



APRIL 2020

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Partnerships the secret to success - Glenlofty Sweet Briar

Over the past three years a Sweet Briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*) control project has been rolled out in the Upper Wimmera along the Glenlofty Creek north of Elmhurst. The project has been lead by Project Platypus and the Elmhurst Landcare Group with financial assistance from Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA).

Project Platypus project coordinator Lachlan McIntyre has been active in working on the project.

“These larger scale projects can be difficult to get started but are so worthwhile to assist in healthier waterways, improving the environment by controlling weeds and increasing productivity on farm land,” McIntyre said.

Rolled out in several stages, the control program coincided with waterway revegetation and stock exclusion projects to improve the health of the waterway and increase biodiversity. The project area covered six kilometres of waterway and 85 hectares on the hills adjacent to the Glenlofty Creek.

Elmhurst Landcare Group president and property owner Ben Greene worked closely with Project Platypus in planning and helping implement the ground work.

“The work delivered over the past couple of years has been great to see and something I’ve been hoping to complete for a while. It’s been a lot of work but definitely worthwhile and to see the sweet briar disappear from the creek and the hills is fantastic,” Greene said.

This Sweet Briar control project couldn’t be delivered without WCMA riparian funding or the field assistance from the Hopkins Correctional Centre Landmate crews.

“Having the resource of the Landmate crew to add the extra labour needed is crucial and they have been great to work,” Greene said.

The Landmate program works with organisations to provide labour for environmental projects on public land, such as State and National Parks, roadside reserves and along waterways in regional Victoria. Through lead organisations they also undertake works on private land which provide public benefit.

“The Landmate crews are invaluable on these large scale projects and quite often the secret to a successful control program,” McIntyre said.

On the whole the project has been a success with future works planned.

“It’s so good to see a landholder committed to such a massive undertaking and the support from the Landcare network has been great,” McIntyre said.

“We hope to continue to roll out work along the Glenlofty Creek and engage more landholders as we move downstream; looking at possible invasive plant and animal control work, revegetation and erosion control work. From here we’re liaising with DELWP staff to continue the work over the next few years in the public land adjacent to current work.”

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