



*yarra4life*

# 2023-24 SNAPSHOT



# Yarra4Life 2023-24 snapshot

Yarra4Life brings together community groups, non-government organisations and government agencies to drive positive environmental change in the Yarra Valley. This year, the collaboration has delivered projects ranging from supporting sustainable agriculture to habitat feasibility studies for the critically endangered lowland Leadbeater's Possum and Helmeted Honeyeater. The Program supported 13 landholders to develop land stewardship plans with on-ground works identified through these plans scheduled to continue into 2024/25.

## **Mission**

Yarra4Life brings together agencies and communities in genuine collaboration to protect biodiversity and rehabilitate the unique natural values of the Yarra Valley, expand the engagement of communities in actively caring for the region, and acknowledge and incorporate the approaches of Traditional Owners to heal their Country.



# Working towards our goals:

## Rehabilitating landscapes

Yarra4Life has delivered the following on-ground works that increased protection and improved the condition and resilience of habitats in the Yarra4Life area:

- Area rehabilitated through revegetation activities = 3.36 ha
- Area rehabilitated through weed control activities = 50.67 ha
- Developed 13 Land Stewardship Plans and 1 Habitat Restoration Plan covering 1187 ha of private land.
- Established a seed bank containing 7.6 kg of seed from key habitat species for Lowland Leadbeater's Possum.
- Supported the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater to increase nursery production through improved infrastructure.

## Aligning efforts

Yarra4Life has facilitated alignment of planning and investment across partners through establishing or maintaining 5 funding agreements with Yarra4Life partners and coordinating the Yarra4Life program and committee meetings. The program held 4 coordination committee meeting attended by an average of 14 members per meeting.

The program brought in \$342,000 in project funding, from Melbourne Water and the Victorian Government, for the delivery of on-ground actions that meet strategic priorities. Much of this work was delivered collaboratively with Yarra4Life partners include Yarra Ranges and Nangana Landcare Networks and existing programs such as Yarra Ranges Council's Ribbons of Green Program.

During 2023/24 the Yarra4Life Coordinator submitted several new funding proposals. Three proposals were successful in receiving funding of \$855,890 for delivery of Yarra4Life priorities between 2024-28.



# Working towards our goals:

## Connecting community

Yarra4Life supported greater connection of the community to the natural environment through delivering 8 events attended by 235 people. These events supported active stewardship through promoting citizen science at Birds on Farms and Frog Census events and also supported sustainable agriculture through Multi Species Pasture and Soil Health and Composting demonstration events.

## Traditional Owners

Yarra4Life has supported Traditional Owners and Aboriginal owned organisation through providing \$174,372 in funding between 2022 – 2024 to undertake on-ground activities to care for Country and participate in collaborative planning meetings. This year Yarra4Life supported the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to develop a deer management plan for their Nunganala property and supported their Narrap Ranges to undertake a cultural exchange training trip to meet with other Traditional Owner Groups across Victoria.



# Looking ahead

In 2024-25 Yarra4Life will continue to bring together agencies and community to deliver practical collaborative project. A key focus will be finalising the delivery of current projects due to finish up in December 2024 and establishing 2 new projects set to begin in November 2024 and February 2025. Both these new projects have been supported through funding from the Victorian Government.

## For more information on Yarra4Life:

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