



RIVERKEEPER PROGRAM REPORT

26 April 2012

In the 9 month period (year to date) to the end of March 2012 over 82.5 tonne of rubbish has been removed from the Georges River catchment. The monthly average of rubbish collection has increased to over 9 tonne per month and the Riverkeeper Program is likely to deliver over 100 tonnes of rubbish which is in excess of the program's target to collect just over 80 tonne from the river system in the 2011/2012 fiscal year. Over 19,400 hours of volunteer labour has been logged year to date on rubbish removal under the Riverkeeper Program.

Bush Regeneration activities have remained on hold while the Riverkeeper follows a rehabilitation plan following a workplace accident in early December.

In total 22,442 hours of volunteer labour has been used under the Riverkeeper Program in the first 9 months of the year. An additional Corrective Services team has been available 3 days per week since December 2011, the team is not a permanent addition to the Riverkeeper Program as Corrective Services put the bus on to run a new program in the Blue Mountains which has been put on hold until further notice, in the meanwhile the GRCCC has access to the team.

We are very pleased to announce that in the 12 months since our new Corrective Services Intensive Correction Order (ICO) Teams commenced at the GRCCC (from 1 April, 2011 to 31 March 2012) the teams have removed 103.4 tonne of rubbish.

The rehabilitation of the saltmarsh at Horning Street, Kurnell, has continued with 12.6 tonne of rubbish removed from the site. The GRCCC Riverkeeper program is involved in the project in conjunction with Sutherland Shire Council and the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority. To date 13 days work has been completed with Riverkeeper Teams involved in rubbish removal and hydrology repair to damage caused by unauthorised vehicle access. The bulk of the rubbish has now been removed from the site and the area will be added to the routine rubbish removal program, additionally at a later date Riverkeeper Teams will be involved in primary weeding of bitou bush and lantana along the edges of the saltmarsh community as well as planting of suitable indigenous saltmarsh species to a planting plan prepared by Associate Professor Paul Adam. Professor Adam is also looking at using the rehabilitation of the saltmarsh as a research site.

Recent Riverkeeper promotional activity has included a presentation to the Georges River Seniors group and Clean Up Australia Day promotion in the St George and Sutherland Shire Leader.

The Clean Up Australia Day (CUAD) program was postponed following heavy rains and minor flooding on the river due to safety concerns for participants. The CUAD day at Bolga Gong Island on Chipping Norton Lakes has been rescheduled to Saturday 21 April and the CUAD day on the Woronora River to be rescheduled with the 1st Caringbah Scouts at a date of their choosing.

Heavy rains and flooding in early March resulted in increased volumes of rubbish on the river. In response Riverkeeper Teams were allocated to key sites and rubbish collection at all sites increased significantly, at one location on Orphan School Creek, a tributary of Prospect Creek, 52 bags of rubbish was removed in one session. Arising from the flood event and the number of inquiries from the public we have produced a business card sized directory of who is responsible for what on the river and the appropriate contact details, this should make life a little bit easier for council staff and the public to find answer questions.

Work on the 2012/13 Riverkeeper Workplan and the 2011/12 Riverkeeper Report Card have commenced with the Workplan to be released on Monday, 4 June 2012 and the Report Card to be released on Wednesday, 25 July 2012.

Tony Wales
GRCCC Riverkeeper Coordinator

GRCCC RIVERKEEPER PROGRAM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Year To Date 2011/2012

As At: 1 April 2012

RUBBISH COLLECTION	83158	Kgs	Rubbish Collected
	2772		Syringes Collected
BUSH REGENERATION	21928	m2	Worked
	1078	m3	Green Waste
	1939	pcs	Plantings
	304	m2	Mulching
	26	mtr	Track Work
VOLUNTEERS	22442.85	hrs	Hours of Labour
EDUCATION & PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY	52.5	hrs	Councils & GRCCC

Full details and analysis of the Riverkeeper Statistics can be found on the GRCCC Website.