

# Capacity building

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## Small Grant, Big Impact on Woody Weeds

Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc



**Narrandera Landcare used a small Bendigo Bank grant and community support to remove woody weeds, influence 22.47 hectares and strengthen local connections through five collaborative environmental events.**

### The issue

Narrandera Landcare faced several challenges in tackling woody weed infestations across local reserves. Increased growth of date palms and bridal creeper had spread, threatening native vegetation through commonly utilised recreation areas. Limited funding was a key issue, as the small Bendigo Bank grant covered only part of the required materials and herbicide. Volunteer numbers also fluctuated, making it difficult to sustain large-scale weed control efforts. Despite these constraints, strong community partnerships and local support helped overcome financial and logistical barriers, allowing the group to continue restoring remnant vegetation areas.



### The solution

To address the spread of woody weeds, Narrandera Landcare developed a practical and collaborative approach. The group used the Bendigo Bank grant to host five community working bees in partnership with Boys to the Bush, engaging local youth in hands-on environmental action. When funding fell short, the Narrandera Lions Club donated herbicide and Elders Narrandera supplied hand tools at cost price. These contributions allowed the project to continue without interruption. By combining volunteer labour, support from local businesses and efficient resource use, Narrandera Landcare was able to complete the project even though the grant provided only partial funding.



### The impact

The project delivered significant environmental and social outcomes well beyond the scale of the initial grant. It improved native habitat, reducing invasive woody weeds and improving local biodiversity. The collaboration strengthened community connections, with volunteers, youth and local organisations working side by side. Participants gained practical conservation skills and a stronger sense of environmental stewardship. The project also showcased how small grants, when combined with community effort and local support, can create lasting positive change across both the landscape and the community.

### Key facts

- Narrandera Landcare received a small grant from Bendigo Bank to support woody weed removal activities.
- Five community events were held in partnership with Boys to the Bush, removing invasive species such as date palms and bridal creeper.
- The project influenced 22.47 hectares of land, supported by donations from the Lions Club and Elders Narrandera.

### Project Partners



This initiative is made possible by the NSW Landcare Enabling Program, a collaboration between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW supported by the NSW Government.

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