



Media Release

Tuesday 2 August 2011

Green touch for Torbay dunes

The Torbay dunes got some special attention late last month when members of the local community joined forces to plant 2,000 trees behind Mutton Bird beach.

Labor MLA Peter Watson and Greens MLC Giz Watson joined in the rehabilitation efforts, which were sorely needed after many years of 4WD and motorbike damage to the dunes.

South Coast NRM coastal officer, Sheryn Prior, said the event was run as part of on-going rehabilitation efforts in the Torbay dunes.

Over 6,000 plants including *Ficinia nodosa*, *Scaevola crassifolia* and *Hibbertia cuneiformis* have been planted this season by the Green Jobs Corp team and local volunteers, grown from locally-collected seed.

“It’s great to see the community coming together to protect our sensitive coastal environment. Local custodianship is essential to ensure the good health of our landscape,” Ms Prior said.

Elleker Progress and Sporting Association president, Paul Beattie, said he was impressed with the quality of the turnout in July and thanked volunteers for their efforts.

“The event was highly successful and raised awareness of the ways we can protect and nurture the environment,” he said.

The National Green Jobs Corps team led by Adrienne Beattie prepared the rehabilitation area with brushing.

The community planting complemented an ongoing partnership between the Elleker Progress & Sporting Association, City of Albany, the National Green Jobs Corps team and South Coast NRM to rehabilitate the area. Funding was provided by the Southern Shores coastal and marine grant program, made possible by the Australian Government’s Caring for Our Country initiative

Further planting efforts to protect the valuable bush and coastal reserves will occur at Betty’s Beach and Lowlands this season. Volunteers interested in rehabilitation are encouraged to contact South Coast NRM coastal project leader Sheryn Prior on 9845 8537.

ENDS

Pictured L-R: Adrienne Beattie, Giz Watson MLC, Lauchlan Gillett, Suzannah Lyons, Chris Gillett, Pip Tilbrook, Peter Watson MLA, Sheryn Prior, Alexandra Tucker, Lesley Hart and Diona Jacobson.

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