



Bushcare Nature Conservation Award

Kowree Farm Tree Group

The Kowree Farm Tree Group set up its Biolink Corridor Project in 1999. The aim of the project was to revegetate roadsides and private land to create a link between the Little Desert and the Glenelg River. The group achieved its aims after four years of dedicated planning and hard work. Along the way over 350 people were involved in this inspirational project which concluded with a four-day celebratory horse trek over the 100-kilometre route.

The project has seen some 78,000 seedlings planted, 643 kilometres of direct seeding established and 168 kilometres of fencing erected. It has also protected and rehabilitated 696 hectares of existing remnant native vegetation which was in relatively good condition including two large areas of Stringy Bark forest and several small areas of Buloke woodland. Seventy farmers now have corridors on their properties which link into the project to a total length of 252 hectares.

Most of the participants in the project had never worked on a revegetation or remnant protection project before. The project has greatly increased knowledge and awareness of the intrinsic value of remnants and the need to manage and protect them. While landholders are excited about the corridor providing habitat links for wildlife the corridors will also improve farm productivity. The corridors will provide shelter for stock and in some cases they were located along drainage lines to improve water quality.

While the project was funded by the Natural Heritage Trust it attracted strong voluntary and in-kind support. The biolink has had a very high profile in the area. It has put environmental improvement on the map as a key component of farm management and the local community has witnessed a substantial improvement project carried out in their backyard.



Pictured L-R: Alex Arbuthnot, Director Landcare Australia Ltd, Sue Close and Andrew Bradey from the Kowree Farm Tree Group, winners of the Bushcare Nature Conservation Award, John Thwaites, Minister for Environment and John Landy, Governor of Victoria.