Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders*. Environmental justice and justice for our First nations people are closely linked. I hope we as the environmental volunteers of Cooks River will fully participate and contribute to advocate the Yes case for the referendum. Let us hope that in next year's annual report, Yes to the Voice will have been passed and our nation can heal the wounds of the past and journey towards treaty and truth telling.

Mudcrabs bush care sites

Rosedale Reserve, Croydon Park

Russell Cail

On behalf of the Rosedale Reserve group, Joy and I would like to acknowledge the assistance and support of Canterbury Bankstown Council, particularly Mr Peter Goss (of the Council's Bushcare Group) with whom we liaise closely, the support of the Cooks River Valley Association (CRVA) and of course all the "Mudcrabs" who so generously give up their time and energy to weed, mulch, and plant and without whose support the site would be very quickly overgrown with weeds and the project would fold.

Summary of the year's activities at Rosedale:

As always, we concentrated on removing weeds (lots of them), especially madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), asthma weed (*Parietaria judaica*), cestrum (*Cestrum parqui*), moth vine (*Araujia sericifera*), turkey rhubarb (*Acetosa sagittata*) and of course, farmer's friends/cobbler's pegs (*Bidens pilosa*). This task was made even more difficult by the large amount of rain and bursts of hot humid weather that supported the growth of everything, especially the weeds, and often disrupted our work program. Areas that would normally get a bit wet became bogs. This meant that some previously well-established plants, such as correas (*Correa alba*), *Hardenbergia violacea* and *Grevillea sericea* have died in the excessively wet conditions.



Grevillea sericea

We continued to mulch and plant bare areas at least once. This has helped greatly with the suppression of weeds. We also undertook quite an extensive planting program (as indicated below), to take advantage of the wet weather.

Our main plantings of trees and bushes were *Leptospermum trinervium*, *Leptospermum squarrosum*, *Kunzea ambigua*, *Callistemon citrinus*, *Grevillea sericea*, *Melaleuca nodosa* and *Correa alba* which were planted in various locations throughout the site, to augment existing plantings (some of which had died).

We also planted a variety of grasses in section 14 (an area towards the footbridge over the river), to create a relatively open, grassed area, that we hope will attract insects such as butterflies, as well as other birds. The main plantings were *Poa affinis*, *Microlaena stipoides*, *Cymbopogon refractus* and the plume grasses, *Dichelachne crinita* and *Dichelachne micrantha*. We also planted quite a few saltbush plants, *Einadia nutans* and *E. polygonoides* along the footpath in the eastern section and near the footbridge in section 16; both are areas which get very hot and dry. The saltbushes are growing very well, seeding, and suppressing the weeds.

As something of an experiment, we planted some harsh ground ferns (*Hypolepis muelleri*) in sections 4 and 10 and three bracken plants (*Pteridium esculentum*) near the bridge in section 16, in areas that we thought would be ideal for them.



Harsh ground fern

Hopefully, they will continue to do well and become an important ground cover. We also trialled growing the rush *Cladium procerum* in several wet places, but none was suitable (either not wet enough and/or too clayey!) and all but about five out of 50 have died. Other minor plantings were wonga wonga vines (*Pandorea pandorana*), wombat berry (*Eustrephus latifolius*) and some other vines along the fence bordering the river.

We cleared a line of sight along the oil pipeline in consultation with people from the pipeline authority and CB Council. It all worked out quite well and actually liberated a few smaller bushes that we wanted, and which had been getting overgrown with self-sown wattles and kangaroo apples.



Bracken

We continued weeding around the frog ponds (we still have frogs) but there remains much work to do in this area; we have large invasions of couch grass and tradescantia to deal with. We also removed more of the phragmites (*P. australis*) which were proving to be a major problem as they were rapidly invading the site, overgrowing many of our more desirable plants and harbouring a large number of our

worst weeds (what's more, no birds were ever sighted in them). They are quite difficult to eliminate as their stolons can extend over long distances, especially in wet soil. About 90% have been cleared to date, but we will eventually remove all of them.



Phragmites before



Phragmites after

We re-erected and updated a large metal sign advertising what we do, closer to Chris Bartlett's interpretive sign and Mike Aldridge arranged for some core-flute poster boards to be made with our details on them – they were organised by Lachlan Prentice (Environmental Project Officer Catchment Management), at CB Council who paid for them. We are in the process of installing them along the footpath.

We will also continue our bird watching program in the area between the Korean club in the east and the footbridge from Byron St. in the west. On our regular bird surveys which are organised by Alison Gibbs, we normally observe 22-25 species. The highest number of species observed to date was 32 in September 2018.



Core flute poster

In the last 12 months our volunteers put in about 350 hours of work at our regular working bees, together with a further >150 hours spent during the week by some volunteers.

We collected 157 bags of weeds which were sent to waste, plus we created quite a few, very large piles of weeds (which had not gone to seed) as part of our policy to limit the amount of bags being disposed of as waste. We hope that these piles will eventually mulch down.



Large pile of weeds

Future: More of the same, with the emphasis on planting more grasses to encourage insects such as butterflies (which in turn may attract more birds), planting more saltbush species, especially along the footpath, where the conditions tend to be very dry and hot, as well as planting more rushes and sedges on the lower, damper parts of the site. We will continue our work around the frog ponds, clearing phragmites, and stabilising some of the steeper slopes with logs.

The Saltmarsh at Gough Whitlam Park, Tempe

Russell Cail

The Gough Whitlam Saltmarsh was constructed by Canterbury Council in 2007. Saltmarshes are an important and endangered ecological community that form on the landward side of mangroves, and provide valuable habitat for fish, crabs and birds.

The Mudcrabs meet on the first Saturday of the month to remove weeds, mulch and plant trees, shrubs and grasses which are thought to have originally existed in the area. Although it is quite small, the site is a relatively complex one. It is roughly semi-circular in shape, consisting of (i) primarily the saltmarsh itself, (ii) three constructed “islands” close to the river, which are dominated by tall, mature casuarinas and (iii) bounded by the river and mangroves on one side and a mixed band of trees and shrubs on the landward side. The environment on the “islands” is particularly harsh. The trees suck the moisture out of the soil, and the salty winds which sweep across them seriously impact the growing conditions.

This year, our constant efforts to remove the weeds and plant new plants have begun to show positive improvements, so much so, that about half of our working bees this year (2023) were cancelled, either due to rain or a lack of weeds.



Male red-rumped parrot feeding on the seeds of native couch

As I mentioned in my report last year, a number of salt bush plants have begun to self-sow on the islands which is great to see. There are a couple of species in the genus *Einadia* (one is *E. hastata* the other is *E. polygonoides*). The *Callistemon citrinus* which we planted in some of the areas adjoining the road and/or the footpath are doing well. The *Kunzea ambigua* plants on the islands also seem to be growing well as are several grevilleas (*G. sericea*) in the more sheltered areas (I grew these more as an experiment but not expecting too much; time will tell!). As I anticipated, the *Plectranthus parviflorus* (cockspur flower) that I planted a couple of years ago are thriving on the second “island” and I should get more. Earlier this year we planted some tea trees (*Leptospermum squarrosus*). They were not the strongest stock but so far, they are surviving. Unfortunately, we lost several *Westringia fruticosa* plants that had been growing well on the islands, due to some quite dry conditions in November & December last year.

In summary, I am pleased to report that we have good control over the whole of the site and the area is now fairly self-sustaining, with minimal weeding and intervention needed. The health of the

marsh continues to be excellent with a typical mix of salt marsh species predominately; samphire (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*), austral seablite (*Sueda australis*), streaked arrow grass (*Triglochin striatum*) and marine couch (*Sporobolus virginicus*). It is also home to lots of invertebrates (crabs and snails) which are attracting many wading birds.

Currently, I am concentrating my efforts on trying to improve the under-story plants on the site, to give much more shelter to small birds and animals. To this end, we will continue mulching specific areas and planting more bushy plants on the “islands” as well as concentrating on improving the biological diversity on the margins beside the footpath and the road.

We would like to thank Mr Peter Goss who is our regular contact at Canterbury Bankstown Council and who has provided the plants and much appreciated advice. In the last twelve months 29 volunteers spent about 60 hours on site and we removed 10 bags of weeds and created several piles of mulch from weeds that had not gone to seed.

Sugar Mill, Hurlstone Park

Ben Denham

This year we have continued our weeding, mulching and planting. We have expanded the top section of the site as the flat ground is a much easier area for volunteers to work on. The western end of the site continues to thrive with weeds well controlled. This is partly because the slope there is more gentle and the well-established natives prevent erosion. As you head east towards the footbridge, the incline of the slope increases and there are still areas where weeds predominate. Although we are seeing progress. Our weeding efforts have helped the native blade grass and lomandras in that section expand. Our strategy for the slope is to work upwards from the cycle path firstly by planting a row of native blade grass along the path and by establishing a row of lomandras mid-way up the slope to help stop the erosion. We are also using branches to create some simple 'terracing' of the slope.



Some healthy salt marsh.
Samphire spp, triglochin and crab holes



Rainbow lorikeet - photo Simin Odorkhani



Magpie lark nest under sugar mill bridge



Correa Alba - photos Simin Odorkhani

Ewen Park, Hurlstone Park

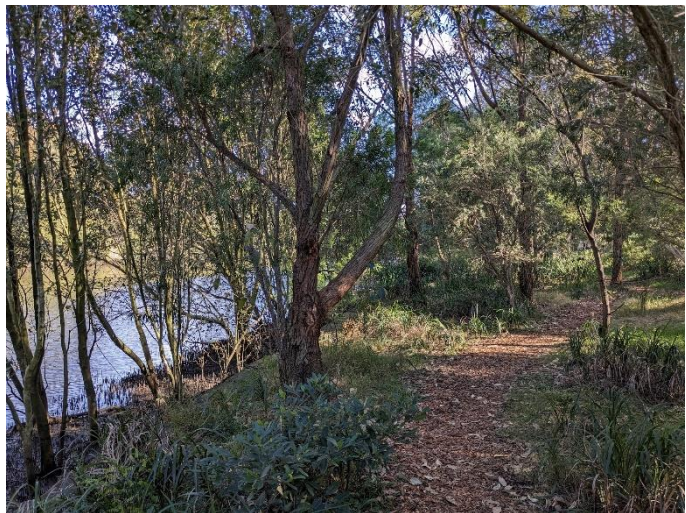
Ann Leahy and Keith Foulcher

More than one year of unprecedented rainfall has had quite an impact on the Ewen Park site. During times of heavy rain, the footpath between the site and the soccer ground floods very quickly, and all foot, dog and bike traffic comes through the site. While this is positive and diverts people to pass through and appreciate this green and tranquil site by the river, it also causes a lot of wear and tear on the paths and nearby plants, so there's always plenty to do at weeding bees.

It's hard to believe that just over 15 years ago this site was just a blank mulched site, and all the trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and groundcovers have been planted and nurtured by Mudcrabs volunteers. Along with Keith's regular weekly work on the site, the monthly weeding bees continue to keep the site well cared for and looking its best.

We had an unexplained die-off of a large area of dianellas in the eastern side of the site earlier in the year, but after some clearing it is looking well again. Weeding our now well-established plantings of native grasses is the most constant task on the site, as well as watching out for infestations of wandering trad and other invasive weeds. New plants don't always thrive in the shady areas, but we have had good success with some new shrubs and groundcovers, and recently added a few ferns as well. We were joined by some beautiful black cockatoos at our last weeding bee, and we are regularly seeing a large number of water birds.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have come to help out at weeding bees and other times in between. The health of the site is testament to your ongoing work. We also thank Peter Goss from Canterbury Bankstown Council for his continued encouragement and support of this site, and for delivery of mulch, donations of seedlings, stakes, and other materials.



Volunteers after a weeding bee

Foord Avenue, Hurlstone Park 2022-23

Liz Millen and Doug Benson

Since all the rain in the last couple of years, there have been a few changes at the Foord Avenue site. Many of the native ferns growing along the sandstone cliff have flourished, and the whole site has become denser and more heavily vegetated, with some spectacular shows of flowers, especially in spring. We lost some plants which didn't cope with the wet conditions, and also a couple of older wattles, although this has now allowed more light to reach the area below near the path.

We've also seen an increase in volunteer numbers, with 12-20 people at most working bees! Many thanks to all the diverse volunteers, old, young, regular, irregular who have brought so much knowledge and enthusiasm along with their energy to keep this site looking good. With all this help we've also been able to expand at the margins and add extra plants to the site. Thanks to Canterbury Bankstown Council for ongoing support with mulch and plants.

What we would most like to highlight this year is the increasing number of birds being seen, and the direct links we can draw between our planting and the species we are attracting. The Blue wrens that we welcomed back several years ago clearly like the spiky Hakeas and Bursarias, and the denser vegetation, and are usually around. We now have regular visitors which come to feed on particular plants, such as King parrots seen munching on Dodonaea seeds, and Yellow-tailed black cockatoos, which have come in numbers to dine on Banksia cones as well as Hakea seeds. We hear the calls of Olive-backed orioles at most working bees and have spotted Golden whistlers a few times, most recently a pair spotted by a member of the Mudlarks. There was even a recent sighting of a Black-faced monarch!

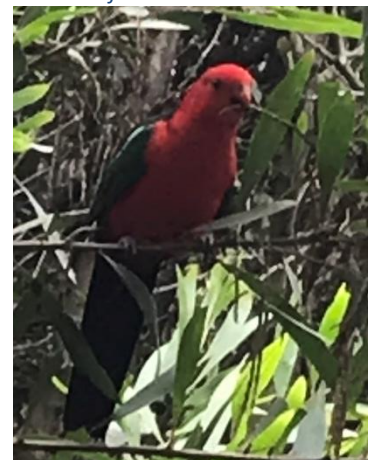
Thanks to Simin Ordokhani, a regular volunteer, for the beautiful bird photos.



Black Cockatoo



Black faced monarch



King Parrot



Blue wren male and female



Foord Ave Crew

18th Tee Bushcare site, Marrickville Golf Course

Chris Rapp, Doug Benson and Peter Munro – site coordinators

The 18th Tee bushcare site on Marrickville Golf Course was established by the Mudcrabs in 2022 with funds from Hawkes Brewery, Marrickville. The site featured a rocky sandstone heath environment, heavily infested with noxious weeds, but shaded by some mature Port Jackson fig trees.

The Mudcrabs have contributed over 400 volunteer hours, planted more than 800 native plants (45 different species) and created a very special bush pocket that will link with other revegetated areas on the golf course. An encouraging element has been the number of native species that have self-propagated on the site over the past 12 months.

The project has received strong, ongoing support and assistance from Marrickville golf course and has a great group of Mudcrab volunteers who have made this a very special place. It has been such a joy to watch this site grow and take on its own unique character. A big thank you to Hawkes Brewery, Marrickville golf course and all of the great Mudcrab volunteers who turn out every month to make the 18th Tee a very special place.



Andrew, Julie and Georgia looking after the upper level 18th Tee



Lower section of the site



Nathan (from Hawkes Brewery) and Andrew (MGC) planting the celebratory Geebung (18th Tee 1 year on)

Southbank, Earlwood

Brent Jones and Peter Munro site coordinators

Southbank is a long, narrow riparian bush site on the southern (Earlwood) side of the Cooks River, opposite Ewen Park. The site was initially prepared by Canterbury Bankstown Council alongside the crushed sandstone path that runs through the site.

The Mudcrabs have been managing the site since October 2021 and have contributed more than 400 volunteer hours to maintain and improve this special riparian habitat. We have planted more than 200 native grasses, ground covers and shrubs into the site over the past 20 months. The site has flourished and in March this year, we were all very excited to observe a native brown quail had taken up residence in the dense grasses.

The Southbank site is a great place to do bushcare. Being close to the many people who walk the path every day, you also have lots of opportunities to stop and have a chat while working. You are also right on the river's edge so in a prime position to observe much of the river's wildlife.

Thank you to all of the Mudcrabs volunteers who have contributed to Southbank over the past year and a special thank you to Peter Goss from Canterbury Bankstown Council for his ongoing support and encouragement.



Jamie and others working at Southbank



Burnett St Reserve flowers, August 2022



Burnett St Reserve, Hurlstone Park

Gareth Wreford

After coming out of Covid-19 and several years of heavy rain it's been great to continue regular Mudcrabs working bees at Burnett Street. It's a large, diverse and steeply terraced site providing plenty of different zones to create habitat. Some longer-term measures of success include seeing some smaller bush birds at least visit from nearby suburban gardens, or Satin Bowerbirds in the rainforest pocket – we've got a way to go.

Everything is growing well, including the weeds, and in some places the more rampant Cissus vines have even needed cutting back. The rainforest pocket at the Eastern end of the site is the focus for most weeding and we've slowly started expanding the site with a handful of large rainforest trees (Black Booyong, White Booyong, Lilly Pilly, Red Cedar) getting established in the lawn, while a new corner of grasses and groundcovers has been planted out and will keep being expanded to create a native understorey.



New Burnett Street Reserve corner of grasses and groundcovers



Targeting weeds at a Burnett Street Reserve working bee

Informal bushcare sites

As a Hurlstone Park local I've noticed more than one unloved Council garden and over the last year or so started trying to do something about it. From Council's perspective I can understand the challenge for Parks and Gardens and Mowing team staff who don't have the time or don't see it as their job to do anything other than whipper snip and spray, leaving well spaced specimen trees and an environment where only weeds will grow. It's a systemic issue that requires the different 'silos' within Council to work together driven by a change in thinking, resource allocation and staff capabilities and capacity. Without wanting to necessarily establish a formal bushcare site with regular monthly working bees there doesn't currently appear to be any way for Council to recognise and support ad hoc informal and site appropriate native planting. The former Canterbury Council had an 'Adopt a Patch' program that could support this kind of work yet post amalgamation the new Canterbury Bankstown Council doesn't so far have an alternative. At the moment I'm using 'No Mow No Spray' signs with a reasonable level of success that has also been made possible though some informal one on one chats with Council staff.



"No Spray No Mow" sign



No Spray No Mow sign removed and thrown into rail corridor

The informal sites so far are:

- Foord Avenue bridge (South)
- Hurlstone Avenue Cliff (former Canterbury Council 'Adopt a Patch' site)
- Karool Avenue bridge (South) / Sutton Reserve
- Moser Reserve (former Canterbury Council 'Adopt a Patch' site)
- Roadside reserve corner Melford and Canberra Street
- Sawyer Reserve
- Tennent Parade (Garden bed alongside the soccer practice field)
- Warwick Reserve

Despite the occasional frustration, many of these sites are doing well. As a recent example of success, the Tennent Parade garden bed shows what can be achieved in as short a time period as six months. Council sprayed and whipper snipped the site then I took the opportunity to dig out the weeds by the roots so they wouldn't regrow and started mulching and planting. It's a nice flat and accessible site that is easy to maintain and already showing some good progress. The majority of the grasses and groundcovers are ones I've grown from seed topped up with shrubs and trees from Sutherland Council's native nursery.

Ideally these informal sites act as a 'proof of concept' and over time Council will come to see the amenity, biodiversity and low maintenance benefits of weeding, mulching and planting instead of its current regime of weeds, dead weeds and then more weeds. Once native plants are established the sites require weeding and maintenance roughly quarterly or sometimes as infrequently as twice a year.



Tubestock and plant protectors removed by Council



No Planting by Mudcrabs' sign created by Council



*Tennent Parade garden bed
December 2022*



Tennent Parade garden bed June 2023

Mudcrabs river clean-ups

Close St, Canterbury Clean-Up

Ranjith Evas

The river clean-up at Close St has been going well thanks to our regular volunteers and some newbies that drop in. The underpass widening work at Canterbury Road Bridge has closed off half of our regular clean-up area. I hope it will reopen by the end of this year



and we will have access to our usual patch. Woolworths and Coles have stopped giving reusable plastic bags this year and have switched to paper bags. Volunteers have reported the reduced number of plastic bags and bottles in the river now. It clearly shows that stopping plastic pollution can only be achieved by legislation in the parliament and appropriate corporate decisions. Voluntary consumer behavior and boycotts can only have a minimal effect. Companies packaging their products in single use plastic must take responsibility and be held accountable for the plastic they produce and pay for the cost of environmental damage and clean-ups. The current legislative regime for dealing with soft plastics is not fit for purpose and government is yet to come up with a solution for dealing with it. The return and earn scheme legislated by NSW government is a success and has significantly reduced plastic bottles in the river. Something similar needs to be done for dealing with soft plastics used for packaging.

Since last year's report, our volunteers have collected 63 bags of plastic from the river. Litter in the river is mostly broken pieces of plastic bottle caps and bags, instead of sacks and sacks of plastic bottles as in previous years. Special thanks to Farah and Moz for assisting me at the site. Below are the statistics of litter collected from the cleanup.

Date	Number of volunteers	Bags of rubbish	Notes
06/08/2022	22	15	
03/09/2022	n/a	n/a	Cancelled due to rain
08/10/2022	n/a	n/a	Cancelled due to rain
05/11/2022	9	5	
04/02/2023	13	17	
05/03/2023	20	6	
01/05/2023	13	4	Restricted access
06/05/2023	12	10	Restricted access
03/06/2023	11	3	Restricted access
01/07/2023	10	3	
Total	110	63	

Canterbury Racecourse River Clean-up

Alison Gibbs

We held three of our quarterly clean-ups behind Canterbury Racecourse during the year, with the July event cancelled due to heavy rain. In total, 39 volunteers pulled 56 bags of rubbish out of the mangroves, along with larger items such as shopping trolleys, bicycles and road signs. In February and May, our clean-up site was extended to include several gates on our side of the Canterbury Road underpass, which is currently closed and inaccessible to our fellow Mudcrabs at Close Street.

In October, I welcomed Alison Thorpe as my Assistant Site Coordinator. Alison is a long-time Mudcrab and friend, and I've been very grateful for her help and cheerful company. Thank you to all the Muddies who came to our clean-ups this year. Special thanks to Moz Le, who turns up to clean-up on his trusty trolley bike and ferries the heavy bags of rubbish to the collection point.



Mudlarks

Mudlarks: Boat Harbour & Wave Rock

Jennifer Kent and Chris Rapp

The Mudlarks had another successful year surveying birds along the Boat Harbour and Wave Rock routes. We had an average of 15 participants and an average of 34 species on both routes. It was encouraging to see an increase in the range of species seen on the Wave Rock route.

The Cup and Saucer Wetlands continue to provide a safe nursery for Dusky Moorhens and Purple Swamphens. Often Pacific Black Ducks, Chestnut Teals and Grey Teals are seen along the river and wetlands. At the Foord Avenue site King Parrots and Superb Fairy Wrens were regularly sighted. The ample blossom of the Swamp Mahoganies attracted significant numbers of Musk Lorikeets. The mangroves proved to be good nesting sites for Willy Wagtails and Mudlarks who also ingeniously used bridge struts.

It is hoped that as the bush care site near Wave Rock becomes more established it will provide habitat for small birds. At Dibble St Waterhole a Sacred Kingfisher was seen perched on a post and reeds are now providing cover for the Australasian Grebe. Generally Welcome Swallows, Masked Lapwings, Mudlarks and Figbirds were seen on the golf course.

The Lang Rd Bridge has proved a great site for viewing cormorants, egrets, herons and Royal Spoonbills fishing.

The generous sharing of knowledge and comradery among participants has made these surveys very informative and enjoyable. Thank you to all those who attended the Mudlarks surveys over the past 12 months.



© David W Noble

Sacred kingfisher - photo by David Noble



Black cormorants at Boat Harbour boom – photo David Noble



Australasian Grebe – photo David Noble



King Parrot - David Noble



Musk Lorikeet - David Noble

Mudlarks: Rosedale Reserve

Alison Gibbs

A small group of Mudcrabs (Alison Gibbs, Russell Cail and Kerry Ann O'Reilly) conduct monthly bird surveys along an 800m stretch of the Cooks River at Croydon Park. The early morning surveys were initially intended to record the presence, feeding and breeding behaviours of birds in our Rosedale Reserve bush care site, but soon grew to include the adjacent river, mangroves, parks and playing fields. Our data is fed into the Mudlarks' eBird page, providing a useful snapshot and comparison of birdlife further upstream.

We recorded a total of 46 bird species in the year 2022/23. Highlights included the regular presence of Striated Herons, White-plumed Honeyeaters and Silvereyes, several sightings of Grey Fantails and one of an Eastern Spinebill (a first for this survey). Superb Fairywrens and Red-Browed Finches are often seen at the Rosedale site, but early morning sightings of these small birds continue to be intermittent.



*Rosedale Mudlarks Russell Cail and Kerry Ann O'Reilly
Photo: Alison Gibbs*



A striated heron at Rosedale Reserve, Photo Simin Ordokhani



Mudlarks bird survey: Boat Harbour and Wave Rock Group

Choice Bushcare site – Mackey Park

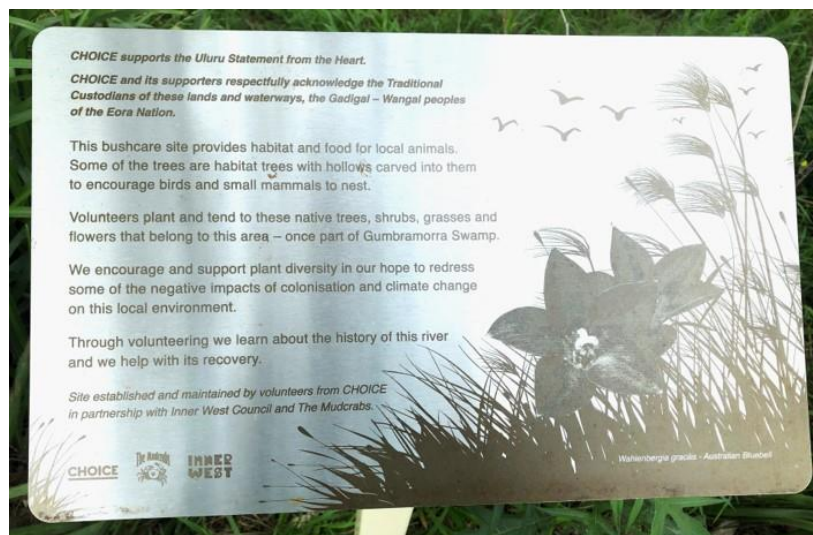
Peter Munro

About 6 years ago, staff from *Choice*, the Tempe based, leading consumer advocacy group in Australia, approached the Mudcrabs to enquire if we would join them in developing and maintaining a bush regeneration site in Mackey Park, next to the river.

Marrickville Council prepared the site and the Inner West Council provides ongoing support.

Choice staff are released from work for a couple of hours a month to plant, weed and tend the site, with support from the Mudcrabs. This is a small venture but has provided a great example of co-operation between Mudcrabs, Council and a local business. At our most recent working bee, we were excited to discover a hive of native bees in a hollow log on the site.

Well done *Choice* – a great local organisation.



Mudcrabs Christmas party 2022

Russ and Ranjith

The weather was quite kind to us and the 2022, Mudcrabs Christmas luncheon was well attended and enjoyed by all (we had about 40 people). As we did the previous year, we supplied a range of Greek and Lebanese food and continued our “green” theme of recycling.

All the main dishes were ordered through Brodie Smith and paid for by Canterbury Bankstown Council. The main courses of food were obtained from Zeus Street Greek, at Dulwich Hill and from Jasmin’s Lebanese restaurant at Lakemba. The various dishes proved to be very popular and of course, these were supplemented by a great selection of tasty offerings (cakes, nuts, fruit, etc) from the Mudcrabs themselves. Ranjith and I hope that everyone enjoyed the variety and were able to get a taste of everything.



From left (standing) the indefatigable Hans, Simin and Terry

Our continued emphasis on going GREEN at our functions worked very well. All the plates and cutlery were washed on the spot and are ready for our next function; we had very little general waste. It was great to see everyone in a relaxed atmosphere (not a weed in sight) and catch up on the “news”, talk about the past year and our plans for Christmas. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL.



Mudcrabs Christmas December 2022

Financial report for CRVA

Chris Shanley - CRVA Hon Treasurer

Report for 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Balance sheet

Assets

CBA account	19,961.58
TOTAL ASSETS	19,961.58

Liabilities

Unspent 2022-2023 Commonwealth Volunteer grant	5,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,000.00

Net assets	14,961.58
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Income and Expenditure

Operational Income

Membership fees	1,025.00
Donations	1,115.00
<u>Total operational income</u>	<u>2,140.00</u>

Income to be spent on Grants

Commonwealth 2022-2023 Volunteer Grant	5,000.00
Hawkes Landcare grant	3,300.00
<u>Total income from grants</u>	<u>8,300.00</u>

TOTAL INCOME	10,440.00
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Operational Expenditure

Insurance	640.01
Support of affiliated groups	1,460.58
Postage box and printing	323.74
Other expenses	3,648.90
<u>Total operational expenditure</u>	<u>6,551.23</u>

Expenditure on Grant activities

Hawkes Landcare grant	3,738.55
Commonwealth Stronger Communities Grant	8,800.00
Commonwealth 2021-2022 Volunteer Grant	5,000.00
<u>Total expenditure on grant activities</u>	<u>17,538.55</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	24,089.78
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Operational deficit	4,411.23
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Grants deficit	9,238.55
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TOTAL DEFICIT	13,649.78
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Notes to financial report

- Our overall financial situation remains stable and healthy.
- We have a significant deficit this year only because we spent money that we were holding over from last year for targeted grants (our Surplus last year was \$15,037.24).
- We completed and acquitted three grants during the financial year – Hawkes Landcare grant for a new bushcare site on the 18th Tee at Marrickville Golf Course; Commonwealth Volunteer Grant to run bushcare workshops for volunteers; and Commonwealth Stronger Communities Program to install sandstone seating at Ewen Park. Thanks again mainly to Gareth Wreford and Peter Munro for managing these grants.
- “Other expenses” include web hosting, Zoom account, IT support and GST payment.
- Current paid membership for CRVA is 112.
- It will continue to be important to fundraise through donations or other means to supplement income through membership fees.



Chris Shanley - CRVA Hon Treasurer,
10 July 2023

CRVA committee, 2022-23

President	Ann Leahy
Vice-president	Jennifer Newman
Secretary	Julie Corkery
Treasurer	Chris Shanley
Public officer	Chris Shanley
Mudcrabs officer	Ranjith Evas
General committee members:	
Gareth Wreford	
Jamie Honan	
Alison Gibbs	

Cooks River Valley Association

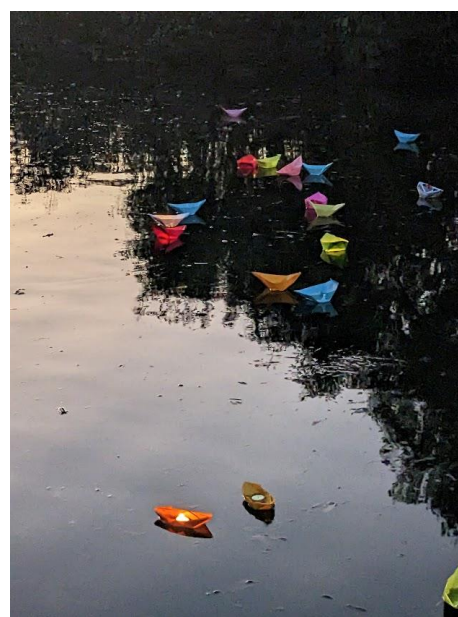
PO Box H150 Hurlstone Park NSW 2193

info@crva.org.au www.crva.org.au
www.facebook.com/CooksRiverValleyAssociation

We are all Cooks River People caring for country.



National Tree Planting Day, Wave Rock



Candles on the River