

## MEDIA RELEASE

31 October 2019

### **Take me to the river: Riverfest 2019 continues to connect people with Sydney's most iconic waterway**

This year's Parramatta River *Riverfest* has been a huge success with over 1,300 people taking part in more than 25 events across six local government area, and reaching over 10,000 people online. Organised by the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG), the festival was held over 10 days from 17-27 October and offered a wide range of fun and interesting ways to connect with the Parramatta River and its surrounds.

Riverfest 2019 was launched at the Masters Swimming NSW Open Water Swim at Lake Parramatta. More than 30 people braved the brisk conditions for the 1km and 2km course, which was won by Jenny Banks and Peter Thiel, respectively. The Hon. Dr Geoffrey Lee, Member for Parramatta, officially opened the event, and City of Parramatta Lord Mayor, Cr Bob Dwyer, and PRCG Chair, Cr Mark Drury, both blew the whistle for the start of each race.

Other Riverfest highlights included City of Ryde's popular Granny Smith Festival, Resilient Blacktown Community Picnic Day and City of Canada Bay's Spring Clean for the Shorebirds at Rodd Point. There were also several river and creek clean-ups, a Boomerang Bag making workshop, birdlife information session and habitat planting, kayaking tours and even a chance to try dragon boating!

PRCG Chair, Cr Mark Drury, said he was delighted with the increase in and diversity of events in this year's Riverfest.

"Riverfest is an important part of delivering our Masterplan to make the Parramatta River swimmable again," Cr Drury said

"Enabling people to connect with the river in different ways is key to raising awareness of the great work being done and highlights the important role they can play in helping to make the river clean and safe for everyone to enjoy."

The Parramatta River Catchment Group is an alliance of councils, state government agencies and community groups with the mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025.

Riverfest was launched in 2016 as a single event hosted by the City of Ryde at Putney Park. It has since expanded across the Parramatta River catchment to offer the community a wide and diverse range of ways they can engage with the Parramatta River and help make a difference.

Riverfest will again be held in October 2020 and the event is tipped to continue to grow.

For more information on Riverfest and the Parramatta River Catchment Group visit:  
[www.ourlivingriver.com.au](http://www.ourlivingriver.com.au)



**Parramatta River**  
Catchment Group



**LET'S MAKE OUR RIVER  
SWIMMABLE AGAIN BY  
2025**

**Note to editors:**

Images from this year's Riverfest are available through the following link:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/424h99d0u4sfde4/AAB9r\\_H3uGI91nnLMARS9kSta?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/424h99d0u4sfde4/AAB9r_H3uGI91nnLMARS9kSta?dl=0)

**Media enquiries:**

Nadia Young

PRCG Communications Officer

Phone: 9911 6202 / 0415 231 339

Email: [nadia.young@ourlivingriver.com.au](mailto:nadia.young@ourlivingriver.com.au)