



LODDON STRESSED RIVER

- PROJECT UPDATE

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER 2012 EDITION OF THE *LODDON STRESSED RIVER PROJECT UPDATE*.

This year continues to be a busy one for the project as we complete a range of on-ground works and run a series of community activities.

The other focus in 2012-13 is to monitor and evaluate previous work sites along the Loddon River and meet with landholder participants in the project.

Since 2004 we have achieved most of our project targets for fencing, revegetation, erosion control and fish habitat work. Now it is time to revisit and assess those works.

By revisiting landholders and gathering information we are able to measure the success of our existing work and identify where future work may be required.

Beginning in November 2012 the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) will commence the next

season of annual native fish stocking. Each year the DPI stocks around two million native fish into Victoria's waterways to enhance recreational fishing. Around 77,000 Murray Cod and Golden Perch will soon be put into the Loddon River between Bridgewater and Fernihurst.

And finally, keep an eye out for the new interpretive signage (pictured below) which we recently installed on the Loddon River at the Kerang Weir. This adds to the signage already installed at Durham Ox and along Tullaroop Creek. These signs inform visitors about the work the project has done to improve the health of the river.

Thank you for your support to date and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Tess Grieves
Project Officer
☎: 03 5448 7142

ON-GROUND WORKS UPDATE

January 2012 – September 2012

Revegetation

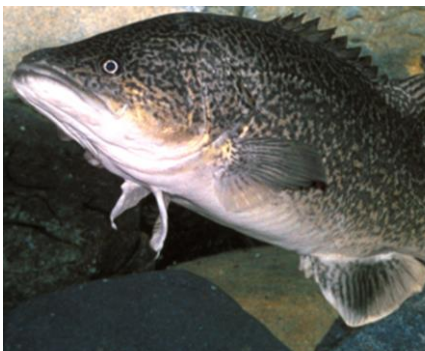
- Flood recovery work has reinstated around 55,000 plantings along the Loddon River to replace flood damaged sites.

Fish Monitoring

- Victorian Environmental Flows Monitoring and Assessment Program surveys complete. The annual surveys at selected sites measure the effects of environmental flows.
- Kerang Fishway fully operational and recording fish movements.

Fencing

- Flood damaged fencing repairs continue along the Loddon River.
- Fencing of new sites along the river is extending the area of river protection.



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LEGACY PROJECT - RIVER ADVOCATES

The start of the project year has been very exciting for our team with the launch of our River Advocates network.

River Advocates is an initiative aimed at partnering with nominated community members and landholders who are passionate about the Loddon River. The River Advocates network was created to share knowledge and ownership of the project's outcomes to ensure the ongoing management and protection of the Loddon River.

We have had two catchment tours along the Loddon River. The first was from Lyonville to Bridgewater and the second from Serpentine to the Little Murray. Following the tours a workshop was held in Serpentine. The guest speakers presented on topics that the River Advocates had chosen as areas of interest. All sessions have proven to be excellent examples of the value of sharing local knowledge and experiences. Supporting these connections and partnerships is vital to ensuring the legacy of the work undertaken along the river.

The next step for the River Advocates network is to develop an online forum, in which the knowledge, stories, historical accounts and photographs can be recorded and shared with the wider community.



River Advocates at the Serpentine workshop



River Advocates Tour 1 at Loddon Falls



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RIVER RESTORATION

Catchment Restoration Officers, Emma Wolters and Glenn Merrick, in partnership with Goulburn-Murray Water, have completed an exciting on-ground works project on the Loddon River at Three Bridges, Eddington.

The site was heavily infested with willows and a large erosion gully also contributed to the build up of sediment. Over time this has changed the hydrology of the river and created islands in the stream course.

The works to rehabilitate this area of the Loddon River include:

- Mechanical removal of in-stream willows
- Stock exclusion fencing of riparian areas
- Introduction of in-stream habitat for native fish species
- Revegetation of riparian zones.

There will be many benefits from restoring this degraded site on the Loddon, improving both the hydrology and stabilisation of the river bed and banks. The on-ground works will benefit water quality over time by reducing the sediment load available in the river, improving downstream vegetation health and restoring the natural course of the river.



Willow infestation within the stream channel; changing the river's flow pattern.



Post willow removal, what a difference!
(Photo courtesy of Platypus Ecological)



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WHAT'S NEW!

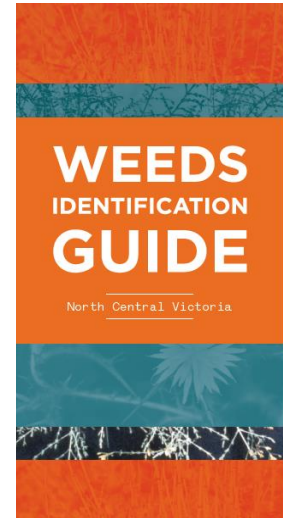
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Weeds Identification Guide

The North Central CMA has recently published the second edition of the Weeds Identification Guide for north central Victoria, which includes updated content and new weeds. The guide includes photos, descriptions, and control options for 88 different weeds that are present or pose significant threats to farms and natural environments in the region.

Hard copies of the guide are water repellent and easily fit in your ute glove box or back pocket. Copies will be available to Landcare members, farmers and landholders in the North Central CMA region through their local Landcare group or by contacting Ashley Beven, the North Central CMA's Regional Landcare Facilitator on (03) 5448 7124.

Alternatively the guide can be downloaded from the North Central CMA website at www.nccma.vic.gov.au.



Loddon River Gate Signs

The *Loddon Stressed River* project team wishes to thank and acknowledge the efforts of landholders and community participants involved in the *Loddon Stressed River* project.

Over the life of the project we have worked with over 150 landholders, numerous Landcare groups and local schools, all of who contribute to the sharing of local knowledge, experiences and overall project success.

If you would like a sign, please contact North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124.



Durham Ox Fishing Platform

The Durham Ox fishing platform was launched on Father's Day by Minister Walsh. With perfect weather and around 60 guests in attendance the launch was a great success funded through a Recreational Fishing Grant. What a perfect spot to drop in a line! (Photo courtesy of Loddon Vale Landcare).



WHAT'S COMING UP?

- Continued delivery of on-ground work complementing flood recovery work
- Riparian condition and works monitoring and extension
- Upcoming events. For more information visit www.nccma.vic.gov.au
 - November 14, 15 and 23, 24: Native Grass ID Short Course – Expressions of interest are now being accepted for two short courses in native grass identification.
 - November 3: Wetlands and Waterwatch: Discover Gunbower Creek by Canoe – Come and join us for an afternoon of exploring Gunbower Creek.

