

MEDIA RELEASE

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Green idea delivers new work horizons for youth

A CMA idea to involve local Indigenous people in natural resource management has led to development of an innovative employment program for young people.

The North East CMA, Murray CMA, Albury City Council, the Indigenous Coordination Centre, the Skills Training Centre and Parklands Albury Wodonga have since worked together to develop the Albury Wodonga Indigenous Wetland Restoration project.

The project is operating through Green Corps - an Australian Government youth development and environmental training program for young people aged between 17 and 20 years.

The project started in early July and centres on wetland restoration along the Murray River and its tributaries.

The Green Corps team is also involved in a range of Indigenous based projects; including an Aboriginal Site Identification course, restoration of a wetland near Wonga wetland, development of an Indigenous resource garden at Wodonga TAFE and revegetation at Mungabareena Reserve.

North East CMA Indigenous Liaison Officer, Mr Richard McTernan said the young people involved in the project have achieved a great deal in a short time.

“Originally the two CMA’s were focussed on building the capacity of our local Indigenous community to undertake field work related to natural resource management,” said Mr McTernan.

“ But this project has grown into new and exciting directions because we have such a great range of organisations involved. The local Indigenous community have been actively involved from the beginning and we are now looking at long term opportunities for local Indigenous youth.”

The Green Corps team have identified and recorded two significant archaeological heritage sites that will be listed on the Aboriginal Affairs Victoria data base, completed revegetation at Mungabareena, fenced parts of the Murray to increase habitat for wildlife and undertaken planting at Huon Hill.

The North East CMA’s involvement with this project is undertaken as part of its Indigenous engagement and capacity building program. It undertakes a range of activities including; encouraging cultural awareness; and maintaining and building networks with Indigenous communities, Landcare networks and regional communities.

Media opportunity: Federal Minister for Employment Participation, Brendan O’Connor will officially open the Albury Wodonga Indigenous Wetland Restoration project today **Wednesday, 20 August** at 1.45pm at Wonga Wetlands.

For further information about the North East CMA or to arrange an interview with Richard McTernan, please contact: Mary-Anne Scully, Media & Communications Consultant - Tel: **0408 685 225**

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