Urban Ripple Project 2024-2026

Restoring the Yarrowee River and its Little Creeks

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 2
Brown Hill

Friends of the Yarrowee



Site map: Site 2 is located in Turner Court in the Ballarat suburb of Brown Hill.

The Challenge

The site is situated alongside the Yarrowee River and trail used by walkers and cyclists, and the Western Freeway. The river corridor has been extensively modified over time, with impacts from both the Ballarat gold rush and subsequent urban development. While older native revegetation plantings occur along sections of the river, some areas remain unplanted, lack a diverse understorey and are regularly mown. Weed infestations continue to be a significant challenge, with gorse being the dominant weed species affecting the site.

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 25499: Lancefieldian Damp Forest**, taller stringybark - peppermint forest with a heathy understorey.

Project Aims

- Improve local amenity
- Increase shade and cooling of the waterway
- Enhance habitat and biodiversity
- Build on previous restoration works along the Yarrowee River

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The Restoration

Site Budget

Green Links Funding	In-kind contribution	Total
$35,496	**$21,600***	**$57,096**

*In-kind contribution based on $30 per 720 volunteer hours.

Site Preparation

Site preparation was completed by the City of Ballarat through mowing and spraying activities, followed by targeted weed control treatment by Goldfields Weed Management.

Plant Supply

Indigenous seedlings were supplied by Wine Barrel Banksias Nursery.



Planting site adjacent to the popular Yarrowee River Trail.

Project Outcomes

Seedlings Planted	Area Restored	Volunteers Engaged	Events Held
3500	0.64 ha	312	25

Community Impact

This group has been active since the 1980s, playing a vital role in restoring and protecting the Yarrowee River through community planting days, cleaning out litter in the river, advocating for improvements and promoting enjoyment of the river through bike rides, nature and historical walks.

In recent years, the group's activity and membership began to slow. However, the Urban Ripple project provided the catalyst needed to revitalise the group, attract a new core group of members, and transition to an incorporated entity. Dedicated volunteers of all age groups, including families with young children, participated in eight planting events at Brown Hill, building their skills, confidence, and connection to both the landscape and each other. The group also contributed to revegetation efforts at the Docwra Street site in Magpie and have since partnered with the City of Ballarat to organise future planting events.

"The Urban Ripple Project provided the momentum needed to revitalise the group and attract a new core membership base"
– **Calvin Tromp, Friends of the Yarrowee River**



Friends of Yarrowee River volunteers at a planting day in Brown Hill, followed by a well earned morning tea.

Project Highlights

The group became an incorporated entity

Improving the biodiversity values of the Yarrowee River

Future Opportunities

Short term	Medium term	Long term
• Continue weed control, focusing on gorse • Maintain seedlings • Retain site access for City of Ballarat management activities • Continue photo-point monitoring	• Increase native tussock planting to suppress emerging weeds	• Partner with land managers to control surrounding weeds • Extend revegetation closer to the river

Before and After





Project Partners

Friends of the Yarrowee River (FOYR) • City of Ballarat • Goldfields Weed Management • Wine Barrel Banksias Nursery • Victorian Government Green Links Grant Program

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