

Introduction

Greetings to the Gills Bridge Creek Community and welcome to Issue 6 of the Newsletter. Council is pleased to report that the second round of Bush Regeneration works has been completed in Management Zone 2 – on-time and even better, to budget.

This second works area extended upstream of the low-level Queens Street Crossing over Gills Bridge Creek (GBrCk) to the South Street Bridge and was divided into 3 activity areas (MZ2a, 2b and 2c).



Follow-up works were also continued downstream by the Bush Regeneration Team in Management

Zone 1A+1B. Council Outdoor Works staff supported this effort with targeted works at several key sites (particularly with mowing and weed control at the native tree planting areas to further assist establishment).

The Habitat-Nesting Boxes were regularly monitored on an opportunistic basis during this time. Several pairs of parrot (Rainbow Lorikeet) were observed close by the habitat shelters. The boxes are also intended to be used by Nocturnal Species and no Spotlight Observation has been undertaken (yet).

Welcome to Kempsey Shire Council's Ecologically Sustainable Development Officer – Mr Bill Larkin



The GBrCk Community is pleased to welcome Bill Larkin as Council's Ecologically Sustainable Development Officer to continue the great work of Mr Nathan Hegerty. Nathan accepted a Natural Resource position with a private firm in the Hastings.

The GBrCk Project thanks Nathan for his contribution to the local Natural Resource works program. Bill is currently completing the Environmental Trusts reporting needs to culminate the 2010 works funding period.

National Schools Tree Day

On 31 July 2010, 150 primary school students (in conjunction with Kempsey Council) participated in rehabilitation planting in management zone 2 as part of National Schools Tree Day.

School students planted 200 endemic riparian trees in Management Zone 2, in the area near the South Street bridge crossing.



Mid Coast Land Management Site Works Round 2 Complete

With the conclusion of the second round of works by the Bush Regeneration Contractor (Mid Coast Land Management - MCLM), it is an opportunity to acknowledge the Rehabilitation and Restoration work completed to date along the target project areas.

In addition to MCLM's contract work from 2009 and 2010, assistance has been given from:

- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Green Corps Central West Community College
- South Kempsey Primary School
- Kempsey Men's Shed
- Kempsey Family Community Centre
- Burnt Bridge Aboriginal Community
- Private Landholders adjoining the creek boundary



Rehabilitation and Restoration work completed to date includes:

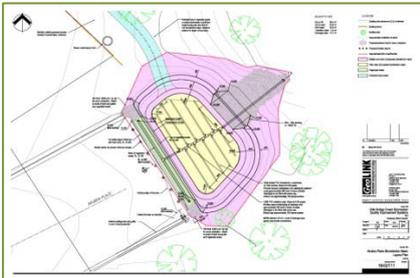
- 10.23 Hectares of the GBrCk corridor has had rehabilitation work undertaken
- Specifically targeting Lantana, Camphor Laurel, Ochna, Senna, Small and Large-leaved Privet and Coral Tree
- 250 trees native to the Gills Bridge Creek site being re-planted along Riparian Corridor
- Plant selection to enhance the native food trees; Tallowwood and Forest Red Gum, Red Cedar Lilly-Pilly and Blue Flax Lily



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Design and Construction of the Gills Bridge Creek Stormwater Bioretention Basins.

The contract for design and documentation of the GBrCk Stormwater Bioretention Basins was won by GeoLINK (Coffs Harbour). These design works will be funded by an Urban Sustainability Project (USP) grant from the NSW State Environmental Trust and follows on GeoLINK's work developing a Stormwater Management Strategy for GBrCk.



Once designed Kempsey Shire Council is to undertake the supervision and construction of the works, with work completion (Stage 1) proposed for May 2011.

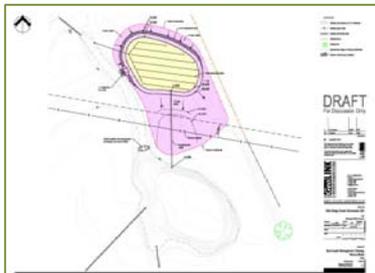


Three sites in the

GBrCk catchment have been selected and prioritised for remediation works. Two of these sites are constrained by their physical setting (and are small in size) however each basin will result in an improved water quality entering the creek.

The three Stormwater Bioretention Basins are viewed in plan layout (aerial view) below as concept designs:

Nance Road Stormwater Bioretention Basin Each design is located at a major Stormwater outfall site and will be engineered to intercept low water flow of any water-borne materials prior to their entry to GBrCk.



Each design includes an earthen-banked swale area (vegetated with native reeds and sedges), low-water flow rock-lined chutes to reintroduce 'clean' stormwater into GBrCk and a high water by-pass channel (to protect the basin walls during storm events).

The background water quality analysis will provide important baseline data, to which future results can be compared as rehabilitation actions progress. Water quality monitoring will continue on a quarterly basis over the coming years as the rehabilitation project takes place.

What's Next?

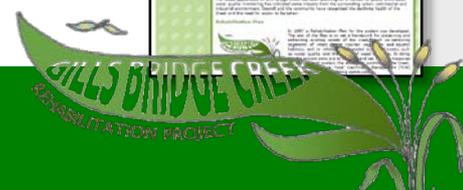
- Complete the **detailed vegetation surveying** of the riparian zones and identify priority areas for follow up weed control
- **On-ground works** will re-visit some areas of site and carry out follow up weed control works.
- Seek further **partnerships** with local businesses for improvements to GBrCk riparian zone.
- Encourage **schools** to participate in various projects.
- Commence construction of **bioretention basins**
- Replant area surrounding Council's pump station with approx **150 trees**.
- Seek **further funding** from the NSW Environmental Trust.



Want more info? Jump online...

kempsey.nsw.gov.au and click on the Gill's Bridge Creek Logo to check out;

- Full copies of Bioretention Plans
- Final report to NSW Environmental Trust
- Sign up for further info or to volunteer
- History of the project
- Previous newsletters
- More photos
- Brochures
- Aerial Views
- Factsheets



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