Urban Ripple Project

2024-2026

Restoring the Yarrowee River and its Little Creeks

Friends of Canadian Corridor©

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 11 Lavery Avenue

Friends of Canadian Corridor



Site map: Site 11 is located in Mount Clear, Ballarat.

The Challenge

This project site encompassed both private land and public land involving three different land managers within and adjacent to Woowookurrung Regional Park. Historical mining and forestry activities had left the area degraded, requiring rehabilitation to restore biodiversity values, improve ecosystem health, and rehabilitate Sailors Gully. Prior to planting, a key focus was the control of pine wildlings, along with other invasive woody weeds including gorse. Mature pine trees in the surrounding landscape have created a persistent seed source, resulting in ongoing pine wildling recruitment that threatens native vegetation and requires active management.

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 a few vegetation classes including **FMU 23753: Colluvium Transitional Plains Damp Forest**, a vegetation community characterised by eucalypts, grasses, sedges, and a diverse range of native groundcovers and **FMU 23753: Lancefieldian Damp Forest,** supporting a heathy understorey rich in peas.

Project Aims

- Increase shade and cooling of the waterway through rehabilitation of Sailors Gully
- Reduce the areas of weeds with a focus on pine and gorse control
- Improve the extent and quality of habitat through native revegetation
- Build on previous restoration works that have been completed in the Woowookurrung Regional Park.

The Restoration

Site Budget

Green Links Funding	In-kind contribution	Total
$77,741	**$35,490***	**$113,231**

*In-kind contribution based on $30 per 1183 volunteer hours

Site Preparation

- Wadawurrung Traditional Owners sprayed gorse
- Pine trees and pine wildlings were removed from the private property by two contractors
- Weed matting was used when planting seedlings



Pine removal contractors removed hundreds of trees to make way for native plants.

Plant Supply

Indigenous seedlings were supplied by Wadawurrung Indigenous Nursery and Wine Barrel Banksias Nursery.

Project Outcomes

Seedlings Planted	Area Restored	Volunteers Engaged	Events Held
5500	**8.32 ha**	**583**	**20**

Community Impact

The weed control and revegetation program brought together land managers, community volunteers, and a private landholder to restore the landscape within and adjacent to Woowookurrung Regional Park. Year 9 students from Mount Clear College gained hands on environmental learning experience, while volunteers from Friends of Canadian Corridor (FOCC) and the local community contributed to planting activities. The project strengthened community connections, built local stewardship, and fostered a shared commitment to protecting and enhancing the area's biodiversity.



Planting volunteers at the Lavery Avenue planting site.

“Sailors Gully Creek is now the best Goldfields creek in town.”
– **Jeff Rootes, Friends of Canadian Corridor**

Project Highlights

- Plant survival rate is excellent despite a dry Summer
- Collaboration between three land managers
- Critter piles created with removal of pine wildlings
- Sailors Gully creek is now restored

Future Opportunities

Short term	Medium term	Long term
• Continue weed control and seedling maintenance • Establish long-term photo monitoring points	• Weed control • Undertake bird surveys • Install nest boxes • Work with Federation University students to undertake plant surveys • Continue pine wildling removal	• Weed control • Improve habitat for threatened species through targeted restoration actions • Undertake koala monitoring using acoustic recording devices

Before and After





Project Partners

Friends of Canadian Corridor (FOCC) • City of Ballarat • Rotary Club of Alfredton and Ballarat South • Wadawurrung Traditional Owners • Parks Victoria • Wine Barrel Banksia Nursery • Wadawurrung Indigenous Nursery • Mount Clear College • Victorian Government Green Links Grant Program

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