



## Parwan Gorge Restoration Project – benefits of CARTs

Parwan Landcare Group works to protect and enhance an area near the confluence of the Parwan Creek and Werribee River. Although a small group in area and membership, the group is active in the environment, developing and maintaining bio-links and working with the Moorabool Shire Council to protect the biodiversity of the area.

Representatives of the Parwan Landcare group attended Catchment Action Round Table (CART), convened by the PPWCMA. The group president spoke to the CART about the need to restore and enhance the Parwan Gorge Escarpment and engendered a number of supporters (NatureWest, Moorabool Landcare Network, Pinkerton

Landcare Group) who wished to collaborate in the project. Facilitated by meetings during immediately after the CART process, Parwan Landcare Group submitted applications for PPWCMA Community Grants and Caring for Our Country that were both successful (total of \$79,500). This enabled the Landcare works on the southern edge project to compliment the Southern Rural Water weed control on the northern edge of the Werribee River/Melton Reservoir. Many valuable partnerships were formed during the CARTs, including with Melbourne Water and Lead West who also partnered with the project. Support from 20 Million Tree program and Work for the Dole was also provided to the project.



The project saw propagation of 800 indigenous plants from locally collected seed including melaleuca and wattles and removal of woody weeds along 270m of escarpment. As can be

seen in the photo, the escarpment was an extremely difficult terrain to restore. Cut and paint weed control was used to strategically remove African Boxthorn, Willows and Peppercorn trees and back pack spraying to control bridal creeper and serrated tussock over 100 hectares. Direct seeding of saltbush, kangaroo grass, silky blue grass, pelargoniums and other plants occurred along escarpment where weeds have been removed. Rabbit control and warren destruction in inaccessible and sensitive areas was undertaken using Best Practice Guides and discussion with Brad Spears. Discussions also occurred with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (Mark Eccleston) and attendance at Wathaurong workshop on land management and heritage obligations.

The work created a protected area that will lead to improved biodiversity that contributes to Werribee River Biolink and provides wildlife corridors and flyways. Contributes to increase in Werribee river water quality and reverses degradation of the gorge by weeds and rabbits on the escarpment. The longer term value of the project is increased community awareness of the environmental importance of the gorge, increased opportunities for passive recreation within the gorge and an Improvement in amenity and aesthetic value of the Gorge and its escarpment.

