

**MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release**  
**2 October 2013**

**River Health Volunteers needed for Georges and Cooks Rivers**

Participants are sought to take an active role in the Community River Health Monitoring Program to monitor ecosystem health in the Botany Bay catchment. Community volunteers will assist with field sampling in streams and foreshore sites of the Georges River and the Cooks River.

Community volunteers will work alongside ecologists and receive FREE training in macroinvertebrate (waterbug) monitoring.

Community organisations, school groups and Bushcare groups are encouraged to volunteer.

**The next round of sampling for the Georges River will be:**

- Wed 9 October from 8am to 4pm at Appin
- Sunday 27 October from 9am to 1pm at Mill Creek, Menai
- Saturday 2 November from 9am to 1pm at Little Salt Pan Creek, Padstow

Access to Appin is moderately difficult therefore volunteers must have a good level of fitness. Access to Mill Creek is slightly difficult so a basic level of fitness is required. Volunteers must bring a long-sleeve shirt and gum boots.

**The next round of sampling for the Cooks River will be:**

- Sunday 20 October from 9am to 1pm at Coolibah Reserve, Arncliffe
- Sunday 3 November from 9am to 1pm at Yarrowee Road Reserve, Strathfield

Access to these sites is easy. Volunteers must bring a long-sleeve shirt and gum boots.

Bookings are ESSENTIAL.

For Georges River bookings, please contact the Georges River Combined Councils' Committee (GRCCC) at 9330 6010 or [info@georgesriver.org.au](mailto:info@georgesriver.org.au).

For Cooks River bookings, please contact the Cooks River Alliance (CRA), [info@cooksriver.org.au](mailto:info@cooksriver.org.au) or 9748 9644.

The Community River Health Monitoring Program uses a scientific approach to collect data for three river health indicators: water quality, vegetation and macroinvertebrates. By analysing the data collected during sampling days we are able to assess the ecological condition of the Georges and Cooks Rivers.

Since 2009, the River Health Program has benefited from over 2700 hours of volunteer participation.

The data collected from sampling contributes to data collected for the annual River Health Report Card which interprets and presents the results, and provides an overall indication of the Rivers' condition. Data is used to inform management decisions made by local councils.

The 2012/13 River Health Report Card was released in September 2013. A copy can be viewed at the Georges River website [www.georgesriver.org.au](http://www.georgesriver.org.au)



The Program is coordinated by the GRCCC and is funded by the member councils of the GRCCC and CRA.

The GRCCC is an incorporated association of nine local government councils working in partnership with state and federal government agencies and community representatives within the Georges River catchment. It represents local government in the Georges River Catchment of NSW. Member councils include Bankstown, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hurstville, Kogarah, Liverpool and Rockdale City Councils, and Sutherland and Wollondilly Shire Councils

The Cooks River Alliance is a partnership between eight councils in the Cooks River Catchment including Ashfield, Bankstown, Canterbury, City of Sydney, Hurstville, Marrickville, Rockdale and Strathfield City Councils.

Contact [info@georgesriver.org.au](mailto:info@georgesriver.org.au) to register your interest in participating in the program. For more information on the River Health program, or for copies of previous River Health Report Cards, visit [www.georgesriver.org.au](http://www.georgesriver.org.au)

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