

Go with the flow

The Upper Ovens River is the only free flowing major river in North East Victoria and provides important unregulated stream flow to the Lower Ovens and Murray Rivers. The Ovens River catchment contributes approximately 6% of the average total flow of the entire Murray Darling Basin, despite comprising only 1.7% of the total basin land area.

Traditional Owners

The Dhudhoroa and Taungurung Traditional Owners have occupied and cared for the Upper Ovens River country for many thousands of years. The riparian area provided rich resources and pathways and they maintain an ongoing spiritual and cultural connection.

Turning the river upside down!

100 years ago mining for gold occurred across much of the Upper Ovens valley floor resulting in significant vegetation clearing, major earthworks to redirect water, and dredging of the riverbeds that resulted in massive soil loss.

Today much of the riparian vegetation removed for mining has re-established along the riverbanks. However there will always be the legacy of mining through weeds, rocky soils and mining relics.

150km
Murray R.

← North

Alpine NP
Mt Feathertop

Harrietville

Ovens R.

Wandiligong
Morses Ck.

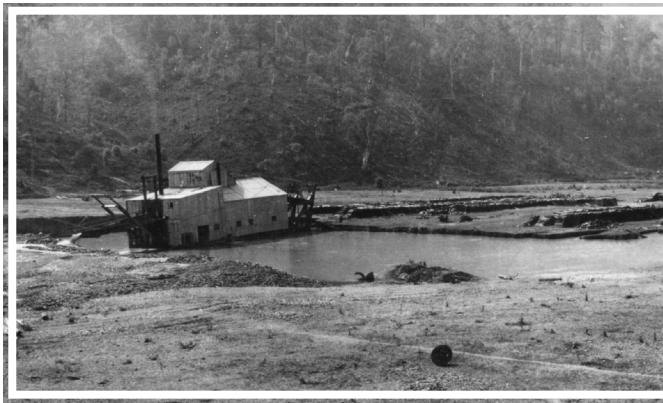
Bright

Porepunkah

Buckland R.

Ovens R.

Mt Buffalo NP



Harrietville Star Dredge (c1914) Photo courtesy of Harrietville Historical Society. Gold mining by dredges overturned river beds and redirected rivers and streams resulting in huge impacts on the riparian areas of the Upper Ovens.

JOIN US!



The Upper Ovens Valley Landcare Group works with the community to conserve riparian areas through projects that manage weeds and pests and re-plant native vegetation

For further information: www.facebook.com/UOVLG

RIPARIAN AREAS OF THE UPPER OVENS



Did you know platypus live in the riparian areas of the Upper Ovens?

Riparian areas are home to a wide variety of special native plant and animal communities that live alongside the rivers.

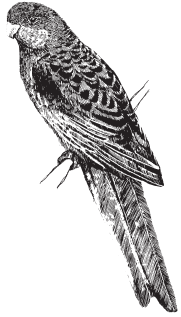
A healthy riparian area also helps maintain clean flows of water downstream.

Riparian wildlife such as platypus need shelter, stable stream banks and access to shaded pools rich in aquatic life.



CARING FOR OUR RIVERS AND VALLEYS

RIPARIAN LIFE



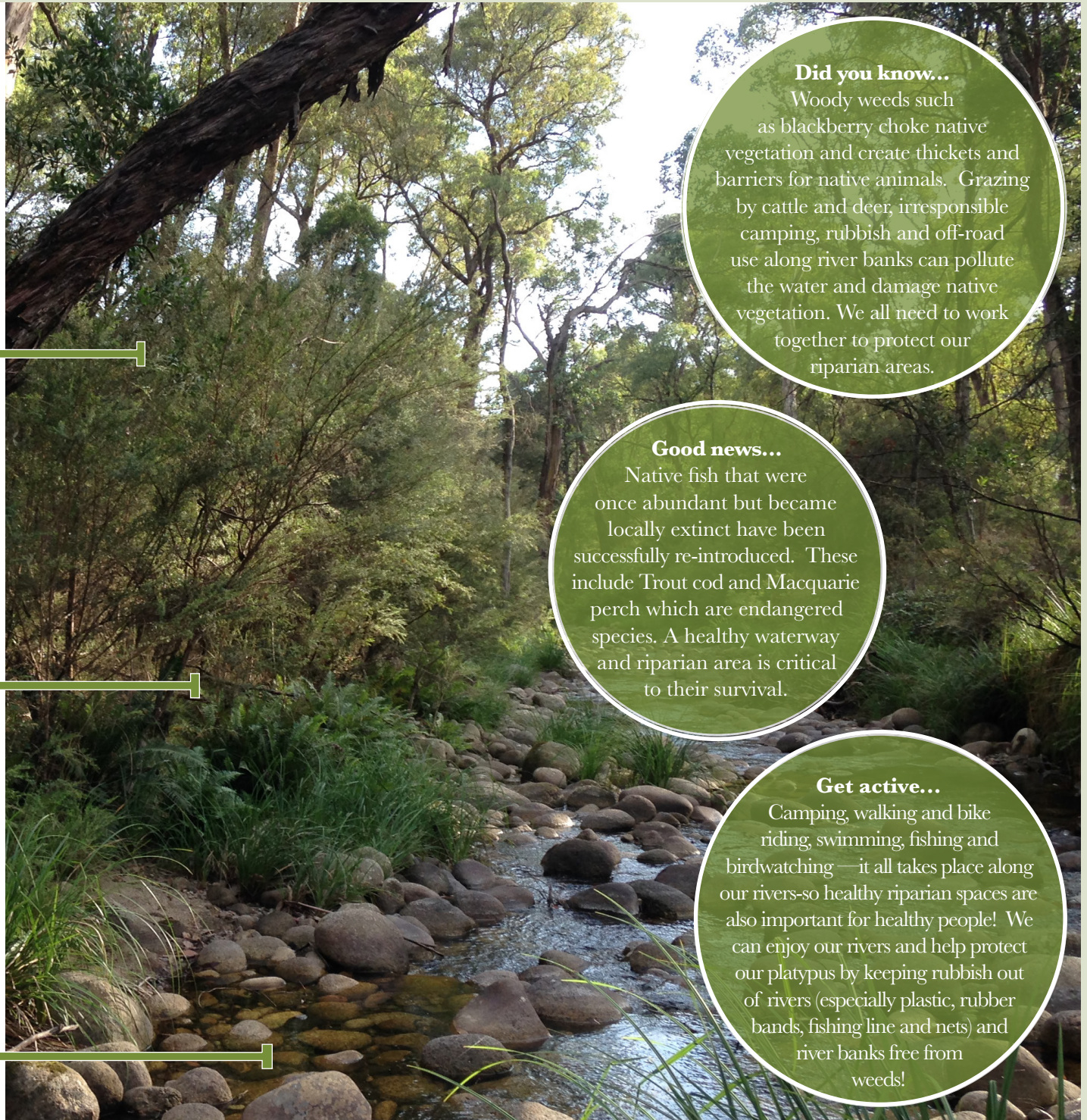
Mature tall trees such as Manna and Swamp gums provide river shade, food and hollows for numerous animals including Greater and Yellow-bellied gliders, Brush-tail possums, Yellow-tailed cockatoos, rosellas and parrots.



Shrubs, ferns, sedges and grasses stabilise river banks and prevent erosion in floods. Platypus need stable banks for burrows. Mammals and reptiles accessing river water need ground cover to stay safe!



River shade from surrounding vegetation creates dark in-stream spaces for aquatic animals to hide, and prevents summer water temperatures from rising too high for fish. Shade over water is particularly important given increasing numbers of very hot days as a result of climate change.



Did you know...

Woody weeds such as blackberry choke native vegetation and create thickets and barriers for native animals. Grazing by cattle and deer, irresponsible camping, rubbish and off-road use along river banks can pollute the water and damage native vegetation. We all need to work together to protect our riparian areas.

Good news...

Native fish that were once abundant but became locally extinct have been successfully re-introduced. These include Trout cod and Macquarie perch which are endangered species. A healthy waterway and riparian area is critical to their survival.

Get active...

Camping, walking and bike riding, swimming, fishing and birdwatching—it all takes place along our rivers-so healthy riparian spaces are also important for healthy people! We can enjoy our rivers and help protect our platypus by keeping rubbish out of rivers (especially plastic, rubber bands, fishing line and nets) and river banks free from weeds!