

Friday 14 August 2015

Green Thumbs Plant for the Future

Over 300 students from local schools will get their hands dirty planting 6000 trees this week at three locations throughout Launceston and the Tamar Valley.

Students will swap pens and computers for gardening gloves and trowels as they team up with Bell Bay Aluminium to restore an endangered plant community that once thrived in the Tamar Valley.

As part of Bell Bay Aluminium's Biodiversity Action Plan, for the past five years the smelter has planted trees at a Launceston City Council park location in Newnham, Tailrace Park at Riverside and Bridport Road, Bell Bay.

Bell Bay Aluminium General Manager, Ray Mostogl said "Our annual tree planting project is a wonderful initiative to get students involved in helping the environment. The students learn about threatened plant ecosystems as well as learning about proper planting practice. Every tree that the students plant with Bell Bay Aluminium this week will have a positive impact on the future of our planet and help to preserve the current environment in the Launceston and Tamar Valley region."

The Rotary Clubs of West Tamar, Evandale and George Town will cook BBQs for students at each of the tree planting days.

Students will plant a mix of:

- Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca Ericifolia*)
- Swamp Gum (*Euc Ovata*)
- Australian Blackwood (*Acacia Melanoxylon*)
- Black Peppermint (*Eucalyptus Amygdalina*)
- White Gum (*Eucalyptus Viminalis*)
- Black Sheoak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*)
- Silver Banksia (*Banksia Marginate*)
- Silver Wattle (*Acacia Dealbata*)

Forestry Tasmania has grown the beautiful, healthy seedlings from locally sourced seed for this annual planting project.

Bell Bay Aluminium has planted in excess of 25,000 trees with the assistance of local school children in the Launceston and Tamar Valley region over the past five years

Media are welcome to attend.

Monday 17 August 9.30am-1.45pm

Cnr of Wallace & Bishops Streets, Newnham

Participating schools - Mowbray Heights Primary School, St Finn Barr's Catholic School and East Tamar Primary School

Tuesday 18 August 9.15am-2pm

Tailrace Park

Participating schools – Invermay and West Launceston Primary Schools and St Anthony's Catholic School

Friday 21 August 10am-2pm

Bridport Road

Planting Site – turn right from East Tamar Highway onto Bridport Road.

Turn right off Bridport Road into Old Farm, approximately 250 metres along the road

Participating schools – Port Dalrymple, Beaconsfield primary School and Star of the Sea

Ends

For further information, please contact:

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