 **Cooks Rivercarers - Course Overview**

The Cooks River community is doing great things and you can be part of it!

Have you got a community river project or idea you are passionate about?

The free Cooks Rivercarer course, offered by the Cooks River Alliance, develops deeper understanding of the solutions for river challenges as well as providing training in project management, networking and communications. Connect with other like-minded people and work together to deliver to

Participants put their knowledge and skills into practice, and work towards delivering a community environmental project that creates positive outcomes in their local communities, with the support of the program.

Projects must be based locally in the catchment for example in a local workplace, street, school, natural area or neighbourhood and take a community-led approach.

The course will run one night per week from **Wednesday 23 October 2018** to **Wednesday 5 December 2019** with a two week break during school holidays. There are also two Saturday field trips (22 September and 20 October) and a graduation ceremony on Thursday 6 December.

Have some questions? Talk to the course coordinators:

Catarina Fraga Matos 9707 5725 info@cooksriver.org.au

Sue Burton 9707 5724 info@cooksriver.org.au

**To apply**

Apply online or download an application form.

**Applications close: Tuesday 24 July 2018**

**What’s in it for you?**

 New friends who care about community and environment

 Expanded knowledge and networks in your local community

 Learning how to work collaboratively on a specific project

 Free training

 Increased knowledge and skills in running projects and environmental sustainability

 A lot of fun

**What is a community environmental project?**

A community project involves members of the community taking action to improve, protect or nurture the Cooks River. The list of possible projects is endless and we’ll show some of the great ideas taking. Some examples include:

 building a raingarden in a community space

 promoting and planting wildlife habitat

 leading tours of the river

 working with local businesses to reduce plastic bag use

**How does it work?**

The course is managed and facilitated by the Cooks River Alliance. It was developed by the City of Banyule and City of Darebin as part of their Sustainable Homes and Communities Program which has generously shared course materials with the Cooks River Alliance.

The group will include up to 25 community members who live, work or study in the Cooks River catchment.

*Workshops and field trips*

There will be one field trip, eight workshop sessions and a final graduation event.

The workshop sessions have guest presenters on topics such as community project management and planning, leadership and change practice, group work and communication, and obtaining funding.

At some sessions local community members will showcase their projects and discuss their experiences, successes and challenges.

As the weeks progress, groups will form to plan and deliver community projects. Most leaders will be in a position to start planning, preparing or delivering projects towards the end of the workshop sessions.

*Community project*

The course can help you develop and bring to life your project concept, develop a project that is already in the planning stage, or improve a project that’s well underway.

Whatever stage you are at, you’ll have support to plan it and link with others who can help you.

**What do we ask of you?**

If you are a successful Cooks Rivercarer course applicant:

 We ask that you commit to and attend all sessions

 We ask that you will arrive at sessions on time

 We ask that you contribute to a community project

 We ask that you bring a positive, courageous and open outlook to all the activities we undertake together, along with a willingness to listen, to share, to contribute and to support and encourage those around you whenever you see the opportunity.

**… AND FINALLY**

For more information about the program, or to apply, please visit www.cooksriver.org.au/rivercarers