

Media Release

11 March 2024

Parramatta River Catchment Group celebrates 10 years of Our Living River

The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) is this year marking the 10th anniversary of the 'Our Living River' mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again.

Launched in 2014, the Our Living River mission set an ambitious goal to improve the health of the river and its catchment to enable swimming at selected sites by 2025. It also aims to conserve important ecological areas and increase habitat for wildlife.

The project's first milestone came with the launch of the Lake Parramatta swim site, which reopened after being closed for more than 70 years.

In 2018, the PRCG released the *Parramatta River Masterplan: Duba, Budu, Barra – ten steps to a living river* that outlines the steps needed to achieve a healthy, liveable, and sustainable river catchment.

In 2022, City of Canada Bay Council opened Bayview Park Baths in Concord – the first site on the river to be opened in more than 50 years. More swim sites are planned to open in the next couple of years at Putney, Bedlam Bay in Gladesville and Callan Point in Lilyfield.

PRCG Chair, Councillor Mark Drury, said that the success of the initiative can be attributed to the continued collaboration between partner agencies and the community to improve the health of Sydney's most iconic river.

"Since its inception, the Our Living River mission has been driven by a shared vision of reclaiming the Parramatta River as a cherished natural asset for all members of the community to enjoy," Cr Drury said.

"Through their collective expertise, hard work, and commitment, we have made significant strides in improving water quality, enhancing biodiversity, and fostering community engagement."

"We thank all those who have supported the mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again over the last 10 years."

A range of celebratory events is being held throughout the year, starting with a **Community Day being held in partnership with the City of Canada Bay at Bayview Park, Concord on Sunday, 24 March from 10am to 1pm.**

There will be a range of community and environmental stalls and activities on offer. Try your hand at kayaking, learn more about the bar-tailed godwit and other shorebirds, take a dip in the newest swim site on the river, or just relax and enjoy the free entertainment and barbecue.

The Parramatta River Catchment Group will officially launch the research document, *First Nations Peoples of the Parramatta River and surrounding region*. Visitors will also have a chance to view the recent upgrades to the park and cultural interpretive designs by Dharug artist Leanne Watson.

For more information about the Our Living River mission 10th anniversary events and Parramatta River Catchment Group, visit: www.ourlivingriver.com.au.

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Parramatta River Catchment Group:

The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) is a member-based alliance of local and state government agencies and community groups that are working together to improve the waterway and ecological health of the catchment. The PRCG delivers projects and activities that aim to improve water quality and biodiversity, stormwater and wastewater management, water sensitive urban design, land-use planning, and litter prevention.

Current financial members: Blacktown City Council, Burwood Council, City of Canada Bay, City of Canterbury-Bankstown, City of Parramatta, City of Ryde, Cumberland City Council, Hunter's Hill Council, Inner West Council, Strathfield Council, Sydney Water, NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

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