

River Restoration Project

Event Information

The eager privet clearers arrived early on the Sunday morning and started clearing smaller trees and other weeds that could be removed by hand. Paul and Pete from the TRLA Bush Regeneration Team showed us how to ensure that the privet that was cut down would not grow back. To maintain habitat, the largest privet were ring-barked. An area of approximately 30m x 10m was cleared before lunch. It was exciting to find native species hidden within the weed species. Paul and Pete helped us to identify these plants so that they were not removed. Following lunch we planted out a variety of species that can be found along the Peel River. This was an activity especially enjoyed by the younger volunteers. Further planting was not carried out within the grant's time frame due to hot, dry weather. Our plan to chip the woody weed species did not occur due to a poorly maintained chipper - we were able to receive a refund which we will use to purchase more plants from the TRLA Nursery.



Members of the school were pleased with the attendance of the local community at the river restoration event. In total, of those who attended, 6 were members of the school staff, 3 were students at the school, 13 adults from the community attended, and 3 local children were able to assist. 2 members of the TRLA Bush Regeneration team were also in attendance.

TRLA objectives addressed through this project include:

- Restoring and Conserving Biodiversity - Riparian area conservation and restoration
- Promote biodiversity values of local bushland and riparian areas and support their conservation
- Engaging the community using environmental education
- Engage young people in the Landcare

Flyers were distributed to the local store and information included within many newsletters leading up to the event.

River Restoration Project in Woolomin

Woolomin Public School, in conjunction with Tamworth Regional Landcare Association, are looking for volunteers to help with the removal of weed species along the river at Woolomin Reserve. If you are available on the date below to assist with this removal, please contact the school as morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea will be provided to helpers.

What to bring: a water bottle, gloves, hat, sunscreen. Whilst tools are supplied, please bring chainsaw or rakes if you have them. Loads of woodchip will be available to those who bring a trailer on the day.

Date: Sunday, 18th of June 2023

Time: Anytime from 9:30am

Where: Woolomin Reserve



A report was written and included in a newsletter after the event providing the community with information.

River Restoration Project

On Sunday, 18th June, a group of eager environmental warriors from Woolomin and beyond gathered early on a beautiful mild winter's morning at Woolomin Reserve along the Peel River to begin the clearing and restoration of the riverside. With the guidance of Paul and Peter from Tamworth Regional Landcare Association's Bush Regeneration Team, we learnt that we would not simply be chopping down all the privet. We began by pulling out the many seedling privet in a relatively small area, being careful not to remove any natives such as native olive, white cedar and angophora. While the larger privet in the selected area were ringbarked to ensure that habitat remained, the remainder were cut and immediately had herbicide applied. We had a break for morning tea, supplied by our generous volunteers. The final clearing completed, we moved onto the planting of our trees. At this time our younger volunteers really stepped up, planting river oak, bottlebrush, eucalypts, tea tree and others into the cleared area. Over a sausage sandwich, cooked to perfection, we chatted and admired our work. We wrapped up the day with the fun of filling watering cans from the river and watering our trees.

A huge thank you to all who were involved.

Mrs Kathrine Cooper

Before



After



Since this event, the students of Woolomin Public School have visited the river to check on the growth of the plants. Community members have also been monitoring plant growth.



An additional event is planned to erect signage detailing the project's aims and the involvement of community groups, removal of seedling privet and other weeds, and to plant more trees and understory species.

The feedback from our initial event from the community has been positive. Members of the school staff were pleased to see a student attend of their own volition, without parent involvement. This student was awarded the Community Participation Award at the school's presentation event at the end of the year. Below is an example of a post made on social media by a community member after the event.

