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 9 Yuille Wetlands

Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group)



Site map: Site 9 is located at Yuille Wetlands in Sebastopol.

The Challenge

Yuille Wetland Reserve is located alongside the Yarrowee River in Sebastopol. Much of the site's vegetation is either planted or dominated by exotic species, and the reserve is affected by significant infestations of pest animals and noxious weeds including gorse, blackberry and willows. Enhancing the site through weed control and native revegetation presents a valuable opportunity to improve habitat quality, increase biodiversity, and strengthen the ecological function of the wetland.

Ecological Target

Native plant species historically occurring at this site were identified using a vegetation mapping tool based on Floristic Mapping Units (FMUs). Although this site has been highly modified, mapping indicates that the site originally supported **FMU 2794: Alluvium Transitional Valley Forest Soak**, a Gum-Peppermint forest with Silver Wattle and River tea-tree. The groundlayer is sedgy and grassy with semi-aquatic and margin plants on stream edges.

Project Aims

- Weed control
- Increase shade and cooling of the waterway and wetland
- Enhance habitat and biodiversity through native revegetation
- Collaboration with multiple land managers to enhance the wetland area

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The Restoration

Site Budget

Green Links Funding	In-kind contribution	Total
$83,781	**$16,440***	**$100,221**

*In-kind contribution based on $30 per 548 volunteer hours

Site Preparation

Landmate brushcut the area and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners sprayed the area before planting. Central Highlands Water (CHW) will undertake weed grooming in areas surrounding the wetland as part of the project.

Plant Supply

Indigenous seedlings were supplied by Ballarat Wild Plants Nursery. Plant species had a focus on small, moisture loving indigenous species suited to the wetland environment. Species such as Prickly Moses were established to replace weeds like gorse and provide habitat for small birds.



Volunteers planting at Yuille Wetlands.

Project Outcomes

Seedlings Planted	Area Restored	Volunteers Engaged	Events Held
3775	1.28 ha	166	10

Community Impact

This project brought together Traditional Owners, students, volunteers and partner organisations to restore the wetland and strengthen community connections to the site. Wadawurrung Traditional Owners participated in a National Reconciliation Week planting event, while City of Ballarat staff supported planting and watering activities throughout the project. Landmate crews, delivered through Corrections Victoria, assisted with site preparation, planting and maintenance works.

A highlight of the project was a community planting day organised by the Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group and Covenant College, Geelong. Seventy students planted 850 indigenous plants along the wetland edge in a single day, working in teams and contributing to a range of planting and site preparation tasks. Together, these efforts have improved biodiversity while fostering stewardship and community appreciation of the wetland.

"It was great to see 70 students get involved, planting 850 indigenous plants in a single day and making a real contribution to the wetland."
– **Kate Martin, Urban Ripple Project Officer**



Covenant College students planting at the Yuille Wetland site. Image Kate Martin

Project Highlights

Extensive weed removal will have an immediate positive impact on the site

National Reconciliation Week Planting with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners

Future Opportunities

Short term	Medium term	Long term
• Continue weed control • Follow up weed control in groomed areas • Plant maintenance • Maintain access requirements for City of Ballarat • Establish long-term photo monitoring points	• Undertake bird surveys with local community groups	• Expand revegetation works along the Yarrowee River and Yuille Wetlands • Improve habitat for threatened species through targeted restoration actions

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Before and After





Project Partners

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

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