

Annual Report - Black Spur Creek Wetlands Project (BSCW)
For Nerrena/Tarwin Valley Landcare Group. July 2019

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I'd first of all like to thank you – the people who are taking the time to listen to or read this report and take an interest in the natural environment of the Black Spur Creek Wetlands. I extend this sincere appreciation to the many other people, groups and organisations who have taken an interest, offered ideas, provided support, and attended our events over the year. This 40 hectares of public land is important to people within and beyond our landcare group area.

Working with such a motivated and skilled committee as Sue, Jill and Coral has been exhilarating. The excellent team work (and support of our husbands/partners) has enabled us to progress despite our many other commitments.

The two monthly update (available on our website) is one way we communicate with relevant land managers, adjoining landholders and community groups. As well as going to the landcare group, it is emailed to other interested individuals and the Major Roads Project Authority, Great Southern Rail Trail Committee, South Gippsland Shire, West Gippsland Catchment Authority, Department of Environment Land and Water, Museum Victoria, South Gippsland Water, and community groups such as the Koonwarra Recreation Reserve, South Gippsland Bird Observers, South Gippsland Australian Plant Society and Meeniyah Progress Association.

The updates describe our activities for the year but I will list some highlights:

- **Connecting with Uncle Shane and the Bunurong** and gaining insights into the cultural history of this place.
- Input into MRPA plans for vegetation and habitat management including indigenous species for revegetation and weed control on their 18 hectare footprint. The presence of an active Landcare Group with a plan enabled MRPA to invest in **vegetation offsets on site to retain and restore wetland vegetation communities**. Over 10 years, the 8.7 hectare offset site will be managed to improve the quality of approximately 6 hectares of Strzelecki Gum habitat (excludes the wetland area) and add an additional 1.2 hectares of habitat through revegetation. The MRPA will also manage our section of the rail trail for 3 years.
- What's in the Wetlands **Citizen Science Training** for landcare volunteers which resulted in Bird Monitoring activities
- **On ground work planting trees** with the Great Southern Rail Trail Committee at Hogans Road. Although just outside the BSCW project area, hopefully this will be the beginning of ongoing cooperation and team work which can expand once the highway realignment is completed.
- **Fencing, weed control and wetland restoration** such as blocking drains and extensive willow control by adjoining landholders Luke and Melissa with the WGCMA. Also Vic Roads control of Cape Broom on the South Gippsland Highway.
- **Reaching the broader community** with the website and publicity such as the Meeniyah Newsletter, Friends of Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens, Coast Magazine, & Victorian Landcare Magazine. A presentation to the South Gippsland Landcare Network. We had visitors from International Landcare and the Friends of the Cranbourne Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

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