

Case Study Ian & Josh Sutherland

Ian Sutherland and son Josh purchased a rundown property in the upper reaches of Mathers Creek, near Balmoral a few years ago. They had a ten year vision for the land, which was virtually a dust bowl. They were keen to fence off all the waterways but didn't have the financial capability to do it alone.

The Sutherlands were able to access a grant from Glenelg Hopkins CMA to fence nearly 8 km of waterways on the property, which involved more than 20 km of fencing and 26 ha of revegetation. The grants allowed their ten year vision to be completed in just two years.

While the trees are still small, the increase of vegetation cover in and alongside the creeks has slowed erosion and allowed the natural river restoration processes to begin.

The benefits of the works extend further than just environmental improvement. "The CMA grants have helped a lot" Ian said. "It will improve our stock management and we can still pump water out of the creeks if we need to". He says that just saving one calf from tumbling down a bank and drowning in a waterway will justify all the work done.

The Glenelg River Restoration Project 2004-2012



Figure 1 A tributary of Mathers Creek, in 2009 not long after the Sutherland's purchased the property.



Figure 2 Three years later, with natural regeneration and restoration beginning.



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Achievements at a Glance

Number of landholders involved
>300 farming families

Length of waterway protected
430 km

Length of fencing
650 km

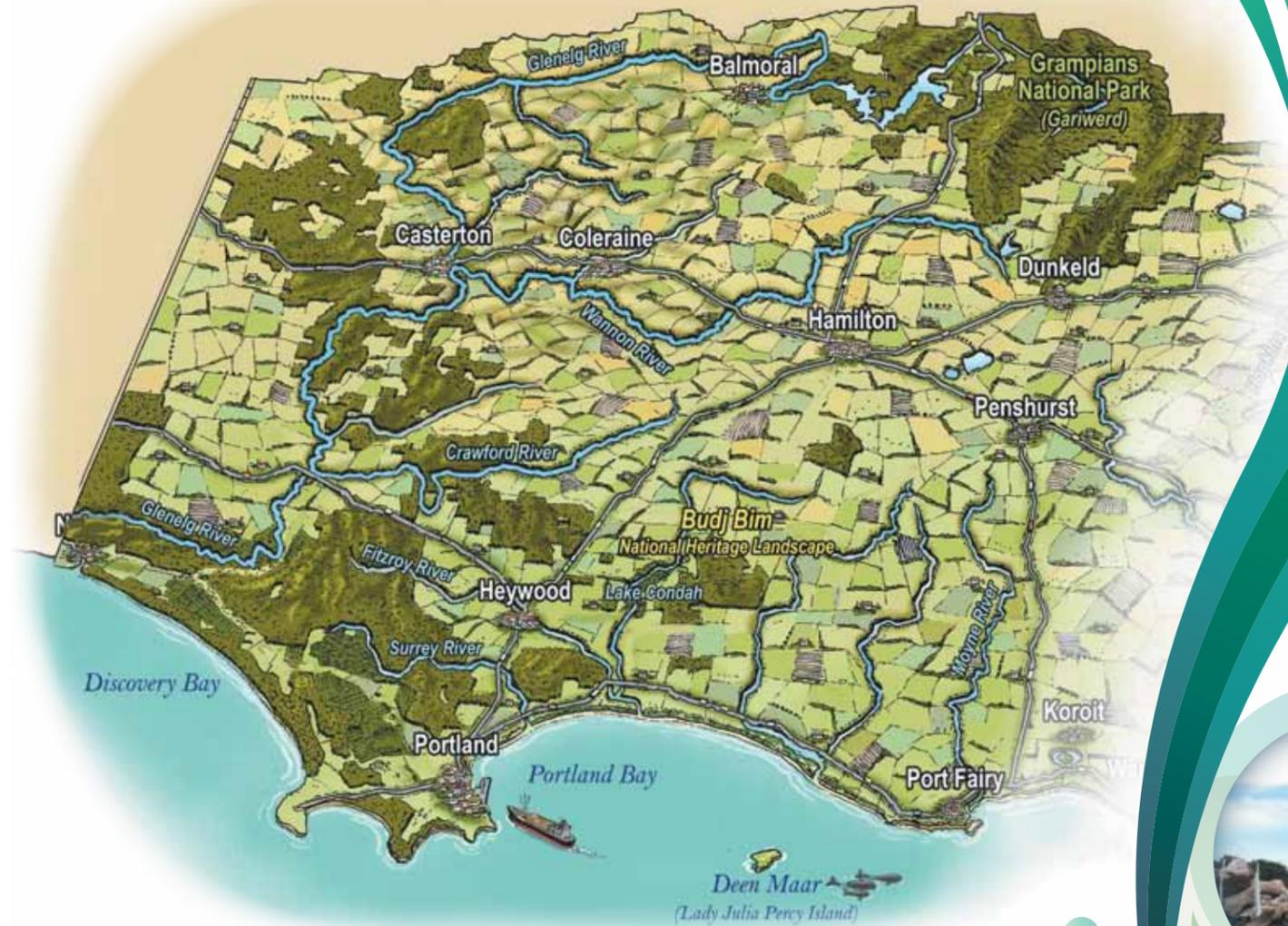
Area revegetated
1000 ha

Area of weed control
430 ha

Pieces of large wood reinstated in the River
870

Value of grants provided to community
\$3.2 million

Total funds spent to protect the Glenelg River
\$14 million



The Glenelg River Restoration Project 2004-2012

The Glenelg River Restoration Project has accumulated a number of significant achievements and discoveries between 2004 and 2012.

The Project, funded by the Victorian and Federal Governments, has been the region's major river protection project, lead by Glenelg Hopkins CMA in partnership with the local community.

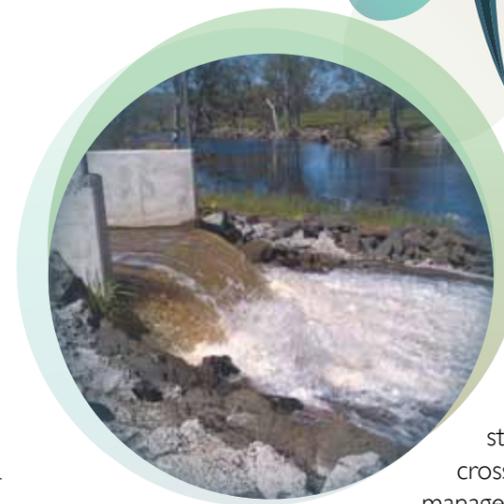
The Project commenced in 2004 and aimed to increase the ecological health and resilience of both the Glenelg River and its inward feeding streams.

In the past eight years \$14.2 million has been spent targeting major threats to the health of the river system including reduced flows, erosion and sedimentation, loss of instream habitat and the pest carp species.

This project has directly benefited the local community. More than \$3 million of grants for waterway protection has assisted the community to care for their river.



Waterway protection and revegetation.



Delivery of environmental flows from the 5-Mile outlet.

The CMA has worked with more than 300 farming families to implement fencing, revegetation, off-stream watering and stock crossings, providing improved stock management and more efficient water delivery on farm.

Millions more have been spent employing local contractors to implement construction and weed control works. The CMA has helped to establish an environmentally-sensitive, locally run sand supply industry from the Glenelg River.



Reinstatement of woody debris.

Achievements of The Glenelg River Restoration Project include:

- Installation of approximately 650 km of fencing to protect more than 430 km and 2750 ha of the Glenelg River and its tributaries.
- Revegetation of more than 1000 ha (or 2200 football fields) of native plants.
- Upgrade of water delivery infrastructure from Rocklands Reservoir to allow the efficient delivery of environmental flows down the Glenelg River.
- Removal of eight fish barriers on the Glenelg River and Mathers Creek to allow natural fish movement and migration and improved recreational fishing opportunities for the community.
- Treatment of more than 470 ha of blackberry, gorse and briar rose along the banks of the Glenelg and Crawford Rivers.
- Annual carp monitoring and eradication program and construction of carp screening structures at Rocklands Reservoir to minimise the impact of this pest species on the native flora and fauna.
- Construction of erosion control structures to minimise further sand and sediment entering the river.
- Reinstatement of large wood to more than 8 km of the Glenelg River at Harrow and Casterton.
- Assistance in the removal of approximately 180,000m³ of sand from water holes along the Glenelg River.
- Discovery of three previously unknown plants, including a new subspecies of *Callistemon wimmerensis*. This subspecies is the tallest known *Callistemon* in Victoria and relies on seasonal flooding and inundation to survive.

The project has been funded predominantly through the Victorian Government's Large Scale River Restoration Program. For more information visit www.ghcma.vic.gov.au



Before



After

Fish barrier removal.