

Marysville turns out to help Victorias Nemo

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One of Australia's most endangered, and Victoria's only endemic, freshwater fish will get a boost tomorrow as the Victorian Government joins the Australian Trout Foundation and Marysville Youth Incorporated in restoring a creek affected by the 2009 bushfires.

Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) Fish Ecologist Fern Hames said the aim of the Native Revegetation Planting Day is to benefit the Barred Galaxias (*Galaxias fuscus*) and will focus on Leary's Creek next to Gallipoli Oval in Marysville tomorrow morning.

"The 2009 bushfires removed a lot of the vegetation around the creek, reducing water quality by allowing more silt and ash into the creek and removing important habitat and food sources for the rare fish," Ms Hames said.

"The Victorian Government acted in the aftermath of the fires to protect the remaining Barred Galaxias by funding the capture of hundreds of fish at 8 sites and moving them to DSE's Arthur Rylah Institute research aquarium at Heidelberg."

"We know there are still some Barred Galaxias in Leary's Creek but we need this type of revegetation work to occur to help it recover sufficiently to support the return of the fish we removed more than a year ago."

"This recovery action has been vital for the survival of this already rare species because 90 per cent of its known habitat has been affected by either the 2006 or the 2009 bushfires."

"The fires also damaged the predator barrier in Leary's Creek but this has since been repaired. The barrier stops trout and other predators from moving into the section of Leary's Creek used by the Barred Galaxias and having an impact on this rare fish."

"The Barred Galaxias is known from only 12 key, small populations world-wide and all of these populations are from a small area of Victoria which we are working to protect."

"We are grateful for the strong support of the Australian Trout Foundation in recovery actions for Barred Galaxias, including tomorrow's revegetation day at Marysville."