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

Upper Williamsons Creek
LANDCARE 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 13
Union Jack Creek

Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare Group



Site map: Site 13 is located on Macs Road in Buninyong (a continuation of Somerville Road).

The Challenge

This section of Union Jack Creek, located approximately 2 km upstream of the Yarrowee River on the edge of Buninyong, has been heavily modified and is vulnerable to erosion. The site is surrounded by dense infestations of gorse, with rabbit activity contributing to ongoing land degradation. Additional weed threats within the waterway include blackberry and spiny rush. The Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare Group has been actively rehabilitating the site and required additional support to continue restoration efforts.

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 23702: Alluvium Transitional Plains Grassy Forest**, a mixed eucalypt forest or woodland on transitional flats and gentle lower slopes with scattered shrubs and a groundlayer containing heathy plants, grasses, forbs, bracken and hard-leaved monocots.

Project Aims

- Enhance habitat and biodiversity values
- Consider frog habitat in species selection
- Planting for future seed collection opportunity
- Build on previous restoration works along Union Jack Creek

The Restoration

Site Budget

Green Links Funding	In-kind contribution	Total
$27,354	**$6,000***	**$33,354**

*In-kind contribution based on $30 per 200 volunteer hours

Site Preparation

The Landcare group sprayed gorse before planting.

Plant Supply

The majority of indigenous seedlings were grown and supplied by members of the Upper Williamsons Landcare Group. Additional plants were supplied by Wine Barrel Banksias Nursery. Five species were selected including Sweet Bursaria, Lomandra, Rushes and Carex. Species were planted in clumps to allow for easier access when collecting seed. No trees or large shrubs were planted to allow reduced shade for more suitable frog habitat in wetter areas.



Volunteers planting at Macs Lane next to Union Jack Creek.

Project Outcomes

Seedlings Planted	Area Restored	Volunteers Engaged	Events Held
2050	4.48 ha	67	7

Community Impact

Over the project, the Landcare group delivered seven planting and maintenance days, including one event supported by students from Federation University. This was an excellent achievement for a small but dedicated volunteer group, demonstrating their strong commitment to restoring Union Jack Creek. Each planting day also provided an opportunity for community connection, with volunteers coming together to enjoy a BBQ food and socialise after the planting activities.

"Urban Ripple has provided the boost our group needed to keep the project moving all the way to the end of the reserve. Rather than simply planting a few indigenous species, it has allowed us to take a broader view and plan for the reserve's future."

– **Dan Frost, Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare Group**



Plants were established in species clusters to provide a future local seed source.



Young volunteers celebrate achieving the project target of 2,050 plants.

Project Highlights

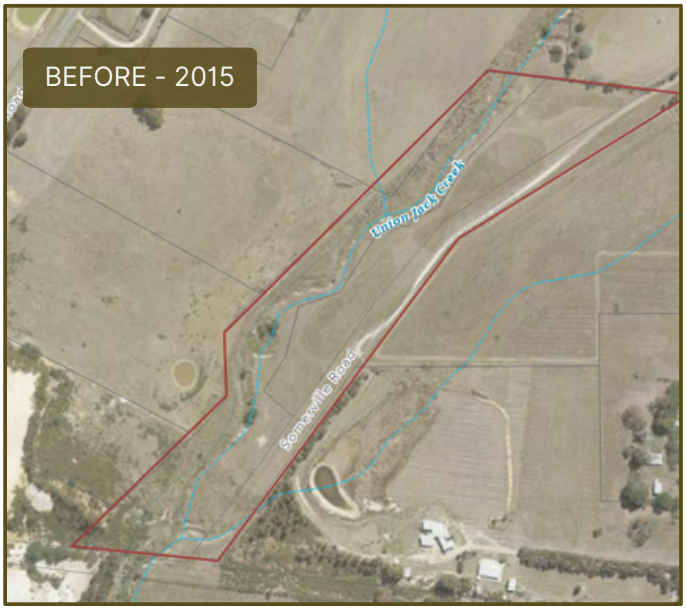
Landcare group members growing their own native seedlings

A planting design for future seed collection

Future Opportunities

Short term	Medium term	Long term
• Weed control • Rabbit control • Seedling maintenance • Establish long-term photo monitoring points	• Weed control • Rabbit control • Undertake bird surveys with local community groups	• Weed control • Rabbit control • Erosion control works • Improve habitat for threatened species through targeted restoration actions • Seed collection

Before and After





Project Partners

Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare Group • Seeding Victoria • Federation University • Victorian Government Green Links Grant Program

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