



# ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY AND BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY IN ORANGE, NSW

Over 2018-2019, Orange City Council managed a community engagement project to assist in strengthening the general biodiversity within the Orange LGA and provide local community members with basic environmental and natural resource knowledge. The scope of the project involved 3 hectares of woody weed control, 15 community events and extensive revegetation to identified areas with endemic plant species to create 3 layers of vegetation to provide a balanced ecosystem for native wildlife.

## Community empowerment

Building community capacity and empowerment was a key focus of the events and was achieved through;

- hands-on demonstrations of woody weed control,
- planting and mulching activities using best practice management and suitable PPE, and
- the teaching of plant identification skills and natural resource knowledge.

The events were promoted through social media, signage and letterbox drops to encourage local community involvement. Community members were encouraged to take ownership of their area and monitor on a regular basis.

Success is evident with some community champions already undertaking the role of maintaining and monitoring sites.

- Re-established habitat for native insects, birds and animals with 3 layers of local endemic species
- 3 hectares of "Hawthorn" woody weed removal using "cut and paint" method
- 15 community engagement events
- 417 community members engaged and educated in basic natural resource management
- 3375 native tubestock planted and mulched







## Building capacity through community events

Starting with 2018's National Tree Day, the project saw 15 community days attracting 417 community members planting 3,375 native tubestock. Four events were educational focusing on the functions of wetlands and native plant identification. Another event was a hands-on event targeting the control of the Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) woody weed.

- **2018 National Tree Day** – 67 community members planted 620 tube stock
- **Waratah Wetlands** – 20 Flight Centre staff planted 850 tube stock
- **LakeCare** – 3 events where over 30 community members planted 520 tube stock and undertook woody weed control
- **Ploughman's Estate** – 8 local residents planted 140 tube stock
- **Clifton Grove** – 35 local residents attended an educational workshop and planted 80 native grasses
- **Gosling Creek Precinct** – 75 students from Catherine McCauley Primary School attended an educational day at Hinton Reserve involving fauna and flora surveys, nesting box monitoring, invertebrate surveys and tree planting
- **Nelson Park** – 15 Rotary Club members planted 125 tube stock as part of Sustainable Living Week
- **Black Sallee Reserve** – 21 community members attended a wild flowers walk
- **Ploughman's Wetland** – 20 community members attended a walk and talk as part of World Wetlands Day
- **Gosling Creek Precinct** – 55 students from Canobolas High School attended an environmental education day
- **Ploughman's Hill Estate** – 15 local residents planted and mulched 120 trees and shrubs
- **Spring Creek Dam** – 25 Kinross Wolaroi School students planted and mulched 600 tube stock
- **Blackman's Swamp Creek** – 25 local residents planted 320 tubestock

This project reinforced that the local Orange community is environmentally aware and eager to assist with environmental activities. Residents from the Ploughman's Wetlands area and Ploughman's Hill Estate are particularly motivated with local schools also keen to become involved as are local service clubs.



## Collaboration

This project was boosted by funding from the Central West Councils Environment and Waterways Alliance. The balance and coordination of the project was provided by Orange City Council.



## For more information

Mick Callan  
 Project Support Officer  
 Environment & Waterways Alliance  
 Phone: 0438 580 342  
 Email: mick@neophemaenvironmental.com

Roger Smith  
 Natural Resources Coordinator  
 Orange City Council  
 Phone: 02 6393 8000  
 Email: council@orange.nsw.gov.au