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Schools and Community Help Protect Lake Macquarie

An overgrown and eroding creek infested with weeds at Waratah Avenue, Charlestown, has been given a new lease of life with the help of local school children and community members.

The project, co-ordinated by the Office of the Lake Macquarie & Catchment Coordinator, included two planting days inviting local school children and community members to become involved in the protection and beautification of their local area. All up over 8,800 native species will be planted as part of this project, with 1,800 planted by the community.

“It is very encouraging that there are so many people who are taking pride in their local area and are willing to help protect and enhance the natural environment in Lake Macquarie,” said Lake Macquarie & Catchment Coordinator, Jeff Jansson.

In addition to improving water quality, planting around the stream edges with native plants also helps to beautify the area.

In conjunction with the planting, physical works were carried out within the creek to create an effective filtration system to improve water quality before it enters Lake Macquarie.

“The works will treat storm water run-off by creating a series of shallow vegetated ponds (riffle ponds) and will also prevent erosion by placing rock work and vegetation along the creek bank,” Mr Jansson said.

The watercourse, a tributary of Winding Creek, feeds into Cockle Creek before entering the Lake.

The riffle ponds together with the planting of vegetation have been designed to collect sediment and reduce nutrients from the catchment’s storm water flows. They will also filter out other impurities, preventing them from entering the Lake.

“In creating the riffle ponds we are trying to mimic a natural watercourse,” Mr Jansson said.

The Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority contributed some funding to this project.



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