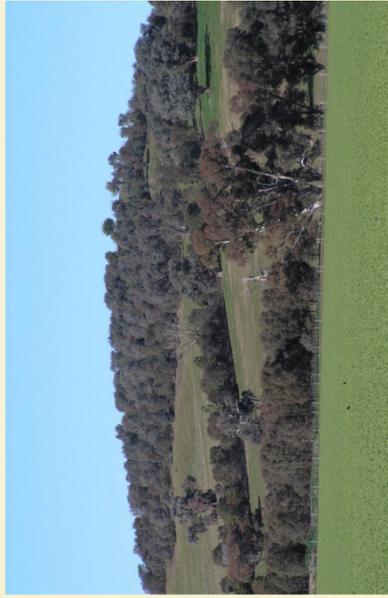


The Holbrook Landcare Network Self-drive Ecotour is a showcase of the work that landholders have done to address issues such as salinity, erosion, declining water quality and loss of biodiversity in the landscape.

The Holbrook community have a strong commitment to the environment, demonstrated through participation in many programs and projects undertaken since 1989, including revegetation, farm forestry, soil conservation works and looking after remnant bush. Farmers contribute significant time, money and resources to make these projects happen but are also often able to access grants to help with covering some costs.

Throughout the region, landholders have worked in partnership with Federal, State and Local Government and philanthropic organisations to change the landscape with millions of trees planted and many km of fencing to protect them from stock grazing.

The Holbrook Landcare Network Self Drive Ecotour is a way to see and experience the environmental benefits of Landcare and highlights of the Holbrook region.



Visit us at:

[www.holbrooklandcare.org.au](http://www.holbrooklandcare.org.au)



Find us on Facebook:  
**Holbrook Landcare Network**



Follow us on Twitter  
**@HolbrookTLN**

Scan the **QR Code** with your Smart Phone for more information about any of the sites listed in this tour.

Loop 1



Loop 2



Loop 3



Loop 4



### Work Health and Safety warning

Please always drive safely and take note that this is a drive by tour only. Do not venture onto farms without landholder permission as this may interfere with livestock and farming operations and may result in possible injury to yourself. Holbrook Landcare Network has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy of all details in this document. Holbrook Landcare Network accepts no responsibility or liability for any omission or inaccurate information.

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# Self-Drive Ecotour



## Some Significant Projects

### Rebirding (2000–2003)

In 2000 Holbrook Landcare started the Rebirding project, funded by the Australian Government, aimed at addressing the issue of tree dieback within the region. Forty percent of trees in the landscape were being eaten alive by large numbers of sap sucking insects. To combat this issue, revegetation including shrubby understory was planted to provide a sanctuary for insect eating birds. The project has been successful in established 2000ha of vegetation and bringing birdlife back into the region.

### Heartlands : towards sustainable land use in the Murray Darling Basin (2001—2004)

Heartlands was a collaboration between the CSIRO, Murray Darling Basin Commission, State and Commonwealth Governments, local people and Landcare Groups in the Billabong Creek catchment. The project aimed at improving our farming systems to be economically viable as well as being environmentally sustainable. Environmental issues such as waterlogging and salinity are also addressed at these sites through revegetation, farm forestry and perennial pastures.



### Slopes to Summit (S2S) Bushlinks (2012-2016)

This large scale revegetation project funded by the Australian Government established 1200ha of vegetation in the region. S2S is an established connectivity conservation partnership that is part of the Great Eastern Ranges (GER) Initiative, based in the NSW South West Slopes. S2S Bushlinks has focused on strengthening landscape connectivity throughout the Holbrook region. Through the S2S Bushlinks project, over 1200 hectares of revegetation has occurred since 2012.

### Has it made a difference to plants and animals?

The short answer is yes! We are lucky in our area to have the Australian National University's long term ecology study that has looked at monitoring wildlife in the southwest slopes since 2000. These studies are showing the positive benefits of on-ground works such as revegetation and remnant protection on species in our region ([www.longtermecology.com/](http://www.longtermecology.com/)).

## The Tour

### How the Tour Works

The tour comprises of four loops. Each site is sign posted with a coloured disk and a number. This brochure will provide you with a map of each loop, as well as details about each site. Included in this brochure are quick response codes (QR codes) that will link to our website that provides further information on the sites and their significance.



### Rest Areas and Parking

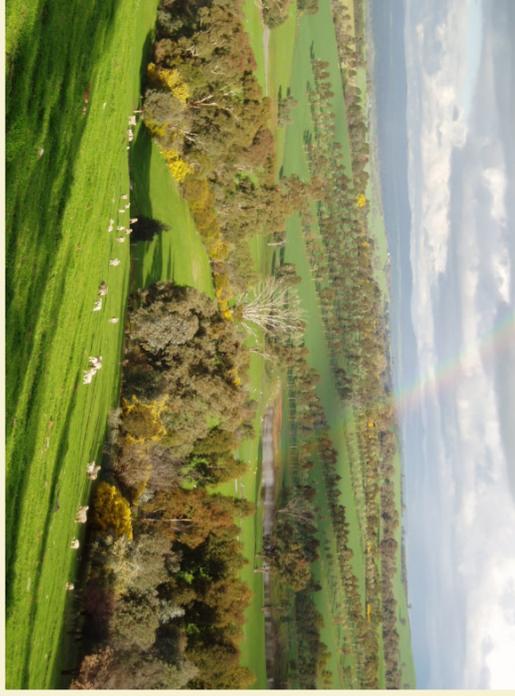
The tour is intended to be drive-by, and **no permission** is given to enter private property. Some of the sites located on the tour are not safe for stopping while others, such as the Squirrel Glider statue are safe to pull into and have parking areas suitable for caravans. There are toilet facilities located in Holbrook (Submarine Rest area and 10 Mile Creek Gardens), Woomargama Village and along the Hume Highway at Blue Metal & Little Billabong Rest Areas.

### Significant Roadside Environment

As you're driving around the Holbrook region keep an eye out for the 'significant roadside environment' signs. Significant roadside reserves are protected due to their invaluable habitat and corridors. These reserves often link with other vegetation remnants in the landscape and provide connectivity. Roadside reserves are often home to small patches of remnant vegetation, which are important within our landscape. These roadsides are marked with a sign to ensure that any roadside works do not harm the existing habitat.

### Roadside Red Guide posts

Red guide posts are being installed throughout the region to identify areas of high risk noxious weeds. The sites are flagged by a 'start' and 'end' red guide post along the site of the roads that show the beginning and the end of an infestation. By avoiding vehicles and machinery stopping in these areas between the red guide posts, we can stop the spread of noxious weeds throughout our region.



## About us

Holbrook Landcare Network (HLN) is a vibrant rural organisation managing a range of agricultural and natural resource projects to deliver information and support to our community. HLN works with farmers to achieve environmental care and improved management, as well as helping them adopt sustainable and productive agricultural practices and innovation. These days HLN manages projects across a wider area than Holbrook, but the strength of our membership remains in our local community and farming landscape.

Holbrook Landcare has won the National Landcare Award twice (2000, 2003) and was featured in a 2013 International OECD report on the public benefits of engaging landholders in sustainable agriculture.

**Loop 1 – Holbrook to Four Mile Lane loop, 83km:**

**1: Ian Geddes Bush Reserve** – This lovely reserve follows the Ten Mile Creek in town along a path through natural bushland. This reserve is home to the endangered Squirrel Glider and many birds can be seen. Watch out for Dollarbirds in the Summer.

**2: Woomargama Common and Pony Club TSR** - These areas of Yellow Box – Blakely's Redgum Woodland are remnants of an Endangered Ecological Community that covered much of the floodplain and slopes of this area. The mature trees here are estimated to be over 150 years, and contain numerous hollows that are important for many species of possum, owls and parrots. It is thought that this ecosystem originally had a native understorey and ground layer consisting of native grasses such as Kangaroo Grass and Tussock Grass (*Poa* sp.) with a range of small shrubs, forbs and groundcovers, which has now mostly been lost. In the past it has been a breeding site for Regent Honeyeaters, as well as home to the threatened Squirrel Glider and many endangered woodland birds, including the Grey-Crowned Babbler.



**3: Glider Poles** - The poles seen along the Hume Highway are in place to ensure the safety of gliders and other mammals in the Holbrook region, which use them to safely cross the highway where there are no trees. You will also see rope bridges in places, for use by non-gilding possums.

**4: Geddes Family's Farm Forestry Site** - In 2002 the Geddes family planted 9,500 seedlings in 11 hectares as part of a farm forestry program funded by Hearntlands. The aim of the site was to use more water in an area that was prone to waterlogging. The site has recently undergone pruning to reduce the knots found in the timber, making it suitable for timber products such furniture and flooring.

**5: Wearn Family's TSR** - Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR) were once used by drovers to water and rest their stock on long droving trips. TSRS are valuable examples of the vegetation that existed before large scale clearing occurred and provide valuable corridors that allow wildlife to move through the environment. The site contains revegetation planting as well as a farm forestry site.

**6: Manooza Sanctuary** - Manooza Sanctuary was created by Mrs Bev Geddes, a long time field naturalist and lover of Holbrook's natural environment. Bev dedicated 300ha to nature conservation. A predator proof fence has been constructed around areas of the site, to ensure the survival of ground dwelling species such as the Yellow-Footed Antechinus and ground foraging birds such as the Speckled Warbler.

**7: Lankeys Creek** - Lankeys Creek is a permanent, rocky bed stream that is home to the endangered Booroolong Frog. This frog is the only true riverine frog in our area, requiring the rocky crevices to breed and are threatened by increased erosion and sediment in the stream and willow invasion. There has been extensive restoration work on rocky streams here and across the Upper Murray to ensure the future of this frog. There is a parking area and picnic table at the Hume and Hovell track rest area approximately 8km southeast towards Jingellic.



**8: Seant Bottle Creek** – Seant Bottle Creek has been severely impacted by erosion and in 2003 a rehabilitation project was undertaken involving several landholders and organisations. This aimed to halt erosion of fragile soils and improve water quality downstream by fencing the creek. Strategic earthworks, constructed wetlands and fencing to exclude livestock helped stabilise the creek banks. In creek systems like this the endangered Southern Pygmy Perch can be found.

**9: Plunkett Family Farm Forestry Site** - In 2002 the Plunkett family planted about 4,500 seedlings in 4.5ha. Similar to other farm forestry sites, Plunkett's farm forestry aims to address environmental issues such as waterlogging and salinity. The plants will be used for high quality timber products.

**10: Hicks Family's Redbirding Site** - Redbirding projects occurred to try and increase the habitat available for small woodland birds and control tree dieback. This site also contained a number of land management issues, such as waterlogging and erosion. The revegetation of this site has successfully created a habitat for many birds, including Scarlet Robins, Choughs and a variety of Honeyeaters.

**11: Hassall Family's Redbirding Site** - In 2002, the creekline was fenced to prevent erosion, promote regeneration, improve water quality and provide a home for woodland birds. The landholder has found since fencing off the creek that the erosion control has been successful. These rebirding sites provide a valuable connection out of Woomargama National Park for many species.

**12: Woomargama Town Common** – Town Commons are similar to TSRS in retaining original vegetation. The local Woomargama community have fenced out the creek and undertaken revegetation of the Common for nature conservation. In 2016, the Holbrook Green Army team increased the biodiversity of the site by planting out the understorey of the existing site, as well as planting out a new site further upstream. The common is a place for locals and visitors to enjoy nature.

**13: Woomargama Station** - Woomargama Station aims to demonstrate environmental sustainability while running a productive farm. In 2002, the station was involved in the Holbrook Landcare Network Redbirding project, fencing out and rehabilitating their creeklines. The station is also home to one of the remaining populations of the Southern Pygmy Perch. The creek is completely fenced off from stock to reduce streambank erosion and sediment loss downstream. The station has placed a nature covenant on one third of the property. This covenant aims to manage the grazing sustainably to maintain a balance of production and conservation and retain woodland structure.

**14: Squirrel Glider Statue** - The Squirrel Glider statue commemorates the completion of the Hume Highway Woomargama Bypass Project in 2011. The Squirrel Glider (*Petaurus notiolensis*) is a small arboreal mammal found in the dry sclerophyll forests and woodlands of Woomargama National Park and surrounding areas. In NSW, the species is listed as vulnerable with the threat from habitat destruction, tree hollows being used by introduced species and fragmented landscapes.

**15: Trescowthick Family's Farm Forestry Site** - This site is one of several established by the Hearntlands project to address salinity and loss of biodiversity, through better management of native vegetation. In 2002 the Trescowthick family planted about 13,000 seedlings.



**16: Slopes2Summit Bushlinks on Mountain Creek Road** - The Locke family has been undertaking revegetation through various programs with Landcare for over 30 years. The Bushlinks site here was undertaken in 2013 to improve connectivity between the Mountain Creek roadside vegetation, where the remnants of Grey Crowned Babbler nests can be seen, through to the White Box remnant on the hill and across to Ravenswood Lane. Overall, 12% of the Locke family property is revegetation projects.

**17: Locke Family's Redbirding Site** - The Locke Family Redbirding site was planted in 2001 and is now home to a variety of woodland birds. This site provides connectivity to other vegetation corridors created by the Bushlinks project.

**18: Bill and Kate Cottrell's Wetland and Redbirding Site** - The wetland site uses an old dammed watercourse to cater for a variety of waterbirds and other species. Wetlands are designed to slow down water movement which prevents erosion and holds water for longer periods of time. The Cottrell family also have a hilltop rebirding site which is provided habitat for woodland birds as well as providing groundwater recharge.



**19: Sorraghan Family's Erosion and Redbirding Site** - The Sorraghan erosion and rebirding site is an example of fencing out stock from creeklines and allowing vegetation to regenerate. This method improves bank stability and water quality. The site provides a corridor for species connecting into significant roadsides remnants and revegetation.

**20: Sages TSR** - Sage's Travelling Stock Reserve is another example of the Endangered Ecological Community Yellow Box Woodland (see site 2). Nest boxes have been installed and timber populations, wildflowers and abundant birds. The portion next to the road is in the process of recovery back to native grassland and woodland. Try to spot the expanding patches of Kangaroo Grass - critical to the health of these ecosystems but relatively rare in grazed areas.

**21: Blue metal TSR and Slate Hill NCT Property** - The TSR is no longer used for stock as the highway has interrupted access. This reserve is a great location for birdwatching, including Grey Crowned Babblers and Brown Tree Creepers. The Slate Hill NCT property backs onto the Blue Metal TSR. Slate Hill is a 105-hectare property, showcasing old woodland trees, as well as many species of native wildflowers. The site is also home to variety of other threatened species such as the Squirrel Gliders and Swift Parrots.

**22: Back Creek TSR and the Hume Family Redbirding and Plantation** - Along Back Creek there is a travelling stock reserve that provides an excellent example of remnants of a Grassy-Box Woodland which is an endangered ecosystem in New South Wales. To the north east of the reserve you can see the Hume family rebirding and farm forestry site. The trees planted at the top of the hill will soak up discharge further down the slope, addressing the issue of waterlogging.



**23: 'Stonehaven' –** The Landcare works on Stonehaven were funded by Bushlinks and BushConnect projects in 2016 and have established 70ha of new plantings to link remnant vegetation on the farm. Sawyers Creek runs through the property and has been fenced for the purposes of revegetation and erosion management. The mature White Box trees at this site contain hollows that are homes for many creatures including Squirrel Gliders and microbats. White Box is an important foraging species for the endangered Swift Parrot in this landscape.

**24: 'Sienna' –** Veronica and Erik Doerr's 330ha property is fully managed for nature conservation, including a permanent conservation covenant over where rare intact shrub layers can be found along with Grass Tree populations, wildflowers and abundant birds. The portion next to the road is in the process of recovery back to native grassland and woodland. Try to spot the expanding patches of Kangaroo Grass - critical to the health of these ecosystems but relatively rare in grazed areas.

**25: Watson's** - The Watson family have been working with Landcare and the (then) Murray Catchment Management Authority to address erosion and salinity issues on "Forest Vale North". The stream system in the property has been fenced and revegetated with erosion sites addressed by the soil conservation service. There has also been a substantial planting effort to restore some biodiversity values to the property. These plantings consist of mixed native trees and shrubs that are local to the area.

**26: Heriot Family's Revegetation Site** - Peter Heriot's 16-hectare hill-top site is a good demonstration of large-scale work that addresses numerous problems. Peter was facing rising ground water and salinity problem. His shearing shed was sinking and valuable country was becoming waterlogged. Peter started an extensive program of planting along the ridge line that were lying at the bottom of the hill. Other landholders took notice, and now large hill top revegetation sites can be seen all around the district. Due to its size, the site has also attracted numerous birds because of the multi-layered infrastructure of large trees, shrubs and trees that have fallen over - perfect places for birds to play in. It is a permanent monitoring site for the ANU Long Term Ecology Team.

**27: Morven Hotel** - The Morven Hotel has been serving locals since the late 1800's. The hotel offers fantastic meals, cold beers and good old country hospitality.

**28: Jayfields Native Tree Nursery** - A mosaic of revegetation and farm forestry style plantings. Jayfields nursery are also suppliers of native seedlings for farm forestry and Landcare works in the Holbrook district.

**29: Woomargama Hotel and Store** - Nestled at the foothills of Woomargama National Park, the picturesque Woomargama Village is the perfect stopping point when travelling on the Hume.

**30: Flyfaine Winery** – Local winery offering sustainably produced wines. perfect stopping point when travelling on the Hume.

**31: Hume and Hovell Track** – This walking track travels from Yass to Albury passing through the stunning Woomargama National Park.

