

Capacity building

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Community Planting at Fivebough Wetlands

Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc



Community members protecting and contributing to their local RAMSAR Wetland.

The issue

Fivebough Wetlands, a RAMSAR site in Leeton, has a degraded area where weeds have become dominate, reducing the condition of the site and limiting the ability of native vegetation to re-establish.

When Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists opened its 2026 environmental grants program, member Eric Whiting saw an opportunity to begin restoring this section of the wetlands. With support from Local Landcare Coordinator Jessie, Eric applied for funding to undertake a community planting project.

The solution

The application was successful, allowing Eric and Jessie to source locally suitable plants and coordinate a community planting day. Hay Plains Landcare supplied a range of suitable native species, including saltbushes, juncus and sedges.

The project was supported by many community organisations, all playing a significant role in its execution. Narrandera Landcare supported the project by transporting plants to Leeton, providing tools and weeding the seedlings before the event, to reduce biosecurity risks. Leeton Shire Council prepared the planting area and committed to watering the site after planting. Leeton Rotary catered for volunteers with a sausage sizzle.

Together, the partners brought people, plants and practical resources together to establish 300 native plants in an area desperate for revegetation.

The impact

Sixty community members attended the planting day, demonstrating strong local support for restoring Fivebough Wetlands. Volunteers planted saltbush, juncus and sedge species selected for their suitability to the site.

The planting is intended to suppress weed growth over time and tip the balance back in favour of native vegetation. As the plants establish, they will provide greater ground cover and competition for resources, helping to reduce opportunities for mallow and cathead weeds to dominate.

The project demonstrates the value of collaboration between community members, Landcare groups, council, service clubs and government land managers. By securing the necessary Crown Lands permissions and bringing local partners together, the project has created a practical foundation for long-term restoration at Fivebough Wetlands.



Key facts

- Funding and approvals are required for environmental plantings on Crown Land.
- 60 Community members assisted planting 300 native plants into a degraded area.
- Multiple organisations contributed to ensure the planting was successful.

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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