GreenWay Sustainability Project
Media Highlights

The GreenWay Sustainability Project is a $1.83 million project funded by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust. The Project is a partnership of four local Councils and the community which commenced in 2009 and will conclude it 2012, and is focused on sustainable governance, biodiversity, community engagement and active transport.
A conservation lesson right on their doorstep

Some lucky students have swapped the classroom for the great outdoors as part of a new education program being trialed at inner-west public schools.

The GreenWay Primary School program pilot was launched last year at Summer Hill Public School, Ashbury Public School and Kensington Public School in Leichhardt.

Working in tandem to the current curriculum, it encourages children to learn about local urban biodiversity while tramping through the Greenway corridor for a few hours each week.

Classes are planned around a series of walks including one from Summer Hill to the Iron Cove Bridge and another from Dalrymple Street to the Cooks River. During the walks, students collect bugs, identify local animals and listen to stories about historical events.

Summer Hill Public School teacher Adam Williams said catching the patches and chairs for wildlife, flying foxes, bats, possums, frogs and even endangered frogmouths

What they learn
- Local Indigenous and post-settlement history
- Sustainable living
- Transport
- Urban waste systems

"The Cooks River is an Iron Cove Greenway’s corridor green corridor following the route of the Cooks River from Dalrymple Street the Cooks River which is being converted to a light rail track.

"The project connects the Cooks River and Iron Cove Bay.

The area is home to reptiles, birds and native plants."

Mannah Parnes

"Inner West Courier", Thursday 4 August 2011, page 3
Green acres

There's a 5km strip of land running through the Inner West, and the authorities want you to tell them what should be done with it. Let us know at innerwestcourier.com.au. On page 4, Reashed Habit explores some of the options with those who are in charge of the study.

Left: Jenny George, who is doing research on The Greenway, is pictured at College Reserve, Summer Hill. Picture Phil Baisi

Mumz & Bubz Club
Join our great club today

Rhodes

“Inner West Courier”, Thursday 26 May 2011, Front page & page 4
Ideas wanted for new green bush corridor

RASHELM HABIB

LAND is highly sought after, especially if it runs shown across the inner west.

So authorities think it’s time you had your say on the GreenWay.

GreenWay researcher Jenny George is leading a research project focused on exploring the best set up and involvement of the community in the GreenWay’s future.

“This idea for a GreenWay is a collaborative community vision first imagined more than 10 years ago,” Ms George said.

“It has been a unique collaboration of a lot of people, first in the community, then supported by the local and state government and others such as Macquarie University as well.”

Ms George said she is looking at how the local communities would be able to work on the GreenWay with government agencies.

She said the project had a lot to offer inner west residents.

“It will provide a wonderful green pedestrian and cycle corridor stretching 5km, potentially offering opportunities for social and educational uses, bushcare and environmental uses and other interesting projects yet to be realised, community endeavours.”

Residents have been asked to throw in their ideas about the best use of the corridor at a community workshop to be held on May 29 and 28.
Bandicoots back

Creatures of night rare in urban area

GOT a late night buzzle in your bushes? It could be a bandicoot.

Several sightings of Long-nosed Bandicoots (Perameles nasuta) in Dulwich Hill have been recorded. After inspecting several freshly dug, small conical shaped holes - typically made by bandicoots searching for food - GreenWay biodiversity officer Adam Ward confirmed bandicoot activity at a property on The Boulevard.

Mr Ward said the sightings were an exciting rediscovery, especially since the Long-nosed bandicoot was listed as an endangered species by the NSW Scientific Committee in 1997.

“It’s pretty unique in urban areas to have such a population,” he said.

“The rarity of that suggests that something good is going on environmentally.”

Predation by domestic cats and dogs, loss of shelter sites and road mortality in residential areas, pose the most significant threat to the bandicoot population.

To help ensure the survival of these nocturnal creatures, Mr Ward said residents could keep domestic pets inside at night and plant shrubs in their gardens for shelter.

While the exact area occupied by the Long-nosed bandicoot population is not clearly defined, as well as Marrickville, they are thought to inhabit Canterbury, Ashbury and Leichhardt LGAs.

“Quite often people confuse them with rats but there are a few distinct differences,” Mr Ward said.

“Their noses are longer and instead of scurrying like rats, bandicoots move with a hopping motion like a kangaroo.”

People who believe they may have seen signs of a bandicoot in the inner west, should call the National Parks Wildlife Society on 9317 3511.

Feedback on forest plan

THE DRAFT Marrickville Urban Forest Strategy (MURIS) is now on exhibition for community feedback. The draft can be viewed at Marrickville Council Administration Centre, council libraries, or marrickville.nsw.gov.au. Submissions must be in writing and need to be received by 5pm on February 26. Send submissions marked “Ref Draft MURIS” by mail to the General Manager, Marrickville Council, PO Box 14 Petersham, NSW, 2049 or by email to council@marrickville.nsw.gov.au.

Licence block summons

RANDOM breath testing (RBT) was conducted on Frasier Street, Marrickville, around 12.40am on Friday. A female driver was submitted to a roadside breath test, returning a negative result. Police noted two unrestrained children in the rear of the vehicle. Checks on the driver’s Provisional P1 licence revealed it was suspended until February. The 27-year-old Macquarie Fields woman was not allowed to leave the site until the children were appropriately restrained and was issued with a summons.

Grant to help homeless

THE STATE Government has offered $834,000 for an organisation to run a service to benefit the homeless in Canterbury. The Boarding House Outreach Project - which will also benefit Marrickville, Leichhardt and the City of Sydney - is part of a regionally tailored approach to addressing homelessness in NSW and puts in place the NSW Homelessness Action Plan. Applicants are required to obtain an information package at community.nsw.gov.au/SCI. Applications close at 4pm on December 13.

Summer reading clubs

LIBRARIES are set to become hot spots for youngsters over the holiday period. Summer reading clubs for both children and teenagers will run from December 20 to January 24. Pick up an activity pack, which includes a reading record sheet, at Campsie, Lakemba, Earlwood or Riverwood libraries. These libraries will also host a program of free activities in January, Details: Campsie Library, 9789 9423; Earlwood Library, 9789 9417; Lakemba Library, 9789 9415; Riverwood Library, 9789 9416.
They’re back

Several sightings of the long-nosed bandicoot have been recorded on a property in The Boulevard, Dulwich Hill, and at a location in Lewisham.

Greenway Biodiversity Officer, Adam Ward, recently confirmed bandicoot presence in the Marrickville area and was very excited by the rediscovery because the species has been endangered since 1997.

“Sightings of this nature may suggest the inner west population of Bandicoots have adapted to living in a highly urban environment by nesting in foundations of houses and by moving through holes in fences to increase foraging areas, which is quite rare for such a species,” he said.

Typically restricted to the North Head region in Manly, the long-nosed bandicoots’ recent appearances have been sighted by the owner of a property in Dulwich Hill.

The resident noted several freshly dug conical shaped holes - typically made by hungry bandicoots - before contacting Mr. Ward.

Mr. Ward said people often confused bandicoots for rats, but there were a few distinct differences between the two.

“Their noses are longer and instead of scurrying like rats, they jump and hop about like kangaroos,” he said.

Prior to the most recent appearances, there was a spate of sightings in 2002 and 2006. In late 2007, several sightings of the breed were recorded around the freight rail line in Dulwich Hill, but tragically the colony was threatened by dogs and cats.

In order to protect the native nocturnal marsupials, it was advised that domestic animals be kept indoors at night, and residents were encouraged to plant shrubs in gardens for shelter.

With the bandicoots’ homes in close proximity to the planned light rail extension, Transport NSW is investigating potential impacts in its environmental assessment.
Celebrating the great greenway

Fiona Brady

We inner Westies love our festivals and now there's a new one to get excited about.

The week-long GreenWay Festival starts on October 10 with a free program of outdoor activities, arts events and green workshops for all ages.

It has been created to publicise one of our lesser known beauty spots - the Cooks River to Iron Cove “GreenWay”.

Lauren Melver from the GreenWay Sustainability Project hopes there's something on the festival program to appeal to everyone.

"If you love art you can try a free sketch class or put an entry in the arts exhibition," she said.

"You can try out bushcare if you like the great outdoors, learn more about your local area on a walking tour, or join a local bicycle user group on a fun bike ride."

Ms Melver believes people who haven't visited the greenway are missing out. "It's a place for everyone to enjoy and to reconnect with the local environment and the community, with loads of opportunities for safe walking and cycling, bushcare and community arts," she said.

The biggest event of the week is GreenWay Day at Richard Munro Reserve on Saturday, October 16.

There'll be a carnival atmosphere with children's activities, moving performers, musicians and an evolving stage.

The GreenWay Festival is also partnering with the Cooks River River Festival on Sunday, October 16, and with the Summer Hill Grand Food Bazaar on Sunday, October 17.

Rupert, Billie, Tiggie, Tess, Felix and Liam (with E-flat tenor horn), with Sarah from Lobo and the Gypsy Caravan, and Scuppers and Nelly the dogs, are excited about the first GreenWay Festival.

THE GREENWAY VISION

The vision is for a tree-lined wildlife corridor and walking and cycling trail linking the Cooks River to Sydneyside at Earlwood to the Iron Cove Bay Run in Haberfield. It links the major parks of Canterbury, Marrickville, Ashbury and Leichhardt, following the Cooks River and Rozelle rail corridor. Parts of the GreenWay are in place and a new shared pathway will be created as part of the light rail extension.
Do your bit for the bush

PUT your gumboots on this Saturday and head to a bushcare planting day and barbecue in Haberfield.

The event has been organised by the GreenWay Sustainability Project and will take place at Richard Murden Reserve from 1pm to 4pm. The manager of the GreenWay Sustainability Project, Lauren McIver, encouraged locals to do their bit for the environment.

“Bushcare volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills, and improve fauna habitat,” she said. “It’s an opportunity for local residents to try their hand at being a bushcare volunteer and meet other volunteers from the Inner West Environment Group”

Volunteers can keep their energy levels up thanks to a free barbecue sausage sizzle cooked up by the 1st Haberfield Scouts.
Free training course for nervous cyclists

Cycling in Sydney can be a little scary — particularly if you haven’t been on a bike for a while.

But help is at hand for nervous types thanks to a free training course in Haberfield next month.

The accredited AusAlyce training course aims at people who can already ride a bike but would like to improve their skills and proficiency.

It will be taught by Donna Meekham from Domestique.

“These courses are for people wanting to build their confidence to ride on the roads, for example down to the shops or the short commute to work,” she said.

Participants will learn correct bike handling techniques along with basic maintenance, such as tube changing and road rules.

“Sometimes people already know their stuff but they just want to have it reinforced,” Mrs. Meekham said.

Ashfield resident Colin Fong has already signed up for the course and hopes to improve his confidence and his basic maintenance skills so he can do longer rides. “And make sure if something goes wrong, I can fix it,” he said.

The course is funded through the Greenway Sustainability Project, a partnership of Ashfield, Canterbury, Leichhardt and Marrickville councils. One of its key objectives is to promote active transport such as walking or cycling.

The course is on Saturdays, May 22 and 29, from 8.30am to 11.30am.

Participants are required to bring their own bike and helmet. Bookings are essential. Phone Lauren McNee on 9738 1814.

Sydney Council also runs cycling confidence courses and maintenance courses. Visit cityof sydney.nsw.gov.au for details.
Celebrating the vision

GreenWay Festival will be held in celebration of the visionary Cooks River to Iron Cove Bay GreenWay, announced by NSW Premier Kristjan Keneally, as part of the $150 million GreenWay and Inner West Light Rail Extension.

Students from Kegworth Primary School lend a helping hand, by participating in bushcare activities on the GreenWay.

The GreenWay is an integrated and environmentally sustainable transport corridor that will include the GreenWay Trail: a shared pathway for cycling and pedestrians to connect the Cooks River Cycleway to the Iron Cove Bay Run, as well as a link for native plants and animals.

Mayor of Marrickville, Sam Maniam said the festival was an opportunity for local residents to celebrate the progress of this environmental, cultural and sustainable transport corridor.

"The GreenWay Festival is a great opportunity for local residents to celebrate the progress of this environmental, cultural and sustainable transport corridor," said Cr Maniam.

"The Festival program includes a number of fun and creative activities which will encourage the community to nurture our environment." The GreenWay Festival will feature a week-long program of activities, ranging from bike rides and local history walks, to biodiversity workshops, bushcare working bees, an art exhibition and art and drawing classes in the GreenWay.

A highlight of the week includes GreenWay Day on Saturday, October 16, which will include activities along the existing section of the GreenWay from Iron Cove Bay to Summer Hill.

The GreenWay Festival is pleased to announce partnerships with the Cooks River Eco Festival on Sunday, October 17, and the Marrickville Grand Food Stroll on Sunday, October 17.

The festival will run from Sunday, October 10 to 17. For more information about the festival visit www.greenway.org.au.

"Inner City Weekender", October 24 2010
Bike skills: push yourself

Do you live in Ashfield and want to improve your cycling skills? Ashfield residents are being offered a free accredited AusCyc Training Course.

The course is aimed at people who can already ride a bike, but would like to improve their skills and proficiency through learning more about balancing, pedalling, manoeuvring and stopping a bike.

The course will be held on Saturday, February 13, and Saturday, February 20, from 8.30am to 11.30am. Participants must attend both days.

It will be held at the netball courts at Richard Murden Reserve, Hawthorne Pde, Haberfield.

Bring your own bike and helmet. There are only 10 places and bookings are essential. The course is funded by Greenway Sustainability Project and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

To book or for more information, phone Lauren McIver on 97161814 or email lauren-mashfield.nsw.gov.au.