

# Penrith's Great River Walk

## THE GREAT RIVER WALK

A new Penrith experience that is to be incorporated into the Blue Mountains Heritage Drive, the Great River Walk will eventually provide walking and cycling facilities along the entire Nepean Hawkesbury River system from the Southern Highlands to Brooklyn. The first stages will link the Windsor and Richmond area with Penrith and already most of the section linking the Nepean River at Penrith with Penrith Lakes has been completed. This links with the existing loop path around both sides of the river in Penrith and Emu Plains utilising the bridges on the M4 and the Great Western Highway.

## PENRITH LAKES

This is a massive scheme involving the creation of a series of seven lakes rehabilitating a former sand and gravel quarry on the floodplain of the Nepean River about three kilometres north of the Penrith CBD. The area covered by the scheme is 1935ha. The scheme is now nearing completion and will provide a mixture of housing, employment and recreation and tourism facilities. There are already several major attractions located within Penrith Lakes. These include the International Regatta Centre which hosted the rowing and flat water canoeing events in the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Today it is available as a recreational facility with a cycling track around the perimeter of the main lake, extensive picnic grounds,

canoe hire and sky diving. It is also a venue for major events, including Australia Day Regional celebrations and numerous triathlons and other sporting events. Another major attraction is Penrith Whitewater Stadium which hosted the Olympic canoe slalom. It is the only facility of its type in Australia and it continues to be available for Whitewater Rafting, an exciting adventure activity. Muru Mittigar, Aboriginal Cultural Centre, and winner of a national tourism award in 2007 presents Aboriginal culture and foods. In the next few years significant additional recreational facilities and visitor accommodation will be developed on the site. For Penrith Lakes attractions see page 18.



ABOVE The new section of the Great River Walk linking the Nepean River with Penrith Lakes.

BELOW Providing an all weather crossing of Nepean tributary Boundry Creek was the major engineering work in the new section of the Great River Walk providing previously inaccessible views of Penrith Weir and Victoria Bridge.

