

Growing Connections: Restoring Country, Supporting Community

Yass Area Network of Landcare Groups

Yass Valley

Funding requested: \$150,000

Summary: The project seeks to restore and protect endangered ecological communities across the Yass Valley, focusing on Box-Gum Grassy Woodland and Natural Temperate Grassland. The initiative integrates weed control, revegetation, paddock tree planting, and nursery upgrades to enhance biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and landscape resilience. Key activities include direct seeding in the Bowning-Bookham region to reconnect fragmented woodland, restoration of Yass Gorge through invasive weed removal and native replanting, and rehabilitation of Sutton Reserve, targeting a rare woodland remnant. The project also involves planting 480 native paddock trees across farms to support wildlife and farm resilience and upgrading infrastructure at three volunteer-run nurseries that produce over 15,000 native plants annually. In total, the project will restore more than 20 hectares, engage over 100 volunteers and landholders, and foster long-term community stewardship across the region.

Community value: This project delivers targeted, lasting improvements to the Caring for Country priority area by restoring critically endangered ecosystems facing threats from weeds, fragmentation, and climate change. Through a combination of community leadership and technical expertise, the initiative will remove invasive species to enable native regeneration, establish 8-12 hectares of habitat corridors via direct seeding, and plant 480 climate-adaptive paddock trees using local, multi-provenance seed. Infrastructure upgrades at three community nurseries will support the annual production of over 15,000 native plants, strengthening local capacity for ongoing revegetation. More than 100 volunteers and landholders will be engaged through training and coordinated support, fostering long-term stewardship and collaboration. The project enhances ecological connectivity, boosts biodiversity, and builds climate resilience across the Yass Valley. By investing in this work, YAN is laying a strong foundation for continued environmental care, learning, and community-driven restoration efforts.



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