

Newham & District Landcare Group



Working towards a
healthier environment

Campaspe-Maribyrnong Headwaters Biolink background.

Newham & District Landcare Group activity has effectively resulted in the investment of over \$500,000 in the development of the Cobaw Biolink since it was formed in May 2004 with a starting membership 34 properties - it now sits at around 100.

We run an annual program of educational sessions, hands-on and social activities, all of which support our major goal of 'connecting country' through the Campaspe-Maribyrnong Headwaters Biolink – a network of native vegetation linking the Cobaw State Forest and the Macedon Regional Park. Hanging Rock Reserve and the eastern paddock form a key part of the Biolink.

Since late 2005 we have actively sought funding to support on-ground works within the Biolink area and have managed to obtain over \$300,000. Our very first grant in early 2005 was \$1000 from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council to support a flora and fauna survey along the Dry Creek at Newham. Remaining funds have come from a mix of State and Federal grants. All funding obtained has required a matching contribution from the landowner/ Landcare group/other interested parties [except for \$80,000 allocated by Melbourne Water for capital works along the Dry Creek at Newham].

“This equates to over \$500,000 invested in development of the Biolink.”

In addition to these works, much more has occurred on a smaller scale – Landcare has distributed almost 20,000 tube stock grown by Tree Project volunteers, assisted landowners with at plantings on 14 sites, including provision and supervision of 4 corporate groups.

Landcare support and co-ordination of landowners was instrumental in gaining the support of Melbourne Water for rehabilitation works on rather degraded waterways high in the catchment, that might otherwise have remained a low priority.