

Biodiversity boost for Dargo Creek

The Dargo Landcare group has completed a long-running project to revegetate and tackle weeds at Grady's Creek in Dargo, which complements other agencies' work in the area.

The initiative was funded through the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA).

The project wasn't without challenges and took almost two years to plan and deliver. Funding was initially assigned in 2014, and the group then spent considerable time with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to plan the proposed work to ensure it supported the healthy biodiversity of the site.

The Dargo Landcare group and DELWP met on site to discuss the revegetation species choices and the proposed infrastructure for the site. The revised program works included the recommended species and DELWP consent was given to proceed in 2015.

The site had been heavily infested with Blue Periwinkle and an assortment of other weeds. The Landcare group has done a great job in reducing the weeds onsite, although there will be ongoing weed maintenance required.

Machinery was used in Grady's Creek to clear old willow debris and weeds. The group then held a working bee to revegetate the site.



Top to bottom:

Before weed control

Before revegetation

After revegetation



Dargo Landcare group works with agencies for best outcome

Grady's Creek which runs into the Dargo River, had seen the EGCMA undertake previous willow control, weed control and revegetation works opposite and further along the Dargo River from 2013.

The EGCMA has ongoing revegetation and weed control program sites on the opposite bank of the creek and upstream of this site and continues to work with DELWP and other stakeholders to handle riparian health.

The success of the Dargo project shows the value of Landcare groups working in partnership with the government agencies to address whole-of-site issues.

Article and photos by East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority