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

Victorian Government's Green Links Grant Program Round 1: $701,584
Project Reach: 9.8 km of waterways | Sites Restored: 13 sites | Area Improved: 45.5 ha

Site 6
Franklin Bridge

Napoleons Enfield Landcare Group



Site map: Site 6 is located at Scotchmans Lead Reserve in Scotchmans Lead, south of Ballarat.

The Challenge

Situated where the Union Jack Creek and the Yarrowee River meet, this reserve has undergone significant transformation. Decades of grazing, severe weed infestations and widespread rabbit activity degraded the site's ecological condition. Further challenges arose from historical gold mining, which reshaped the landscape.

Ecological Target

Mapping indicates that the site previously supported EVC 47 Valley Grassy Forest comprising a variety of eucalypts over a sparse shrub cover. The project aimed for a wooded site transitioning down to a grassland site due to the presence of native grass found. With much of this ecological structure lost or obscured, the site's natural values remained difficult to interpret until revegetation and restoration efforts began in 2013 and continued as part of the Urban Ripple Project.

Project Aims

- Bring back biodiversity
- Control and monitor weeds and pest animals over the site
- Provide multiple planting days to build volunteer skills and social interaction
- Increase shade and cooling of the waterway
- Remove stock access with erection of a new fence
- Build on previous restoration works in this reserve

The Restoration

Site Budget

Green Link Funding	In-kind contribution	Total
$49,161	**$26,370***	**$75,531**

*In-kind contribution based on $30 per 879 volunteer hours

Site Preparation

The Napoleons Enfield Landcare Group held weekly working bees to prepare the site.

Plant Supply

Indigenous seedlings were supplied by the City of Ballarat Community Indigenous Nursery.

The critically endangered Yarra Gum (*Eucalyptus yarraensis)* was planted as part of the project.



Planting volunteers preparing cardboard weed mats that worked very well in suppressing weeds.

Project outcomes

Seedlings Planted	Area Restored	Volunteers Engaged	Events Held
4530	**5.12 ha**	**350**	**12**

Community Impact

The Landcare group engaged local students from Napoleons Primary School and Ballarat Grammar's after school club to assist with planting, helping to build community involvement and environmental awareness. Geocaching Victoria volunteers also assisted with the project.

Planting activities were held across multiple days between June and September. Spreading the planting effort over several smaller events provided volunteers with ample notice and encouraged ongoing participation. This approach helped foster a strong sense of ownership of the site, as volunteers returned throughout the season to contribute to its establishment.

The planting days also served as valuable social events, with food and hot drinks provided, creating an enjoyable atmosphere and a shared sense of achievement among participants.

> *"Having numerous, smaller planting days worked well to build volunteer capacity, project ownership and social interaction."*
>
> **– *Jenny Ryle, Napoleons Enfield Landcare Group***





Volunteers planting at Scotchman Lead Reserve on the Yarrowee River. Plantings complimented and extended areas of previous restoration.

Project Highlights

Being part of a catchment wide project and collaborating with other landcare and friends groups

Updating a five year Land Management Plan for this site using data collected as part of this project

Identifying that the native perennial Mat Grass is present on the river flat

Confirmed presence of koalas with an audio monitoring program

Ballarat birdlife considered this site a bird watching hotspot

Future Opportunities

SHORT TERM	MEDIUM TERM	LONG TERM
• Continue weed control to help regenerate local wetland species to enhance frog and invertebrate habitat • Pest animal control • Plant maintenance • Establish photo points	• Undertake control of grassy and herbaceous weeds to encourage the spread of Mat-grass • Plant tussocky vegetation to help control erosion and provide habitat • Bird surveys	• Consider the needs of threatened flora and fauna in future restoration works • Continue working with neighbours beyond the reserve boundary to expand restoration works • Continue weed and pest animal control

Before and After





Project Partners

Napoleons Enfield Landcare Group • City of Ballarat Indigenous Community Nursery • Napoleons Primary School • Ballarat Grammar • Geocaching Victoria • Fifteen Trees • Victorian Government Green Links Grant Program

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