

# 2013 / 2014 Snapshot



## Living Links

Living Links is a major environmental project working to protect and connect parks, open areas, coastal environments, road reserves, wetlands and restored rivers and creeks across Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs and to make this area a world-class, urban ecosystem.

This year Living Links has:

- Launched its 'Master Plan' as an interactive website [www.livinglinks.com.au](http://www.livinglinks.com.au)
- Held 4 community workshops and 1 planting day for River Gum Creek; and
- Identified over 70 projects that are ready for implementation to achieve the Living Links vision.

## Funding

During 2013/14, the PPWCMA secured \$91,500 from partner organisations to coordinate and undertake projects in Living Links.

## Achievements in 2013/14

- **A live 'Master Plan'**  
For the past two years Living Links has been developing a live 'Master Plan' describing the priorities for links across the landscape for environmental and social benefit. The Plan was launched as an interactive website in April 2014. Committee members, partners and dignitaries enjoyed a bushwalk, followed by the launch by Brad Battin, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment.
- **River Gum Creek**  
Work on the River Gum Creek Reserve in Hampton Park was undertaken with many partners including the Environment Protection Authority, City of Casey, Melbourne Water, Birdlife Australia, Hampton Park Progress Association, Friends of River Gum Creek, the local Lions Club and residents. In 2013/14 the work included bird watching events, interpretive signage and a community planting day. A further \$50,000 from the Victorian Government's Community Renewal Flexible Funding was secured for further works to be carried out in the coming year.



Committee members, partners and dignitaries enjoying a bushwalk at Churchill National Park prior to the launch of the Living Links website in April.



At the Living Links website launch (left to right): Brad Battin (Parliamentary Secretary for Environment), Peter Akers (PPWCMA Board), Stephen Thuan (PPWCMA), Mary-Kate Hockey (PPWCMA), Carolyn Briggs (Boon Wurrung Foundation), David Buntine (PPWCMA CEO), Cr Samantha Marks (City of Maroondah).



Participants during one of the four bird watching events held at River Gum Creek Reserve this year.



Malinda McGifford (right) receives a native plant from Living Links Coordinator, Mary-Kate Hockey (left) and Melbourne Water officer, Kim Corland, as part of the recent River Gum Creek Community Day.

## Outlook for 2014/15

Living Links continues to work collaboratively with the project partners and is actively seeking major funding to support implementation of the Master Plan. A Living Links prospectus has been developed and will be used to promote and advance the implementation of Living Links

## Coordination Committee

The PPWCMA hosted Living Links on behalf of its stakeholder organisations and supported a committee to oversee and manage the program. Members of the Living Links Coordination Committee in 2013/14 were:

- Stephen Thuan (Chair)** – PPWCMA
- Peter Akers** – PPWCMA Board
- Tony Walker** – Bushwalking Victoria
- Simon Finlay** – City of Bayside
- Brian Davey** – City of Casey
- Darren Wilson** – City of Greater Dandenong
- Lee James** – City of Kingston
- Marshall Kelaher** – City of Knox
- Cormac McCarthy** – City of Maroondah
- Ella Wright** – City of Monash
- Steve McGrath** – City of Whitehorse
- Michael Coleman** – Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Vivien Holyoake** – First Friends of Dandenong Creek
- Libby Anthony** – Frankston City Council
- Amy Gillet** – Landcare Australia Limited
- Heather Graham** – Melbourne Water
- Jon Theobald** – South East Water
- David Harper** – Shire of Yarra Ranges
- Peter Kemp** – Parks Victoria
- Carolyn Briggs** – Boon Wurrung Foundation

