

Rehabilitation of coastal vegetation and heritage wall, Little Blowhole, Kiama

Location: Kiama, NSW

NRM Region: Southern Rivers
CMA

Industry: Landcare Group

Issues:

- Coastal Weeds
- Water Quality
- Visitor Impacts
- Community Awareness

Landcare Group Vision:

- Rehabilitation and protection of native flora and fauna while promoting both Aboriginal and European history around Little Blowhole.

Funding:

- The Australian Government Envirofund is the local action component of the Australian Government's \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust.



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Small Farms and Rural Living Network

Southern Councils Group

The Project

The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate a coastal riparian zone by:

1. Eradicating environmental weeds;
2. Planting a variety of local coastal species to increase biodiversity;
3. Improve local water quality;
4. Minimise visitor impact on site;
5. Restore a heritage dry stone wall from an original dairy farm on Little Blowhole Point; and
6. Increase public awareness of the history of the site and species diversity by producing a community education pamphlet.



Planting and Results

Twelve regular volunteers have completed and maintained the project with assistance from a Buddhist and Bahai group and several visits from Kiama High School students who helped with planting. As a consequence, plants are thriving and creating a dense canopy, which reduces the likelihood of invasive weeds establishing.

An impressive pathway including timber bridge/platform has been built following the contour of the original dry stonewall, which has also been restored. The track has successfully handled high volume traffic during peak holidays periods as well as several large storms since its construction.

This Envirofund Project has also initiated a number of other activities around the Little Blowhole area and resulted in greater community involvement and assistance from local Council, businesses and Landcare Illawarra.

Support from the community has been significant and includes:

- Kiama Council continued support of the Little Blowhole Group with technical advice, mulch and weed spraying. Kiama Council erected signage on site at their expense and awarded the group a \$1,500 community grant, which will be used to produce a mural on site with aboriginal cultural significance;
- Bombo Quarry donated an additional two truckloads of rock which has been used for the wall and for waterway restoration;
- Landcare Illawarra provided an additional \$500 for plants in 2008 to further expand the project area;
- Several local people with expertise in the areas of botany and horticulture have volunteered their time and advice regarding the management of this project;
- Little Blowhole Landcare has formed a partnership with Boolarang Nangamai Aboriginal Arts Centre based at Gerringong who designed and installed our seating and mural; and
- In December 2007, local Aboriginal storytellers and musicians shared their culture with community volunteers as part of an end of year celebration for Little Blowhole Landcare.



More Details

For more details about this project or to plan your own project, contact Andrew Britton, Small Farms Coordinator on (02) 4232 3200 or email abritton@southerncouncils.nsw.gov.au