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## **"Making Links" Project overview**

In 2013 Lexton Landcare received a total of \$19,990 through the Federal Caring for our Country Program Community Action Grants for a range of projects designed to link existing remnant vegetation in the landscape.

This work follows on from a significant project with similar goals (Linkages in the Landscape) which had operated for three years. Lexton has a rich landscape already in terms of remnants which provided a great basis for the project to work with.

The focus of the program has been to continue protecting remnants that fit into an overall plan to create links across the area. In this project work in both the Lexton and Beaufort Landcare areas has been undertaken.

In all 10 project sites were revegetated, covering 19.4 ha. A total of 4,270 m of fencing was erected in the project and 13.2 kg of native tree seed utilised for planting. A further 3,200 tube stock were planted on one project site in conjunction with the Beaufort Rotary Club. 40% of the work involved new plantings, 20% was on stream sides and the other 40% included existing remnants within the planting works.

Pictures: Project sites showing direct seeding completed.



With the assistance of these project funds, landholder support and assistance from Rotary, the original project goal for 15 ha of revegetation has been exceeded by 30% which has made for a great achievement all round.

We thank the Federal Government for their support on this project.



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Most significant in this expenditure was the materials and erection of 20.7 km of project fencing, followed by the purchase of 116 kg of native seed for the project sites. Weed and rabbit control has been required at several of the sites as well.



Picture: Direct seeding machine owned by the group and utilised in this project for tree establishment.

"The project has provided a solid base for the further development of linkages between the key forest areas in the district," Coordinator David Clark noted.



Picture: Small finches nest in 2010 planted acacia.



Pictures: 2012 site at Lexton where understory and small trees were planted amongst existing remnant box and stringbark trees.





In conclusion we would like to thank the participating landholders for their co-operation with these projects, Seeding Victoria for sourcing our seed and the Caring for Our Country staff in Canberra who have supported us throughout the projects implementation.