



Murray-Darling Basin Commission Rivercare Award

City of Ballarat

Over 20 years the Ballarat community has transformed the Yarrowee River Valley from a mined-out weed-infested dumping ground into a valuable community asset. The project commenced in 1982 when the Friends of Yarrowee were formed. The restoration works have been an extensive, long-term collaboration between various local and State Government agencies and the community. The official opening of the Yarrowee River Trail took place in March this year and was a major event for the people of Ballarat.

A Yarrowee River Landscape and Development Master Plan was developed and adopted by Council in 1995. The project is a component of the LINC'S (Linear Networks of Communal Spaces) Strategy which aims to maximise the recreation and conservation aspects of linear reserves within the City of Ballarat.

The master plan for the river involved the creation of a 14-kilometre walking and cycling track from Gong Gong Reserve to Yuille Station Park plus another 20-kilometres of trails along the Yarrowee tributaries. Over 145,000 trees and other terrestrial plants have been established throughout the Reserve and 100,000 aquatic plants established in the various wetlands.

The creation of the Yarrowee Redan wetlands – which are designed to improve water quality in the Yarrowee River have been a major achievement, as has the huge job of removing massive weed infestations. Over 80 community groups and 1500 individuals have been involved in the project. The Yarrowee River Trail is now a major environmental, water quality, recreational and public health asset for the City of Ballarat.



Pictured L-R: Brian Scarsbrick, Chief Executive Landcare Australia Ltd, Councillor David Vendy and Kurtis Noyce from the City of Ballarat, winners of the Murray-Darling Basin Commission Rivercare Award, John Thwaites, Minister for Environment and John Landy, Governor of Victoria.