



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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## **PLANTING AROUND ESPERANCE**

The Shire of Esperance would like to thank members of the Esperance community involved in community planting over the past few weeks.

On 30 July over 60 volunteers, including Esperance Scouts, turned out for National Tree Day at Lake Monjigup. Over 3000 seedlings were planted from 29 different species and will help restore biodiversity, create habitat and protect the wetland after Lake Monjigup was affected by a bushfire in January 2015. This project was supported by funding from the Western Australian Government's State Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program funded by Royalties for Regions, the Shire of Esperance, Esperance Volunteer Resource Centre and Esperance Toyota in partnership with Planet Ark for National Tree Day.

Eighty Year 3 and 4 students and 23 parents from Castletown Primary school planted nearly 1000 trees at Castletown Quays on 2 August, which will complement the area and rehabilitate the dunes. This is part of the Shire's Coastwest funded Castletown Quays Rehabilitation Project.

This week students from Cascade Primary School planted a variety of natives at Quagi beach around the recently developed day use area. Approximately 600 seedlings were planted on the day which will provide shade and habitat for birds at the site. This adds to the thousands already planted at Quagi by Shire staff, Work for the Dole team, Work Placement students and South Coast NRM's Coastal Works team. The Shire still has a small amount of work left to do at Quagi and the project is due to be completed by the end of the year.

The Shire is most of the way through its winter planting program funded by State NRM and Coastwest with the help of Community Volunteers, the Shire Work for the Dole team, Esperance Senior High School Bushrangers, South Coast NRM Coastal works team, Esperance Tjaltjraak works team, and Shire staff. Over 11000 seedlings have been planted at Castletown Quays, Quagi Beach, Twilight Beach and Lake Monjigup.

These planting days, and many others, highlight the Shire's commitment to protecting and enhancing our natural environment to ensure it can be enjoyed by current and future generations.

Acting Shire President, Natalie Bowman said "It is fantastic to see so many volunteers involved in tree planting. Shire staff work hard to look after our natural environment and the help of volunteers is so important in keeping Esperance beautiful. I'm sure students love the chance to go outside and get their hands dirty!"

**Ends**

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