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 4
Lal Lal Drain

Friends of Canadian Corridor



Site map: Site 4 is located in Larter Street in the Ballarat suburb of Canadian.

The Challenge

The Lal Lal Drain is a highly modified urban waterway that flows into Canadian Creek, a tributary of the Yarrowee River. Historical gold mining and urban development have significantly altered the original landscape. Situated close to residential areas, and popular with users of the adjacent walking and bike path, the drain lacked trees and shade, was heavily infested with weeds and provided limited habitat value.

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 along Canadian Creek

The Restoration

Site Budget

Green Links Funding	In-kind contribution	Total
$21,830	**$9,360***	**$31,190**

*In-kind contribution based on $30 per 312 volunteer hours

Site Preparation

The City of Ballarat prepared the site through mowing and targeted weed control.

Plant Supply

Indigenous seedlings were supplied by:

- Wadawurrung Indigenous Nursery
- Wine Barrel Banksias Nursery



Volunteers planting the Lal Lal drain.

Project Outcomes

Seedlings Planted	Area Restored	Volunteers Engaged	Events Held
1,000	0.64 ha	131	6

Community Impact

This highly visible site beside the Canadian Creek Trail was transformed through strong community support. Local residents, Friends of Canadian Corridor (FOCC) volunteers, and the Rotary Club of Ballarat came together to plant native vegetation, improving the appearance and ecological value of the drain.

The Rotary Club of Ballarat helped create a welcoming community event by coordinating volunteers and providing a BBQ, while FOCC supported this site and three other Urban Ripple project sites demonstrating their ongoing commitment to restoring urban waterways in Ballarat. The strong volunteer turnout demonstrated community commitment to restoring urban waterways, enhancing habitat connectivity, and creating greener, healthier places for people and wildlife throughout the Canadian Creek catchment.

"Local participation was far greater than we anticipated."
– Jeff Rootes, Friends of Canadian Corridor (FOCC)



Rotary Club of Ballarat supplied a barbeque and registered volunteers on the planting days.

Project Highlights

Attracting new planting volunteers from the local area

Supporting habitat connectivity along Canadian Creek

Future Opportunities

Short term	Medium term	Long term
• Weed control • Seedling maintenance • Maintain access requirements for City of Ballarat drain management • Establish long-term photo monitoring points	• After adjacent housing development completed, plant trees on the verge between the creek, path and road • Undertake bird surveys with local community groups	• Expand revegetation works along Canadian Creek • Improve habitat for threatened species through targeted restoration actions

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Before and After





Project Partners

Friends of Canadian Corridor (FOCC) • City of Ballarat • Rotary Club of Ballarat • Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation • Victorian Government Green Links Grant Program

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