



Snapshot 2013/14



Grow West

Grow West is an ambitious, long-term program of landscape restoration in the west of Melbourne. Its vision is to rejuvenate 10,000 hectares of the Upper Werribee Catchment by connecting the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Lerderderg State Park through a mosaic of revegetation and restoration works on private property.

This year, Grow West has:

- planted over 170,000 seedlings and 15kg of seed to revegetate 502 hectares;
- enhanced and protected 196 hectares and 8.5km of waterways;
- installed 32km of fencing;
- engaged 20 landholders over 3 projects;
- attracted over 200 people to plant 6,000 trees at the annual Grow West Planting Day; and
- treated 690 hectares for weeds and rabbits and destroyed 14,100 rabbit warren entrances.

Funding

During 2013/14, the PPWCMA secured \$1,036,812 to coordinate and undertake projects in the Grow West area, including:

- \$975,450 from the Australian Government contributing to a biolink between the Brisbane Ranges National Park and Werribee Gorge State Park;
- \$50,000 from partner organisations including the Moorabool Shire Council, Melbourne Water and Southern Rural Water; and
- \$11,362 from landholders.

Achievements in 2013/14

- **Whitehorse Creek Biolink:** This multi-stakeholder project is brought together by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Rowsley Landcare Group, PPWCMA and Melbourne Water. 58 hectares of revegetation, 70 hectares of protection and enhancement of remnant vegetation, and 6km of waterway fencing and revegetation has successfully created a biolink along the Whitehorse Creek.
- **Werribee Gorge to Brisbane Ranges Biolink:** Funding was secured from the Australian Government in 2012 for two years of work. The project had to establish a 12km biolink between the Werribee Gorge State Park and the Brisbane Ranges National Park. The project has exceeded its targets and has achieved 374 hectares of revegetation, 118 hectares of remnant vegetation protection and enhancement, 492 hectares of pest plant and animal control and 26km of fencing.



John Sheehan, Manager, Yaloak Estate
Helena Lindorff, Environmental Projects Coordinator, PPWCMA

Achievements in 2013/14

- **Ingliston:** This site has been recognised as a nationally important site for rabbit management and has been included in the validation trial for the Rapid Rabbit Assessment Guide. It is also the primary Victorian research site testing the relationship of dung counts to spotlight and warren monitoring data in the assessment of rabbit populations. Part of the project involved direct seeding across the 70 hectare site.
- **Celebrating 10 years of Grow West.** This year Grow West celebrated the major milestone of operating for 10 years. A dinner was held in November to recognise everyone that has played a role in achieving more than 1,000 hectares and 1 million trees of landscape rejuvenation, including landholders, Landcare groups, community service groups, Government departments and authorities.
- **The 8th annual Grow West Community Planting Day** on Sunday 21st July 2013 at Conservation Volunteers Australia property on Myers Rd, Pentland Hills. The day involved 200 volunteers planting 6,000 indigenous seedlings. The event featured a community celebration of Grow West's 10 years of landscape change.
- **Sponsorship of the Grow West Art Prize** in the Bacchus Marsh Rotary Art Show

The PPWCMA hosted Grow West on behalf of its stakeholder organisations and supported a committee to oversee and manage the project. Members of the Grow West Implementation Committee in 2013/14 were:

John Cutler (Chair) - Community member
Lance Jennison - Community member
David Buntine - PPWCMA, CEO
Stephen Thuan - PPWCMA
Helena Lindorff - PPWCMA
Greg Aplin - PPWCMA Board
Russell Hendry - Community member
Alan Morton - Community member
Graham Simpson - Community member
Justin Horne - Moorabool Shire Council
Gavin Alford - Moorabool Shire Council
John Spain - Moorabool Shire Council, Councillor
Stefanie Wabnik - Melbourne Water
Edward Smith - Southern Rural Water
Peter Box - Parks Victoria
Anthony Dufty - Moorabool Landcare Network
Elspeth Swan - Department of Environmental and Primary Industries



Whitehorse Creek Biolink Landcare Tour 2013



Grow West Community Planting Day 2013, hosted by Conservation Volunteers Australia, Myers Rd, Pentland Hills.



*2014 Grow West Art Prize Winner
 Artist: Peter Chaloner
 Medium: Photograph
 Title: The Trees Return
 Location: Myers Rd, Pentland Hills king east*

