



Bullatale Creek from Cornalla West Road Bridge.

Connecting creeks, revitalising rivers

The Murray Anabanches provide important wildlife corridors, connecting the Murray River with its major anabranch, the Edward-Kooley.

What role do the creeks play in our environment?

The Tuppal, Bullatale and Native Dog creeks provide a vital network of habitat through a mostly cleared agricultural landscape.

These creek systems provide a range of economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits. They carry water to farms, homes, towns, schools and businesses. They are a focus for recreation, sports and fishing and have significant cultural importance for First Nations.

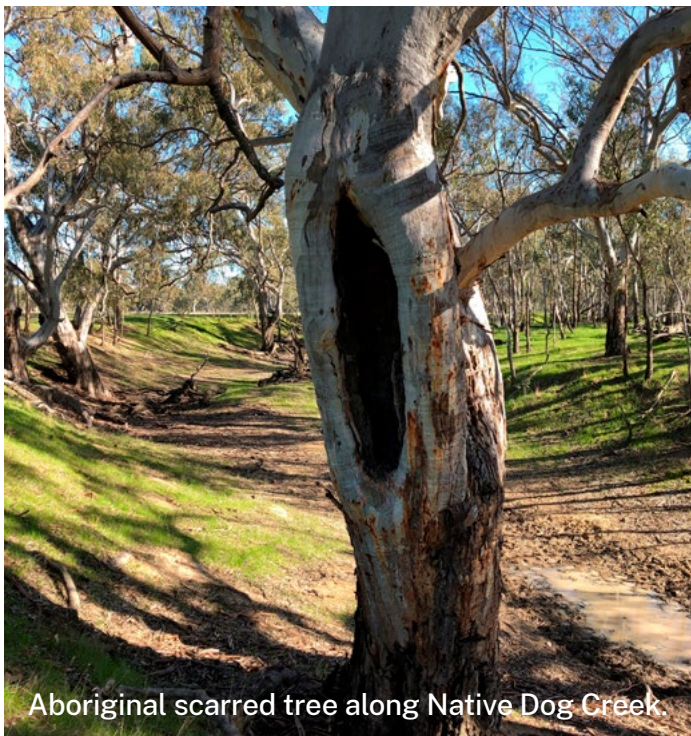
The creeks transport nutrients that underpin the aquatic food web and support fish, frogs, birds, bats and other wildlife. This flow of water also carries nutrients downstream, benefiting communities, vegetation, and wildlife throughout the river system.

Native fish make use of these creeks to move between river systems, access food, shelter and nursery habitat. The free-flowing waters and snag-rich environments provide ideal habitat for Murray cod to feed, breed and seek refuge from hypoxic (low oxygen) blackwater.

These creeks also support a wide variety of wildlife including woodland birds and small mammals that rely on these creek corridors. The Murray region is known for its populations of superb parrots and squirrel gliders which rely on habitat in these areas to thrive.

The Bullatale and Tuppal creeks are also home to platypus and rakali.

River red gums and stands of black box line the banks of these creek systems with some being hundreds of years old.



Aboriginal scarred tree along Native Dog Creek.

About the creeks . . .

Tuppal Creek

The Tuppal Creek is a 60-kilometre long, deeply incised, meandering creek that was once renowned for its abundant native fish populations, including the now endangered eel-tailed catfish and the iconic Murray cod. Improving environmental flows in the Tuppal Creek provides an opportunity to restore a local fishery and support the recovery of native fish populations throughout the river system.

Bullatale Creek

The Bullatale Creek was an important Murray cod nursery, providing ideal conditions for young fish to feed and grow. Rehabilitation of the 80-kilometre long Bullatale Creek will support native fish recovery efforts throughout the river system with flow-on benefits for recreational fishers and tourism providers in nearby towns.

Native Dog Creek

The 30-kilometre long Native Dog Creek is an important flow path for water entering the Tuppal Creek. It has a role in boosting productivity for downstream creeks and rivers. Like the Tuppal and Bullatale creeks, it acts as a corridor for a diversity of native wildlife.

Together, this network of anabranches can provide essential refuge habitat for native fish during hypoxic (low oxygen) blackwater events occurring downstream in the river system. Refuge areas like these provide source populations to repopulate the river once hypoxic blackwater conditions have subsided.

Why are these creeks important to the Murray region?

The Murray River region relies on the river system for drinking and irrigation water, tourism and recreation. Rivers and creeks carry water to farms, homes, towns, schools and businesses. They are a focus for recreation, sports and fishing and have significant cultural importance for First Nations.

By restoring the health of these creek systems, we are supporting the qualities and characteristics that make our communities appealing for locals, visitors, industries and investors alike.

Recreational fishing is a major drawcard for the southern basin. Every year, recreational fishers invest millions of dollars in accommodation, food and supplies in the Murray catchment.

By boosting native fish numbers, Water for the Environment can support a significant industry and investment in our region.

The Tuppal, Bullatale and Native Dog creeks can provide important refuge habitat for native fish during hypoxic (low oxygen) blackwater events that occur elsewhere in the river system. The native fish that find sanctuary in these creeks can act as a source population for the broader river system as it recovers.

Images of local rivers adorn the covers of tourism brochures for our region. We know that nature-based tourism is a major drawcard for visitors.

By restoring these creeks and anabranches to good health, river communities can promote a powerful message of environmental stewardship to visitors far and wide.



Environmental flow in Tuppal Creek.

Photos: Paul Childs/DPE.
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