

King Parrot Creek updates

20 January 2016

Revegetation is an important part of our River Health Program. One project undertaken in 2004 along a gully of the King Parrot Creek in Flowerdale shows just how landscape changing revegetation can be. This project involved 1km of fencing along the gully to exclude stock and revegetation of over 2000 locally indigenous seedlings. The seedlings were planted both by the landholders and volunteers and during the first year were watered.

Watering in this first year has likely led to the amazing success of the planting and is an important part of any revegetation program, particularly in drier years. The gully was once a denuded part of the landscape and as a result was actively eroding, contributing large amounts of soil and sediment into the King Parrot Creek. Since removing stock and planting, the tributary has seen stabilisation of erosion, increased diversity of native wildlife and a fantastic contribution to the aesthetics of the surrounding landscape.



King Parrot Creek updates



29 July 2015

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.

King Parrot Creek updates

The Macquarie perch was once abundant and widespread across Victoria and New South Wales but has declined dramatically since the 1970s, 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.

King Parrot Creek updates

26 May 2015

Fish surveys by scientists from the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI) suggest Macquarie perch, Southern pygmy perch, River blackfish and Two-spined blackfish numbers are increasing in the King Parrot Creek.

Arthur Rylah Institute Scientist Joanne Kearns said the fish surveys were conducted during April 2015 as part of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's (GBCMA) King Parrot Creek Project to obtain current information on the population status of Macquarie perch between Flowerdale and Kerrisdale.

"A total of 608 fish were captured, comprising seven native and two introduced species, with native fish accounting for 83% of the total catch," Ms. Kearns said.

"Macquarie perch was the most abundant species captured, with 386 individuals between 62 and 350 mm in length captured at all monitoring sites."

Ms Kearns believes the increase in Macquarie perch numbers can be attributed to consecutive years of strong recruitment, particularly during spring 2013.

"It is pleasing to see record numbers of Macquarie perch collected during this survey and also see Southern pygmy perch, River blackfish and Two-spined blackfish numbers increase considerably over the past two years," She said.

Ms Kearns said the presence of Southern pygmy perch within the King Parrot Creek was very encouraging given the widespread decline of this small-bodied native species across much of its former range over the past few years.

No Carp, Goldfish or Redfin were collected during the survey, but Ms Kearns said litter and discarded fishing line continue to be a threat to native fish populations in the King Parrot Creek.

Community groups and landholders in the King Parrot Creek Catchment have helped improve the condition of the King Parrot Creek and the resilience of the Macquarie perch population in the Creek by undertaking significant riparian protection and enhancement works over a number of years.

The Goulburn Broken CMA has provided incentives to landholders with King Parrot Creek frontage to erect more than 10.8 kilometres of fencing and revegetate around 25 hectares of riparian land with almost 14,000 indigenous plants. Weed control has also been a major focus in the area, with more than 665 hectares of weeds controlled in riparian areas by community groups and landholders through State and Australian Government funded Goulburn Broken CMA programs.

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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.

King Parrot Creek updates

The King Parrot Creek Project is run as part of the Goulburn Broken CMA's On-ground Works Program with funding from the State Government. Funding is available to landholders for riparian protection projects including stock control fencing, off stream watering, revegetation and weed control.

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

King Parrot Creek updates

15 March 2015

A study is underway in the King Parrot Creek to track the movement of Macquarie perch and identify breeding sites and potential barriers to fish migration.

Joanne Kearns, Scientist with the Arthur Rylah Institute, who are contracted by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to undertake the study, said 28 Macquarie perch were implanted with internal acoustic transmitters and external numbered tags in April 2014.

“A series of acoustic receivers, or data loggers, were placed within King Parrot Creek and the Goulburn River to allow fish movements to be remotely recorded during this period,” Ms Kearns said.

“This will allow scientists from the Arthur Rylah Institute to investigate fish movement throughout the creek and connectivity with the Goulburn River.

“The acoustic receivers were collected this week and we are now analysing the data to determine what these 28 fish got up to during the past year.”

Christine Glassford, River Health Officer with Goulburn Broken CMA said the results of this study would help the CMA make informed decisions on how to best protect and increase the population of Macquarie perch in the King Parrot Creek.

“It is anticipated that this information could assist in identifying breeding sites, locating potential barriers to fish migration within the creek, and also help us understand how much Macquarie perch move between King Parrot Creek and the Goulburn River.” Ms Glassford said.

Fish surveys within King Parrot Creek are also planned for April to continue the long-term monitoring of this important Macquarie perch population.

Anglers are encouraged to report captures of externally tagged fish before carefully releasing them.

Taking Macquarie perch from the King Parrot Creek or Goulburn River (or any tributaries) is prohibited.

Please contact Christine Glassford in the Yea Office of the Goulburn Broken CMA on 57 97 44 00 for more information.

King Parrot Creek updates

26 March 2014

Thirty Macquarie Perch will be implanted with acoustic transmitters during a survey of the King Parrot Creek being conducted by researchers from the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) between March 31 and April 11.



Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) River Health Officer Sue Kosch said ARI had been undertaking long-term fish monitoring in King Parrot Creek since 2006, as part of the Goulburn Broken CMA's Threatened Species Program.

"The great news is that since we started the surveys in 2006, the numbers of endangered Macquarie Perch captured have doubled from 31 in 2006 to 62 last year," Ms Kosch said.

"However, we're keen to find out more about fish movement. Last year we were pleased to find there were juvenile Macquarie Perch – which is a good sign they're breeding – but very few large individuals were found and only two previously tagged fish re-captured.

"We're unsure whether these larger fish and previously tagged fish are inhabiting other areas of the King Parrot Creek and the population is larger than originally thought, or whether they are moving into the Goulburn River."

Ms Kosch said implanting acoustic transmitters in 30 Macquarie Perch captured in the King Parrot Creek and deploying acoustic receivers to remotely record fish movements along the Creek and the mid-Goulburn around Kerrisdale would help researchers establish the Macquarie Perch population's mobility.

"Understanding how mobile the Macquarie Perch population is and identify potential barriers to fish movement is important for ensuring the long-term future of Macquarie Perch in this area," Ms Kosch said. "For example, it maybe that if they are using the Goulburn River, it could be an important refuge during drought or low flows."

Ms Kosch reminded anglers that taking Macquarie Perch from the King Parrot Creek was prohibited.

"We'd appreciate that if an angler caught a tagged fish, that they record the number on the tag and let us know, before carefully releasing them," she said.

King Parrot Creek updates

The King Parrot Creek Project is funded by the Victorian Government's Securing Priority Waterways – On Ground Works Program. The project aims to improve the health of the King Parrot Creek and protect and expand Macquarie Perch habitat by providing grants to landholders for stream-side fencing, weed control, revegetation and off-stream watering (eg troughs for stock).

For more information about the project, phone Sue Kosch on 5736 0100 or visit www.gbcma.vic.gov.au