

# Waterkeeper Hawkesbury Nepean

Sue Martin



## Acknowledgement of Country

- Jumma paialla mittigar Darug, ngubafy dubbar burdo bija burriiong burrapur.
- We talk to our friends Darug, we love ground and water here, today and tomorrow.
- Dharug language Acknowledgement – using the 1990 Dharug Dictionary
- Please use the chat to acknowledge your First Peoples

***Look after Country and it will look after you.***

*it's all about respect, loving and caring April Bright 1995*



**SINGING ON**  
**Deerubbin**  
**Shores**



# My story:



## Schools

JPH  
Marian  
Emmaus  
Riverview  
MSB - Board

## State government

EPA  
DLWC  
HNCMT

## University

ACU  
UWS

Earth Ministry

DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA  
SOCIAL JUSTICE OFFICE

## Local government

BHSC  
LGSA



Sydney University / UNE

BScAgrDipEd



NGO  
WSEDB  
Catholic Mission



# What does a HN Riverkeeper look like



The Waterkeeper movement defends the fundamental human right to drinkable, fishable, and swimmable waters, and combines firsthand knowledge of local waterways with an unwavering commitment to the rights of their communities.

**Waterkeepers speak for the waters they defend**—with the collective strength of Waterkeeper Alliance and the backing of their local communities.



# Hawkesbury River Waterkeeper 1.0



R  
C  
E

REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE  
ON EDUCATION FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



**HEN**

# Hawkesbury River Waterkeeper - 2.0

- ▶ Hawkesbury River Waterkeeper 1.0 did not flourish.....
- ▶ Re-invigorate our Waterkeeper Alliance membership
  - ▶ CHEN offering to hold this space

# Cattai Hills Environment Network

- *“an organisation educating, advocating, and celebrating the natural wonders in Cattai & Little Cattai catchments.”*



# Hawkesbury – Nepean River

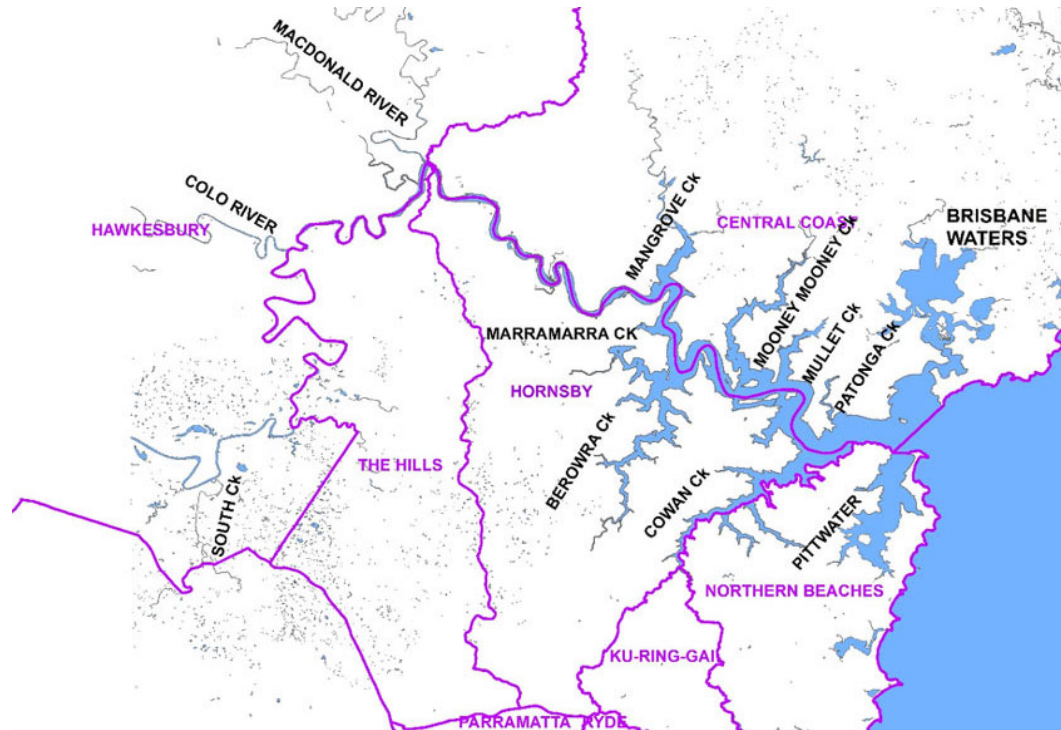
## Sub-Catchments and Location of Major Towns

(Source: Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Management Review Stage One, March 2014)





# Coastal Management Act....Local Council



Hornsby Council lead agency developing a new management plan for the Hawkesbury River System covering of the area of estuary between Yarramundi (the tidal limit of the river) to the estuary entrance between Box Head and Barrenjoey Head.

We are aiming to have the CMP completed by December 2021.

# Hawkesbury River Waterkeeper - 2.1

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UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY



**Local Land  
Services**  
Greater Sydney





# Learn from others

- ▶ **No coordinated NSW Riverkeeper voice**
- ▶ **Minimal support for active participation by community Waterwatch / Streamwatch programs across NSW**
  
- ▶ **Queensland government**
- ▶ The partnerships are a collaboration of science, industry, government, community, Traditional Owners, farmers and fishers and conservation and tourism representatives, who together, have a shared vision for healthy waterways in their regions and develop annual regional waterway health and management practice report cards.
  
- **Cooks River Alliance**
- **Parramatta Catchment group**
- **George's Riverkeeper**
- **Bellingen – river on brink of collapse**
- **Richmond River**

HEALTHY  
**RIVERS**  
FOR ALL

# Learn from the past

- ▶ Office of Hawkesbury Nepean
  - established after the 2009 River Summit
- ▶ Objectives of the office:
  - ▶ Integration of strategic planning
  - ▶ Developing a monitoring framework
  - ▶ Committed and ongoing sustained action
  - ▶ Compliance audit and enforcement review
  - ▶ Awareness, education and engagement
  - ▶ Aquatic and riparian weed plan



## What is achievable??

- ▶ Could Platypus be the focus?
  - ▶ “Make Parramatta swimmable”
- ▶ Great River Walk project is still active



# Tomorrow it could be....

- ▶ Independent body that has support of major stakeholders, with teeth
- ▶ Building an Alliance model similar to Yarra?
- ▶ Developing a HN Riverkeeper Report Card
  - ▶ Do we start with a **platypus** report card?
  - ▶ Maryland University to create [a triple bottom line report card](#)
- ▶ Is it a Champions model linking community voices across the HN? Starting with CHEN
  - ▶ GSLN linking voice for each reach of the river working closely with the CMP





*"Our world is a fragile place. If we want to make sure it is safe, just, clean and viable for future generations, it is up to all of us to look after it."*

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# Governance models - Yarra

- ▶ The Objectives of the Association are—
- ▶ • to be an effective, independent public advocate for the Yarra River and its tributaries
- ▶ • to provide a unified voice, representative of the community, in relation to whole-of-river issues
- ▶ • to identify, create and implement initiatives that will protect and restore the Yarra River and its tributaries
- ▶ • to build and foster relationships with all stakeholders
- ▶ • to ensure integrated management founded upon stewardship
- ▶ • to build and make publicly accessible knowledge relating to the Yarra catchment
  - to celebrate the ecological and social value of the Yarra River and its tributaries
  - to establish a realistic funding base that can support projected activities