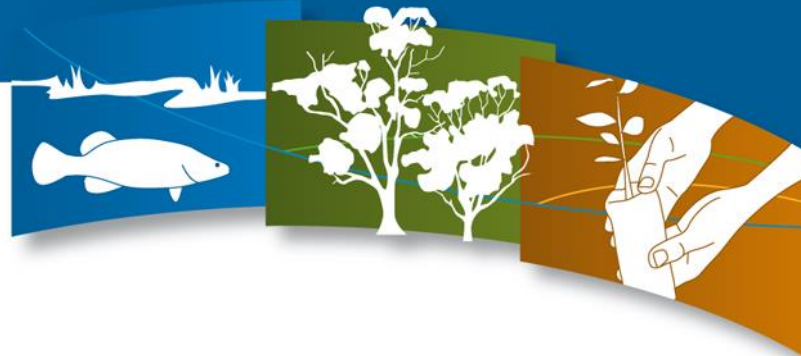


Kooyoora Connections

Project update - March 2017



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People



PROTECTING IMPORTANT LANDSCAPES

The Kooyoora Connections project is supporting local landholders and community groups to improve the condition and increase the area of native vegetation between Kooyoora State Park, Wychitella and Mount Korong Nature Conservation Reserves. This area is recognised as a biodiversity hotspot. Improving connections between these areas will improve available habitat for threatened species, such as the malleefowl.

The project has a focus on building landscape resilience and connectivity by protecting, improving and extending native vegetation, including three nationally significant EPBC Act listed ecological vegetation communities:

- Buloke woodlands
- Yellow box / Blakely's red gum / white box woodlands
- Grey box woodlands

To achieve this, financial support is available to landowners for revegetation, stock control fencing to protect native vegetation and revegetation sites, and priority weed control work.

We primarily undertake work on private land, but also work closely with our partner agencies to achieve complementary works on public land within the project area.

The project will also build capacity and enhance project interaction with the local Indigenous community through engagement with Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises to deliver on-ground works.

The project continues to build natural resource management skills, knowledge and cultural



awareness, while increasing the capacity of local community groups, such as the Wedderburn Conservation Management Network.

Kooyoora Connections is currently supported by the North Central CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. This update highlights activities achieved between 1 July 2013 and 28 February 2017; the project continues through to 30 June 2018.

Buloke woodland protected with a TfN covenant. Photo: North Central CMA

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS LAST FINANCIAL YEAR 2015/16

- **93** participants attended **2** community engagement events.
- **870** meters of fencing was completed, protecting vegetation from stock grazing.
- **120** hectares of revegetation was completed across 2 sites.
- **153** foxes were killed in an ongoing annual baiting program in the Wychitella NCR.
- **110** Yellow Lip Spider Orchids reintroduced in to the wild – Friends of Kooyoora members were trained in orchid establishment and care*.
- **Mapping, surveys, and site selection** undertaken for planned reintroductions of Robust Greenhood and Candy Spider Orchid*.
- Robust Greenhood seed collected and individuals hand pollinated*.
- **330** hectares of Wheel Cactus control (Mount Egbert).
- **40.9** hectares of African Lovegrass control on two private land sites, plus supported Loddon Shire to complete control on surrounding roadsides.

ACHIEVEMENTS PLANNED & CURRENTLY IN ACTION THIS FINANCIAL YEAR

- **1** community engagement event focussing on Wheel Cactus control techniques.
- **1** kilometre of fencing to protect vegetation from stock grazing.
- **10** hectares of Wheel Cactus and bridal Creeper control.
- **115** hectares of revegetation.
- Reintroduction of **100** Yellow Lip Spider Orchids*.
- Potential for reintroduction of Robust Greenhood*.
- Population and habitat mapping for Candy Spider Orchid*.



Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises Works Crew with wheel cactus on Mt Egbert.
Photo: North Central CMA

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

(Activities completed 1 July 2013 to 28 February 2017)

- **Four** TfN conservation covenants established, totalling **372** hectares.
- **One** cultural heritage assessment undertaken.
- **627** participants have attended **13** community engagement events.
- **100** participants have attended **10** working group meetings.
- **14.2** kilometres of fencing has been completed, protecting **483** hectares of vegetation from stock grazing.
- **417** foxes have been killed in an ongoing baiting program across the Wychitella NCR
- **275** Yellow-lip Spider Orchid's successfully established in the wild*.
- **Mapping, surveys, and site selection** undertaken for planned reintroductions of Robust Greenhood and Candy Spider Orchid*.
- **243** hectares of revegetation completed over 6 sites with **1,390** seedlings planted and **170** kilograms of seed sown
- **1,380** hectares of priority weed control (Wheel Cactus and African Lovegrass)



Direct seeding in progress. Photo: Trust for Nature

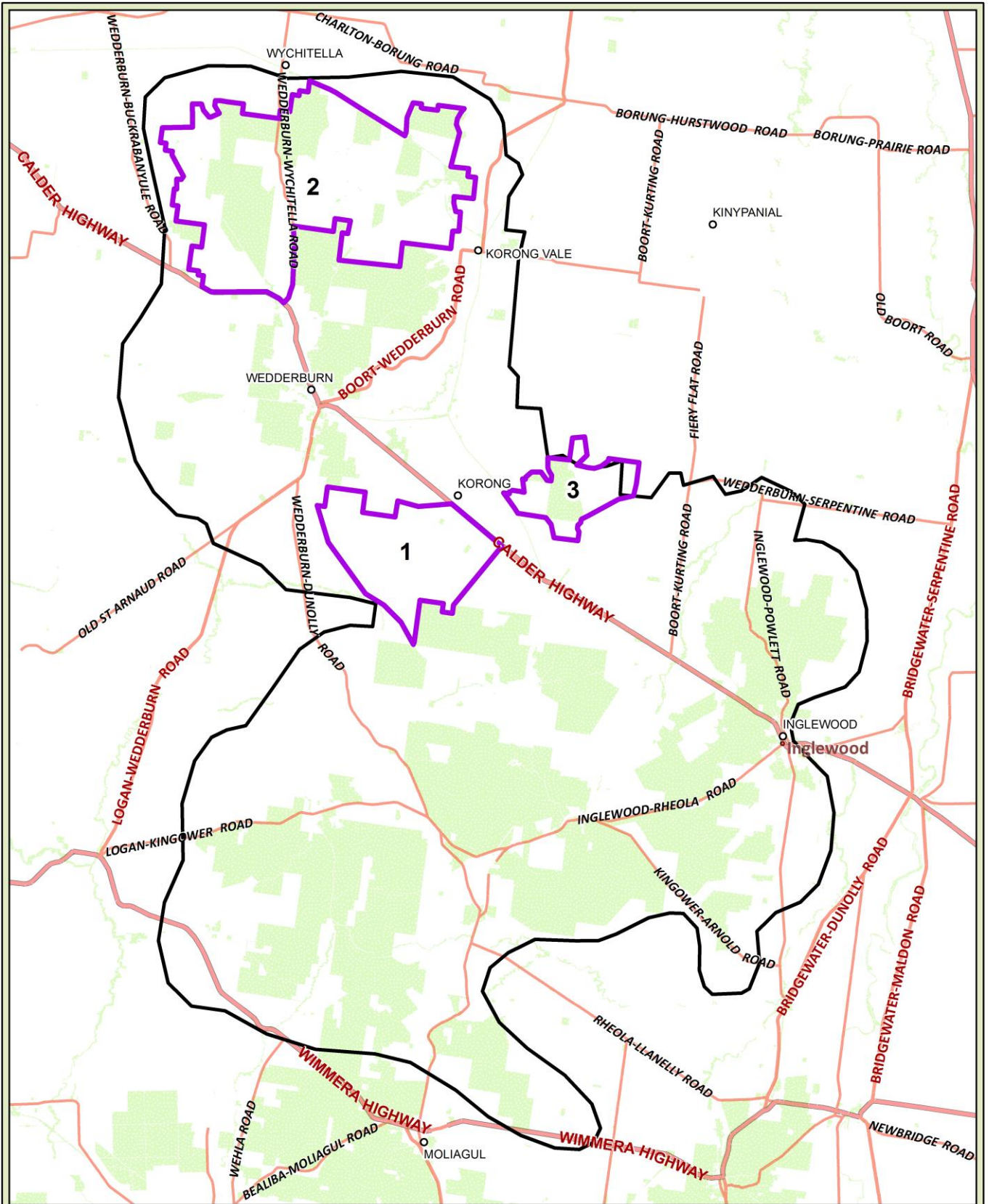


Seedlings emerging. Photo: Trust for Nature



Staff inspect seedlings. Photo: Trust for Nature

PROJECT AREA



<p>Kooyoora Connections Project</p>		<p>9,500 4,750 0 4,750 9,500</p> <p>Meters</p> <p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Priority Areas Project Area Public Land 	<p style="text-align: right;">1:239,273</p> <p><small>The State of Victoria does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of information in this publication and any person using or relying upon such information does so on the basis that the State of Victoria shall bear no responsibility or liability whatsoever for any errors, faults, defects or omissions in the information.</small></p>
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Yellow-lip Spider Orchid monitoring. Photo: Trust for Nature



Ochre handprints on paper – Wedderburn College cultural day. Photo: NCCMA



Resting after a community bushwalk. Photo: Kathleen Lee