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 12
Eddy Avenue

Friends of Eddy Avenue
(Sub group of Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group)



Site map: Site 12 is located in Eddy Avenue Reserve in Mount Helen.

The Challenge

Eddy Avenue Reserve is a secluded green space located behind residential properties. Despite its hidden location, the reserve is highly valued by the local community for its environmental and recreational significance. A tributary of the Yarrowee River flows through the site and is currently affected by erosion, while extensive weed infestations occur among remnant eucalypts and scattered native shrubs. Areas of non-native grass are regularly maintained through mowing by the City of Ballarat.

Despite these challenges, the reserve retains substantial ecological and community value and offers significant opportunities for restoration and enhancement. The reserve is also located within a designated bushfire-prone area, a factor that was carefully considered when selecting plant species for revegetation and will continue to inform future site 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 **FMU 23757: Colluvium Foothill Damp Plains** described as Messmate-Peppermint Forest above 450m a.s.l. with a grassy and heathy understorey with bracken.

Project Aims

- Enhance habitat and biodiversity values
- Reduce the amount of weeds
- Plant species that are appropriate in an area with high fire risk
- Increase maintenance and attention of the area to improve local amenity

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The Restoration

Site Budget

Green Links Funding	In-kind contribution	Total
$43,661	**$17,550***	**$61,211**

*In-kind contribution based on $30 per 585 volunteer hours

Site Preparation

The City of Ballarat mowed the site prior to planting, and weed mats were installed around seedlings to suppress competing exotic grasses and improve establishment success.

Plant Supply

Indigenous seedlings were supplied by the organisation, TreeProject. TreeProject is a program where trained volunteers grow indigenous seedlings for rural landholders and Landcare groups for revegetation projects like Urban Ripple.



Eddy Avenue planting site.

Project Outcomes

Seedlings Planted	Area Restored	Volunteers Engaged	Events Held
4000	1.92 ha	186	15

Community Impact

The Urban Ripple Program directly led to the establishment of the Friends of Eddy Avenue (FOEA). Local residents and Federation University students took part in planting native seedlings, with more than 20 people attending the initial planting day. This strong turnout gave organisers confidence that the community would support the project over the long term.

To encourage participation and strengthen community connections, soup was provided following planting days and working bees. These gatherings created valuable opportunities for neighbours to meet, build relationships, and develop a shared sense of ownership and pride in the project. The Friends Group will work under the umbrella of the Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group going forward.

"Starting the Friends group has sparked new interest in the area and given local people a chance to get involved, meet their neighbours and make a positive difference."
– **Alison Brookman, Friends of Eddy Avenue (FOEA)**



Members and supporters of the newly formed 'Friends of Eddy Avenue' with Urban Ripple Project Officer, Kate Martin (Right).

Project Highlights

Establishing a new Friends group that attracted new people to landcare

Neighbourhood connection

Future Opportunities

Short term	Medium term	Long term
• Continue weed control and seedling maintenance • Maintain access requirements for City of Ballarat mowing and mangement • Establish long-term photo monitoring points	• Work with City of Ballarat to adress the waterway erosion issue • Seek funding for further works. • Collaborate with the City of Ballarat • Weed control	• Improve habitat for threatened species through targeted restoration actions • Weed control

Before and After





Project Partners

Friends of Eddy Avenue • City of Ballarat • Federation University • TreeProject • Victorian Government Green Links Grant Program

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