

# Biolinks Support Grant 2023/24

## Program Summary



### **Balcombe and Moorooduc Landcare – Balcombe and Moorooduc Biolink Project** **\$2,500.00**

The Balcombe to Moorooduc Biolink Plan was recently developed as part of the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Networks Linking the Mornington Peninsula Project. The Balcombe and Moorooduc Biolink Plan seeks to connect areas of valuable habitat and forage so wildlife can move safely between areas of food and shelter.

### **Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group Mt Martha Inc (BERG Mt Martha) – Eastern Biolink Balcombe Estuary Reserves Mt Martha 2023** **\$9,473.00**

This project will target an area of threatened and significant bushland vegetation located in the Balcombe Estuary Reserves on the northern slopes of Balcombe Creek, including monitoring, weed control and community engagement. These reserves form an important biolink, a wildlife and habitat corridor that links the Mt Martha foreshore reserves with Balcombe Creek and its extensive catchment and tributaries further upstream.

### **Crib Point Stony Point Foreshore Committee of Management Inc. – Removal of Habitat Changing Invasive Species** **\$9,830.00**

This project aims to protect an important Biolink; conservation of significant habitat and by benefiting the community. The reserve is unusually biodiverse for the peninsula and is an important biolink of the western Western Port coast. The reserve is threatened by a number of habitat changing weeds. This project will focus on the high quality highly diverse management zones and grassy woodland.

### **Friends of Flinders Coastline Inc – Flinders Foreshore Bushland Habitat Repair** **\$2,500.00**

The project is maintenance of previous working bees that will include herbicide spraying and use of machine hand tools (not permitted for volunteers). Areas require further hand-weeding, periodic herbicide application, brushcutting and possible use of chainsaw. The ultimate aim is to create a Biolink between Dodds Creek and West Head and linking with the relatively intact coastline habitat through to Double Creek critical to the reestablishment and sustainability of the animal populations.

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### **Habitat Restoration Fund – Waterholes Creek Biolinks Corridor** **\$5,000.00**

This project aims to connect bushland along a length of Waterholes creek, Red Hill South where woody and vine weed species are attempting to take hold in otherwise pristine bushland. We will also hold guided walks to inform residents about the weed threat and how to prevent it on their own land.

### **Landcare Victoria – Western Port Bay Biolink Project (section Cerberus to Tyabb)** **\$8,000.00**

Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation is restoring fragmented koala habitat, where 70%+ of koala habitat is private land. This funding will increase tree canopy and revegetate farmland, where we aim to plant more than 25,000 indigenous plants annually. Over several years, the project will focus on the area between HMAS Cerberus (Somers) and Pearcedale to increase tree canopy and understory vegetation and assist with creating a green belt around the bay to aid wildlife movement. The scope of the project each year usually involves around 25-30 mostly private properties in our target area.

### **McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc. – Nurturing the Biolinks from McCrae Foreshore to Arthurs Seat.** **\$6,093.00**

To achieve a net increase in biodiversity and intact habitats in the foreshore and hinterland, this project will include the treatment of environmental weeds in two areas:

1. Bartels Street (McCrae Lighthouse area) to Lonsdale Street, and
2. Eyrie Creek,

thus protecting existing waterways and extending remaining sections of remnant vegetation, enhancing and extending remaining sections of significant flora and fauna habitat between the coast and Arthurs Seat State Park.

### **Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare Inc – further works: Tubbarubba to Buckleys Reserve Biolink** **\$8,000.00**

This project will extend further environmental works to 4 properties in the Merricks Coolart Biolink. These 4 properties are all located close to Buckleys Reserve and have been surveyed and recorded as having high values of remnant vegetation worth preserving. The works to be undertaken are predominantly the removal of woody weeds, and the spraying of established and emerging environmental weeds. Identified mature *Pittosporum* will be frilled and left standing to provide wildlife habitat.

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### **Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network – Devilbend Hastings Biolink \$2,500.00**

The Devilbend-Hastings Plan seeks to address these issues in the Devilbend-Hastings catchment by connecting areas of valuable habitat and forage. It follows the sensitive bushland restoration techniques as outlined by the Bradley method of Bushland Regeneration and consists of conservation zones covering an area of approximately 55ha.

The Devilbend-Hastings Plan was recently commissioned and completed as part of the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Networks Linking the Mornington Peninsula Project (LMPL).

### **Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network – Support for Establishment of a Refuge Area on the Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink (GB2AS) \$4,984.00**

GB2AS is a major program to provide a connected biolink between Greens Bush and Arthurs Seat. Originally designed to roughly follow the Splitters Creek Valley and purely for protection of our natural environment, it has recently been fine tuned to include:

- A closer focus on Splitters creek
- A closer working relationship with landholders including provision of a whole of farm planning approach to the revegetation and how this increases ecological services in support of improved agricultural productivity
- Inclusion of smaller biolinks using farm shelterbelts and other existing vegetation, and isolated paddock trees as local stepping-stone biolinks
- A new “GB2AS Refuge Area” covering ~45 Ha formed by consolidating a set of residual bush patches around the midway point.

### **Red Hill South Landcare Group – Red Hill South Biolink Extension 2 \$8,000.00**

Removal of encroaching habitat-altering weeds within previously high quality remnant bushland is the key objective of this project and will contribute to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Biodiversity & Conservation Plan of achieving no net loss in the quality or quantity of "Other Native Vegetation". This project will contribute to improving connectivity between remnant native vegetation in the broader Red Hill South Biolink Plan by extending beyond the 14 properties to the south of Point Leo Road including Rahona Rd and Oceanview Ave properties.

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### **Sunshine Reserve Conservation & Fireguard Group Inc – Sunshine Core Precinct link and NTD collaboration** **\$6,993.00**

This project aims to link the previous coastal precinct biolink area to the current MPS bushland managed, Sunshine west area (Footbridge). The area proposed would provide a continuous approach in addressing the established woody/scrambler weeds. We would engage a contractor to use a variety of methods, including drill and fill, uplifting (creating space for existing indigenous species to thrive) to address the larger Woody weed species dominating this area. We will also engage the community to continue to participate in a National Tree Day event in 2024. These events draw large numbers and offer connection to Sunshine Reserve.

### **Westernport Feral Alliance – Peninsula Gardens Bushland Reserve Biolink** **\$9,120.00**

Our group aims to maintain a clean connection between Peninsula Gardens Bushland Reserve and adjacent private landholdings. We aim to conduct a project launch Field Day, at which we highlight threats posed to our bushlands and indigenous taxa and discuss methods to alleviate pressure on our bushlands by controlling existing habitat changing weeds, whilst mitigating future infestations through the control of weed and feral vectors. The project will close with a final working bee at which conducted works will be assessed for their viability and efficacy whilst the expectation of continued landholder driven works will be reinforced.