



MEDIA RELEASE

9 April 2024

Volunteer native plant nursery a growing success

A new volunteer-run native plant nursery based at Council's Huonville Depot is already yielding great results.

The Huon Valley Volunteer Landcare Nursery began in August 2023 and is the result of a partnership between the Huon Valley Council and Landcare Tasmania.

Extra funding support is provided through the Tasmanian Government's Landcare Action Grants.

Volunteers from around the Huon Valley meet once a week to manage the nursery, forming connections and developing new skills in seed sourcing, collecting and propagation.

Natural Resource Management Coordinator at Council, Michelle Joy, said the nursery is exceeding expectations.

"We were aiming to propagate two and a half thousand plants in our first year, and we're up to nearly four thousand already!" she said.

Council gives away thousands of native seedlings annually to some of the 38 Landcare groups in the Huon Valley.

Michelle said with locally sourced plants becoming harder to find, it's important plants with traits suited to the local environment are readily available for revegetation.

"The revegetation projects are helping to improve native habitat, restoring degraded landscapes and help with erosion control along creeks and rivers," she said.

"We've also provided plants to local schools and community groups to grow habitat and bush food gardens, which make great educational resources."

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The volunteers are also working to establish a local seed bank and a native seed collectors network.

Mayor Sally Doyle said the nursery will be an important asset for the Huon Valley.

“The nursery will have a lasting impact on the environment through the donation of local plants for resilient revegetation projects,” Mayor Doyle said.

“It showcases the best in our region’s wonderful volunteer network, helping our community into the future.”

Landcare Tasmania is also pleased to support the project.

“We are excited about a thriving local Landcare network in the Huon and helping people to be involved from seed to tree, connecting with their local community along the way,” said CEO Peter Stronach.

The nursery startup has also been assisted by other nurseries, such as Kingborough Council’s volunteer nursery, nipaluna Nursery in Hobart, The Understorey Network, and Silver Banksia Nursery in Margate.

A revegetation project planning workshop is scheduled for later in the year. Suitable projects may then be entered into Landcare Tasmania’s Project Bank.

If you would like native plants for a revegetation project in the Huon Valley, you are invited to contact Council on (03) 6264 0300 and speak to NRM team, or you can email nrm@huonvalley.tas.gov.au

If you would like to join a local Landcare group, visit the Tasmanian Landcare website at www.landcaretas.org.au to find out which groups are active in your area.

For more information: Mayor Sally Doyle (03) 6264 0300

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