



## Cannibal Creek Catchment Biodiversity Project – benefits of CARTs

Cannibal Creek Landcare Group works to protect and enhance the Cannibal Creek catchments and its environment, developing and maintaining bio-links and working to promote sustainable land management practices.

Representatives of the Cannibal Creek Landcare group attended Catchment Action Round Tables (CARTs), convened by the PPWCMA. Facilitated by the CART process, Cannibal Creek Landcare was able merge projects with the Bunyip Landcare Group project to expand the scope of their project and hopefully get additional funding. Many valuable partnerships were formed during the CARTs, including with Rob Jones from Cardinia Shire, who also attended the CART on 18 September 2015. Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria also partners with Cannibal Creek.



Rob Jones said “The CARTs were a really good catalyst to get all agencies and stakeholders in the catchment together.” Ten stakeholder groups were identified within the catchment. “It was a perfect opportunity to get stakeholders to hear each other’s aspirations and ideas, and to discuss the pooling of resources, which was fundamental to forward planning and brainstorming potential ideas for the future. It was also a great opportunity to get to see what grants were available and how best to align projects to grants.”

Cannibal Creek applied for funding from CMA through “Our Catchments Our Community” grant funding, as well as a Melbourne Water grant for their Cannibal Creek Catchment Biodiversity Project. Funding for the Cannibal Creek Catchment

Biodiversity Project was successful, with the CMA and Melbourne approximately awarding a combined amount of \$50,000 in 2016 to assist with their catchment wide conservation plan.

Through grant funding, the group has been able to map weed threats in the catchment, control key weed species, expand landholder engagement through a series of education programs, conduct revegetation works and pest animal control. Many kilometres of riparian creek line, roadside bio-link corridors and terrestrial areas on public and private land have been enhanced through the project, including Wet Heathy Woodland which is significant within the catchment area and home to forest owls such as Powerful, Sooty and Masked owls. The education programs have helped build relationships with the community and helped to focus on and understand the broad ecological outcomes for improved habitat and attracting key fauna species. Natural area enhancement within Gumbaya Park is one example of a significant portion of private land that has been improved by the project.

Currently the project has extended to include surveying for owl species in the catchment area. In the near future, the group, along with its partners is hoping to refine its project further with the hope of obtaining further funding for the continuation of its biodiversity project.