

OurRiver Newsletter | August 2010



2010 Green Globe Awards winners at the Awards Presentation at NSW Parliament House.

OurRiver – the Cooks River Sustainability Initiative – is about communities, businesses and councils working together in a new way for the long-term improvement of the Cooks River Catchment – reducing pollution, developing sustainable water sources and creating water wise communities.

The OurRiver project was initiated by the Cooks River Foreshores Working Group and is funded by the NSW Environmental Trust Urban Sustainability Program. OurRiver is a partnership of eight councils within the Cooks River Catchment (Ashfield, Bankstown, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Hurstville, Marrickville, Rockdale, Strathfield) and Monash University. The goal of OurRiver is to establish the Cooks River Catchment as a leading model of collaborative urban water management. Using six small local areas (called subcatchments), OurRiver will show how communities and councils, working together in varied and highly urbanised contexts, can improve their social and water environments and achieve long-term sustainable water management.

Newsflash: OurRiver wins awards!

The OurRiver project won the 2010 Green Globe Local Government Sustainability Award. The Award was presented 27th July at a ceremony hosted by NSW Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Frank Sartor. "The Green Globe Awards have been running for 11 years and continue to grow from strength to strength. To win a Green Globe, you must demonstrate extraordinary environmental achievement," Minister Sartor said.

As well as taking out the prestigious Green Globe, OurRiver was also Highly Commended in the Grundfos Water Conservation Award category of the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Sustainable Cities Awards.

These awards recognise the innovative steps partner councils are taking to improve water management by putting research into practice with new technologies and new ways of working together.

Congratulations to all of you who have participated in the OurRiver project – the coming together of community members, council staff, state agency representatives and local politicians is a big part of what makes this project outstanding – well done all!

eight councils with one vision for a healthy cooks river

To receive newsletters via email, send an email to:
ourriver@strathfield.nsw.gov.au

Upcoming Events:

21 Aug 10am - noon: Graf Park Info Day
Bankstown City Council & OurRiver staff will be available at Graf Park to discuss construction of a carpark and raingarden at the park.

28 Aug 10am - noon: Canterbury Park Info Day. Canterbury Council and OurRiver staff will provide an update on upcoming works in the park and local water planning in Ashbury.

4 Sep 9^{:30}am – 12^{:30}pm: Water Sensitive Urban Design for Your Property Workshop. Ever wondered what to do with that "damp spot" in your backyard? Come learn about WSUD and what you can do on your property (e.g., build a wetland, raingarden, permeable paving). Workshop will be held at the Summer Hill Community Centre. The workshop is free, but booking is essential – please e-mail sarah.kamarudin@strathfield.nsw.gov.au or call 9748 9644 to book.

For details: www.ourriver.com.au or 9748 9635.



COOKS RIVER
FORESHORES
Working Group



Project Update

Collaborative Planning:

OurRiver continues to work with residents and council staff across various departments to raise the profile of sustainable urban water management and to implement on-ground works within the six OurRiver subcatchments.

Information Day at Gilchrist Park:

On Sunday 11th July, Rockdale City Council and OurRiver held a community BBQ and information day in Gilchrist Park, Bexley North. Council and OurRiver will build a raingarden at the northern end of the park. Council presented draft plans of the raingarden and talked with local residents about how it will increase amenity and remove pollution from stormwater. The Wolli Creek Valley, downstream from the park, is one of the most significant areas of bushland in inner southwest Sydney. Reducing stormwater pollution will help Wolli Creek and the bushland thrive and continue to be an important habitat for local plants and animals.



Local residents at Gilchrist Park information day

On-ground works:

Designs are continuing for a number of on-ground works across the catchment, and on-ground works at two sites have been completed since the last edition of the OurRiver newsletter!



Residents and council staff at Drew Street planting day

Drew Street Raingardens

On Saturday 10th July, residents, council staff and Mayor Tony Maroun lent a hand in planting the Drew Street raingardens. The two raingardens beautify the street, enhance local biodiversity, and filter stormwater pollutants. Close to 50 people had a look at the new gardens, planted a few native plants, and enjoyed a BBQ to celebrate the project's completion. Mayor Maroun congratulated Strathfield Council staff, calling the raingardens "a significant achievement for everyone involved."



Mayor Maroun planting the first plant at Drew Street

Tom Foster Community Care Permeable Paving

Permeable paving was installed over a car park at Tom Foster Community Care in the EC East Subcatchment. Now, rainwater falling on the car park will soak through a permeable paving layer, which is made from gravel and from recycled glass for the lines and signs. The water will then go through a sand filter, which will remove pollutants from the water before it reaches the Cooks River.



Before and after photos of the Tom Foster car park

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