



## Restoring native fish to a cleaner Parramatta River

Clean waterways and the return of native fish are just two of the benefits of Parramatta City Council's Rivers of Opportunity strategy. Council takes the City's waterways seriously and spends \$3.6 million per year to improve them. A key part of the strategy is work being conducted in partnership with the Clean Up Australia Clean Water Campaign to restore the health of the Parramatta River. Together they are working on this by encouraging people to fish carp out of the river to help native fish such as bass to return.

### Did you know?

#### Carp:

- are not a native fish.
- are now the most common fish in Australia's rivers, making up 90% of the weight of all fish.
- can lay one million eggs a year and live for 20 years.
- can tolerate degraded river conditions, which native fish can not tolerate.
- have affected native fish populations, and
- it is illegal to stock carp into creek, rivers or lakes in NSW and fines of up to \$11,000 apply.

#### Carp Busters

The Carp Fish-out on the Parramatta River has been inspired by the work of the Social Fishing Club at Rathdowney Hotel in central Queensland; the original Carp Busters. See <http://www.cleanup.com.au/au/Campaigns/carpbusters.html>

**Parramatta City Council** is installing fish ladders to help native fish move upstream over weirs so they can access breeding and feeding areas.

Four fish ladders will be built: Charles Street Weir, Marsden Street Weir; Parramatta Stadium (kiosk) Weir; Government House (upstream) Weir in 2007.

### Play a part in making the Parramatta River healthier

#### Take action

Everyone can play a part in improving the health of the river here are a few suggestions:

#### 1. Fish carp out of the river

- Keep fishing for carp and remove them from the river
- Don't throw live or dead carp back into the river when fishing
- Use bait recommended by your local tackle shop including soft and hard lures not live carp
- Don't put koi carp from your fish pond or tank into any creeks or rivers

For further information see the NSW Department of Primary Industries recreational fishing guide, available on [http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/recreational/general/info\\_kit](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/recreational/general/info_kit)

**Join your local fishing club** –fishing is a great pastime and there are plenty of clubs in the area you can join:

**Check the Sportsfish web site** for a club near you

<http://www.sportsfish.com.au/directory/fishing-clubs/new-south-wales.html>

**Bass Sydney**, a club dedicated to the conservation of Australian Bass ([www.basssydney.com](http://www.basssydney.com))

**Seven Hills/Toongabbie RSL Fishing Club**, cnr. Best Rd & William St Seven Hills 2147 Ph: (02) 9622-2800

#### Become a Fishcare volunteer

- Talk to anglers about fishing rules and responsible fishing
- Help with a range of activities, including fishing clinics, catch surveys and community fishing events.

[http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/general/fishcare\\_volunteer\\_program](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/general/fishcare_volunteer_program)

PARRAMATTA  
CITY COUNCIL

# Play a part in making the Parramatta River healthier

## Take action

Everyone can play a part in improving the health of the river here are a few suggestions:

### 2. Join a group working to clean up your local environment

#### Clean Up Australia Day

- Clean Up Australia Day is held on the first Sunday in March.
- Join local groups at Parramatta Park, Prince Alfred Park and Lake Parramatta.
- Visit the Clean Up Australia website to register a site, or register as a volunteer. Registrations commence 1 December 2006  
[www.cleanup.com.au](http://www.cleanup.com.au)

#### Join Bushcare

- Help rehabilitate the local bush, river and creek banks by removing weeds and replanting
- Improve fish habitats
- Groups run at Duck River, Ponds/Subiaco Creek, Vineyard Creek and the Parramatta River foreshore.
- Contact Sally Williams, Parramatta City Council, Bushcare Coordinator on 9806 5256 or [swilliams@parracity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:swilliams@parracity.nsw.gov.au) to find out which is the best local group for you.

### 3. What you do in your backyard makes a difference to the river?

#### Keep detergent out of the river.

Don't wash your car in the street as detergent will run into the stormwater drains and eventually the river. Fish don't like detergents so take your car to a car wash.

#### Keep paint, oils and other wastes out of stormwater drains.

Paint, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, household cleaners, motor oils, fuels, batteries, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, pool and hobby chemicals can be disposed of using the Chemicals Disposal Service provided by the Council. Visit the Clean Out website, [www.cleanout.com.au](http://www.cleanout.com.au) or contact the Clean Out Info Hotline on 1300 787 870.

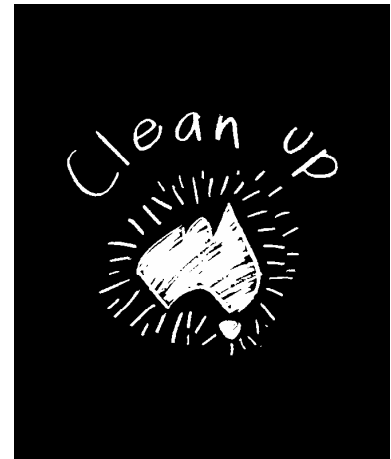
**Remember** to throw take away food containers, drink cans and bottles in the bin and not in the River!

### 4. Support the reuse of carp

Buy Charlie Carp all purpose plant fertiliser made from carp. Charlie Carp is ideal for vegetable gardens, shrubs including natives, seedlings and lawns.

### 5. Learn about clean waterways

Contact Parramatta City Council's Clean Waterway Program 9806 5000 or see <http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/faq/Water.html>



### Further information on carp and native fish:

Carp – NSW DPI  
[http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/threatened\\_species/general/content/fn\\_carp.htm](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/threatened_species/general/content/fn_carp.htm)

Fish site for kids  
[http://kids.mdbc.gov.au/basin\\_fish](http://kids.mdbc.gov.au/basin_fish)

Native fish information  
[http://www.mdbc.gov.au/NFS/native\\_fish\\_information](http://www.mdbc.gov.au/NFS/native_fish_information)

Managing the impact of carp – guidelines on CD  
<http://affashop.gov.au/product.asp?prodid=12078>

Proceedings of the National Carp Control workshop 2003  
<http://www.pestanimal.crc.org.au/info/CarpProc.pdf>

Carp fact sheet, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests  
<http://www.daff.gov.au/content/output.cfm?ObjectID=4895611E-6AF1-444B-8FEC2BF6E44EB30B>

And many other references can be found on  
[http://www.feral.org.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.searchResults&PageNum\\_rsSearchResults=1](http://www.feral.org.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.searchResults&PageNum_rsSearchResults=1)  
[http://kids.mdbc.gov.au/basin\\_fish/alien\\_fish/carp](http://kids.mdbc.gov.au/basin_fish/alien_fish/carp)



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