



GOULBURN
BROKEN
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

Municipal In *f*ex

Volume 1 Issue 1.

August 2004

Welcome to new *Municipal Infex*

Points of interest

- > New look Newsletter
- > Australia is the driest inhabited continent in the world and yet, per capita, we are among the highest users of water in the world. As a nation we are facing one of the biggest challenges of our time. That is - to maintain and sustain water supplies for tomorrow's Australia.
- > Water is essential to our everyday lives: we use it for drinking, washing and watering – the very basic human needs. Our communities thrive on it, our economy relies on it and our environment survives on it.
- > Our traditional approach to managing water has been to exploit rivers and aquifers, create dams to supply towns, industry and irrigation, and then dispose of the "waste water" back into rivers or the ocean. This is not sustainable !

When the Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Salinity Management Plan (SIRLWSMP) was developed in 1989 and endorsed by Government a long association with local government began.

The Goulburn Broken Region Salinity Pilot Program Advisory Committee (SPPAC) negotiated an informal agreement pledging support for the fight against salinity with the (then) 13



Salinity mitigation works —
Muckatah Surface Water
Management System

municipalities covering the plan area.

In 1990, as a result of this agreement the Municipalities Against Salinity of Northern Victoria (MASNV) group was formed . Since that time a newsletter in several formats and under several names has been produced and circulated to each of the municipalities within the Shepparton Irrigation Region.

Local government amalgamations in 1994 reduced the number of municipalities to three. These being Campaspe Shire, Moira Shire and the City of Greater Shepparton.

These amalgamations, the formation of Catchment Management Authorities and the development of Regional Catchment Strategies under the CaLP Act 1994

consolidated and built on MASNV's purpose.

Supported by local government, the Catchment Management Authority through the Shepparton Irrigation Region Implementation Committee continue to work with local government through the Municipal Catchment Co-ordination project.

Information exchange has played a very important part in the success of the partnership and the achievements to date that support the plan and strategy objectives.

The name of the new look newsletter **Municipal Infex** highlights the importance of information exchange between the Catchment Management Authority and local government.

Broken Boosey State Park

When Major Mitchell crossed Victoria in 1836, he spent several days travelling through grey box - dominated grassy woodlands which, at that time, covered over a million hectares of the vast riverina plains of northern Victoria. Now, the largest patches of that vegetation can be walked across in minutes.

Less than 2% of the woodland type remains, most of it with few, if any indigenous herbs, grasses and shrubs, and with an even smaller percentage protected in conservation

reserves. In this context the Broken -Boosey State Park represents not only a large and very significant addition to the reserve system but also a concrete turning point in European attitudes and actions towards these tiny remnants and their conservation and management.

The park also contains significant Aboriginal cultural heritage values. So far, more than 70 scar trees have been recorded within or adjacent to the park area . This abundance

indicates a high level of use by Aboriginal people, and suggests that further significant sites are likely to be found. As this is an area of high cultural significance to Aboriginal people further identification activities should include the traditional owners.

The creation of the park supports a number of initiatives undertaken during recent years by the local community to protect stream banks, water quality and various

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2004 Victorian Landcare Forum



Broken Creek - Broken Boosey State Park.

This forum was held in Bendigo on the 3rd-4th June 2004. Over 300 people attended with more than 60% being community Landcare members.

Community Landcare members were invited as "Voices" and support staff, management and policy makers as "Ears" to hear what Landcare members were thinking.

Fifty stories across six topics probed the full range of Landcare's current work.

Forum participants decided as individuals how they believed community Landcare needed to be made stronger, and what they themselves could do at a local level. The forum generated eleven opportunities for further development.

These opportunities were discussed with partners, stakeholders and supporters of Landcare when the forum reconvened in Melbourne on 16th July. Local government and

Landcare was an issue discussed in depth.

The use of zones, overlays and development approvals were discussed as potential tools to assist with the protection of natural assets and in particular native vegetation.

The benefits derived from having environmental issues worked into basic planning decisions and the value of natural environment advisory committees was also discussed in depth.

Community Landcare Support Strategy

In response to recommendations from the "Healthy Landscapes Sustainable Communities Victorian Action Plan for Second Generation Landcare" report, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is currently in the process of developing a Community Landcare Support Strategy.

The strategy is being

developed in response to the report's recommendation 5 "Improve Landcare support through establishing a 5 year Regional Landcare Support Strategy for each CMA"

The purpose of the Strategy is to set the context for community natural resource management activities within the catchment and

explains how these activities will be supported to meet the challenges of the next 5 years.

Stakeholder groups and partners, including local government, have been engaged in the process.

A final draft will be presented to the GBCMA Board on 3rd September 2004.

"Improve Landcare support through establishing a 5 year Regional Landcare Support Strategy for each CMA"

Know Your Jargon

Biodiversity - Biodiversity encompasses a huge range of living things and ecosystems, which are constantly evolving and adapting to environmental changes.

As defined in the National Strategy for Conservation of Australia's Diversity, biodiversity is defined as - "The variety of all life forms - the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and

the ecosystems of which they form a part"

Sustainability - The precise definition of sustainability is still subject to debate. It has no single or universally enforceable definition.

The 1987 Brundtland report defined sustainable development as - "Development seeking to meet the needs of the present generation without

compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

Catchment - Land that is bounded by natural features such as hills or mountains from which all runoff water flows to a low point.

In the case of a natural catchment area, the low point could be a dam, a location on a river, or the mouth of a river where it enters the ocean.



Discussing an infestation of arrowhead in the Broken Creek.

Biodiversity Month—September 2004

Seed Bank - As part of the planned program of events, the Goulburn Broken Seed Bank is having an open day. The seed bank is located at the Dookie Campus of Melbourne University.

Activities associated with the open day will include a tour of a seed production area, seed cleaning and storing, collection and processing methods and seed identification as well as a workshop on the topic of provenance. Find out the

latest: What do we know about provenance? When does it matter? What implications does it have on our revegetation efforts?

Also on the program is a **Wetland Ecology** - Natural and Constructed Wetlands workshop. The workshop will provide an overview of wetland function and ecology with local expert, Keith Ward.

This workshop will also include a visit to both a natural and constructed

wetland site for a hands on discussion about wetland flora, revegetation, wetland birds, frogs and macro invertebrates.

Kate Stothers, Nature Conservation Officer at the Department of Primary Industries, Benalla has put together a comprehensive program of events.

Further information about these events can be obtained by contacting Kate on (03) 5761 1572



Native vegetation - Broken Boosey State Park

Broken Boosey *Continued from page 1.*

natural values along the creeks.

The park is made up of linear blocks of land containing the most ecologically intact and significant areas of public land along the Broken, Boosey and Nine Mile Creeks from near Wunghnu in the west, upstream to near Tungamah in the east.

The band of indigenous vegetation that lines

these creeks is in many areas the only distinctive Australian element in the landscape. Stretching over 100km (in a straight line), it provides the only contiguous cross-section along the natural gradient of land systems and vegetation types from herb-rich woodlands near the foot of the Warby Ranges in the east, to semi-arid riverine woodlands near the Murray River in the west.

Contiguous nature reserves and public land water frontages connect the Warby Ranges to the Barmah Forest.



Broken Boosey State Park

"The band of indigenous vegetation that lines these creeks is in many areas, the only distinctive Australian element in the landscape"

Memorandum of Understanding for Irrigation and Drainage Management and Water Quality.

Previously known as the High Level Operating Agreement this memorandum of understanding was signed by all parties on the 22nd June 2004.

It is about further protection, enhancement and improvements to water quality in our waterways.

The document was signed by the Department

of Sustainability and Environment, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Environment Protection Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water.

It is expected that the signatories will work co-operatively and in the spirit of partnership and goodwill to deliver

sustainable surface water management in the Irrigation Districts of the Goulburn Broken and North Central Catchment Management areas of Northern Victoria.

The development and implementation of programs and plans as required in the memorandum will be overseen by a steering committee.



Arrowhead in the Broken Creek - Broken Boosey State Park

Municipal In*f*ex

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Providing information
exchange between
municipalities and the
Goulburn Broken Catchment
Management Authority

Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy - Vision

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, in consultation with partner agencies, local government and the community, has adopted the following vision for its new Regional Catchment Strategy:

“A catchment recognised locally, nationally and internationally for quality agricultural produce and where community values contribute to the benefits of abundant and well maintained environmental assets used for tourism and recreational activities.

The environmental footprint of irrigation and dryland farming will be significantly reduced, with farmers occupying less land and using less water whilst managing their resources more sustainably. New opportunities will arise for increasing their ecosystem services provided by the land retired from agriculture and by improved environmental flows.

The region’s economy will be robust, with much of the agricultural produce processed within the region, generating employment and wealth creation opportunities for a regional community actively engaging in natural resource management programs”

We’re on the web
www.gbcma.vic.gov

Securing Our Water Future Together

Securing our Water Future, also known as the White Paper, recognises that, with eight years of below average rainfall, growing demand for water and waterways in need of repair, we need new and better ways to secure water for the State’s future.

Low rainfall, climate change, growing demand for water and “sick” waterways are all driving the need for change in the way we manage our finite water resource.

Victoria’s prosperity depends on water - for drinking and domestic use,

supporting the natural environment, providing services to industries from agriculture to tourism, mining and manufacturing and nurturing cultural values.

The key challenges are to secure, reliable water supplies for our homes, our farms and industry while meeting the needs of the environment and to achieve sustainable water management.

One of the fundamental principles for water management in Victoria is that the management of water will be based on an understanding that a

healthy economy and society is dependent on a healthy environment.

Water supports our everyday lives - at home, at work and at play. Water is fundamental to our way of life.



Broken-Goulburn River confluence



Canoeing on the Goulburn River



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