

Hooray for Yea project updates

4 August 2015

Natural Healing

We always talk about removing cattle from streams as an important part of riparian protection. Cattle can be the main contributor to damage caused to a riparian area including vegetation loss – from trampling and fodder, increased nutrient input from manure, soil pugging in wet areas and erosion caused from stock tracks and stock watering points. In a recent project undertaken at a farm along the Yea River, we were able to witness just how quickly erosion caused by stock can start to heal once cattle are removed. It's a great reminder to all Landholders considering streamside fencing that the positive effects can be almost immediate.



Hooray for Yea project updates

29 July 2015

Funding to Protect the King Parrot Creek and the Yea River

Funding is available for landholders in the Goulburn Broken Catchment who want to carry out works to protect and improve the health and resilience of the King Parrot Creek and the Yea River.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) River Health Officer Kirsten Roszak said this was the fourth year the King Parrot Creek and Hooray for the Yea Projects had been funded.

“This is the final year of these four year projects, so we’re encouraging landholders to get involved now while grants are still available,” Ms Roszak said.

“Over the past 3 years we have worked closely with landholders with King Parrot Creek and Yea River frontages to erect more than 7 kilometres of fencing and protect around 26 hectares of riparian land, and we have planted more than 9,000 indigenous plants in these areas.”

Ms Roszak said the aim of the final year of the King Parrot Creek and Hooray for the Yea projects was to expand on these amazing results and continue to assist landholders who want to help protect the precious environment along these valuable waterways.

“The King parrot Creek and the Yea River are priority waterways in the Goulburn Broken Waterways Strategy, and they contain very important populations of nationally threatened Macquarie perch,” She said.

“We have had great involvement from local community groups who have assisted the CMA and landholders to make a real difference to the condition of these waterways.

“Landholders have been very co-operative and are thrilled with the improvement they are seeing in riparian health once grazing has been controlled.”

The King Parrot Creek and Hooray for the Yea Projects are run as part of the Goulburn Broken CMA’s On-ground Works Program with funding from the State Government. These projects aim to improve the condition of the riparian zone, increase instream habitat and improve water quality to protect Macquarie perch populations.

The Macquarie perch was once abundant and widespread across Victoria and New South Wales but has declined dramatically since the 1970’s, with remaining populations relatively small and isolated. The species is currently listed nationally as Endangered (Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) and listed as a threatened species under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

Anglers are reminded that taking Macquarie perch from waterways within the Goulburn Broken Catchment is prohibited, and it is important to remember to return the fish to the waterway as soon as possible if accidentally caught.

For more information on the King Parrot Creek and the Hooray for the Yea Projects contact Kirsten Roszak at the Yea office of the Goulburn Broken CMA on 5797 4400.

Hooray for Yea project updates

November 2014

Honeysuckle control program on the Yea River kicks off again

A large scale honeysuckle control program has re-commenced along the Yea River in the Upland Slopes region of the Goulburn Broken catchment.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) River Health Officer Kirsten Roszak said the work was part of the Hooray for the Yea project.

The Hooray for the Yea project, funded by the Victorian Government and delivered by the Goulburn Broken CMA, aims at improving the river's health as well as supporting fish populations, particularly of native threatened species such as the Macquarie Perch, through on-ground works and continuing community involvement.

"From the results of a community survey undertaken last year as part of the project, we learned there was overwhelming concern about the presence of weeds along the Yea River, in particular, honeysuckle," Ms Roszak said.

"As a result, the Goulburn Broken CMA commenced a honeysuckle control program last summer along the river through the township where it is abundant. We have worked closely with all landholders living near the river to let them know about the planned work and everyone has been great in helping us with access and providing us with details about the honeysuckle control works." Contractors cut vines where the honeysuckle has climbed trees, and spray the growth along the ground. The impact of this work is very clear as the honeysuckle dies back, allowing the previously smothered native vegetation to once again flourish.

"If we can control the honeysuckle and allow the native vegetation to grow back it will improve the condition of the riparian zone, which will lead to a more resilient system." Ms Roszak said. "Threatened species such as the Macquarie perch will benefit from an improved riparian zone, which will provide important habitat for native fauna species in years to come. It will also become a much more beautiful area for the community and visitors to enjoy."

"Landholders have been very supportive of the honeysuckle control works, which we really appreciate." She said. "This is an excellent example of the Goulburn Broken CMA and the community working together to develop resilience in the catchments biodiversity, land, water and people."

It is expected the honeysuckle control works will be completed early in the new year.

Ms Roszak reminded landholders with river frontage that funding support was also available to protect and enhance the river banks by carrying out revegetation and fencing works.

To find out more about the Hooray for the Yea and other Goulburn Broken CMA programs please visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au or phone 03 5736 0100



Hooray for Yea project updates

September 2014

River health grants available for Murrindindi River landholders

Landholders along the Murrindindi River and its tributaries are encouraged to contact the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to find out more about grants available to protect and improve river frontage.

Goulburn Broken CMA River Health Officer Kirsten Roszak said one of the key findings from a recent study found that sand carried



from the Murrindindi River, a major tributary of the Yea River, was affecting both rivers' health.

“During the study, the consultants looked at old maps, studies and photos, talked to community members and land management agency staff and carried out site inspections,” Ms Roszak said. “They then considered a range of factors, such as past and present land use, stream networks, soil type, wind and vegetation cover, to determine how they have all affected the landscape and river system,” Ms Roszak said.

“The study shows that the high sand load caused by erosion from the Murrindindi River and other smaller creeks was a major reason for the high sediment loads we are seeing in the Yea River. The sand has many implications for the health of the river as it creates huge sand banks and changes the size, shape and location of the river channels. This in turn, can have implications for landholders as well as for fish and other aquatic life. Past practices such as mining and logging saw a lot of vegetation cleared from the Murrindindi River catchment, which led to increased flows, erosion, floodplain scouring and loss of in stream habitat as the sand built up – as a result there are basically no native fish in the lower reaches of the Murrindindi and the Yea Rivers.”

Photo: Erosion along the Murrindindi River due to lack of native vegetation

For the past two years the Goulburn Broken CMA has been working with Yea River landholders on the Hooray for the Yea project that aims to protect the river’s threatened Macquarie perch population by improving river health and providing habitat for the fish through activities such as revegetation and fencing off river frontages.

“Given the Murrindindi is a major tributary of the Yea it is important that we look at ways to reduce the amount of sand moving through the system into the Yea. While the main sources of the sand – logging and mining – have declined, erosion is still occurring and we’re keen to support landholders to help speed up the rehabilitation process.”

Ms Roszak said the study also supports the idea that timber in the Yea River generally helped minimise erosion.

“There is some concern in the community about the timber load in some sections of the river,” Ms Roszak said. “The study showed that the timber actually helps prevent erosion as it slows the stream flow. In stream wood also provides valuable habitat for native fish such as the Macquarie perch that prefer deep pools, shelter and shade.”

To find out more about grants to help with revegetation, fencing and installation of alternative stock watering points, contact Kirsten Roszak on 5797 4410 or kirstenr@gbcma.vic.gov.au

For more information about the report visit the Hooray for Yea page at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

The Hooray for Yea project is funded by the Victorian Government.

Hooray for Yea project updates

February 2014

Geomorphology of the Yea and Acheron Rivers

This is a report for the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority on an investigation of the fluvial geomorphology of the Yea and Acheron Rivers. [Click here to view a summary of the report](#)

December 2013

Hooray for Yea River - Goodbye honeysuckle

Honeysuckle is being managed along the Yea River thanks to recent control works.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) River Health Officer Christine Glassford said the work was part of the Hooray for the Yea project.

The Hooray for the Yea project, funded by the Victorian Government and delivered by the Goulburn Broken CMA, aims to improve the river's health and fish populations, particularly of native threatened species such as the Macquarie Perch, through on-ground works and continuing community involvement.

"From the results of a survey we carried out earlier this year as part of the project, we learned the community's overwhelming concern about the Yea River was the presence of weeds, such as honeysuckle," Ms Glassford said.

"As a result, the Goulburn Broken CMA prioritised a honeysuckle control program along the river through the township where it is abundant. A couple of months ago, letters were sent to landholders living near the river to let them know about the planned work. More recently, every licensee or land manager was approached in person to confirm access and provide more detail about the honeysuckle control works."

Last month contractors started cutting vines, where they had climbed trees, and spraying the growth along the ground. The effect of this work is becoming evident as the honeysuckle dies back, allowing the previously smothered native vegetation to once again flourish.

"Landholders have been very supportive of the honeysuckle control works, which we really appreciate," Ms Glassford said.

"It is expected these control works will be completed early in the new year."

Ms Glassford reminded landholders with river frontage that funding support was also available to protect and enhance the river banks by carrying out revegetation and fencing works.

To find out more about the Hooray for the Yea and other Goulburn Broken CMA programs please visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au or phone 03 5736 0100.

Hooray for Yea project updates

13 December 2013

Improvement Works in the Yea Wetlands

As part of the Hooray for the Yea project the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) will be working in partnership with the Yea Wetlands committee to undertake river improvement works throughout the wetlands.

To support the Yea Wetlands committee to carry out the Yea Wetlands Vegetation Management Plan, the Goulburn Broken CMA will be undertaking a number of activities. These include willow control and removal activities, fencing and revegetation following willow removal.

“The Yea River has been identified as a priority river by the Victorian Government because of its high environmental values including the presence of the endangered fish, the Macquarie perch, as well as its recreational and economic values” Goulburn Broken CMA River Health Officer Kirsten Roszak said.

“It is very important to the Goulburn Broken CMA to support community groups such as this when we can, and look forward to continuing this assistance into the future”.

Visitors to the wetlands may have noticed a number of willow trees growing both on the banks and in the Yea River itself, with a large infestation upstream of the Goulburn Valley Highway Bridge. Willows are classified as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) and are one of the most serious riverbank and wetland weeds in Australia.

“Willows are problematic for a number of reasons including increased risk of erosion, reduced quality and flow of water, less habitat available for fish, birds and mammals and they can reduce access to streams for recreational activities such as fishing.” Ms Roszak said.

Glenda Woods, President of the Yea Wetlands Committee of Management is excited about the project “The committee involves a group of volunteers and it is very difficult for us to undertake some of the larger activities in our plan. We are so thankful to be supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA and look forward to the fantastic outcomes that will come from the removal of the willows in our Wetlands, and look forward to working with them into the future as part of the Hooray for the Yea project”.

Some of the willows will be removed from the wetlands predominately upstream of the Goulburn Valley Highway bridge. Following their removal, revegetation works will occur with locally indigenous plants to assist in the stabilization of banks and increase habitat for native wildlife.

To find out more about the Hooray for the Yea and other Goulburn Broken CMA programs please visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au or phone 03 5736 0100.

Hooray for Yea project updates

27 September 2013

Yea River users identify weed control as a waterway management priority

Opportunities to observe birds, fish and vegetation, enjoy a stroll and a secure water supply were what people who use the Yea River valued about it the most, according to a recent Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) survey.

As part of its Hooray for the Yea project the Goulburn Broken CMA carried out the survey to identify what the local community and river users valued most about the waterway.

“The Yea River has been identified as a priority river by the Victorian Government because of its high environmental values including the presence of the endangered fish, the Macquarie perch, as well as its recreational and economic values,” Goulburn Broken CMA River Health Officer Kirsten Roszak said.

“The State Government funding we received for the Hooray for the Yea project will be used to improve the river’s health and fish populations, particularly of native threatened species such as the Macquarie Perch, through on-ground works and community involvement.”

Seeking local community input is an important focus of the Goulburn Broken CMA’s new Regional Catchment Strategy.

“To help prioritise activities, we recognised that it was important to tap into local knowledge and understanding of the river’s history and its importance to the community, and encourage local input into the direction and management of the project,” Ms Roszak said.

Ms Roszak said 37 people completed the survey, with the majority (75%) of respondents either living in Yea, by the river or close to the river.

“The top three responses for how people used the river were walking along it (39%), observing nature (34%), and for water supply (24%),” she said.

“It was also pleasing that only 18% of people considered the river’s condition as poor, with most people saying they believed it was in good (35%), reasonable (32%) or very good (3%) condition.” While most (89%) of respondents had heard of Macquarie Perch, only about a third realised populations had been found in the Yea River.

“We also asked people about what they thought were the biggest threats to the river’s health,” Ms Roszak said. “Stock access, carp levels, rubbish dumping and erosion were all mentioned but the overwhelming concern was about the presence of weeds such as blackberry and honeysuckle.

“As a result of this feedback we will now prioritise a honeysuckle control program and revegetation works along the river focusing on the section of river through the township.”

Ms Roszak said people would notice contractors working along the river in the coming months.

“We have written to landholders living near the river to let them know about the work. Landholders with river frontage will also be informed on how they can access incentives to manage weeds, and protect and enhance the river banks by carrying out revegetation and fencing works,” she said.

The project complements other river health improvement activities undertaken by the community, including through the Yea Wetlands Committee honeysuckle program and by landholders, schools and Landcare.

“The community’s input in to shaping Hooray for the Yea project priorities has been invaluable,” Ms Roszak said.

“We look forward to continuing to work in this way with other communities here in the Upland Slopes region of the Catchment to identify priorities for improving the health of other waterways such as the King Parrot Creek and Acheron and Goulburn rivers.”

To find out more about the Hooray for the Yea and other Goulburn Broken CMA programs please visit www.gbcm.vic.gov.au or phone 03 5736 0100

Hooray for Yea project updates

17 September 2013

Honeysuckle control on the Yea River

In a recent community survey undertaken by the Goulburn Broken CMA, users of the Yea River expressed concerns about the large amounts of Japanese Honeysuckle growing along the river banks. Concern was raised due to the lack of access to the river but also the biodiversity impacts Honeysuckle has on native vegetation. And we couldn't agree more!!

Firstly, a little information about this pesky climbing weed...

Japanese honeysuckle prefers to grow in moist but well drained fertile areas, especially around rivers and road drains. The greatest impact of the Japanese honeysuckle in riparian areas (along rivers) is on native shrubs and low canopy trees over which it can quickly form a dense blanket blocking out light to all other plants which support it. Its sheer weight can cause branch or canopy collapse and can eventually kill the tree. As the honeysuckle infestation takes over killing the native vegetation, we lose important habitat and food for mammal and birds as well as other impacts on river health.



Photo: Honeysuckle growing on native trees that have since died.

The berries of the Japanese Honeysuckle are attractive to fruit-eating birds and as a result they play a significant role in the spread of this weed into other areas. The berries can also travel along waterways where they can lodge themselves in the bank and start growing from there. But let's not forget us humans! The Honeysuckle plant is quite often seen in backyard gardens and sold at many nurseries and far too many people see bush verges as convenient dumping grounds for their garden waste. If the plant is a problem in the garden, it will be a bigger problem in the bush. Cuttings from honeysuckle that makes contact with the ground can grow roots and soon a new plant is growing!



Photo: Honeysuckle growing up an electrical wire.

Hooray for Yea project updates

Honeysuckle doesn't just need birds, water or humans to help it spread, its long stems can produce roots and spread its way along the river course in no time. If you have honeysuckle in your garden, consider replacing it with a native creeper variety such as Mountain Clematis or Purple Coral Pea. If you are pruning or disposing of honeysuckle, make sure it is bagged and thrown in the bin. Don't throw it over the back fence as this is how it likely started spreading in the first place!

The most effective way of managing the honeysuckle plant is to cut the vines at ground level and again at about a metre height. The vines that are above ground or in the canopy of trees etc will die off naturally whilst the vines at ground level will need to be treated with an appropriate chemical. For small infestations or individual plants, hand removal may be the best option as this method reduces site disturbance and the need for use of chemicals.

So, how can the GB CMA assist in its control?

Well, it won't be easy but the Hooray for the Yea project is going to take on the challenge! Over the next 12 months, the GB CMA will be meeting with landholders along this section to work out a management strategy of controlling this weed. Weed control is expected to begin over this coming summer and visitors to the river will start to see the honeysuckle start to die back. Once the dead plant material has started to breakdown, we will then plan to begin revegetation works to re-establish native plants along the riparian zone.



Photo: Honeysuckle infestation along the banks of the Yea River.

We are excited about this project and although it will be a big undertaking, the positive outcomes for the health of the Yea River, and all those who use it – bird, mammal, fish, reptile and human – will be significant!!

Hooray for Yea project updates

5 June 2013

Have your say about the management of the Yea River

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority invites you to undertake a community survey about all things Yea River!! As part of the Hooray for the Yea project, we are interested as your views as a community. We are want to know about future management ideas, triumphs and concerns about the River, fish populations but most of all how you use and value the river.

A short 10 minute survey has been compiled to gather this information from interested community members. You do not have to live along the Yea River to be involved. You don't even have to live in the area! We want to hear from everyone with an interest in the health of the Yea River.

Submissions closed on 30th June 2013

This information will be used to direct opportunities for works along the Yea River. If you would like a hard copy of the survey sent to you please email me at kirstenr@gbcma.vic.gov.au or contact the office on 5736 0100.

Hooray for Yea project updates

24 May 2013

Collecting Water Bugs in the Yea River

As part of the Hooray for the Yea project, Waterwatch will be conducting bi-annual surveys of the macro invertebrate populations (that's water bugs to us!). These bugs are an important part of any waterway and are often thought of as indicators of river health. Some insect species will only be found in the cleanest of water whilst others are quite happy living in dirty, stagnant water!! Freshwater macro invertebrates are very small but many can be seen by the naked eye. They are found in two different types of water: running water and still water. Some species may overlap these two habitats but others will only be found in one. To ensure we get a sample of both of these habitat types we use two different type of sampling techniques, the kick/riffle sample is in the main channel of the river often with fast flowing water and the other is called the edge sample where the water is slower moving and often contains overhanging vegetation.



(Left) Danni Beischer collects her edge sample & (right) Glenda Woods collecting her kick sample in a fast flowing riffle in the Yea River

The samples are then taken and quickly sorted, in trays to identify and count the number of species in each survey type. After this they are all returned back into the river. But that's not all the Waterwatch team do. They also take water quality samples including pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity and turbidity. In fact these measurements are taken every month so we can tell if there is any changes to water quality. Bug sampling is undertaken twice a year in Autumn and Spring. This gives us plenty of data to learn about the types of bugs in the river.



Glenda and Danni get organised as they take the water quality samples and begin identifying the bugs collected

But what's so important about bugs?

Whether you step into a puddle or a river, you are entering into a world which is just as complex as the larger terrestrial environments that we are all more familiar with. There are the herbivores that graze on algae that forms on submerged rocks and logs and some that eat through leaves, roots, and other dead rotting plant material in the water. Next we have the predators who mostly prey on the herbivores! But most importantly, all of the water bugs are at risk of becoming victims to the even larger predators such as fish, frogs and birds!! That's right, these tiny little insects are an important

Hooray for Yea project updates

food source to all the fish in our rivers including the main diet of the Macquarie Perch, an endangered fish species found in the Yea River!! That's the cycle of life!!

These are just a few of the reasons why it is so important to ensure good water quality in our creeks and rivers! If you are interested in becoming a volunteer waterwatch monitor along the Yea River we would love to have you! Just email Danielle Beischer at danib@iinet.net.au.

Hooray for Yea project updates

22 May 2013

Study of Yea River under way

The impact on the Yea River from land management practices, bank erosion and willow invasion will be investigated as part of a geomorphic study being undertaken by consultants Moroka on behalf of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

Geomorphologists look at how factors, such as stream networks, soil type, wind and vegetation cover, affect the landscape.

Goulburn Broken CMA River Health Officer Kirsten Roszak said the two rivers had been identified as priority waterways because of their high ecological, recreational and production values.

"We know that the health of the Acheron and Yea rivers has been affected by changes to the landscape such as native vegetation clearing, willow invasion and bank erosion. Through this study, we hope to gain a better understanding of these issues, as well as any emerging issues, and to identify strategies and specific management actions to address them," she said.

For the past two months Moroka consultants have carried out desktop analysis and modelling based on documents and reports such as old parish plans, earlier studies and aerial photographs.

"This week, the consultants visited sites along both rivers 'ground truthing' – checking the accuracy – of these records," Ms Roszak said. "As you can imagine, looking at the parish plans, many of them dating back to the late 1800s and early 1900s, helps us to better understand how these rivers have changed over the years."



Consultants assess the Yea River from the Murrindindi Road Bridge

Ms Roszak said once the consultants had collated and updated the data they would provide a report to the Goulburn Broken CMA identifying factors that affected the rivers in the landscape.

"The report will also indicate the extent and nature of the rehabilitation and management options required to reduce any negative impacts of geomorphic change, such as waterway instability or excessive sediment production, and identify any risk to public infrastructure," she said.

Findings and recommendations from the geomorphic study, due to be completed in July, will be used by the Goulburn Broken CMA to work co-operatively with land managers to rehabilitate the two rivers.

Hooray for Yea project updates

29th August 2012

Yea River Funding



The Yea River at Devlin's Bridge. Photo: Kirsten Roszak

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is excited to announce that the "Hooray for the Yea" project has been successful in securing funding for 4 years thanks to support from the Victorian Government. This project will be aimed at supporting landholders and community groups to enhance the condition of the Yea River.

The Yea River is identified as a priority waterway for the Goulburn Broken CMA in the Regional River Health Strategy. The Yea River is the second largest tributary of the Upper Goulburn River and has important environmental, recreational and economic values. The Yea River is also significant as it is thought to have one of the last populations of the critically endangered fish – the Macquarie Perch. Threats to this river include decreasing water quality, siltation, presence of willows and other weeds of national significance, and the lack of a wide continuous strip of native vegetation.

Kirsten Roszak, River Health Officer at the Goulburn Broken CMA said "This is an exciting opportunity for landholders and the broader community to play an active role in enhancing the condition of this important river".

"This is very much to be a community driven project and I am looking forward to consulting and working with the community".

Activities supported through the Hooray for the Yea project may include stock exclusion fencing, off-stream watering points, planting of native vegetation, stabilization and weed control. As part of the project, we also hope to conduct a survey to measure fish populations and will be undertaking a stream walk to assess the overall condition of the river.

The Goulburn Broken CMA will hold a community forum in the coming months, date and location to be advised, and everyone is invited to come along and have input into the direction of the project. Landholders will be also contacted to organise a site visit of their section of the Yea River, but are encouraged to contact the CMA office if they would like someone to visit their property sooner.

To find out more about the Goulburn Broken CMA and its programs please visit

www.gbcma.vic.gov.au or phone our Yea office on 03 5736 0100.