



Landcare

Minister for Environment visits Bairnsdale Landcarers

The East Gippsland CMA recently hosted a visit by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Ryan Smith, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Brad Battin and local MP Tim Bull on a visit to prominent Landcare sites in Bairnsdale to talk with local groups and inspect the progress of works.

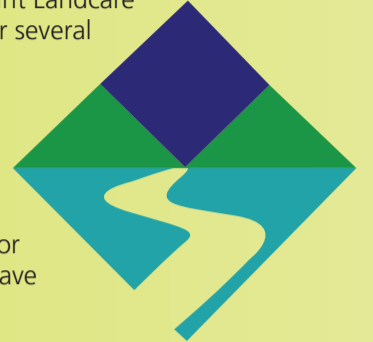
Sites visited are both linked to the Mitchell River that eventually flows into the Gippsland Lakes.

Bairnsdale Urban Landcare Group and the Friends of Picnic Point Landcare have been actively working to improve their respective sites for several years.

The partnerships developed in our community are a key outcome that Landcare helps deliver over a long period of time. The end results of their efforts over long periods is plain to see for all users of these areas.

From our perspective it was great to provide the opportunity for some Landcare representatives to show off the projects they have worked very hard on.

Graeme Dear, CEO



Friends of Picnic Point Landcare

This group was formed in May 2008 by local residents concerned about the weed-infested condition of the iconic Picnic Point in Bairnsdale. The site of about 10 hectares is historically and aesthetically significant.

The members showed Ryan, Brad and Tim the results of their work to remove exotic weeds, plant approximately 4,000 seedlings of indigenous species, and construct boardwalks that provide access through the wetlands on the site.

The group has completed over 3,600 hours of work involving the 29 families that are currently members of the group.

Minister Smith said: 'It is great to see the efforts of the group maximising the Victorian Government investment into Landcare. This way we get a great bang for every dollar invested in these Environmental Partnerships.'

The works on this site have been supported by the East Gippsland CMA, Landcare Victoria and the Caring for Our Country fund. East Gippsland Shire also helps with site maintenance.



Bairnsdale Urban Landcare Group (BULG)

BULG, with assistance from the East Gippsland Shire, the East Gippsland CMA, the Botanical Society and local schools, community groups and Green Corp volunteers has undertaken bank stabilisation and landscape improvements along the Mitchell River in Bairnsdale since around 1998.

Exotic plants such as Poplar, Willow and Ivy have been removed and the sites have been revegetated with native trees and shrubs.

Walking tracks have been built and interpretative signs erected to highlight significant features. New decking has been erected. These features provide better access to the water for recreational activities such as fishing, sightseeing and kayaking.

Tim said: 'This area is now a refreshed point of interest for our community, to walk, ride and run through or just sit and enjoy this special place by the river.'



Recently planted site after removal of poplars.

Landcare in East Gippsland

Landcare groups in East Gippsland received approximately \$395,000 in grants this year from the Victorian Government. The funds contributed to 47 projects throughout the region involving 21 individual groups.

New members who are willing to help with activities that maintain and improve the environment are very welcome. Inquiries should be directed to Natalie Jenkins (East Gippsland Landcare Network on 5152 0612); Penny Gray (Far East Victoria Landcare on 5161 1365); Andrea Mitchell (Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee on 02 6458 4003); or Amanda Bartkowski (Regional Landcare Coordinator for East Gippsland on 5150 3581). Or go to landcarevic.net.au for further information.