

Symposium Presentation No. 7

Granite to Goulburn Biolinks: Lambing Gully Road Project

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<http://www.strathbogie.ranges.cm.nsw.gov.au/>

Janet Hagen described the creation of a corridor link and nest box installation along Lambing Gully Road near Seymour, a part of the wider Granites to Goulburn Biolinks Project by the Strathbogie Ranges CMN with Whiteheads Creek Landcare Group.

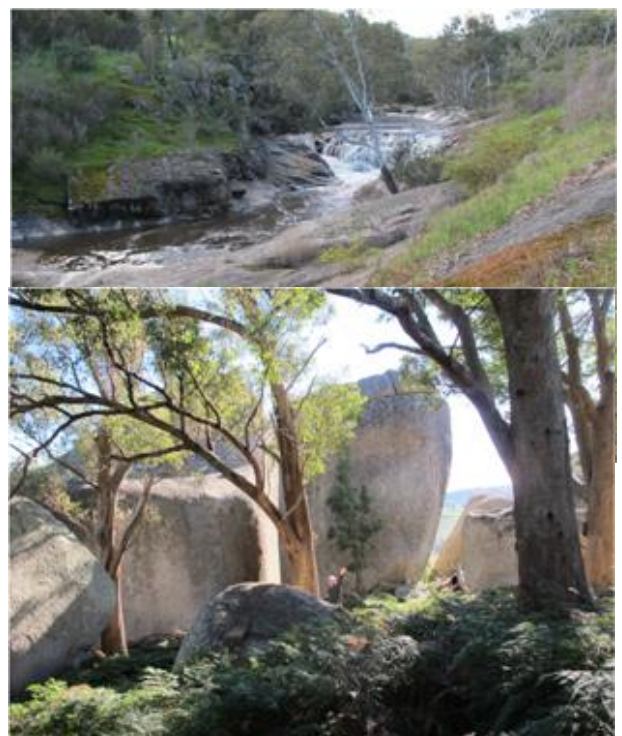
Starting point

We went through an era of doing lots of plans: Landcare Local Action Plans, DSE Biodiversity Action Plans and then a Strathbogie Ranges CMN Strategic Plan. The common aim was to develop a network of biolinks following the perennial waterways from the riverine plains up to the Strathbogie Ranges Tablelands. We called this the **Granite to Goulburn Biolinks**.

The project started just before the 2009 bushfires when “Biolinks” became a bad word, so we kept it quiet for a while.

Setting the scene

In the Strathbogie Ranges we are lucky to have strongly flowing granite creeks like the Seven Creeks and the Hughes Creek which offer important wildlife refuge areas in dry seasons. Even in the dry they do not stop flowing; water continually seeps from bogs and spring soak wetlands high in the catchments of the Ranges. As the creeks in the plains dry out, we are hoping the wildlife will move up the Biolinks into the Ranges, then return in the wetter times.



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The creeks travel through high quality remnant vegetation in some sections, but in other sections it flows through farmland where there are no fences and unrestricted stock access. One focus of the project is to get the landholders to protect the creeks. The Strathbogie Ranges also have rocky outcrops that are a feature of the landscape, and also large core areas of remnant forest.

Case study: a micro-biolink project

This project was started by the Whiteheads Creek Landcare Group (the second or third landcare group in Victoria).

Lambing Gully Road is a minor road with a wide (3-chain) road reserve. It extends from the Goulburn River near Seymour (where it is called Telegraph Road) north to the Hughes Creek at Avenel. It has lots of scattered large remnant eucalypts and no understorey.



Whiteheads Creek Landcare & Burnt Creek Landcare Groups combined for an annual National Tree Day Planting along Lambing Gully Road for several years from 2010. We involved the Seymour schools as well as Lions and other groups. Planting days in late July were often cold and miserable days but they made a start. We put up a sign to explain the idea of the plantings as "Corridors for Life".



The Lambing Gully Rd Corridor is now looking pretty good but how do we measure its success?

Possums and Gliders Project

So the project went down another track – see [link](#). We obtained a small Endangered Species Grant from DSE in 2014 to put up nest boxes. The project included

- Brochure explaining how to build and put up nest boxes based on the best advice from Ray Thomas, Janice Mentiplay-Smith and Orlando Talamo (see other Glideways presentations).

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- Community Education Evening.
- Putting up nest boxes. Being an older group, we employed local arborist Gary Hendy to put up the 50 boxes along Lambing Gully Road using best safety practice. The nest boxes were supplied by Violet Town Men's Shed.



- Direct seeding was carried out along Lambing Gully Road in 2014 to further enhance the corridor.
- Monitoring nest boxes: We have been putting up nest boxes for years without going back to see if they really work. So we tested a monitoring technique using a camera on the end of a pole in the Seymour Bushland Park. Nearly every nest box was occupied and that re-stimulated our excitement about nest boxes. We had lots of kids on the day and they were amazed. We also got some game cameras to record what we had in the local area.



Photo:
Hilary Ackroyd-

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We recently received a DELWP Endangered Species Community Action Grant to install Brush-Tailed Phascogale Boxes in Ruffy & Highlands (for the Hughes Creek Catchment Collective).

Finally

We hope the Glideways Symposium will help us tie all our individual projects into some bigger more meaningful project that we can participate in. What we have been doing so far is pretty random. We are interested in becoming part of some bigger movement, some bigger plan.