

On The Moorabool River

The Geelong Landcare Network in conjunction with Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) completed a revegetation project along the Moorabool river. This project funded by the CCMA and titled 'Waterways Frontage Protection Program' has had significant community groups and land manager collaboration. This site is on an active farm with cattle access to the river. There are large stands of remnant vegetation along the 1km project site and contained high biodiversity values, but was invaded with weeds and bank erosion from cattle. Through this project the weeds were addressed, slope erosion control undertaken, wildlife corridors and connectivity established and the biodiversity values projected and enhanced.



Above : Before weed control, after cypress removal, after planting

Groups and Organisations	Activities	Figures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geelong Landcare Network Corangamite CMA Batesford, Fyansford, Stonehaven Landcare Group Norlane West Scout Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed ID, Photopoints and mapping Weed control and maintenance Fencing Revegetation Community Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weeds controlled: Boxthorn, Gorse, Pine, Galenia, Fennel 1.5ha land controlled 3850 plants planted 1km fencing \$27,900 from the CCMA

Plants Planted at Project Site

Common Name	Scientific name	Quantity
River Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	20
Silver wattle	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	20
Blackwood	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	110
Black wattle	<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	106
Moonah	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	40
Varnish wattle	<i>Acacia verniciflua</i>	40
Common Cassinia	<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	430
Drooping Cassinia	<i>Cassinia arculata</i>	180
Woolly Tea Tree	<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	380
River Tea Tree	<i>Leptospermum obovatum</i>	164
Tall Sedge	<i>Carex appressa</i>	800
Silver Tussock	<i>Poa labillardierei</i>	1000
Spiny headed mat-rush	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	560

Weed control at the project site was a major aspect and challenge. Steep uneven ground proved difficult working alongside the river. The property owner had a contractor come in to remove the pines. The remaining weed control was done by the property owner. A major initiative was the planting, this was meant to be undertaken by Landcare volunteers. But with the continued lockdowns of 2020 there were restrictions. We were able to get a day of planting in with the Norlane West Scout group. The Scout group was able to get 400 plants in on the day. The rest of the plants were planted by a Victorian Government 'Working For Victoria' crew provided by the CCMA.

A project of this complexity could not have been undertaken without this collaboration. Whilst this has made a significant difference to the biodiversity values of the site, maintenance is the key going forward. In order for the site to reach biodiversity benchmark (EVC Benchmark), the site will require regular maintenance for the next 10 years. Significant weed regeneration occurs after the initial control due to removal of competition and access to light, space and nutrients. Therefore the follow up is critical to ensure efforts and resources are not lost into the future.

Photo Point Monitoring

The Property owner has expressed interest to stay engaged with the local Landcare group and to partake in photo point monitoring to show progress across a cross section of the site. This will be provided evidence of site maintenance and indigenous vegetation recruitment.



Expenditure

Activity	Funds Paid
• Weeds and rabbit control	• \$9,832.00
• Revegetation	• \$9,571.00
• Fencing	• \$8,497.70
• Project Management	• \$4,464
• Total	• \$32,364



Above : Norlane West Scout Group Planting Day August 2nd 2020

Supported By



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