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 8 Redan Wetlands

Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group



Site map: Site 8 is located on the Yarrowee River, Humffray Street South, Redan.

The Challenge

Located just north of the Redan Wetlands, this section of the Yarrowee River adjoins the popular Yarrowee Trail and is a well used community asset for pedestrians. The waterway has been highly modified by historic gold mining and urban development. While previous revegetation works have established some native canopy vegetation, the understorey was lacking and other areas were dominated by mown grass. This presented a valuable opportunity to enhance biodiversity and ecological function through targeted weed management and native revegetation.

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** described as a mixed eucalypt forest or woodland on transitional flats and gentle lower slopes receiving moderate rainfall. Scattered shrubs and a ground layer containing heathy plants, grasses, forbs, bracken and hard-leaved monocots.

Project Aims

- Enhance habitat and support local biodiversity
- Restoration of the Yarrowee River corridor
- Enhance the area for recreation and community enjoyment
- Increase shade and cooling of the waterway

The Restoration

Site Budget

Green Links Funding	In-kind contribution	Total
$65,661	**$8,910***	**$74,571**

*In-kind contribution based on $30 per 297 volunteer hours

Site Preparation

The City of Ballarat (COB) prepared the site with mowing and both City of Ballarat and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners sprayed the site. The Landmate program assisted in weed control and weed mats were used when planting. Weed control involved the removal of gorse, hawthorn and blackberry.

Plant Supply

Indigenous seedlings were supplied by Ballarat Wild Plants Nursery.



To celebrate Ballarat Pride Month a Pride Planting Day was organised as part of the Urban Ripple project in June 2026 with the City of Ballarat and the Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group.

Project Outcomes

Seedlings Planted	Area Restored	Volunteers Engaged	Events Held
2629	0.64 ha	109	8

Community Impact

Urban Ripple engaged the Landmate crew to assist with planting works at the site. Delivered through Corrections Victoria, Landmate partners with environmental organisations to support environmental projects across regional Victoria.

Community participation was a key feature of the project. A Pride Planting Day was held in June 2026 in partnership with the City of Ballarat and the Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group, followed by a Ballarat Biodiversity Week planting event in August 2026. Additional planting days brought together local volunteers and staff from the City of Ballarat and Central Highlands Water, strengthening community connections and stewardship of the site.

"For many volunteers, this was their first visit to the site. The excitement of seeing native birds and hearing frogs calling reinforced the importance of restoring and protecting these local urban habitats."

– **Kate Martin, Urban Ripple Project Officer**



City of Ballarat and Central Highlands Water staff joined community volunteers for a tree planting day in August 2025.

Project Highlights

Improving habitat values along the Yarrowee River corridor

Collaborating with multiple organisations and volunteers to revegetate the site

Future Opportunities

Short term	Medium term	Long term
• Weed control • Seedling maintenance • Maintain access requirements for City of Ballarat management • Establish long-term photo monitoring points	• Undertake bird surveys with local community groups	• Expand weed control works along the Yarrowee River • Improve habitat for threatened species

Before and After





Project Partners

Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group • City of Ballarat • Landmate • Wadawurrung Traditional Owners • Central Highlands Water • Ballarat Wild Plants • Friends of Yarrowee River • Victorian Government Green Links Grant Program

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