

Aboriginal river keepers get to work in catchment



Top trainees: (front, from left) Lex Gerasimou, Larissa Cooper, Nick Arends (standing) Blayde Foley, Vanessa Cavanagh and Shannon Beale-Bogg.

Picture: Jane Dyso

By **Murray Trembath**

AN ABORIGINAL bush regeneration team has begun work to improve biodiversity across the Georges River catchment.

The team will operate under the Riverkeeper program, operated by the Georges River Combined Councils Committee, with the help of federal government funding.

Four trainees, overseen by a project manager and supervisor, will be able to attain formal qualifications in conservation land management while carrying out the work.

Aboriginal land councils

within the catchment believe the initiative will build collective understanding and awareness of Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

"Rivers always were and always will be the providers of life for Aboriginal people, communities, nations and all living things," Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council chief executive Nathan Moran said.

"Prior to 1788 they were our responsibility to maintain, so to see four Aboriginal people gaining employment while completing educational qualifications . . . is close to a perfect outcome."

SITES TARGETED

The team will target sites nominated by member councils including:

- **Hurstville:** Myles Dunphy Reserve, Oatley.
- **Kogarah:** Oatley Point Reserve, Oatley, and Baldface Point Reserve, Blakehurst.
- **Rockdale:** Sandringham foredune, Sandringham, and Sans Souci foredune, Sans Souci.
- **Sutherland:** Carina Bay Reserve and Honeysuckle Reserve (Carina Creek), Como, and Green Point Reserve, Como.