



Thursday 19 August 2010

Esperance volunteers make a statement

The popular Six Mile Hill gateway to Esperance has had a mini-makeover thanks to 50 local volunteers who removed weeds and planted a total of 6,300 seedlings along the roadside last week.

Representatives from Esperance Regional Forum (ERF), South Coast NRM, and the Shire of Esperance provided materials and expertise, with volunteers from the Pink Lake, Six Mile Hill and Quarry Road fire brigades providing plenty of muscle.

The team ran all morning ferrying seedlings up the hill while the Captain of Six Mile Hill (Peter Rowe) remained in the shed preparing a delicious barbecue lunch for the troops.

Funded through the Lake Warden Recovery Project, the seedlings are expected to help uptake excess water recharge and reduce wind erosion on the Main Roads-owned site. Reducing the impact of invasive weed species will also help protect the natural biodiversity at the entrance to Esperance

South Coast NRM Lake Warden Project Officer Cindee Hage said a large number of tourists took in the breathtaking views of Six Mile Hill while travelling through so the beautification works would create a good impression of the town.

“When Main Roads were upgrading the roadside, it became apparent that a lot of invasive weeds were being removed which left us the opportunity to replace them with native plant species endemic to the Esperance region,” she said.

“Since coming to Esperance I’m not only astounded by its beauty but also by the ability of its residents to volunteer their time to the community for worthy causes.”

Ms Hage thanked all those involved and said she hoped to attract more volunteers to similar projects in future.

Budding volunteers should register their interest by dropping in to the Natural Resource Management Centre at 113 Dempster Street or calling (08) 9076 2200.

ENDS

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South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. is the leading regional group for natural resource management in the South Coast region of Western Australia. As an independent not-for-profit organisation, we work with the community to improve the environment by preserving and protecting unique plants and animals, managing land and waterways, and sharing knowledge and skills in natural resource management.