



Big changes for the Grange Burn

HAVE you noticed the new traditional plant use garden along the Grange Burn? This garden is part of Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Grange Burn Restoration Project now entering its second year of on-ground works.

Funding for this project is from the Victorian Government's Regional Riparian Action Plan and is part of a broader \$222 million initiative to improve the health of waterways and catchment across regional Victoria.

The garden would not have been possible without the planning, support and on

grounds works by Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners, Windamara Aboriginal Corporation, Southern Grampians Shire Council and the Victorian Government.

In 2016 Windamara Aboriginal Corporation Budj Bim Rangers planted 400 native plants in a traditional plant use garden along the Grange Burn. The Rangers were back recently installing an interpretive sign which assists with plant identification and outlines the traditional uses of each of these plants.

The garden located near the concrete footbridge adjacent

to Terrill Dve, hit heavily by the floods in September 2016 has now been restored and will receive supplementary planting in spring this year to replace plants that were lost.

In addition to the traditional plant use garden, there have been many other improvements to the health of the waterway through Hamilton, with arborists using chainsaws, chippers and a forestry mulcher clearing significant sections of woody weeds, past sites being maintained, mulch being spread and revegetation occurring with over 4,200 seedlings planted in the last 18 months.



GLENELG Hopkins CMA Project Officer Chris Wilson with the Budj Bim Rangers upon completion of the interpretive sign installation. Photo: Supplied.



MATTHEW Butt and the Budj Bim Rangers establishing the first plants into the garden in July 2016. Photo: Supplied.

"The removal of the woody weeds will allow access for recreational fishing, create native habitat corridors, promote in-stream health and boost water quality which will benefit fish, platypus and other native animals," said Mr Adam Bester Waterway and Catchment Health Program Manager at Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

"Walkers along the Grange Burn weren't able to see the river in many places due to the dense woody weeds. Now we have better views of the river, which in time, once more native trees are established will make for a more pleasant walking experience."

Chris Wilson Project Officer of the Grange Burn Restoration Project said the CMA would be

working in stages to achieve this aim.

"The woody weed removal will be undertaken in sections at a time. This approach means that the river won't look totally bare of vegetation," said Mr Wilson.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's) have been used throughout the project to establish aerial photo points and monitor changes over time. The UAV footage has also been useful in identifying the extent of woody weed infestations assisting in where and what weeds to clear.

During 2017 works along the urban reaches of the Grange Burn will include maintenance of previous sites, revegetation and follow up woody weed control. The first maintenance

task for 2017 along the urban section of the Grange Burn will be to combat the weed growth over the Christmas New Year's period.

Landholders downstream of Hamilton also have the opportunity to express interest to undertake riparian projects, with all landholders in the priority area receiving correspondence regarding incentives for fencing, revegetation and weed control activities.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Grange Burn Restoration Project, or have property frontage to the Grange Burn and would like to become involved, please contact Chris Wilson on 5571 2526 or via email at c.wilson@ghcma.vic.gov.au.

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