

NEWSLETTER

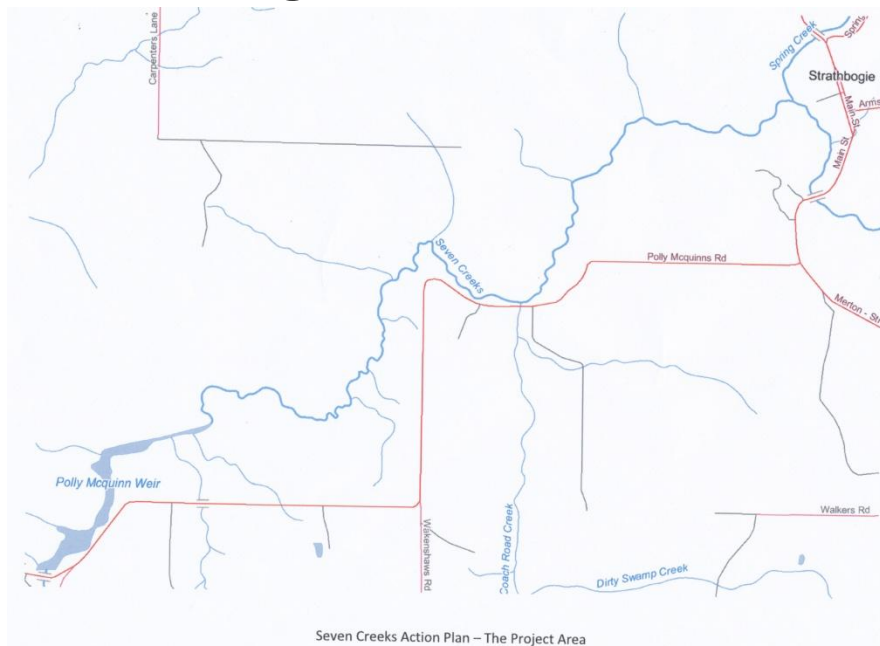
Dec. 2011

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*Phascogale tapoatafa (Tuatara)*

Introducing The Seven Creeks Action Plan



Seven Creeks Action Plan – The Project Area

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA), in partnership with the local community, is developing a Local Action Plan for the mid reaches of Sevens Creek – from Strathbogrie to Polly McQuinn's and including the lower reaches of Spring Creek.

The Action Plan will identify the highly valued attributes of the Sevens, develop relevant preliminary goals, determine ecological processes and ecosystem structures that support/sustain high value attributes, identify threats and develop a priority works program.

The Project Area runs from Smith's Bridge and the Main St Spring Creek Bridge to Polly's, including 7km of stream bed, banks and riparian area. The geology comprises flows over granite, sedimentary rock sands, gravel and silt. Vegetation is classified as swampy riparian woodland. Land use is residential, recreational and grazing. Management is either by Parks Victoria, Strathbogrie Shire or DSE.

Eight high value attributes have been identified.

- 1. Abundant bird life.** This includes over 150 species of which a significant proportion is aquatic habitat dependent. A number are listed as threatened: Australian Bittern, Barking Owl, Diamond Firetail, Eastern Great Egret, Lewin's Rail, and the Powerful Owl.
- 2. Five native fish species.** Macquarie Perch (endangered), River Blackfish, Southern Pygmy Perch, Western Carp Gudgeon and Mountain Galaxias.
- 3. Healthy Riparian Vegetation.** This consists of an open overstory of Mountain Swamp Gum, and understory shrub layer (Oven's Wattle, Woolly Tea-tree, prickly Tea-tree, Burgan, Blackwood and prickly Currant Bush) and a dense ground layer of tussock grasses and sedges.

- 4. **Wetland springs and bogs.** Moist year round and very wet in winter, these are associated with the endangered Perched Boggy Shrubland.
- 5. **Permanent Water Supply.** Naturally, the mean annual flow for Seven Creeks above Polly's was 487,687ML. Current flow is 98% of natural.
- 6. **Good water quality.** Recent assessments have shown that both phosphorus concentrations and turbidity levels are well above EPA objectives.
- 7. **Grazing Land.** Crown water frontages exist along both banks of Seven Creeks. These frontages are either reserved for public purposes or licensed to adjoining landholders for grazing.
- 8. **Recreational Opportunities.** Three distinct areas exist along Seven Creeks

- The Bridge to Bridge Walk at Strathbogie. Activities in this area include walking, picnicking and swimming.
- An informal self sufficient bush camping area just west of the confluence with Coach Rd Creek
- Polly McQuinn's Weir Pool. Activities in this area include swimming, boating and bird watching.



Swampy Riparian Woodland in moderate/good condition



Ground flora dominated by introduced species (buttercup)



Willow encroachment near Strathbogie township



Healthy poa grassland



Streambed development occurring d/s of rootball



Blackberry spraying



Hollow-bearing trees providing native fauna habitat



Typical poa grassland in moderate/good condition



Long pool with good habitat values



Cattle grazing pressure on poa grassland

Key Threats to the Project Area

- Residential, recreational development
- Agriculture
- Biological resource use
- Human intrusions and disturbances
- Natural systems modifications
- Invasive/problematic species
- Pollution
- Climate change

In particular, negative impact activities include environmental degradation through uncontrolled livestock access, pugging of shallows, overfishing, overharvesting of water supply, waterway desnagging, predatory and competitive invasive species. Direct habitat reduction and disruption of breeding caused by residential development, overgrazing, over browsing, trampling and, hunting, camping / firewood collection, invasive weeds and feral predation. Rising levels of pollution as a consequence of urban runoff and agricultural effluent. The degradation of stream flows from

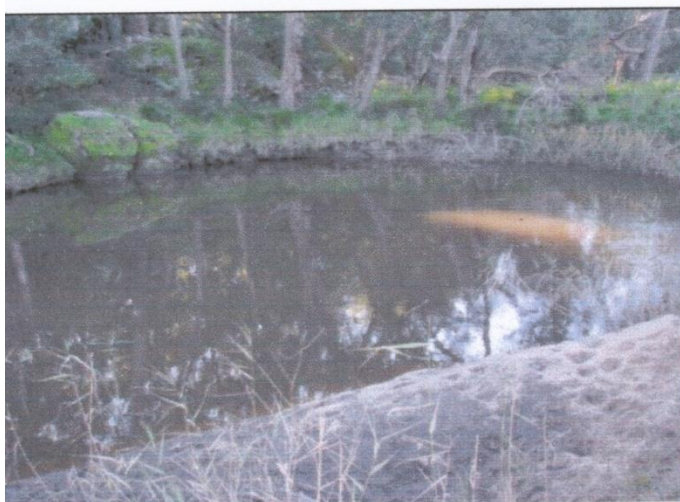
increased severity of drought, flood, storms and wildfire degrading stream flows.



Typical bank instabilities due to degraded/absent riparian vegetation *p Stock*



Invasive buttercup spreading within overgrazed grassland



Large pool



Woolly tea-tree (a rare occurrence)



Backwater from Polly McQuinns Weir



Waterbird habitat – rushes and spike-reeds

Strathbogie Shire Environmental Committee

Three draft plans and strategies are now ready for public comment

1. The federally funded Strengthening Strathbogie Shire in a Changing Climate
2. The state funded Environment Management Strategy
3. The DSE funded Roadside Management Plan

A further opportunity for public input will follow at a significant Environmental Forum to be held in March 2012.

Opportunity to be part of CfOC 2

The Caring for Our Country (2) grant provides for creek planting and fencing along the Sevens Creek to improve the quality of the catchment through water filtration, erosion reduction and stock exclusion from the waterway itself. This is an excellent opportunity for landholders with creek frontage to contribute towards better water management on their property for personal benefit and for that of the wider community and environment. Contact Bill Wells, phone: 57908563.

Peter Marriott's **Moths of Victoria 3** is now available

Mail orders to: Ian Endersby
56LookerRd, Montmorency3094
<vicmoth@entsocvic.org.au>

Moths of Victoria Part 3 \$12.00
Moths of Victoria Part 2 \$12.00
Moths of Victoria Part 1 \$12.00 (not many remaining)
Collecting and Sampling Insects \$10.00
plus postage



Bogong Moth

COMING EVENTS

Organisation	Event	Who & Where	When
Strathbogie Council	Environmental Forum	tba	March 23, 2012
Lake Bolac Eel Festival 2012	"Flows - of lava, water and story".	http://www.eelfestival.org.au festival@eelfestival.org.au Ph: 5350 2204	March 24, 2012
The Weed Society of Victoria	'Developing solutions to evolving weed problems' 18th Australasian Weeds Conference 2012	http://www.18awc.com Albert Park	8 – 11 October 2012

Coming Events Notification

Forward events you would like publicised through the Landcare network to:

Kerri Robson | Landcare Support Officer

T: (03) 5763 2465 | M: 0418 140 710 | F: (03) 5761 1547

208 James Rd, Warrenbayne 3670 landcare2@iinet.net.au

Office Bearers and Committee Members wanted

Are you interested in a rewarding volunteer experience? STLG is seeking new office bearers to assist President Bert Lobert and the committee of Bill Wells, Julian Trescowthick, Denis Taylor, Brian Law, Ben Brook and Martin Symonds. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer are currently vacant. If you have some basic computer skills or a bit of a book keeping talent give Bert a call on (03) 5790-8606.

Friends of Bridge to Bridge

THE NEXT WORKING BEE: will be a picnic!

**Bring some food, something to drink and the family for an end of year gathering at
SMITH'S BRIDGE
SUNDAY, Dec 11 @ 1100-1300hrs**

The locals are coming

