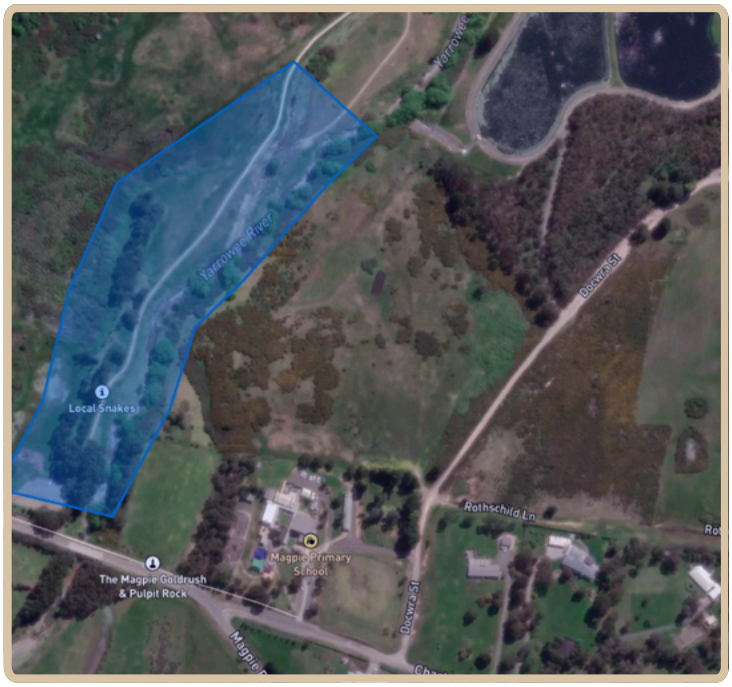
Urban Ripple Project
2024-2026
Restoring the Yarrowee River and its Little Creeks

Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group

Victorian Government's Green Links Grants Program Round 1: $701,584
Project Reach: 9.8 km of waterways | Sites Restored: 13 sites | Area Improved: 45.5 ha

Site 10 Docwra Street

Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group



Site map: Site 10 is located along the Yarrowee River near Docwra Street in Sebastopol.

The Challenge

The Yarrowee River Frontage Reserve at Docwra Street is a highly degraded site with limited remnant native vegetation. Historical mining sediments have significantly altered the landscape, with blackwood the only remnant tree species remaining. A shared walking and cycling path, part of the Yarrowee Trail network, runs alongside the river and is a valued community asset. In recent years, the site has become a focus for collaborative rehabilitation efforts, presenting significant opportunities to improve habitat, biodiversity, and community amenity.

Ecological Target

Native plant species historically occurring at this site were identified using a vegetation mapping tool based on Floristic Mapping Units (FMUs). Mapping indicates that the site previously supported **FMU 23753: Colluvium Transitional Plains Damp Forest**, a vegetation community characterised by eucalypts, grasses, sedges, and a diverse range of native groundcovers. This information has been used to guide ecological management, revegetation, and restoration activities at the site.

Project Aims

- Improve local amenity
- Increase shade and cooling of the waterway
- Enhance habitat and biodiversity
- Build on previous restoration works in this area including the Yarrowee River.

The Restoration

Site Budget

Green Links Funding	In-kind contribution	Total
$50,536	**$19,515***	**$70,051**

*In-kind contribution based on $30 per 650.5 volunteer hours

Site Preparation

The City of Ballarat prepared the site through mowing and targeted weed control. The Friends of Yarrowee River spread mulch around the planting site.

Plant Supply

Indigenous seedlings were supplied by Ballarat Wild Plants Nursery, Wine Barrel Banksias Nursery, Seeding Victoria and the City of Ballarat Community Indigenous Nursery. The Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group tool trailer was utilised.



The seed orchard planting has expanded existing native vegetation along the Yarrowee River corridor.

Project Outcomes

Seedlings Planted	Area Restored	Volunteers Engaged	Events Held
2523	6.4 ha	398	15

Community Impact

This degraded site was enhanced through the combined efforts of schools, volunteers and environmental partners. Students from Magpie Primary School and St James Parish School continued to help revegetate the area and inspired a planting to enhance a wetland as they wanted to plant near the frogs. Landmate crews, delivered through Corrections Victoria, contributed planting works.

Friends of Yarrowee River volunteers further enhanced the site by underplanting existing vegetation and establishing a new “teardrop” planting area. Seeding Victoria also established a seed production area with Gold Dust Wattle and Heath Tea-tree, creating a reliable source of locally collected seed for future restoration projects.

“By planting over many years and involving multiple generations, local schools have built a strong connection to the Yarrowee River”
– **Kate Martin, Urban Ripple Project Officer**



Students from Magpie Primary School getting creative with their tree guards.

Project Highlights

Collaborating with local schools to create an ongoing connection to the Yarrowee River

Establishing a Seed Production Area for future seed collection.

Future Opportunities

Short term	Medium term	Long term
• Continue weed control • Plant maintenance • Maintain access requirements for City of Ballarat management • Establish long-term photo monitoring points	• Undertake bird surveys with local community groups • Weed control and maintenance	• Weed control • Improve habitat for threatened species through targeted restoration actions

Before and After



Photo Credit: COB Yarrowee Masterplan 2020



Photo Credit: Kate Martin

Project Partners

Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group • Friends of Yarrowee River • City of Ballarat • Seeding Victoria • Magpie Primary School • St James Parish School • Landmate • Ballarat Wild Plants • Wine Barrel Banksia Nursery • City of Ballarat Community Indigenous Nursery • Victorian Government Green Links Grant Program

A partnership project between the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance and the Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group.