



EAST GIPPSLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLKIT



bruthen river loop walk

BIODIVERSITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Landcare members fight one of the worst weed-infested areas in East Gippsland to create a much-loved local walk.

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In 2006, the Bruthen and District Landcare Group began the restoration of habitat on the north bank of the Tambo River at Bruthen township, between the highway bridge and the Rail Trail bridge.

The 'Bridge-to-Bridge' site was described as one of the worst weed-infested areas in East Gippsland. Despite this, considerable progress has been made in getting on top of some of the major weeds which dominated the area, especially blackberries, hemlock and honey locust trees. In addition, over 2,000 indigenous trees and shrubs have been planted and are now becoming well-established, despite the recent drought conditions.

The main aim of the project was to control erosion and help the Tambo rebuild its banks and improve local biodiversity. However, a longer term goal was to provide an attractive site on public land along the river to be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

This aim came into sharper focus in mid-2007 when the Bruthen Streetscape Study recommended the creation of a River Loop Walk, starting from a planned new Visitor Information Centre and along an existing unsurfaced track to the river, along the Bridge-to-Bridge site and finally linking with the Rail Trail to return to the town centre.

Bruthen Landcare Group developed links with other stake-holders – including Bruthen & District Citizens Association, East Gippsland Shire and VicRoads - to extend the scope of the Bridge-to-Bridge Project to include completion of the River Loop Walk. The first phase of this work commenced in early 2010.

We know we'll see much enhanced habitat conditions - and the creation of a valuable community amenity.

