

# A history of the development of Sweetwater Creek Nature Reserve

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Part 3

**Warwick Exton**

### **BEMBRIDGE ENTRANCE & GULLY WEEDING & REGENERATION.**

As part of a group policy to improve the appearance of the entrances of the reserve, ASC had applied for two grants prior to 1999 aimed at beautifying the entrance at the end of Bembridge Ave..

This photo taken in February 1999 shows part of the site with a new set of steps replacing older ones destroyed by severe street flooding two weeks previously.



Because both these applications had not been granted, the group decided to start a project there on its own and consequently in March 1999, weeding of the steep slope was commenced.

Over the rest of the year, the area was cleared of weeds, the slope terraced with tea- tree logs and 500 trees, shrubs, sedges and grasses planted.

The next photo shows the terracing and matting work in progress.



While this was a good start, further work was required, and in 2002, the group applied for a National Heritage grant to improve the entrance site and extend the work further down the gully.

And so, in January 2003, the group received \$3200 to carry out this task and most of the gully below the steps was weeded and terraced to prepare for the planting.

This photo shows some of the terracing and planting work completed at the bottom end of the gully with Mark Doyle inspecting it



This work continued through the rest of the year and into 2004.

In the course of the project, a long spell of hot, dry weather occurred and the group had to use its portable fire equipment on a number of occasions to pump creek water to the site to keep the plantings alive.

While the general area of the gully has been greatly improved, the east bank remains a continuing problem primarily because of the immense Radiata pines that have been there for many years.