

**Partners/Sponsors** Natural Heritage Trust, Central Highlands Water, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Glenelg-Hopkins Catchment Management Authority, North Central Catchment Management Authority.



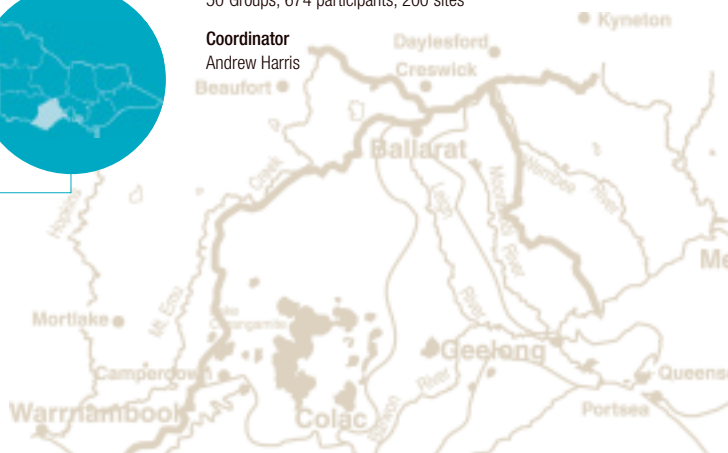
## Central Highlands

**Monitoring Groups/Site Information**

50 Groups, 674 participants, 200 sites

**Coordinator**

Andrew Harris



# linking groups together



All pics: Students carry out revegetation activities.

The City of Ballarat-Linear Network of Communal Space is not called the LINC program for nothing! This program's partnership with Central Highlands Waterwatch has led to the creation and strengthening of a range of environmental initiatives in the Ballarat region.

The City of Ballarat-Linear Network of Communal Space (LINC) is a project that aims at looking after and increasing biodiversity on land that has not traditionally been managed for natural resource outcomes such as the vegetative corridors boarding railway lines. In the past two years LINC has been supported by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Central Highlands Water and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Central Highlands Waterwatch has been a major partner, contributing to the program by providing water sampling data, conducting water monitoring workshops and helping out with tree planting days.

One of the successful initiatives LINC and Waterwatch have been able to facilitate is the 'Green Schools Event'. Schools from the Central Highlands Catchment Area participated in planting indigenous vegetation in and along Ballarat

Streams. Through the tree planting activities, it is clear that the participating students' understanding of catchment processes and biodiversity conservation has been increased.

Kurtis Noyce from the LINC program found that planting was a catalyst for deeper understanding. "It is not only important to actively participate in tree planting, it's vital that volunteers understand why we are planting native vegetation in and along our waterways, we all need to understand the true importance of water and a sustainable environment."

LINC and Waterwatch plan to continue their work together providing the ongoing education needed to engage the community in natural resource management with the vision of achieving a sustainable future.