

Streamline

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Environmental Education Kit Launch



The kit was launched by Parramatta District Superintendent of Education, Robert Manwarring and Trust Chairman, George Whitehouse, at a brief ceremony at Old Government House in Parramatta Park on Friday 20 September 2002. A number of local teachers attended and Crestwood High School students demonstrated the use of the kit, showing how to measure runoff rates from different land uses.

set of specially-printed topographic and air photo maps of the catchment.

Two kits will be provided free of charge to all 38 secondary schools in the catchment. Schools elsewhere will be able to buy a copy of the kit on CD or download it from the Trust's website.

OzGreen conducted three training workshops on use of the kit for local teachers, librarians and council staff in late November. Local schools are expected to start using the kit from early next year. The Trust has committed to keeping the kit up-to-date and doing a major revision every five years.



Winston Hills Girls Guides training to use the Streamwatch Kit.

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The EPA provided information on tools to help small business to achieve cleaner production at the Trade Show.

The demonstration projects are expected to include:

- a Department of Housing medium density housing development for the elderly in Seven Hills,
- a series of WSUD features in a high school in Baulkham Hills,
- WSUD promotion and features in a display home at Kellyville,
- a strategic design based on WSUD for a major land release area in Kellyville;
- the detailed design of WSUD elements for a land release area in Schofields; and
- a set of WSUD engineering specifications for adoption and use by western Sydney councils.

Greening Schools and Parks

The Trust recently announced a new grant scheme for catchment schools and community groups to improve the environment. Under the Green Corridors Vegetation Strategy, the Trust provided \$30,000 to 12 schools and community groups for projects ranging from creek restoration to community education. The projects will be implemented over the next year, enhancing and extending the native flora and fauna in the catchment.

For further information on the grants program, contact Peter Morison, Environmental Programs Officer, at the Trust.

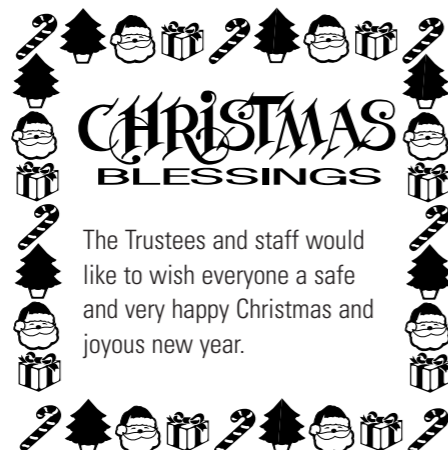


Heather Turland investigating water bugs with local Streamwatchers

Businesses get the good oil on pollution control

The Trust, in cooperation with Parramatta, Blacktown and Holroyd Councils hosted an Environmental Trade Show for local businesses on Tuesday 29 October 2002. The show was an outstanding success with over 200 local business people and about 20 suppliers of environmental protection equipment and services in attendance.

The purpose of the tradeshow was to provide small business with the information and advice they need to meet their environmental responsibilities. The tradeshow featured all the latest environmental management equipment including spill clean up kits, oily water separators, sediment and erosion control equipment, drain protection devices and signage. Based on its success, the show will be held on a regular basis in the future.



The Trustees and staff would like to wish everyone a safe and very happy Christmas and joyous new year.



The BundahBunna Miyumba Aboriginal dance group on the edge of Lake Parramatta at the launch of Water Week.

Catchment Flood Plan Nears Completion

An overall plan to guide efforts to manage flood risks in the Upper Parramatta River Catchment is almost completed will soon be on public exhibition. More information in the next issue.

National Water Week 20-26 October

National Water Week was launched on 20 October by Hon John Aquilina, Minister for Land and Water Conservation and the Water Week Ambassador Heather Turland at Lake Parramatta, North Rocks. Water Week is about encouraging everyone to Protect, Conserve and Get Involved in water resource management.

Fun for all at 'Western Sydney Water Festival - Carnivale'

The Trust helped to promote Water Week at the Western Sydney Water Festival on Sunday 19 October. The 'Water Festival' is held in conjunction with Holroyd City Council's 'Carnivale - a multicultural celebration' at Central Gardens in Merrylands. Over 5,000 attended and were invited to join in environmental games and find out how they can each make a difference to protect their local environment.

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Flood Mitigation Solutions Sought for Outstanding Flood Problem Areas

Despite the completion of many major flood mitigation projects by the Trust and local councils, homes and businesses at 30 locations in the catchment remain at risk from flooding. The Trust and the four local councils have therefore started a series of studies to find the best way to protect each of the outstanding flood problem areas.

The studies are being funded by the Trust and carried out by engineering consultants selected from a panel of five firms. Studies have already been completed for the Michigan Road, Santiago Place and Hartley Road areas in Seven Hill and Cornell Street in Blacktown. Studies are in progress for the Bogalara Road (Toongabbie), Irrigation Road (South Wentworthville), Watkins Road (Baulkham Hills), Orange Grove Road (Castle Hill) and Yalding Avenue (North Rocks) areas. Local residents will be advised of the study outcomes.

Win-Win Outcome in Metella Road Floodway Plan

A solution to satisfy everyone appears the likely outcome of a Floodplain Management Study for the Metella Road Floodway in Toongabbie where medium density housing threatens to increase the flood risk to nearby properties.

Close to Toongabbie Station, but largely under-developed, the area bounded by Metella Road, Octavia Street, Greystanes Creek and Cornelia Road is subject to strong development pressure.

In late 2000 the Land and Environment Court approved a 20-townhouse development across the floodway despite strong objections by Blacktown City Council and the Trust. A very similar proposed development on the next door lot is the subject of a case currently before the Court.

Recognising the development pressures, Council and the Trust are funding a Floodplain Management Study by consultants. Three community meetings have been held to guide the study.

The resulting draft Plan proposes a scheme of compensatory works that would ensure that ultimate development of the area will not raise flood levels within or around the area. The works would also allow drainage of the lots, meet the development's on-site stormwater detention requirements and provide a small wetland to improve water quality and amenity.

If approved, the works would have to be forward-funded by Council and repaid by developer contributions as each lot is developed. The draft Plan was strongly supported at a community meeting on 31 October.

Council will be asked to publicly exhibit the draft Plan early next year.

Welcome Peter Morison

Peter Morison joined the Trust as its Environmental Programs Officer early this year. Peter has a degree in Environmental Health from the University of Western Sydney. He worked as an Environmental Health Officer at several regional councils and before joining Blacktown City Council in 1998 to co-ordinate preparation of this catchment's Stormwater Management Plan on behalf of the Trust and the four catchment councils. In 1999 he moved to Holroyd Council to manage four Stormwater Trust-funded stormwater pollution source control projects in each council area. Since mid 2000 Peter has been Stormwater Management Officer at Blacktown City Council. In addition to his strong stormwater credentials, Peter has a bushland management certificate and is a part-time bushland volunteer near his Springwood home in the lower Blue Mountains. In his spare time Peter is a fiddler in two folk bands.



Grantham Creek near Santiago Place at Seven Hills



An aerial view of the Metella Road floodway in Toongabbie.

PROJECT Snapshots

Catchment Stormwater Management Plan under Renovation!

Since 1998 the four catchment councils, the Trust, Sydney Water, the Roads and Traffic Authority and the Parramatta Parks Trust have

been working together to prepare and, since mid 1999, implement a catchment Stormwater Management Plan (SMP) to reduce pollution in catchment streams.

From mid 1999 to mid 2002, 68 SMP actions out of 167 were implemented at a total cost of \$1.8M. However, whilst this Trust and several of the local councils have been

implementing their part of the SMP at over 80% of the target rate, other councils and agencies are only implementing the SMP at 10% or less.

A draft revised SMP, summarising the results of the recent audit and review, will shortly be considered by the Taskforce. The local councils will be asked to publicly exhibit the draft SMP early next year. After amendment of the draft revised SMP in response to any comments received, the councils and agencies will be asked to adopt and recommit to the updated SMP.

STREAMWATCH Yearly Review

What a big year it has been in Streamwatch in the catchment! The program has grown this year and now includes 15 secondary schools, 9 primary schools and 2 community groups.

Platypus Award (for excellence and innovation by the best team in the catchment): Crestwood High for regular water quality testing of Toongabbie Creek; a Clean Up the Creek day; implementation of Waterwatch into year 9 various years science and geography curriculums; established a wetlands in the school; and assisted in an environmental activities day with nearly 200 primary schools students at Crestwood Reserve.

Alan Cupit Award for Educator Excellence: Mrs. Rita Kuskal, Crestwood High

Excellence Awards (for excellence in each local council area)

- *Baulkham Hills council area:* James Ruse Agricultural High School
- *Blacktown council area:* Grantham High School
- *Parramatta council area:* Macarthur Girls High School
- *Holroyd council area:* Girraween High School

Junior Excellence Award (for excellence in primary school): Bert Oldfield Primary

Proficiency Awards

Secondary Schools: Cumberland High School, Model Farm High School, Muirfield High School, Northmead High School, Tara Anglican School for Girls, Mitchell High School, Seven Hills High School, Arthur Phillip High School, Cerdon College, Greystanes High School

Primary Schools: Jasper Road Public School, Northmead Primary School, Burnside Public School, Mathew Pearce Primary School, Metella Road Primary School, Tyndale Christian School, Blacktown South Primary School, Seven Hills Primary School, St Monica's Primary School

Community Groups: Quarry Branch South Bushcare Group, Winston Hills Girls Guide



Litter is a big pollution problem in local creek and stormwater drains.

Trust Leads Water Conservation Projects

The current drought has focused attention on how we use water in our homes and places of work. It has highlighted the importance of changing our current often-wasteful water usage through a new approach called Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD). WSUD includes rainwater tanks, using stormwater for non-potable purposes, stormwater infiltration (where appropriate), native gardens, bio-retention, water features and on site stormwater detention.

The Trust is playing a key role in leading a project being largely funded by the NSW Stormwater Trust that will demonstrate how WSUD can be used in Sydney.