

## Community activity program

Throughout the project we hosted an activity program for the local community. Activities included wetland walks, birdwatching, canoe tours, habitat hikes and community planting events. In all we held 47 events attended by 1,104 individuals, with many of them returning throughout the project.

*"A wonderful activity open to all community members that raised awareness of the importance of caring for our local environment. Brings you back to earth!"*

*"A great initiative that connects people to nature."*

*"The activity reinforced a sense of community."*

Community activity program participants feedback

## Clean-up days

Throughout the four-year project Conservation Volunteers Australia held annual clean-up events.

The clean-ups supported the national Clean-Up Australia Day, which inspires the country to clean up, fix up and preserve our natural environment.

At each clean-up event we had an average of ten volunteers getting their hands dirty to help the environment. Together the volunteers collected over 575 kg of rubbish.

*"It was amazing to see how much rubbish we collected from our local creek."*

Clean-up volunteer



*This project was coordinated by WetlandCare Australia (now merged with Conservation Volunteers Australia) through funding from the Australian Government*

## Program partners



Join us to *Revive Our Wetlands* - a national initiative of Conservation Volunteers Australia

Email [wetlands@conservationvolunteers.com.au](mailto:wetlands@conservationvolunteers.com.au)

Visit our website [www.conservationvolunteers.com.au](http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au)



**Newcastle Wetland Connections was a 4-year project to restore the upstream catchment of the Hunter Wetlands Centre, a Ramsar-listed wetland of international significance. The project improved the health and biodiversity of urban waterways and coastal wetlands in the city of Newcastle.**

## Community engagement

### Summary

Conservation Volunteers Australia hosted a community activity program to promote understanding of the threats facing our urban waterways and what residents can do to protect nature habitat.

Participants included the local community residents, university and school students, Landcare volunteers and the industrial premises adjacent to the wetlands.

### Key statistics

- 47 community events
- 1, 104 individuals attended
- 696 people returned to attend several events
- 1,800 participants in total
- 5 school outreach activities



## School outreach program

CVA hosted an education and outreach program with primary school students in Newcastle. CVA partnered with Heaton Public School and Waratah West Public school to deliver the *Kids Caring For Our Creek* program. Students learnt about the values of urban creeks that border their own schools, threats faced by native plants and animals and how to care for creeks. The *Kids Caring For Our Creek* program involved students taking a habitat hike and writing a letter to their neighbours, outlining what the wider community can do to care for their creeks. The students then hand delivered letters to homes in their local community.

In addition to reaching out to the community, students also helped to transform sections of their schools into areas of natural bushland. Students at Waratah West Public School were involved in revegetation works over two planting days, to help our bush regeneration team plant over 4000 native plants along their creek line.

The school outreach programs will continue to have a positive impact on the schools and general community for many years to come.



## University Landcare group

The University of Newcastle (UON) Landcare group launched on 13th March 2014 in partnership with CVA and the Tom Farrell Institute (TFI). The UON Landcare group has since held over 12 planting days, bush regeneration days and habitat hikes on the Callaghan campus at the University of Newcastle, with an average of over 30 volunteers attending. The UON Landcare group is still running, taking part in bush regeneration activities to restore the bushland campus. The UON Landcare group not only helped to enhance the University of Newcastle's bushland campus but also created an opportunity for like minded people to network, get active and give back to our local environment.

*"They stuck at it over these years and many, many, many thousands of trees and shrubs have been planted. The university campus has been transformed, we are very happy."*

Tim Roberts, Director, Tom Farrell Institute



Above: A community walk at the University

Left: The University of Newcastle Landcare group helped plant thousands of trees

Front page: Volunteers at Warabrook Wetland

Below: Clean-up Australia Day participants survey the rubbish they collected at Bray Park

