

COOKS RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



Goolay'yari (Pelican) on the Cooks River, photo Simin Ordokhani

COOKS RIVER VALLEY



association

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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.

The work of the Cooks River Valley Association and our affiliated groups, the Mudcrabs and the Mudlarks has expanded further this year. Aided by the unceasing energy and commitment of bushcare site coordinators such as Peter Munro, the Southbank site in Earlwood has progressed to include almost the entire southern riverbank between the Lang Rd and Foord Ave footbridges. The site, including a large new area established with the help of Landcare and Canterbury Bankstown Council behind Waterside Crescent, now contains well over 600 new native plants. Upstream, another cleanup site has been added at Lindsay St Walkway, Campsie.

Work is well underway on the production of the Mudcrabs 20th anniversary booklet, which is being produced by executive member and founding Mudcrab, Alison Gibbs. We have been aided in this endeavour by grants and donations from the NSW State Government, Cooks River Alliance, Inner West Council, Sydney Water and Choice Magazine, and we thank these organisations for their support. Look out for an announcement of our 20th birthday celebration and booklet launch in March 2025.

Bob Hawke established Landcare, and Hawkes Brewing continues to support local Landcare registered organisations, of which we are one. It is now a weekly ritual for Mudcrabs volunteers to run the Wednesday night raffle at the popular Hawkes Beer and Leisure Centre in Marrickville, with generous prizes donated by Hawkes Brewing, and 100 per cent of the proceeds going to the Mudcrabs (through the CRVA), making a huge difference to our capacity to buy tools, equipment, and other necessities.

As mentioned in the Mudcrabs report, Gareth Wreford was the well-deserved recipient of the Jack Munday Environmental Award at Canterbury Bankstown Council's 2024 Australia Day awards.

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.



Jenn acknowledges Country at our annual Candles on the River event in April 2024



Linda Burney thanks Mudcrabs volunteers. Farewell Linda, and thank you for your support over many years.

CRVA Grants and Funding

Gareth Wreford

Volunteer Grant \$5,000 – thank you Linda Burney

For 2023-24 the Mudcrabs were successful with another \$5,000 from the Commonwealth Volunteer Small Equipment grant program. Thanks in particular to local Federal MP Linda Burney for this support over many years. We've been able to purchase new tools, gloves, stakes, coir logs for bank stabilisation, and more of the Mudcrabs blue t-shirts.

Hawkes Beer and Leisure Centre

On 17 August 2023, the Mudcrabs ran their first Wednesday night raffle at Hawkes Beer and Leisure Centre in Marrickville. The raffles have since continued on a weekly basis. The funds raised, with the very generous support of Hawkes patrons, have so far allowed the Mudcrabs to purchase in excess of a thousand native plants for our 14 bush regeneration sites along the Cooks River. Funds from the raffle have also allowed us to purchase much needed tools and equipment, upgrade our communication network and cover many of the costs involved in running a large and very active volunteer environmental community group. Thanks to the staff at Hawkes Beer and Leisure Centre for their support and in particular to Sue Pieters-Hawke whose initial support and encouragement of the Mudcrabs established the weekly raffle.

CRVA Advocacy

Canterbury Bankstown Council

While we continue to praise the bushcare team and acknowledge the many skilled and knowledgeable staff within Council, there is ongoing frustration at the lack of systemic change in Council's approach to managing native vegetation outside of dedicated bushcare sites.

Council garden beds and reserves are routinely sprayed, and whipper snipped resulting in a cycle of green, yellow, brown and green vegetation that consists solely of weeds like cobblers pegs (Bidens) as they are the only things that will grow. While there are some trees being planted, there is still plenty of room for Council to increase planting in its garden beds and reserves. Council also



Examples of Council spraying along Cup and Saucer Creek, and near Karool Avenue

Trees damaged by mower (Boat Harbour), and ring-barked by whipper snipper (Ewen Park)

continues to spray weedkiller along waterways, around playgrounds, at the base of trees and around pieces of concrete. Then the mowing team sometimes damages trees with both mowers and whipper snippers.

The old Canterbury Council had an 'Adopt a Patch' program which allowed local residents to nominate an area they would volunteer to maintain. We understand that Canterbury Bankstown Council is looking to re-establish a version of this program.

Council is consulting on a draft Catchment and Waterways Strategic Plan, an Urban Forest and Biodiversity Strategic Plan, and the development of an Urban Forest Strategic Plan so there is change coming.

We also hope that, at some point in the future, there will be a greater degree of collaboration between the various parks and gardens staff and Council's biodiversity and bushcare teams. Meanwhile Council continues to miss a significant opportunity to increase the public amenity and habitat value of its land.

Canterbury Bankstown Climate Action Network (CBCAN)

The CRVA continues to participate in the Canterbury Bankstown Climate Action Network (CBCAN). The CBCAN continued its focus on tree planting and canopy cover across Council and met with the Mayor in July 2023. The Council's Urban Forest Strategy promised in 2020 may be delivered later in 2024. More recently CBCAN has been actively supporting a local [Earlwood community campaign](#) to stop Council removing mature trees and replacing them with non-native species. The CRVA has also written to Council suggesting it use its own [native plant selector](#) to guide replacement of any trees that must be removed.

Canterbury Racecourse Action Group (CRAG)

Sometimes no news may be good news, though the future of Canterbury Racecourse remains unclear. 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 to date have been unsuccessful in securing a student volunteer to produce a visual render of what the site could look like as a [park rather than apartments](#).

Meanwhile the [Canterbury Racecourse Master Plan](#) process appears to have stalled. And it still isn't clear whether the NSW Government intends to reintroduce [legislation for a moratorium on the sale of the racecourse](#).

Whatever the next steps, we hope for a greater level of transparency and community consultation about the future of the site.

Ewen Park Upgrade: Playspace, Path Widening, and Lighting

Council has consulted on what is three proposals in one for Ewen Park: to upgrade the playspace (next to the Lang Road bridge and outdoor education space), widen sections of the path towards Foord Avenue, and install path lighting.

Since November 2023, the CRVA has engaged with Council's consultation process and key staff. We are in the process of confirming a further meeting with the Mayor and senior Council staff hopefully to resolve some of the key concerns before any work commences.

Playspace

Council has indicated that it is 'comfortable' with a rubber crumb surface for the Ewen Park playspace. This is despite the European Union banning rubber crumb, despite a concerted NSW campaign to stop the use of rubber crumb, despite other Councils around Australia removing rubber crumb, and despite the solid evidence of rubber crumb surfaces increasing microplastic

pollution in waterways. The proposed playspace would also benefit from less concrete and more trees in its design.

Path Widening

Council contends that it has received multiple requests to widen the path – the exact number is unknown and it's unclear how these requests compare to consultation feedback expressing concerns, or against the inconsistent path widening that is being proposed. The current Council plan is for multiple changes in path width over a relatively short stretch of path which is more likely to increase negative interactions between pedestrians and cyclists. The CRVA preference is for funding to be spent on providing a raised path at the Ewen Park bushcare site. We have provided Council with multiple photos demonstrating the regular flooding in this area and resulting damage to surrounding parklands as pedestrians and cyclists try to avoid the ankle-deep water. We have asked that Council consider a raised path as the most effective intervention that will improve path access and usability for all.



The shared path at Ewen Park floods regularly – a raised path is a possible solution

Lighting

The CRVA notes that cyclists are required by law to have their own lights when cycling at night, and that Tennent Parade is already a well-lit pedestrian route, so we query the need for additional lighting along the river path. If a lighting trial must proceed then the CRVA has provided Council with information and links to wildlife friendly, dark sky certified, motion activated, vandal resistant bollards that could be tested along the Ewen Park section of the pathway.

Cooks Cove

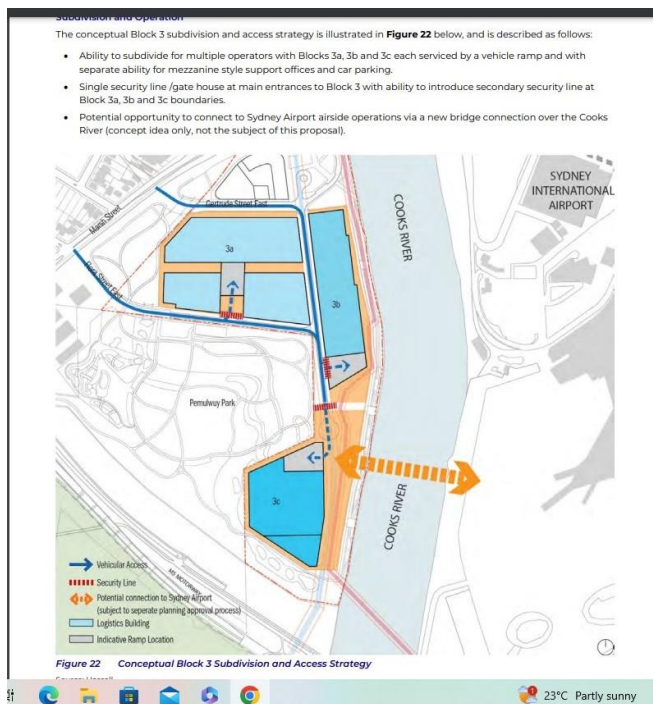
The Cooks Cove development continues its way through the NSW planning system with scant regard paid to community concerns about the scale and appropriateness of the proposal and the resulting loss of green space where the Kogarah Golf Course is.

On 8 April 2024, the [South East Sydney Planning Panel approved the development](#). In March 2024, the CRVA attended the Planning Panel hearings and used that as an opportunity to place our many concerns on the record.

Among the [30 documents exhibited](#) as part of the Cooks Cove development, there is one that describes and shows a proposed bridge from Cooks Cove to Sydney Airport. The CRVA has since written to Bayside Council asking if they knew and the response appears to indicate that Council staff were aware of the proposed bridge to the airport though this information was not passed on to Councilors when they were making a decision on the development. If the bridge goes ahead, subject to a separate development application, then it will be a significant and further encroachment on the first 20 metres of the planned riparian zone which already includes both a foot and cycle path.

The significant loss of mature trees on the existing golf course is dismissed as 'planted' vegetation and the loss of views and amenity for local apartment residents is minimised. The scale of the loss is only apparent from the aerial map *A19 Flora and Fauna Assessment (Part 3)* which shows the broad fairways interspersed with mature trees, the majority of which are native. These trees are to be replaced by 50-metre-high warehouses.

The *Open Space Attachment G4 - Agile Planning Agency & Council submissions summary and response* (p.41) states that “Extensive consultation has been undertaken with Bayside Council with regards to open space quantum and in terms of the master planning process for the future Pemulwuy Park”. The CRVA has queried the open space needs assessment given that 98 per cent of nearby Wollie Creek residents live in apartments. Bayside Council’s response states that open space needs were considered as part of the [2020 Bayside Local Strategic Planning Statement](#). This document contains no baseline data on the open space *needed* now or in response to population growth. Curiously what the document does clearly show is the Cooks Cove development site as part of the ‘high ecological value’ Cooks River open space and Rockdale Wetlands corridor.



(Left) *Warehouses and Proposed Bridge from Att A - Cooks Cove Planning Proposal Justification Report (2023)*
 (Right) *Bayside Local Strategic Planning Statement (2020) identifying the same area (the Green circled '1') as part of the 'high ecological value' Cooks River/Rockdale Wetlands open space corridor*

The CRVA will continue to ask questions about Cooks Cove, though it’s increasingly difficult to maintain hope for a good environmental and open space outcome.

Transport Oriented Development / Diverse and Well Located Housing

The CRVA participated in the Residents Action Coalition (RAC) of inner west community groups in responding to the NSW Government’s Transport Oriented Development (TOD) and Diverse and Well Located Housing reforms. The CRVA’s rationale for responding was both environmental and to promote a diverse and inclusive community within the Cook River catchment — we’re certainly not against development. Yet the current NSW Government reforms appear rushed and as poorly thought through as the previous NSW Government’s attempts to increase urban density.

The scale, speed and impact of the proposed changes indicate that the NSW Government appears to be abdicating responsibility for building equitable and well-serviced communities in favour of private developers as the only solution to delivering more housing. Without a clear market stewardship role, and leadership in collaboration with local councils on the design of communities and delivery of infrastructure needed to make them work, the current NSW Government proposals will see people on lower incomes locked out of Sydney forever while causing lasting environmental damage.

Affordable Housing

The current reforms allow developers to pocket significant additional profits now, through height bonuses, and in the future, once affordable housing returns to the open market. This is the very model that has failed in international centres like Barcelona. Any affordable housing (for key workers — teachers, nurses etc.) needs to be managed in perpetuity rather than returning to the open market in 15 years.

Community and Public Housing

Housing for low or fixed (Centrelink) income earners is completely different to affordable housing and a core issue on which the proposals are silent. In NSW, according to the Report on Government Services, the number of community and public housing dwellings actually dropped between 2022 and 2023. Unless the issue of community and public housing is addressed, a generation of citizens on low incomes will be locked out of housing and placed in further housing stress and homelessness. The CRVA supports a diverse mix of people from all walks of life being able to live close to the CBD with access to quality open spaces.

Infrastructure

There is no realistic plan to increase the infrastructure needed to support more density: parks and playing fields, natural open spaces, water, storm water, sewage, power, roads, schools, hospitals etc. Once again, we're left with a developer contribution model of infrastructure financing where the development happens first, then at some undetermined future point we may get more services.

New open space to support current density, let alone any future density, needs to be purchased/land-banked before rezoning and uplift increase the cost of land.

BASIX

The current NSW Government reforms are silent on amendments to BASIX. The BASIX sustainability standards for residential development is the tool to amend to ban dark roofs (as Rob Stokes tried and failed to do), stop further gas connections, and incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles to filter water and reduce run off before it pollutes waterways, a major issue for the Cooks River.

Tree Canopy Cover

The [December 2023 Greener Neighbourhoods Guide](#) contain inadequate tree canopy, deep soil and tree planting rate guidelines that will make it almost impossible for councils to achieve tree canopy targets. Increased deep soil and tree requirements are needed, along with a mandate to preserve existing mature trees.

Cooks River Revitalisation - New Policy Proposal – 2024/25 NSW Budget

In 2023, the CRVA did a desktop analysis of the [multiple reports into the Cooks River](#) that have resulted in very few improvements. Frustrated by the lack of action, we went large and developed a New Policy Proposal to target resources from the NSW Government's 2024/25 budget.

The Cooks River revitalisation proposal directly addresses three longstanding issues affecting the Cooks River catchment:

- 1) **Steel sheet piling:** replacing approx. 4.6 km of ageing and unsafe steel sheet piling owned primarily by the NSW Government with natural riverbanks. This work will be



Rusting steel sheet piling and riverbank subsidence at Earlwood presents an immediate danger to the public

prioritised based on the 2022 Cooks River Alliance and Crown Lands condition report that identified sections of the piling that presented an immediate risk to public safety.

- 2) **Concrete channeling:** bringing forward the replacement of approx. 13.5 km of concrete channeling in the main river owned by Sydney Water with natural riverbanks, where possible, and increasing canal amenity and passive recreation opportunities elsewhere. [Sydney Water responsibilities](#) are upstream from the Sugar Mill at Canterbury, and the Alexandria Canal. Sydney Water currently prioritises channel naturalisation work based on the asset's lifespan, which can be decades. Bringing this work forward, in keeping with Sydney Water's own objectives to naturalise waterways, will contribute to water quality and community amenity while increasing the mental and physical health of local residents. Where existing infrastructure constrains naturalization, international examples show how concrete channeling can be modified to provide amenity, recreation and environmental benefits.
- 3) **Stormwater mitigation:** Legislation to ensure Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) measures to see stormwater on public and private property filtered before it enters the stormwater system. Unlike other jurisdictions (e.g. Victoria) NSW has no legislative instruments that require WSUD stormwater systems. Unfiltered stormwater, sewerage leakage and overflow after rain are the major causes of poor water quality in the Cooks River. Additional on-ground measures will create bio retention and filtration assets (ponds and wetlands).

Progressing the three elements together allows for an alignment of government, local council, business and community stakeholder interests for the benefit of the whole catchment.

The proposal also directly delivers on the current NSW Government-funded Cooks River Masterplan, and ongoing Coastal Management Plan processes.

The Cooks River Revitalisation Proposal gathered some momentum with the following MPs making representations to Minister for the Environment Penny Sharpe:

- Jo Haylen
- Sophie Cotsis
- Jason Yat Sen Li
- Jihad Dib

In addition, the following Councils in the Cooks River catchment passed Notices of Motion in support of the CRVA proposal:

- Bayside
- Inner West
- Burwood
- Canterbury Bankstown

The Cooks River Alliance (of Councils including Strathfield) has also [confirmed its support for the CRVA proposal](#).

While we were unsuccessful in attracting resources from the NSW 2024/25 budget, the underlying issues are not going away, and neither is the CRVA, so watch this space as we ponder where to from here.



Cheonggyecheon Stream Restoration Project in Seoul, South Korea, one of many international examples of concrete-lined channels being revitalised to provide both community amenity and environmental benefits

Mudcrabs annual report

Ranjith Evas, Coordinator for the Mudcrabs

After 20 years of volunteering on the shores of the Cooks River, the Mudcrabs have become an integral part of the river community. We have around 600 registered volunteers on our mailing list and a core group of close to 100 volunteers who turn up at multiple sites along the river week after week. It is heartening to observe younger volunteers coming along to carry our work into the future.

Below is a summary of activities Mudcrabs volunteers participated in, other than our regular calendar events. Detailed reports of calendar events are given by site coordinators in another section.

Peter Munro and Doug Benson did a presentation at the Greater Sydney Landcare Network meeting organised by Canterbury Bankstown Council at Hurlstone Park Community Centre on 14 July 2023. Well done Peter and Doug for presenting the work of the Mudcrabs and the Mudlarks to Landcare groups.

The Mudcrabs participated in a tree planting event organised by City of Canterbury Bankstown and Greater Sydney Landcare at Avoca Avenue Reserve at Belfield on 4 November, 2023. Due to the poor nature of soil at the site and difficulty in watering, many plants have since been lost. Peter Munro, Doug Benson and Chris Rapp were instrumental in planning and organising this event. Well done to you all and the volunteers regardless of the less than favourable outcome.

Rosedale Reserve, the first site established by our founder, Chris Bartlett, received new signage from Canterbury Bankstown Council in November 2023. It is nice to have a proper sign acknowledging the work of our volunteers over the past 20 years. Well done to Russel Cail and Mike Aldridge for many years of sending emails to Council requesting this sign.

The Mudcrabs team at Marrickville Golf Course guided 37 corporate volunteers from ING bank, along with Greater Sydney Landcare and Marrickville Golf Course management, to plant 400 trees and shrubs on 25 September 2023. Well done Peter Munro, Doug Benson and Chris Rapp for the guidance provided to new volunteers.

In December, the Mudcrabs celebrated its annual Christmas party and end-of-year gathering at Rosedale Reserve. The majority of the workload for organising and coordinating the event was done by Russell Cail. Well done Russ for another fantastic party for our volunteers. The food at the event was funded by Canterbury Bankstown Council. We thank the Council's Alison Tran for coordinating the funding for the event.

In January, Mudcrabs coordinator Gareth Wreford won the 2024 Jack Munday Environment and Heritage Award from Canterbury Bankstown Council. Gareth, who was overseas during the ceremony, was later handed the award during a CRVA meeting by President Ann Leahy.

His nomination reads:

“Gareth has been an outstanding and tireless volunteer for the Mudcrabs, a grassroots environmental group who work on the Cooks River. He is also an executive member of the Cooks River Valley Association and has a key role in the organisation, planning and decision making of



*Gareth Wreford, winner of the CBC
Jack Munday Environmental award 2024*

both the Cooks River Valley Association and its affiliated groups.” Well done Gareth and a well-deserved award.

On 25 February 2004, a memorial stone was laid for Sue Bishop, a previous coordinator of our Ewen Park site. Sue was a kind and caring person to be around and is greatly missed by the volunteers at Ewen Park. Well done to Ann Leahy for getting the memorial stone installed at Ewen Park site.

The Mudcrabs were featured on The [Neighbourhood Media](#) website focusing on Marrickville.

Federal member for Barton the Hon. Linda Burney MP invited Mudcrabs volunteers for a morning tea on 24 May 2024. Linda Burney has been a solid supporter of our volunteer group. She has decided to retire from active political representation by the end of this year and will be much missed. Thank you, Linda.

In May, Sydney Water installed new gates and ladders along the river at Canterbury and Campsie, allowing our volunteers to safely enter the river during cleanups. Thank you to Michelle Ajaka from Sydney Water and Jason L’ecuyer from the Cooks River Alliance who facilitated the work.

On 8 June 2024, Mudcrabs volunteers took part in a tree planting event organised by Greater Sydney Landcare at Waterside Crescent, Earlwood. Around 46 volunteers attended the event and planted 525 native trees and shrubs. We are looking forward to this site becoming a regular monthly work site in future.

Mudcrabs volunteers have been actively participating in the funding opportunity provided by Hawkes Brewing at Marrickville. Proceeds from their Wednesday night raffle at the Bob Hawke Beer and Leisure Centre are donated to the Mudcrabs, helping us buy plants and fund our activities at all our sites along the river. A big thank you to Hawkes Brewing for their continued support.



Landcare planting day – Southbank, Earlwood

We are producing a commemorative booklet and holding an event to mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Mudcrabs in March 2025. The project is well underway thanks to Peter Munro and Alison Gibbs, a long-time Mudcrab who is researching and writing the booklet.

I thank all our volunteers who come to our working bees and have turned Mudcrabs into the success that it is today. Our site coordinators deserve special thanks as running a working bee starts much earlier and ends much later than the actual working bee hours. All our activities are insured and our funding secured through our partnership with the Cooks River Valley Association. A special thank you to all executives of the CRVA for being strong supporters of the Mudcrabs. Our website hosting and Mailerlite system is maintained by Chris Rapp who has been doing a splendid job over the years as our in-house IT person. As always, Gareth Wreford has been able to secure another round of funding from Linda Burney’s volunteer grants program this year. Well done Gareth. Thank you also to Marrickville Golf Club and President Andrew Tighe for supporting the Mudcrabs’ extensive work on the golf course precinct.

I hope to see all our volunteers and associates continue their support and participation in our work along the river. Thank you.

Mudcrabs bushcare sites

Rosedale Reserve, Croydon Park

Russell Cail

Summary of the year's activities at Rosedale:

Needless to say, one of our major activities for the year was the removal of weeds but, in addition, we undertook an intensive program of cardboarding and mulching in the belief that, according to the long-range weather forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), we would have some very hot dry conditions over the next 12 months or so. However, while the weather was very hot and at times quite dry, there were bursts of intense rain activity which encouraged the growth of everything. In fact, in early April, a combination of high tides and very heavy rain resulted in some quite serious flooding of our site. We estimate that it was over 2 metres high, taken from the bank at the fence-line. Fortunately, we only lost a couple of smaller trees but quite a few were pushed over by the force of the water, and we had to stake them and remove a very large amount of rubbish that had piled up on them. The flip side to this was that quite a few piles of our rubbish are now somewhere downstream and heading for NZ (Fig. 1)! The photo shows some of the debris left along the fence line at the bottom of Hampton Street.



Fig. 1 — Flood debris at the end of Hampton St



Fig. 2 — In-fill planting

Our site continues to mature well, so I am now concentrating our efforts on filling in smaller, bare patches (Fig. 2). The photo shows a section of the site, which we have mulched and planted with a variety of bottle brushes, tea trees, hop bushes, banksias and grasses such as kangaroo grass, and wallaby grass to augment the existing plants. The lower, wetter parts have been planted with a mixture of *Juncus spp*, *Ficinia nodosa* (nobby club rush) and *Gahnia clarkei* (sword grass). Hopefully, once they develop, these areas will further attract wildlife, especially the smaller birds, by providing cover and food sources (insects, nectar, etc.).

We have had a number of very pleasing successes with some plants. The saltbushes (*Einadia polgoniodes* and *E. nutans*) 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. These plants have continued to grow well and other ferns have sprung up in the wet conditions. With all the wet weather and the growth of trees providing shade and protection, we have now identified several additional sites which, we believe, have suitable conditions for supporting the growth of ferns and reeds (Fig. 3). The photo shows an area of ferns (*Hypolepis muelleri*), beside the track down to the frog ponds, which is growing very well.

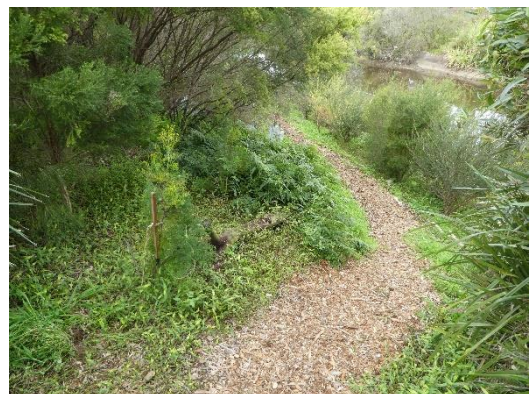


Fig. 3 — Ferns and track to the frog-ponds

Storms and strong winds have blown over several older trees (mainly wattles) that were already diseased and rotting and we have had to spend time clearing and opening up these areas, so that we can safely work there.

We continued weeding around the frog ponds but there remains much work to do in this area; we have large invasions of couch and tradescantia to deal with. It is a source of some frustration, but the frogs seem to be quite happy (Fig. 4 and 5)!



Fig. 4 — The frog ponds and environs

The Bushcare Group (Peter Goss) at Canterbury Bankstown Council has installed a new “Mudcrabs” sign near Chris Bartlett's interpretive sign. It looks very good (Fig. 6) but we still have a problem with people removing our corflute signs that advertise who we are and what we do.

As always, 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 CRVA and of course all the Mudcrabs volunteers 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.



Fig. 5 — Clearing a bad infestation of trad

In the last 12 months, our volunteers put in about 350 hours of work at our regular working bees, together with a further >200 hours spent during the week by some volunteers. We collected 114 bags of weeds which were sent to waste, plus we created quite a few, very large piles of weeds as part of our policy to limit the number of bags being disposed of as waste. We hope that these piles will eventually mulch down.

Future: We will continue our work on in-fill planting, 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 also redouble our efforts around the frog ponds, to try and get on top of the weeds there.



Fig. 6 — Council sign and our own corflute sign

The Saltmarsh at Gough Whitlam Park, Tempe Russell Cail

The Gough Whitlam salt marsh was constructed by Canterbury Council in 2007. Salt marshes 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) surrounding vegetation. 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 continued to show positive improvements, so much so, that about half of our working bees in the past year (2023/24) were cancelled, either due to rain or a lack of weeds. As I mentioned in my report last year, a number of salt bush plants *Einadia hastata* and *Einadia polygonoides* have begun to self-sow in the site. The *Callistemon citrinus* and the *Kunzea ambigua* plants are also growing quite well. Perhaps not unexpectedly, the grevilleas (*G. serica*) are not really suited to the area, and several have died. Unfortunately, the tea trees (*Leptospermum squarrosum*) we planted 12 months ago are also struggling and we lost several *Westringia fruticosa* plants, that had been growing well on the islands, due to dry conditions in November and 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 understorey 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, such as kunzeas and *Bursaria spinosa* shrubs, on the “islands” as well as concentrating on improving the biological diversity on the margins, beside the footpath and the road. In addition, I am also trialing different plants such as wattles in the hope that I can find some which can survive the conditions.

I would like to thank Mr Peter Goss who is our regular contact at Canterbury Bankstown Council and who has provided many of the plants and much appreciated advice. In the last twelve months 19 volunteers spent about 50 hours on site. We removed 5 bags of weeds and rubbish and created several piles of mulch from weeds that had not gone to seed.



Ongoing weeding, mulching and planting on the 'islands' at the salt marsh

Ewen Park, Hurlstone Park

Ann Leahy and Keith Foulcher

Nestled between the river and the Ewen Park sports oval, this site is now large, mature, and quite shady, full of native trees, shrubs and ground covers. Most people think it is a wild, original section of bushland, but it was a completely blank and empty mulched site when it was established in 2009. It is extremely well used and loved by the public, especially when heavy rain floods the footpath (which is a frequent occurrence) diverting all foot traffic along the mulched paths through the site. Along the way, people appreciate the tranquil and diverse site, often stopping to sit on the new sandstone seating area at the western end (thanks to a previous council grant). Now planted out, this area makes a lovely refuge with an open view of the river and joins our site with Foord Ave bushcare site, creating a wildlife corridor along the river in which herons, swamphens and waterbirds are now regularly seen.

Between the melalucas behind the sandstone seating, we recently installed a small memorial rock with a plaque in memory of Sue Bishop, who was a much loved and enthusiastic co-founder of the Friends of Ewen Park, and the Ewen Park Mudcrabs bushcare site. We held a commemorative morning tea after the wedding bee to share our memories of Sue.

We have had very wet conditions this year, and the river broke its banks and flooded much of the site in April, leaving debris and washing out many plants and grasses. Intensive re-mulching and planting have helped to restore and revitalise the site. Thanks to Keith's persistent weekly work and our monthly working bees, everything is well planned and cared for, and looks particularly beautiful in winter when the wattle is flowering. We are grateful for the ongoing help from volunteers to keep on top of the weeds, and to repair and mulch the paths after heavy rain and foot traffic, maintaining the site for the benefit of the whole community.

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.



Sandstone seating, western end of the site



Sharing stories of Sue Bishop, and dedicating a memorial rock



Lenie Wang (centre) created a beautiful brochure featuring the Mudcrabs, joined by uni friends and volunteers at a wedding bee

Foord Avenue, Hurlstone Park 2023-34

Liz Millen and Doug Benson

This year we celebrated 15 years of working bees at the Foord Avenue site! We've been lucky to maintain a high level of volunteers at this site — an average of 15 people at each working bee through this year, which is a great effort, with many regular and occasional participants and even some overseas visitors. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed this year. Rain caused one cancellation; amazingly the records show this was only the fifth cancellation since we started in 2009.



Expanding borders

This year we've continued to stretch our boundaries and increase bird habitat by expanding from our current planted areas to replace more grass with a variety of native plants. Thanks to Canterbury Bankstown Council for ongoing support with edging stones and mulch, and to Hawkes Brewing for a great supply of plants and tools.

In August and September, we joined with the Ewen Park crew to plant out the riverside area next to the new sandstone seating blocks that the council installed. This has proved a popular place for people to stop, reflect, eat a picnic or meditate — the spot provides one of the best views along the river — and represents a welcome change from the unused, hard-packed dirt which was there before.



Young volunteer

In April we had the second of two very wet months. The riverside area near the bridge was inundated (see picture below), as was the 'lookout' platform at the Eastern end, and a great deal of mulch and log edgings were washed away.

We've worked hard to restore the site, and now a few months later, things are back to normal, and the rain has resulted in lots of new growth which is welcomed by the birds. The Mudlarks were excited to see a Golden Whistler at our site.



*Tea tree - *Leptospermum polygalifolium**



Foord Ave group celebrating 15 years



Riverside path underwater April 24



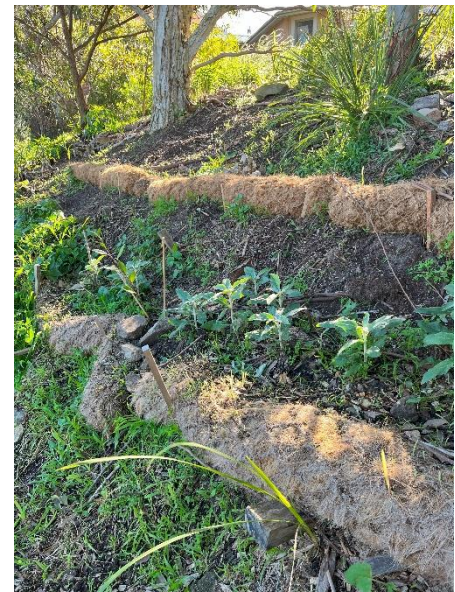
Site tour

Sugar Mill, Hurlstone Park

Ben Denham and Coco Cifuentes

After all the preparation and expansion on the site last year, we have planted around 450 tubestock with the help of our volunteers. We have planted mostly blady grass, kangaroo apples, and a few other bushes on the slope from the bottom up. This makes a significant difference during heavy rain. We've expanded the north side, and the west end. The north has more sunny areas, allowing us to plant different bushes and grasses. On the west end, which is shadier, we started planting native grasses and vines.

We also installed around 20 coir logs on the steepest parts of the slope, creating terraces that will help with erosion and allow us to plant out the more difficult sections next year. We have planted kangaroo apples in the steep area near the east side - towards the bridge.



Coir terrace



Ranjith, Sam (kneeling) Heather and Brian



Flourishing ferns

18th Tee Bushcare site, Marrickville Golf Course

Chris Rapp, Doug Benson and Peter Munro

Following two great growing seasons, the 18th Tee site (started May 2022) is showing very strong growth and regeneration of native plants. This multi-tiered site just west of the Marrickville Golf Club is a recent Mudcrabs site and it now is a showcase for the efforts of the many Mudcrabs volunteers who have turned up on the first Sunday morning of each month over the past two+ years.



Groundcovers enhance the natural sandstone outcrops

The site has a number of small unique environments, from a shady, damp gully to sunny sandstone ridges with large native figs (1943). The initial plantings are all doing well — especially the Acacias, Banksias and remnant native grasses (inc. *Microlaena*) and vines (Native Grape).



Acacia plantings after 18 months (more to come)

It is very satisfying to report that the cardboard/mulch strategy has contained the Kikuyu infestation alongside the golf cart path. Also, many sessions of diligent hand-weeding of the Madeira seedlings have removed a major weed re-emergence threat from the site. We still have some dense Madeira on the high ridge above the tee, but we now know how to tackle it successfully.

The diverse nature of the 18th Tee site allows plenty of scope for different bushcare activities and we have to thank our growing band of volunteers who have turned up regularly (even on the cold, wet Sunday mornings).

As well as the valuable contribution of local volunteers, we have received great support from the Marrickville Golf Club management and staff, and we are looking to continue re-establishing local native habitat in other natural areas of the golf course environs.

A number of Landcare events have almost doubled the size of the regenerated area. These new stands of native shrubs and understorey will go a long way towards the reinstatement of native Cooks River Valley bushland areas which will provide greater amenity to all users of the Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course.



Some of our regulars – March 2024

Southbank, Earlwood

Brent Jones and Peter Munro

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 along the crushed sandstone path that runs through the site.

The Mudcrabs have been managing the site since October 2021 and have contributed more than 600 volunteer hours to maintain and improve this special riparian habitat. We have planted more than 350 native grasses, ground covers and shrubs into the site which has flourished.

Southbank is a great place to do bushcare, being close to the many people who walk the path every day, you 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.

We decided this year that we wanted to extend the site towards the Foord Ave footbridge. Of six possible options, the site nearest to the Foord Ave footbridge was identified as the best place to start. Eventually all six zones will be planted out to create a continuous riparian vegetation community between the footpath and the river's edge.

This first site was planted out in June 2024, with 400 tube stock going into the ground. Thank you to all 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.



*Site extension, near Foord Avenue Footbridge
From left, Doug, Chris, Tony, Lea, Jamie, Peter, Brent and Ned the dog*

Choice Bushcare site – Mackey Park

Peter Munro

This small natural bush pocket sits near the river's edge in Mackey Park, Marrickville. Known as "The Choice Garden" it is the collaborative work of staff from *Choice*, the Tempe based, leading consumer advocacy group in Australia, the Mudcrabs and Inner West Council. *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 provides a great example of cooperation between Mudcrabs, Council and a local business. At our most recent working bees, we have been weeding and planting, to develop the understory for local fauna. Well done *Choice* – a great local organisation.



*A great turn out for the planting day with
Greater Sydney Landcare*



Burnett St Reserve, Hurlstone Park

Gareth Wreford

As with all the Mudcrabs sites, another year of significant rain has seen tremendous growth alongside a few casualties like Hakeas and Acacias that stayed waterlogged for a little too long. With a slightly irregular monthly working bee schedule, it's always pleasing to have a mix of regular and new volunteers. This year we continued to maintain the rainforest pocket which is doing well overall so long as we can stay on top of the trad (*Tradescantia albiflora*) and devil's ivy (unknown species though most likely an escaped house plant). The edges of some existing garden beds are expanding including the nature strip along Hopetoun Street to Smith Avenue with thanks to the adjoining unit owners for their support. Thanks also to Canterbury Bankstown Council's bushcare team led on the ground by Peter Goss, and also Dave who delivers the mulch and clears away the green waste.



*September 2023 working bee:
Warren, Lea, Carolyn, Jenny and Judy*

Native Plant Propagation

As an entirely volunteer-driven organisation, the CRVA/Mudcrabs rely on Council, grants and fundraising to meet out-of-pocket costs. One of the major challenges we face is having enough plants to keep sites healthy and to expand. Another option is to grow your own. I started some years ago with lomandra, dianella and microlaena and have continued to produce whatever can be grown easily from seed with a focus on groundcovers and understory plants. These are often the missing pieces in bushcare sites where we have a mix of trees and midstorey shrubs.

With some potting mix and an expanding collection of pots and trays, I'm able to produce about 2000 seedlings a year from locally collected seed — and sometimes more in the Autumn and Spring growing seasons. Over the course of 2023/24, hedgehog grass, wallaby grass, barbed wire grass, knobby club rush, kangaroo apples, paper daisies, vanilla lilies, and forest bindweed all did well. Even buying in bulk, they'd cost about \$2.50 each so the value is significant, and the benefits can be seen at Burnett Street in particular.



Seedtrays and tubestock - all home grown

Mudcrabs river cleanups

Close St, Canterbury Cleanup

Ranjith Evas

The incredible Mudcrabs volunteers who turn up every month on the first Saturday have successfully completed another year of volunteering at Close Street, Canterbury. Monthly cleanups at our regular patch at Close Street have reduced the litter in our area considerably. Now we need to venture out to Foord Avenue and St Mary Mckillop Reserve across the river to find more plastic rubbish. Our dedicated volunteers have spent 220 hours working at Close Street and removed 39 bags of plastic pollution from the river this year. Since the cleanup site at Close Street was established in 2018, our volunteers have spent a total of 1,640 hours volunteering and have removed 1,197 bags of plastic pollution from the river including this year. See the detailed statistics for this year.

I would like to thank all volunteers who turn up for cleanups at Close Street. Special thanks to Moz Le and Farah Abdi who comes early to set up and stay back to pack up on cleanup days. Thank you to Alison Tran and Peter Goss (staff at Canterbury Bankstown Council) for supplying bags to collect rubbish from the river and remove the filled bags from cleanups sites. I would also like to thank Michelle Ajaka from Sydney Water and Jason L'ecuyer from Cooks River Alliance for organising new gates and ladders along Cooks River to safely access the river for our volunteers.

The need for volunteers to pick up plastic pollution from our river is a failure of policy and regulatory framework from all three levels of government and business leaders. The success of the container deposit scheme "Return and Earn" has tremendously reduced the number of plastic bottles in the river. The NSW State Government should show leadership and enact similar legislation to protect our river environment from pollution. Along with retail businesses like Coles, Woolworths and Aldi, they are yet to make any serious commitment to soft plastic collection and recycling. There is still no legislation to reduce the unnecessary packaging of vegetables as seen in countries like France. I would like to urge our volunteers to get involved in shaping policy and legislation to protect our environment. Hope to see you all for another year of volunteering along the river or until our services are no longer required due to a clean, pristine river.

Date	No.	Bags	Notes
05/08/23	6	3	
02/09/23	12	5	
07/10/23	15	10	
04/11/23	18	5	
02/12/24	18	6	
03/02/24	n/a	n/a	Cancelled - illness
02/03/24	19	14	
06/04/24	n/a	n/a	Cancelled - flooding
04/05/24	n/a	n/a	Cancelled - heavy rain/flooding
01/06/24	12	10	
Total	82	39	



Volunteers rewarded with organic pumpkins from Moz Le's home

Canterbury Racecourse River Cleanup

Alison Gibbs and Alison Thorpe

We held three of our quarterly cleanups behind Canterbury Racecourse during the year, with the July event cancelled after heavy rain. In total, 59 volunteers pulled 70 bags of rubbish out of the mangroves at this site, along with larger items such as shopping trolleys, milk crates, bicycle wheels, road signs and office furniture.

For the first time in four years, we registered our March cleanup as a Clean up Australia Day (CUAD) event. Thirty people turned out, including several families with children, showing that, despite its lower profile, CUAD remains an effective way to attract new volunteers.

We had two new gates and sets of steps installed along our stretch of the river, thanks to Michelle Ajaka from Sydney Water and Jason L'ecuyer from the Cooks River Alliance. These have opened up new areas of the mangroves for cleaning and made accessing the riverbank safer and easier for us all.

Thanks to everyone who turned out to help us during the year. Special thanks to Moz Le, who brings his trolley bike to all our river cleanups and ferries the heavy bags of rubbish to the collection point.



*Simin and Moz celebrate our new gates installed by Sydney Water (above)
The Canterbury Racecourse cleanup crew (below)*



Mudlarks

Mudlarks: Boat Harbour and Wave Rock

Jennifer Kent and Chris Rapp

The Mudlarks enjoyed another successful year surveying birds along the Boat Harbour and Wave Rock routes. There was an increase in the average number of participants to 18 on both routes. There was only a slight difference in the average number of species, 36.3 for Boat Harbour and 34.5 for Wave Rock.



The Lang Road bridge has been an excellent viewing point to see Striated Herons, Dusky Moorhens, Australasian Grebes, Darters, Chestnut and Grey Teals and Pacific Black Ducks. It has also provided a panoramic view of the fishing behavior of Little Black Cormorants. Due to the bridge's elevation, it was easier to identify individuals and flocks of birds such as Welcome Swallows and White-throated Needletails.

A White-faced Heron and Royal Spoonbill were regularly sighted along the river while two Australasian Swamphens have been seen towards Hurlstone Park.

Superb Fairy-wrens continue to be regularly sighted at the Foord Avenue bushcare site especially in damp weather. A Golden Whistler, King Parrots and Red Wattlebirds are also occasionally seen.

The Cup and Saucer Wetlands have proved to be a safe habitat for breeding and shy birds, such as the Buff-banded Rail. The recent removal of sludge from the rear pond should attract more bird activity.

At Beaman Park after wet weather, Magpie Larks, Magpies, Australian White Ibis and Australian Wood Ducks congregated. As on the Boat Harbour route, flowering Eucalyptus attracted parrots including Eastern Rosellas and Musk Lorikeets. Australasian Figbirds were commonly seen on both sides of the river, and it was very encouraging to identify three Silvereyes. It is hoped that with the creation of more bushcare sites along the Marrickville Golf Course such small birds will be seen more frequently.



Buff-banded Rail - David Noble

At the Dibble Street Waterhole, Australasian Grebes, Dusky Moorhens and Eurasian Coots have been seen. The dense growth of reeds provides more protection, but it makes identifying birds more difficult.

A significant highlight was three Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos following participants to morning tea.

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



Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos - David Noble

Mudlarks: Rosedale Reserve

Alison Gibbs

Since 2018, a small group of Mudcrabs has been conducting monthly bird surveys of a 400m stretch of the 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 bushcare 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 51 bird species at Rosedale in the year 2023/24. Highlights included sightings of a group of three Nankeen Night Herons (probably parents and a juvenile), a King Parrot (rarely seen at this site), a Sacred Kingfisher, an Australian Hobby and a flock of more than 100 Little Black Cormorants. We celebrated the return of White-plumed Honeyeaters, including one who was regularly found feeding in a small eucalypt at the eastern end of the site. Superb Fairywrens, Silvereyes and Red-Browed Finches are often seen at Rosedale during the day, but early morning sightings of these small birds remain frustratingly intermittent.



*The Rosedale Mudlarks: Simin, Penny, Alison and Russell.
Absent: Kerry Ann*



New Holland Honeyeaters are regularly seen at Rosedale



*Australian Hobby (Little Falcon) perched above the bushcare site, keeping a close eye on our frog ponds
Bird photography by Simin Ordokhani*



Our 'resident' White-plumed honeyeater



Superb fairy wren

Mudcrabs Christmas Party 2023

Russ and Ranjith

It was great to see everyone at our Christmas lunch. We had about 40 people and we were fortunate, in that the forecast rain did not occur. Everyone seemed to have a good time, catching up with friends and associates.

As was the case last year, the main courses of food were obtained from Jasmin's Lebanese restaurant at Lakemba (they also added some freebies in the form of pickled vegies) and the Greek offerings (spanakopita and vine leaves) were purchased from local shops in Marrickville. The various dishes proved to be very popular, and our thanks go to Canterbury Bankstown Council who paid for the food. Finally, last, but not least, many thanks to all of you who bought some tasty nibbles, cakes and fruit.

We continued our emphasis on going GREEN and this year, we minimized the "tinsel" effect and prepared our Christmas decorations using old Christmas cards and photos (of nature of course), plus we also picked some flowers and greenery, fresh from the site. All the plates and cutlery were washed on the spot and are ready for next year. The bottles and cans were recycled, and the organic waste went to a worm farm.

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.



A very Muddy Christmas, December 2023

Financial report for CRVA

Chris Shanley - CRVA Hon Treasurer
Report for 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

Balance sheet

Opening balance 30 June 2023 19,961.58

Assets

CBA Society Cheque Account 17,760.62
CBA Term Deposits 25,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS 42,760.62

Liabilities

Unspent 2024 Commonwealth Volunteer grant 1,789.38
Unspent Mudcrabs Booklet project 14,250.00
Unspent Hawkes Tubestock project 2,681.90
TOTAL LIABILITIES 18,721.28

Net assets 24,039.34

Income and Expenditure

Operational Income

Membership fees 1,135.00
Donations 12,472.00
Other income 3,205.22
Total operational income 16,812.22

Income to be spent on Grants

Commonwealth 2024 Volunteer Grant 5,000.00
Mudcrabs Booklet 17,350.00
Hawkes Tubestock grant 5,000.00
Total income from grants 27,350.00

TOTAL INCOME 44,162.22

Operational Expenditure

Insurance 655.00
Support of affiliated groups 3,988.12
Postage box and printing 323.80
Events 1,518.11
Other expenses 1,249.43
Total operational expenditure 7,734.46

Expenditure on Grant activities

Commonwealth 2022-2023 Volunteer Grant 5,000.00
Commonwealth 2024 Volunteer Grant 3,210.62
Mudcrabs Booklet Grant 3,100.00
Hawkes Tubestock Grant 2,318.10
Total expenditure on grant activities 13,628.72

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 21,363.18

Operational surplus 9,077.76

Grants surplus 13,721.28

TOTAL SURPLUS 22,799.04

Notes to financial report

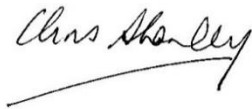
We have accumulated a considerable surplus this year. This is partly because of the very generous donations from weekly raffles held at the Bob Hawke Beer and Leisure Centre (\$12,022), which are greatly appreciated. A number of Mudcrabs/CRVA volunteers have attended and managed these raffles each week and their role is also greatly appreciated. The surplus is also because we are holding grant money for several projects that will need to be spent in the next financial year.

We completed and acquitted a Commonwealth 2022-2023 Volunteer Grant. We have received grant funding of \$17,350 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Mudcrabs with a booklet and events; \$5,000 for a Commonwealth 2024 Volunteer Grant; and a grant of \$5,500 from the Bob Hawke Beer and Leisure Centre for the purchase of tubestock for Mudcrabs sites. Thanks mainly to Gareth Wreford, Peter Munro and Alison Gibbs for managing these grants.

“Other income” includes GST refund, CBC contribution to Mudcrabs Xmas lunch, and \$500 allocation for administration of the Hawkes tubestock grant.

“Other expenses” include web and email hosting, Zoom account, and a memorial stone in Ewen Park for Sue Bishop.

Current paid membership for CRVA is 104.



Chris Shanley - CRVA

Hon Treasurer, 10 July 2024

CRVA committee, 2023-24

- President Ann Leahy
- Vice-president Jennifer Newman
- Secretary Julie Corkery
- Treasurer Chris Shanley
- Public officer Chris Shanley

General committee members:

- Ranjith Evas Mudcrabs Officer
- Gareth Wreford
- Jamie Honan
- Alison Gibbs
- Peter Munro

Cooks River Valley Association

PO Box H150 Hurlstone Park NSW 2193

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www.facebook.com/CooksRiverValleyAssociation

We are all Cooks River People caring for country.



*Winter sunset on the Cooks River: a darter dries its wings
Photos – Ann Leahy*