

Welcome to the start of our 500 year journey

You are joining us at the outset of an inspiring vision for:

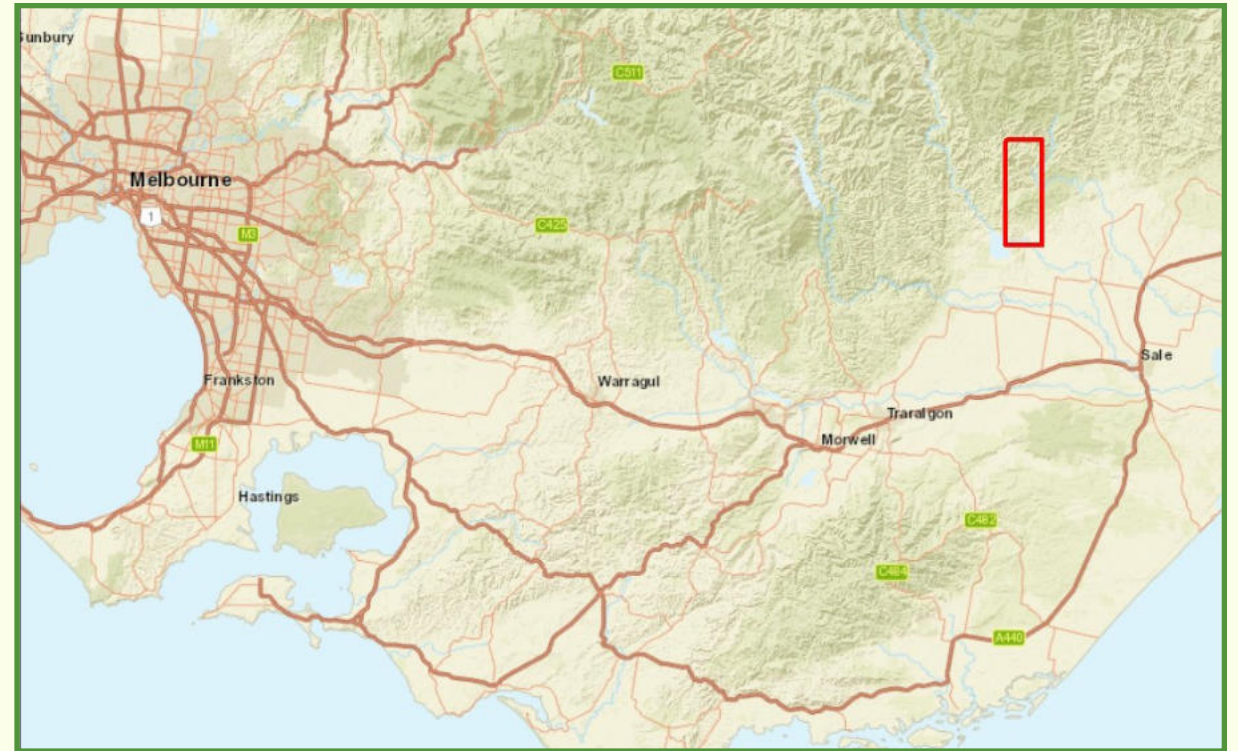
“A thriving living landscape for people and nature”

EcoGipps seeks to inspire future generations, promote our Gondwanan origins and indigenous heritage, and increase engagement with nature.

Through targeted landscape-scale restoration and conservation actions, ecological research and community engagement, EcoGipps will restore and conserve a living landscape through the establishment of a Biolink Corridor for people and the environment.

What & Where

Situated 200km east of Melbourne, EcoGipps currently consists of four diverse properties. They encompass riparian woodland and lowland grasslands bound by the meanders of the Macalister River at the edge of the Gippsland plains, and pass through the foothills



and into the heart of the Avon Wilderness Park. EcoGipps covers over 1000 acres, reclaimed from former staging posts when cattle were driven through the Avon Wilderness to the alpine peaks for grazing.

EcoGipps seeks to protect, restore and promote this remarkable landscape.

To achieve this, our work will focus on the following:

- 🌱 Ecological research
- 🌱 Conservation actions
- 🌱 Community engagement through visitation, education and wildlife experiences
- 🌱 Strong partnerships to promote connection to Country and knowledge exchange

Why & How

Biodiversity loss and climate change are the crisis of our time. The team at EcoGipps is passionate about reversing these trends. Through our biolink corridor, we can directly safeguard species and habitats and promote landscape and species conservation as a leader in progressive restoration and conservation techniques. Ultimately, we look to foster a resilient and thriving landscape and an important biodiversity corridor from the peaks of the Avon Wilderness to the Gippsland Plains. The integrity of landscapes and habitats across this broad geographic swathe is paramount not only for the flora and fauna that reside there, but also for many of our regional economies. A healthy, functioning landscape creates self-regulating waterways and more fire-resilient forests to support the fishermen of the Gippsland lakes and coast, to the farming industries on the plains and the Traditional Owners whose Country we steward.

To achieve our vision, we will:

- Activate partnerships
- Promote knowledge and resource sharing
- Apply world leading conservation and restoration practices and adaptive management
- Engage and connect with communities



We are looking to foster a resilient and thriving landscape

We will do this through the following key streams:

- Research
- Restoration
- Conservation
- Engagement

Sustainability underpins the EcoGipps 500 year vision. Sustainability is embedded across our entire remit from education programmes to daily operations and, of course, carbon management. EcoGipps commits to securing carbon neutral certification by 2025 and further our efforts to achieve carbon negative status by 2030. We are also looking to develop a carbon offset scheme and establish key local partners capable of expanding the extent of land utilised for carbon offsetting and habitat restoration.

Research

Research will inform evidence-based decision making to restore, protect and conserve the landscape. Answering key research questions will inform our understanding of the health and value of the land managed by EcoGipps.

In the short-term we will focus on:

- In-depth baseline studies to identify species and habitats of conservation significance (e.g. fire affected species or nationally scarce species and habitats)
- Identifying any gaps in our knowledge and drawing in experts in their fields to help fill those gaps
- Consulting with Traditional Owners, the Gunaikurnai to uncover the historical stories and knowledge of this Country
- Establishing long-term monitoring plots and meteorological data collection

Research outputs will inform conservation and restoration priorities, aligning resources to foster a resilient and rich landscape that is valued and protected.

EcoGipps seeks to develop research partnerships to understand the significance of keystone predators, habitat refugia and population dynamics for significant species found across the EcoGipps landscape including Dingos, Swift Parrots, microbats and Gippsland Water Dragons.

Key known biodiversity values and conservation initiatives associated with each property are highlighted in the section below.



Restoration

The aim is to maximise the biodiversity value and integrity of every habitat and create healthy, thriving populations of local species. Restoration actions will be informed by the initial research and baseline survey work. The restoration of native habitats also provides a considerable contribution towards carbon sequestration and flood alleviation.

Healthy populations of flora and fauna enhances their capacity to adapt to climate change. The impacts of grazing activities and the presence of invasive mammals (as well as potentially inflated populations of native browsers such as Eastern Grey Kangaroo) have a negative influence on the regeneration of vegetation communities, especially the understory. A priority will be to understand the extent of the impact these mammals have and where necessary implement control techniques. Similarly, the presence of invasive plants such as Blackberry and Boxthorn will be addressed. Through these actions the understory will not only regenerate, it will also increase invertebrate, reptile, amphibian and small mammal populations. Furthermore, restoration activities will facilitate future opportunities to rewild the area with species previously lost from the area, including the Eastern Quoll and various small mammal species.



Short term goals:

- 🌱 Identify habitats or species requiring restorative help
- 🌱 Increase the quality of those habitats through management

Short to medium term goals:

- 🌱 Feasibility study for reintroduction schemes

Medium to long term goals:

- 🌱 Successful reintroduction of mammal and potentially reptile assemblages.



Conservation

Conserving the values of the land is an essential component of Ecogipps' work. To achieve long-term protection, we seek to place conservation covenants over the land through Trustfor Nature.

Building on the restoration work, covenants will support the opportunity to establish a larger-scale biodiversity corridor in future years that allows connectivity between existing habitat properties thus enhancing the resilience of the landscape.

We will focus on actively conserving known biodiversity values identified from our research, for instance Yellow Box grassland, Plains grasslands, Riparian woodland, Dingos, and Gippsland Water Dragons. In developing partnerships EcoGipps will build and share expertise in landscape and species conservation.

Engagement

EcoGipps is committed to connecting people with nature and fostering environmental stewardship. Aligning with our research, restoration and conservation efforts, EcoGipps will develop a strong community of partners and volunteers including the Gunaikurnai and local farming community.

As we develop our engagement opportunities over the coming years, we seek to embrace the ancestral home of the Gunaikurnai and plan to provide employment, learning, volunteering and visitation experiences for all.

Short-term aims:

- Create the basic infrastructure to support field work and visitation
- Develop our website to showcase what is happening at EcoGipps
- Build our relationship with the Traditional Owners, the Gunaikurnai



- Develop a traditional calendar by which EcoGipps will operate
- Establish a Friends of EcoGipps group to help support our work and foster our community
- Create a bush tucker garden and work with the Gunaikurnai to promote traditional Australian foods
- Develop EcoGipps as a hub for an intern programme

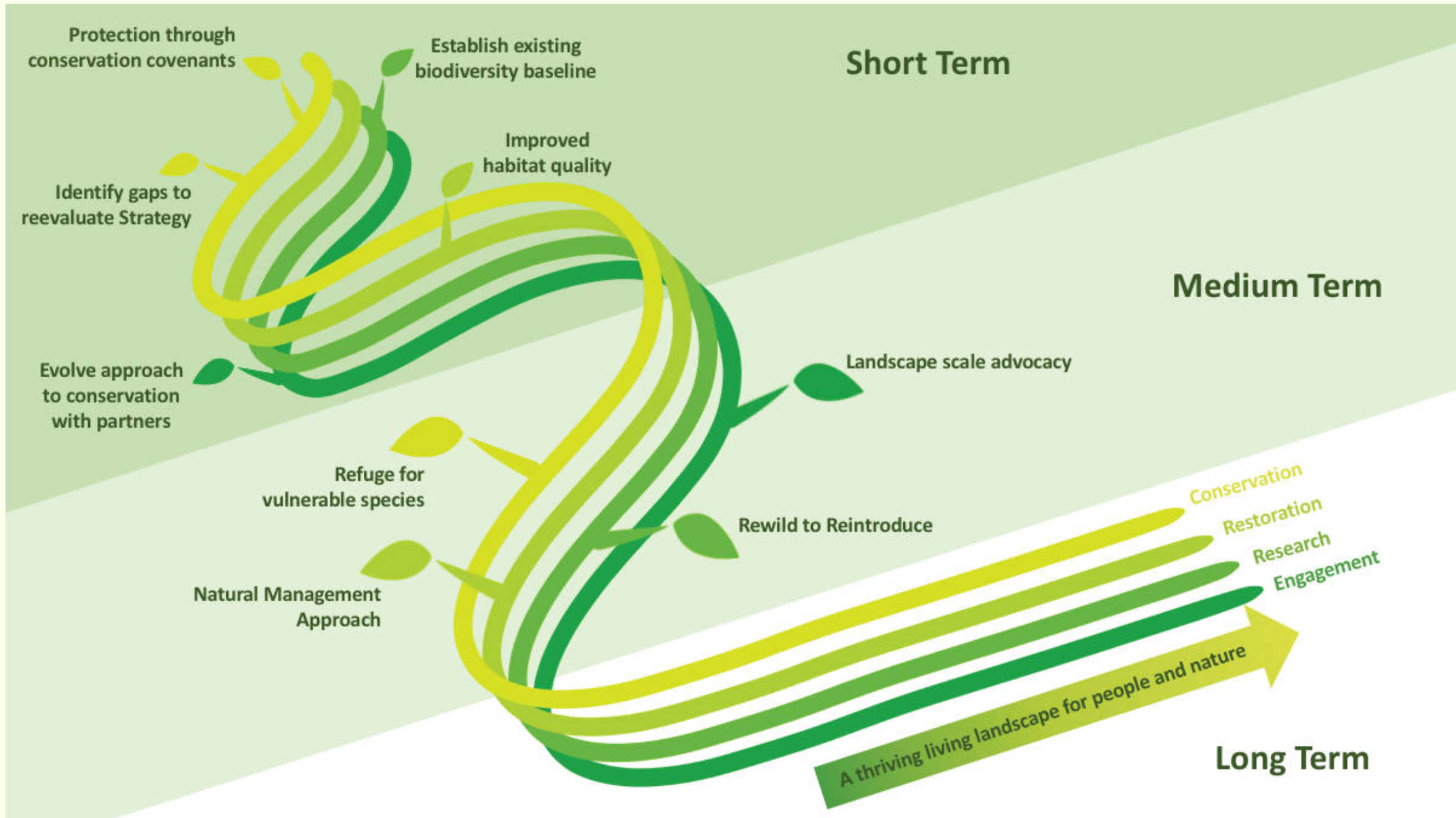


Medium term aims:

- Develop an 'EcoCentre' with visitor and education facilities
- Showcase the natural and cultural beauty of EcoGipps through tourism experiences
- Deliver self-guided and guided trails and tours that weave together the key narratives of Gondwana, our indigenous heritage and natural history
- Develop a unique night safari to bring people closer to species such as Wombats, Gliders and macropods
- Encourage cultural learning among our wider local community and visitors
- Develop and deliver education programs
- Develop field programs for Undergraduate students
- Work with local landowners to enhance their own land both for biodiversity and profitability, for example, through improving soil quality
- Carbon farming

We envisage EcoGipps to be somewhere where people can feel a sense of place, community and connection with nature.

The EcoGippsTimeline



Introducing the EcoGipps landscape

Our four properties all have a distinct character, defined by their habitats and topography, shaped by past human exploits. Nested between the meanders of the Macalister River at the edge of the Gippsland plains, and the riffles of the Avon River and Ben Cruachan Creek, the land consists of four separate properties traversing north to south, each acting as important refuges that help to connect the wider landscape. All the properties fall within the Highlands – Southern Fall bioregion. The northern two properties are former cattle drovers staging posts and most likely strategically placed due to their unique natural productivity, for instance the lush grazing along Navigation Creek and adjacent basalt grasslands. These natural values will be the focus of EcoGipps' efforts to replenish the landscape to its former glory of thriving plant and animal populations.



Property 1 (90 acres)

This former cattle pasture, with both an active irrigation channel and the Macalister River, holds rare remnant swathes of native plains grassland, including Wallaby and Kangaroo Grass. The river and channel are bordered by riparian woodland and several locally and regionally scarce plants have been identified in the vicinity. Situated on the edge of the Gippsland Plains' Bioregion, this

property forms an important interface between habitats and a vital connection to other surrounding properties.

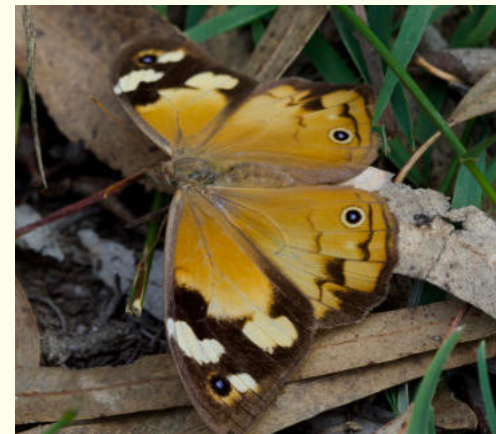
Focus:

- Engagement of visitors through interpretive walks
- Management of riparian corridor
- Native grassland propagation



Biodiversity Values

- Native Grassland
- Riparian woodland
- Platypus
- Eastern Bent-winged Bat
- Large-footed Myotis
- Gippsland Water Dragon
- Reptile assemblage



Property 2 (300 acres)

A base for our EcoGipps community to meet, share stories and take in the majestic views from the bush down to the Gippsland Plains, this area will be home to our EcoCentre. The initial touchpoint on any visitor's journey through our landscapes, the EcoCentre will be primarily focused on engagement. This property includes a rare sub-humid forest and Tea-Tree soak, part of a remnant swampy lowland habitat. Scarce plants such as

Bushy Hedgehog Grass and Heath Platysace allude to the richness of these habitats.

Focus:

- 🌱 Education for everyone
- 🌱 Engagement of visitors through guided and self-guided walks
- 🌱 Management of invasive threats
- 🌱 Native bushland regeneration



Biodiversity Values

- Native Bushland
- Eastern Grey Kangaroo
- Sugar gilders
- Wombats
- Emus
- Woodland corridor



Property 3 (350 acres)



This property encompasses locally significant open grassy woodland dominated by Yellow Box grassland on Glenmaggie basalt, a localised habitat in Victoria. As a former cattle staging site, some areas remain open through grazing including a large alluvial terrace in a meander of Navigation Creek. This creek runs west-east through the property, joining the River Avon just to the east. The creek is flanked by mature riparian forest vegetation along its length with many of the trees supporting excellent hollows. At the western reaches of the creek the valley steepens and microclimatic changes result in

the area being considerably more humid.

Focus:

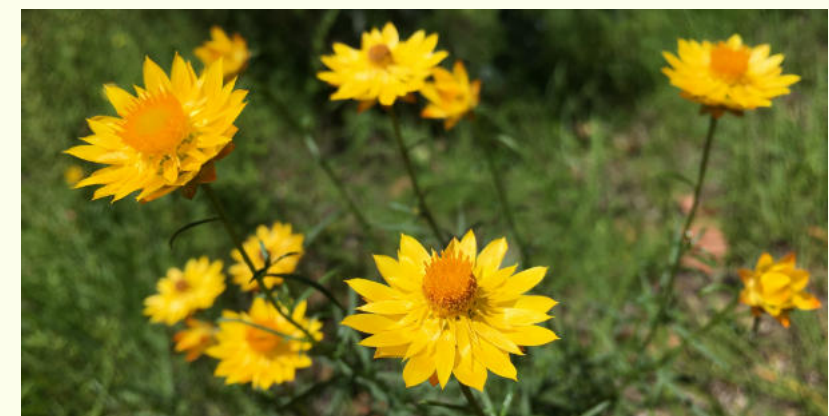
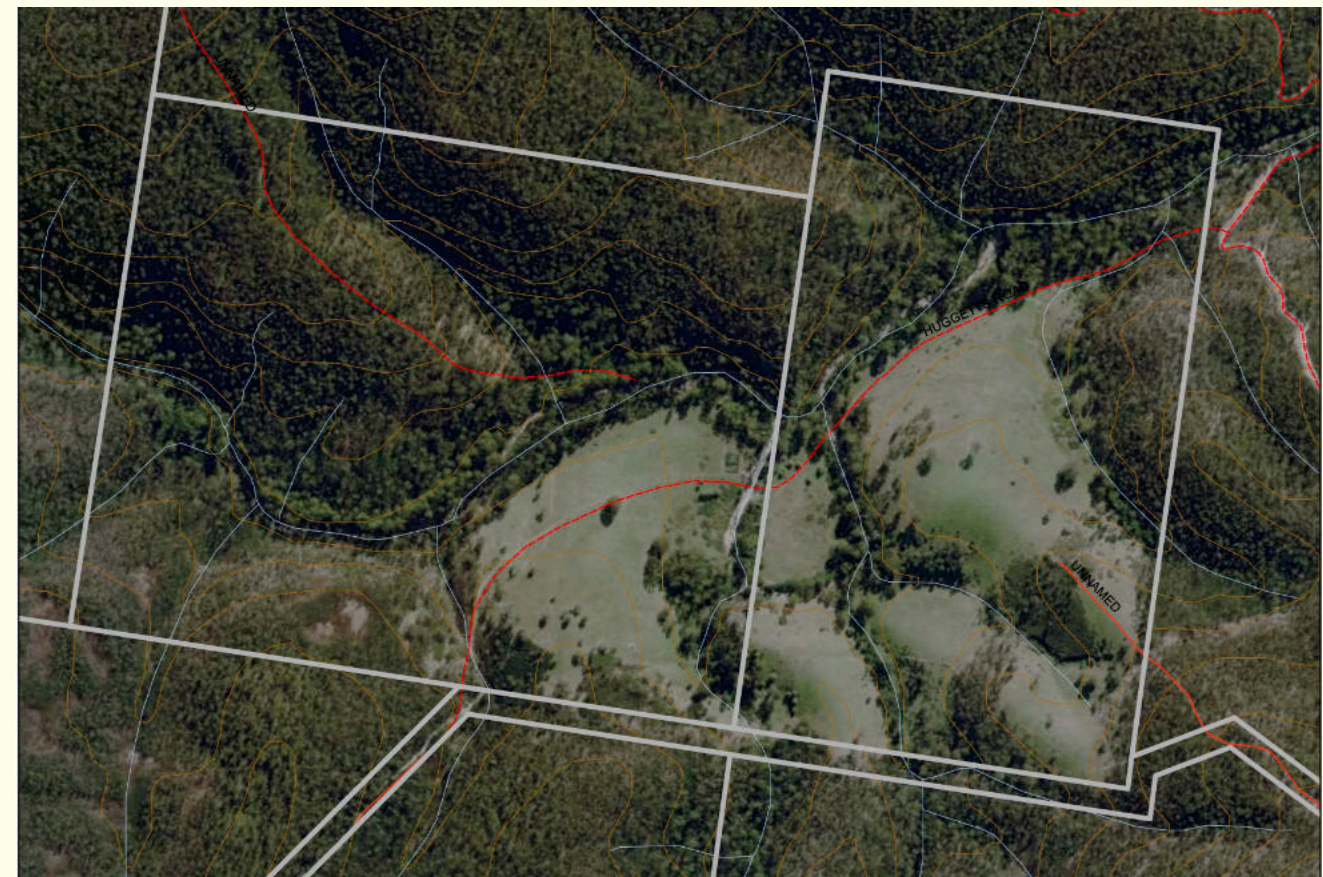
- Improve the quality of the open grassy Yellow Box woodland
- Improve the quality of the alluvial grasslands
- Monitor resident Dingo pack through cameras and genetic sampling
- Potential mammal reintroduction site
- Establish over-night area for researchers and tourists





Biodiversity Values

- Native Yellow Box Grassland
- Riparian woodland
- Dingos
- Excellent microbat assemblage
- Rainbow Bee-eaters



Property 4 (300 acres)





This site was also an important staging site for cattle drovers between the plains and Alps. The property consists of open woodland and glades, extensive bush and dry ridgelines. Ben Cruachan Creek forms part of the eastern boundary before joining the Avon. The surrounding high escarpments are dominated by drier bush. Several colluvial groundwater-fed springs environments are of particular interest and further baseline research will help to

understand their biodiversity values.

Focus:

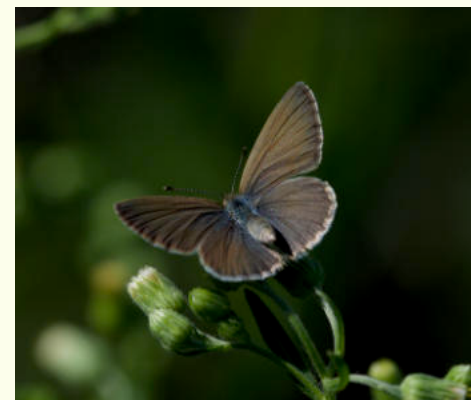
- Identify key biodiversity values e.g. Gliders and Platypus
- Establish connections with walking tracks in the wider area
- Potential as mammal reintroduction site
- Restore groundwater-fed habitats to best possible condition





Biodiversity Values

- Open woodland plant and grassland community
- Groundwater-fed habitats
- Riparian woodland
- Suitable habitat for aquatic mammals



We are looking for partners to help us understand and
conserve this remarkable landscape.

For more information contact us:

info@ecogipps.com.au

www.ecogipps.com.au

