



2019-20 SNAPSHOT



Creating a web of green spaces across Melbourne's south-east

Living Links is an urban nature project working to create a web of high quality, interconnected green spaces across Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs.

By improving the connections between the many parks, reserves, open spaces, coasts, beaches, pathways, rivers, creeks and wetlands, we aim to make this area a world-class urban ecosystem. This will improve habitat for wildlife, as well as making it easier for people to experience the many benefits of connecting with nature as part of their daily lives.

Living Links is a collaboration between 18 organisations (Councils, government agencies and community/interest groups) all working together towards our shared vision.



Key activities in 2019-20

Throughout 2019-20 the Living Links partners once again collectively achieved some wonderful outcomes for the region. Highlights included:

- Completing the 'Mapping the Gaps' project to review and update priority Living Links corridors in partnership with RMIT University students and Landscape Architects from OFFICE.
- Appointing our second Living Links Ambassador School, River Gum Primary School in Hampton Park.
- Delivering Year 4 of the \$1 million 'Transforming the Dandenong Creek Corridor' project (funded through the Victorian Government), including:
 - Environmental works (revegetation, weed control, fencing, litter removal)
 - Community engagement activities such as planting days, litter clean-ups, educational workshops, citizen science events and 'Wayapa in the Park' sessions
 - Launching the 'Wild by Nature' short film competition
 - Completing the 'Spreading the Message' art installation by Indigenous artist Ian Harrison.



Living Links 2019-20 Achievements



7808 hectares

of native vegetation managed or established

286,000+ native plants

planted to improve habitat and strengthen corridors



274+ kilometres

of riparian vegetation enhanced along waterways

24.5 kilometres

of recreational trails established or improved



7000+ hours

of volunteer time spent caring for the environment

Major project: Transforming the Dandenong Creek

- Environmental works completed at 37 of the 38 priority sites along 22 km of the Dandenong Creek.
- 84.3 hectares weed control, 15.6 hectares revegetation and 2 hectares litter removal (including 900 tyres) undertaken.
- 2080+ people engaged in 33 community events.
- 8 painted totem poles installed, comprising 'Spreading the Message'.

Looking forward

2020-21 will see ongoing delivery of environmental and community engagement works by Living Links partners, including the completion of the 'Transforming the Dandenong Creek corridor' project. This will include the Wild by Nature Short Film Festival and Aboriginal cultural projects with the Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples.

Other key priorities will include securing significant new funding to deliver environmental and community engagement projects in collaboration with our partners, continuing to build our community outreach and supporting the development of a Southern Regional Trails Strategy.



More information on Living Links:

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