

Angler Riparian Partnerships Program

Statewide achievements in 2019/20 and program finale

The health of Victoria's waterways and fish populations are benefiting thanks to recreational fishers who repaired riparian land as part of the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program.

Riparian land is the land that runs along the edges of rivers, creeks, estuaries, lakes and wetlands. Healthy riparian land is critical for healthy waterways and fish populations by improving water quality, buffering water temperatures, filtering nutrients and sediments from catchment run-off, stabilising river banks, reducing erosion, and providing shade, food and shelter for fish.



Healthy riparian habitat along the Steavenson River near Marysville, Victoria. (Photograph: Renae Ayres)



Fish need healthy riparian and instream habitats to survive and thrive. (Photograph: Arthur Rylah Institute)

The \$1 million Angler Riparian Partnerships Program has allowed recreational fishers to partner directly with regional catchment management authorities (CMAs), landholders and local communities. Together they delivered works to improve riparian land along waterways that are important to them - for fish in their favourite fishing streams. The program operated across regional Victoria for 4 years (from 2016/17 to 2019/20) and has now finished.

The Angler Riparian Partnerships Program was funded through the \$30 million *Regional Riparian Action Plan* and was part of the broader \$222 million the Victorian Government announced in *Water for Victoria* to improve the health of waterways and catchments across regional Victoria.

Many Angler Riparian Partnerships Program projects leveraged extra funding, for example, from Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence Fees and other state funded programs. Additional activities were completed to rehabilitate instream and riparian habitat, improve angler access and complement delivery of water for the environment. So, there were even bigger and better outcomes for waterways, fish and communities!

This report summarises the total achievements of the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program across Victoria from 2016/17 to 2019/20, including the achievements in its fourth and final year (2019/20).

Case studies

Statewide achievements from 2016/17 to 2019/20

(2019/20 achievements*)



156 angling clubs and community groups involved
(43 clubs and groups*)



41,555 native trees and shrubs planted
(17,855 native plants*)



39 projects on 30 waterways across Victoria
(15 projects on 15 waterways*)



174 hectares of weeds controlled
(52 hectares*)

* Achievements of the program in 2019/20 only.

Recreational fishers and families revegetate Nariel Creek

The Nariel Creek in north east Victoria is a popular trout fishing stream that's being well-cared for by recreational fishers, local community, the North East CMA... and the Country Fire Authority!

The Corryong Angling Club, Australian Trout Foundation, Victorian Fly-Fisher's Association and North East CMA held a 'Trees for Trout' planting day along Nariel Creek in September 2019. Around 50 volunteers of all ages planted 800 native trees and shrubs along the Nariel Creek opposite the Nariel Folk Festival and Camping Ground. The planting effort built on recent instream habitat works at the site where logs and boulders were installed to restore deeper pools and create refuge habitat for fish.

Shea Bloom, member of the Corryong Angling Club and a Women in Recreational Fishing Network leader, said "It was great to see so many littlies (children) planting trees and learning the importance of revegetating."

Unfortunately, a few months later the devastating Walwa/Corryong bushfires raged through the area and threatened to destroy all the hard work. Incredibly, a dedicated effort by local Country Fire Authority volunteers saved all the timber habitat structures, as well as roughly half of the seedlings.

Local townfolk remain greatly interested in the site and were it not for the unique difficulties of 2020 would have been out on site replacing the lost vegetation. Instead, the North East CMA engaged a contractor to replant the site so that the community vision for this area will still be realised.

For more information, contact North East CMA.

Connect with Corryong Angling Club:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/193355990804075/>



The 'Trees for Trout' planting day along Nariel Creek in north-east Victoria was enjoyed by many people, young and older. (Photograph: David Anderson, twigwater.com)

Case studies

Planting trees gives Barwon River fish a helping hand

The Barwon River is at the heart of Geelong, the largest urban centre in Victoria outside of Melbourne. It's loved by the community and is a destination for fishing, kayaking, rowing regattas, water skiing and passive recreation. For decades, passionate local anglers have been helping to care for the lower Barwon River and its fish by getting involved in several on-ground riparian and instream projects.

In July 2019, nearly 40 recreational fishers from the greater Geelong region braved wet and windy conditions to help revegetate banks of the lower Barwon River near Marshall, south of Geelong. VRFish, the Geelong and District Anglers Club, the Australian National Sportfishing Association Victoria, the Geelong Gun and Rod Association and the Corangamite CMA hosted the event. Angler volunteers planted 2,900 native trees, shrubs and grasses aiming to return a one kilometre stretch of the riverbank to its original floodplain riparian woodland habitat.

Another 3,000 native plants were planted by contractors at two additional locations along the lower Barwon River, bringing the tally in 2019/20 to nearly 6,000 plants. Sixteen hectares of weeds were also controlled as part of this project.

Steve Coleman, from Geelong and District Anglers Club, was proud to help restore habitat along one of his favourite fishing spots. "Planting native trees is a great way to improve fish habitat in the river as it protects the bank from erosion and the woody debris provides shelter for fish, to protect them from predators," Steve said.

These works complement other actions to improve recreational fishing, fish habitat and fish populations in the lower Barwon River, including stocking of estuary perch, installing instream woody habitat, constructing fishways and building new multi-use access platforms.

For more information about the Barwon River tree planting day visit:

<https://ccma.vic.gov.au/2019/07/15/planting-trees-to-give-barwon-river-fish-a-helping-hand/>

Watch a short video about the Barwon River tree planting day:

<https://youtu.be/Kh71Z-OeCEI>

To connect with VRFish, visit:

<https://www.vrfish.com.au/>



Volunteer recreational fishers braved harsh weather conditions to revegetate the lower Barwon River. (Photograph: Corangamite CMA)

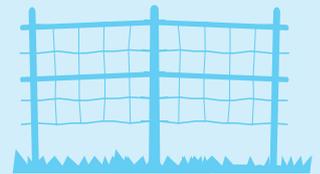
Statewide achievements from 2016/17 to 2019/20

(2019/20 achievements*)



1,045 people participated in activities

(295 people*)



12 kilometres of fencing installed (#)



70 kilometres of riparian land improved (25 kilometres*)



4 truckloads of rubbish cleaned up (#)

* Achievements of the program in 2019/20 only.

There was no fencing installed or rubbish removed in 2019/20.

Get involved

While the Angler Riparian Partnerships Program has now ended, there are many other opportunities for recreational fishers to get involved in local waterway projects that benefit waterways and fish.

Please contact your local CMA

East Gippsland CMA	5152 0600	Mallee CMA	5051 4377
West Gippsland CMA	1300 094 262	North Central CMA	5448 7124
Corangamite CMA	5232 9100	Goulburn Broken CMA	5822 7700
Glenelg Hopkins CMA	5571 2526	North East CMA	1300 216 513
Wimmera CMA	5382 1544		

For more information, visit:

Angler Riparian Partnerships Program

<https://www.water.vic.gov.au/waterways-and-catchments/riparian-land/riparian-land/how-is-riparian-land-managed/angler-riparian-partnerships-program>

#anglerriparianpartnershipsprogram

#habitatforfish

#makingfishingbetter



Happy participants at the Curdies River tree planting day near Curdievale, south west Victoria. (Photograph: VRFish)

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