



Waterways Local Update 2017-18

Melbourne Water's work to enhance waterways and build resilience to flooding in the Shire of Macedon Ranges.



24.8 km
REVEGETATION
ALONG WATERWAYS



\$530,120
IN COMMUNITY
FUNDING



MONITORING
THE YARRA PYGMY PERCH

Melbourne Water plays an active role in the daily lives of Melburnians. We contribute to Melbourne's famous lifestyle by protecting and enhancing over 25,000 km of rivers and creeks, and more than 479 stormwater treatment systems and wetlands in the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

The Waterways and Drainage Charge, which is paid by property owners and collected by retail water companies on our behalf, funds this work. It is an important part of ensuring a thriving natural environment.

Melbourne Water cares for many waterways. Some in your local area include:

- Monument Creek
- Riddells Creek
- Jacksons Creek
- Emu Creek
- Toolern Creek
- Deep Creek

Healthy waterways

Maintenance and new projects

We are the caretakers of waterway health in the Port Phillip and Westernport region. Each year, we create and maintain healthy waterways by removing litter, debris and excess sediment. We remove and spray weeds, cut grass and plant native trees and shrubs.

What we have done

Why

24.8 km **Revegetation**

We plant native trees and shrubs along waterways to provide habitat for birds and animals. Revegetating waterways and replacing weeds with native plants prevents erosion and improves water quality.

60.2 km **Weed control**

Introduced and noxious weeds can choke waterways and take over from plants that provide healthy habitats for birds and animals.

0.2 m³ **Sediment, silt, litter, debris removal**

Silt, sediment, litter and debris is removed for drainage and flood protection, and to prevent pollution building up in our waterways and wetlands. An excess of these can impact the habitat for platypus, fish and other animals, as well as native plants.

Carried out works to control weeds (eg. blackberry) along Dry Creek, Long Gully and associated tributaries within the Cobaw Ranges

The work aims to encourage the regeneration of native vegetation, provide habitat for birds, Greater Gliders and Brush Tailed Phascogales, prevent erosion and improve water quality in our waterways.

Carried out works to repair a section of waterway bank that had slumped into the waterway in urban Gisborne

Re-grading, rock protection and planting native grasses, shrubs and trees provides habitat for birds and animals, prevents erosion and improves water quality in our waterways.

Stormwater

Rainwater, stormwater and recycled water are valuable resources. We work closely with Council and local communities to protect our rivers, creeks and bays, provide alternative water sources and improve the stormwater that flows into local waterways by integrating stormwater into the urban landscape.

What we have done

Why

Living Rivers provided funding to design and construct streetscape rain gardens in Gisborne

Improving stormwater quality and reducing stormwater quantity enhances waterway and bay health, provides greener open spaces and helps create greater community awareness of integrated water management.

Through the Clearwater program, we supported Council to take a whole-of-water cycle approach by providing a wide range of tools and resources, and opportunities to participate in a variety of activities.

This work helps to improve skills, increase knowledge and foster better networks across councils to change the way we manage water for healthy, connected communities.



The Living Rivers program offers councils funding, expertise and guidance to build their understanding, skills and commitment to manage stormwater within an integrated water management approach. We contributed \$55,000 to projects in your area.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/livingrivers

Environmental water

Working with government agencies, councils, industries, landowners and the community ensures we provide the allocated water needed in rivers to maintain healthy natural ecosystems.

What we have done

Worked with a range of stakeholders and partners to monitor groundwater and surface water levels in Deep Creek and Jacksons Creek

Why

Monitoring helps understand the role that groundwater plays in these drought refuge areas and informs us on enhancing and managing groundwater dependent ecosystems.

Engaged land holders through the Mitigating Catchment Impacts program to identify opportunities and undertake whole farm plans

Undertaking farm plans enables land holders to access grants to implement water savings and improve stream low flow conditions.

Worked with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Southern Rural Water on environmental outcomes for river systems in Integrated Water Management forums

Advocating for environmental outcomes for river systems and tributaries improves the health of waterways.

Monitoring and research

We improve local waterways by undertaking regular and extensive monitoring, investigations and research to better understand them.

What we have done

Monthly monitoring of water quality at three sites within your area. These tests measure:

- water temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- salinity (conductivity)
- pH level
- nutrients (nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, Kjeldahl nitrogen, soluble reactive phosphorus and total phosphorus)
- indicators of faecal contamination (E. coli)
- metals (arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel and zinc)

Why

Our water quality monitoring program is designed to assess broad-scale, long-term trends in water quality (typically over 8 - 10 years). We use this data to help identify pollution sources and inform the community about local water quality.



Planning for future development

We ensure local waterways aren't threatened by growing communities and that new developments do not increase flood risk through planning and providing advice to assist future development.

What we have done

Why

39 referrals for land subdivisions reviewed

Ensure proposed land subdivisions meet current standards for drainage and stormwater quality.

20 development applications reviewed

Ensure that growing communities don't contribute to an increase in flood risk.

33 flood information requests reviewed

Provide flood information to property owners and people interested in purchasing or redeveloping property.

3 applications for works near Melbourne Water assets and works such as bridges, shared pathways and jetties reviewed

Ensure waterways, and the plants and animals that live there, are protected from the potential impacts of building works.

9 stormwater connection applications reviewed

Ensure waterways and the plants and animals that live there, are protected from the potential impacts of construction works.



Flood protection

While floods are natural and we can't stop them all from occurring, we can build our resilience to them and minimise the damage they cause to people, places and communities.

We manage the regional drainage system and work with Council, the Victorian State Emergency Service, the Bureau of Meteorology, property owners and developers to make sure flood information is up to date. We provide flood warning services, prepare flood response plans, and identify and construct new flood protection projects in areas with the greatest need.

What we have done

Continued collecting hydrological data

Why

Data is used to analyse flood warning during emergency situations, as well as for such things as development referrals and projects to reduce the risk of flood.



16 volunteers in your area provide us with rainfall data by recording information from a rain gauge in their backyard. These figures and the data from our automated gauges provides us with valuable rainfall information.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/communityrainreaders

Working with the community

Working collaboratively with community groups, volunteers, land managers and farmers allows for better management of local waterways, natural environments and regional drainage systems. It protects the environment and promotes conservation. If you'd like more information about funding opportunities, please call **131 722** or email river.health@melbournewater.com.au

Funding provided

Grant

For

\$294,401

**Stream
Frontage
Management**

Private land owners and managers for works that protect or enhance riverbanks, such as weed control, fencing and planting native trees.

\$6,300

**Community
Grants**

Volunteer and community groups for works that protect or enhance riverbanks on public land, raise awareness, and provide training and education to protect local waterways.

\$18,699

**Corridors
of Green**

Councils and public land managers for projects such as weed control, fencing and creating management plans.

\$155,720

**Rural Land
Program**

Landholders in specific catchments for projects that reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering waterways from agricultural land.

We also worked with the local community on several events and initiatives throughout the year.

Who we worked with

What we did

Deep Creek Landcare

Stanley Park Management Committee

Newham Primary School

Greening of Riddell

Newham & District Landcare

Provided support for monitoring water quality and the Waterbug Census through our programs.

Deep Creek Landcare

Newham & District Landcare

Newham Primary School

Conducted eDNA sampling for the Yarra Pygmy Perch in upper Deep Creek.

Deep Creek Landcare

Undertook drought refuge monitoring of Yarra Pygmy Perch habitats.

Shire of Macedon Ranges

Local land holders and land managers

Organised a one-day workshop focussing on best practice land and waterway management for horse owners, with around 30 land holders attending.

Shire of Macedon Ranges

Community

Wurundjeri Council

Facilitated a community request to have the 'South Gisborne Drain' re-named to 'Bunil Creek'

Shire of Macedon Ranges

Community

Gisborne LandCare

Attended a meeting and led a field trip with the recently formed Gisborne LandCare to help facilitate project ideas and establish a direction for the group.



Our **Space Your Place** is an app that helps you find land managed by Melbourne Water to use for projects that benefit the wider community, such as community gardens. We encourage communities to apply to use the land. Find out more at

melbournewater.com.au/ourspaceyourplace or call 131 722.



Our citizen science programs harness the power of community through **Waterwatch** programs. They support people to collect and analyse data on platypus, frogs, waterbugs and water quality in their local river or creeks and advocate for waterways to help protect them and promote conservation.

Find out more at melbournewater.com.au/waterwatch or call 131 722.