



Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Assoc.

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Media Release

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How are local kids helping their waterways? Planting 250 trees...during School's Tree Day

School's Tree Day will be a major event this year for Alligator Creek State School. Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association (SLCMA) together with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) will assist 400 students from prep to year 7 plant 250 native plants along their local creek during School's Tree Day on Friday 26 July.

Margaret Meng, SLCMA Project Officer said "SLCMA received funding through the Reef Catchment's Public Fund to assist Alligator Creek State School to rehabilitate a part of their local creek. The project aims to provide a safe area for the students to explore and study as well as reduce creek bank erosion, improve water quality and biodiversity". Sonya Wilkins, Deputy Principal of Alligator Creek State School said "The creek area is utilised by teachers and students for Science Studies looking at erosion, soil types, waterways, living things and relationships between plants and animals."

SLCMA is working in partnership with CVA and the school groundsman, Rob Keyes, to prepare the creek site by removing invasive weeds such as lantana and pepper tree and spreading mulch.

SLCMA has assisted the project by coordinating the onground works, advising on native plant selection and providing 200 native plants propagated in the SLCMA Community Nursery. A further 50 Lomandra plants will be provided for the project by the Alligator Creek State Schools own plant nursery which is supported by CVA through BMA Hay Point Services. CVA CQ Manager, Caitlin Davies said "the nursery is an essential part of a larger program with BMA Hay Point Services, and it allows students, families and teachers to learn more about the environment through practical activities. CVA staff and volunteers enjoy all nursery projects, and particularly enjoy the nursery lessons".

While all this planting activity is going on down by the creek, the school's Year 2 students will have their own project installing a sensory *Scent* garden. Sonya Wilkins said "This garden links in with the Year 2 curriculum studies and their current Science Unit, which is *Good to Grow*. In this unit students examine how living things grow. They describe the characteristics and needs of living things in each life stage, and consider the relevance of this knowledge to their everyday lives, including caring for living things in the environment. We would like to thank Bunning's Hardware for donating the scented plants, CVA for their support preparing the area through Boral funding and SLCMA for giving advice on native plant species suitable for the scent garden".

Margaret Meng commented, "This year's School's Tree Day event at Alligator Creek State School is a great example of how important community partnerships are. And it shows how different organisations can come together and support each other for the benefit of the whole community".

If you would like more information please contact SLCMA on 4956 1388.

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Photo: (L-R) Shonae Morrison and Tiffany Meng with SLCMA project officer, Margaret Meng receiving a lesson on correct tree planting methods ahead of School's tree day

