

Outcome from Connecting Country reference group meeting 10 July 2008 as recorded on the day.



## Vision

- A healthy landscape for nature and people in Mount Alexander Shire
- Connecting people and landscapes - creating a healthy, resilient natural environment
- People and biodiversity: focusing on restoring landscapes for resilience
- Connecting landscapes - creating a healthy, resilient, natural environment and community now and in the future
- A co-ordinated approach to a sustainable future focusing on biodiversity conservation of the natural environment
- A sustainable future for biodiversity
- Valued sustainable biodiversity
- Connecting community to connect country

## Goals

- Educate and facilitate small group actions around planting of indigenous species
- The blueprint will be applicable across a broad spectrum of rural and urban properties
- Ensure that core remnant vegetation patches are adequately buffered
- enhance and protect (target %age) of remnant vegetation
- Restore populations of native fish
- Proceed with iconic restoration e.g. Mount Alexander or Sutton Grange redgum woodlands
- Zero new weed introductions
- The biodiversity blueprint will inform the Mount Alexander Shire strategic planning process and documents
- Increased community appreciation of biodiversity
- Increased community knowledge of flora and fauna
- Better landholder participation rates in conservation works
- Better understanding of the role of fire in bushland
- Better co-operation between public and private landholders
- Better appreciation of the importance of biodiversity in supporting agriculture
- Enhance the quality and connectivity of high value native vegetation
- To achieve a healthy, self sustaining, living landscape with a committed and engaged community
- Educate to ensure all indigenous flora and fauna are valued for biodiversity
- Re-connect remnant woodland across public and private land
- Preserve urban green wedges
- Reverse the trend: govt agencies and authorities respond to community instead of the community being led by govt
- Provide for the continuation of ecological processes, e.g. soil cycling, across boundaries

## Objectives

- Improved soil health on and adjacent to waterways
- Improve landholders awareness of conservation issues via education
- To achieve a healthy environmental water flow in our rivers