

# Landcare fencers without boundaries project restores fences in fire-affected area



Six weeks after the devastating Black Saturday Bush Fires the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network took on the role of coordinating volunteer support to help out the fire-affected communities.

This network has 18 groups and six of them



were burnt out including Kinglake, Strath Creek, Flowerdale, Cereberus Creek, Marysville and Yea River.

The fires had a devastating effect on natural resources, soils, water supplies, vegetation, animal food and habitat.

The Upper Goulburn Landcare Network mobilised its group quickly and supplied insurance, equipment, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), toilet facilities, and coordinated landholder's needs with volunteer skills. The strength of the existing network and community channels saw the project running efficiently very quickly.

The project coordinated 233 volunteers who spent 28 days in the paddock.

The volunteers achieved:

- 1 ha of weed control
- 48.3 km fencing pulled down, picked up and removed
- 6 km new fencing erected
- 600m erosion control fencing erected
- 1.2 Ha riparian revegetation
- Water quality monitoring Stephenson River
- 1 Ha rabbit warrens destroyed

Additional benefits as a result of the project were:

- Team building exercise for corporate staff with 100% positive feedback (one team of 10 I.T. staff valued at \$15,000/day by their managers have organised to return)
- Building Urban-Country links and fostering further understanding of natural environment
- Increasing volunteerism in Landcare
- Engaging 20-40 year olds of a non-traditional demographic
- Building corporate relationships for future projects (Lorax and Coughing Parrot)
- Benefits for local producers
- Building social networks, volunteers coming back on weekends to continue to help families

In addition to this the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network received a \$2,000 grant from the National Australia Bank to continue the support for the projects.

As part of the Australian Government Caring for Our Country investment in the fire affected areas, funding will be provided to the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network to continue this project over the coming two years.

For further information please contact Tony Kubeil at the Goulburn Broken CMA office on 03 5820 1100.