

4.3 PARTNERING WITH THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

The Hawkesbury Nepean CMA is working closely with the Aboriginal community in the catchment to facilitate meaningful and active involvement natural resource management, and to support Aboriginal people in caring for Country.

The HNCMA Board established a new Aboriginal Advisory Committee in response to feedback from the Aboriginal community. The HNCMA held 5 **Aboriginal community forums** across the catchment in 2006/07 at Goulburn, Lithgow, Pennant Hills, Mt Annan and Windsor.

The HNCMA has a dedicated Aboriginal Community Support Team including an Aboriginal Community Support Officer and a Catchment Officer [Aboriginal communities] with both officers part of the NSW NRM agencies Aboriginal support network.

The team have developed programs to provide training in natural resource management for the Aboriginal community as well as assisting the community with cultural heritage protection.

In 2006/07 the Hawkesbury Nepean CMA's Aboriginal community support team delivered the following outcomes:

- Established and supported three employment training programs in the catchment that saw **12 participants graduate** in Conservation and Land Management (Certificate II and III) and **five others employed** in full-time positions:
 - * Gandangarra Aboriginal Land Council (in Campbelltown)
 - * Bathurst Aboriginal Land Council (in Lithgow)
 - * Goulburn Aboriginal Landcare Group (in Goulburn)
- Negotiated and **established 2 new employment training programs** for the following year with the:
 - * Aboriginal Cultural Resource Centre (Katoomba)
 - * Metropolitan Land Council (on the Macdonald River)
- Carried out **cultural heritage assessments on 400 HNCMA on ground projects proposals** through the Aboriginal Heritage information System and **carried out site inspections on 20 properties** with relevant cultural sites
- Participated on all Hawkesbury Nepean CMA funding assessment panels to address cultural heritage issues with projects
- Negotiated with the Department of Environment and Climate Change for the Aboriginal Knowledge and Community Values Project to run in the Hawkesbury Nepean catchment. The project aims to identify cultural significance at the landscape scale across five CMA areas including the Hawkesbury Nepean, Murrumbidgee, Lachlan, Central West and Hunter-Central River.

Members of the Gandangarra Landcare Group take a break from building tracks at Mt Annan Botanic Gardens

