

# Media release

MEDIA RELEASE



## SCHOOLS WIN GREENING GRANTS



What do butterfly habitats, environment centres, wetlands, koori gardens and seed banks all have in common? They will all be created by local schools over the next year, thanks to Greening Australia and CityLink!

CityLink and Greening Australia would like to announce the winners of this year's School Revegetation Grants. More than 60 primary and secondary schools applied for the grants, which will enable Greening Australia to assist 10 schools plan, coordinate and deliver an innovative revegetation project. The program also offers technical, financial and hands-on support to ensure each project makes a valuable contribution to the environment, the community and the school curriculum.

The winners were chosen based on how they addressed biodiversity outcomes, how the hands-on work could be implemented into the school curriculum and how the projects engaged with the wider community.

Greening Australia CEO, Carl Carthy, says each year it gets more difficult to choose the winners.

'Each school put a lot of work into developing concepts and solutions to address complex environmental issues.

'Ultimately the stand-out projects also featured additional benefits such as addressing particular social or educational issues.'

CityLink CEO Brendan Bourke says the company is incredibly proud to support the program, now in its fourth year.

'The Greening Australia program is unique in that it doesn't just deliver leading edge programs in vegetation management, nature conservation and biodiversity protection, but it teaches our children vital lessons they can continue spreading into the future.'

And the winners are...

Mandama Primary School (Greater Geelong)  
Brunswick South Primary School (Brunswick South)  
Huntly Primary School (Greater Bendigo)  
Bentleigh West Primary School (Bentleigh)  
Meadow Glen Primary School (Epping)  
Western Port Secondary College (Hastings)  
Preston North East Primary School (Preston)  
Bellarine Secondary College (Greater Geelong)  
Hallam Primary School (Hallam)  
Middle Kinglake Primary School (Kinglake)

PTO for details of each school's winning project.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT NUMBER

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**Mandama Primary School:** Grade 4 pupils will learn about sustainability through revegetating a site and creating a wetland near their school's Environment Centre. The Centre is used by the entire community for a range of purposes, allowing extensive access to the school's work.

**Brunswick South Primary School:** This school plans to create a butterfly habitat for the Common Brown, Painted Lady and Small Copper Butterflies, as well as build community awareness of the need to protect such habitats.

**Huntly Primary School:** Working with the Urban/Rural Link Program, this school is developing a seed bank of local and threatened plants on a block owned by the school, nearby the school site.

**Bentleigh West Primary School:** This school will continue to develop a learning landscape for its students and the community, which is representative of the landscape pre-European settlement. It has already done a huge amount of work in its school grounds. This school is setting a great example in terms of incorporating sustainability into its curriculum.

**Meadowglen Primary School:** This revegetation project is part of a larger scheme to connect the school to the creek. It is intended that the project will create a quiet area for students. This is a school that is leading an 'Innovations and Excellence' cluster in Epping.

**Westernport Secondary College:** These students are working to revegetate remnant woodland at the back of their school. The Mornington Peninsula area is recognised by UNESCO as being a Biosphere (a special type of reserve comprising land and sea, where people live and work). The Biosphere Reserve program has been developed by the United Nations to encourage the use of natural resources in an environmentally and socially sustainable way and the students will work within this program.

**Preston North East Primary School:** Preston North East is using this opportunity to work with students who are recognised as having low attendance. This program will endeavour to increase attendance by engaging students in a program which develops their physical connectedness to the school environment.

**Bellarine Secondary College:** The VCAL students are planning to create a Koori garden and art display. This project features a high level of student involvement in planning and carrying out the project.

**Hallam Primary School:** This school has previously carried out a breeding program for Monarch butterflies, but unfortunately the butterflies didn't survive because there was no suitable habitat to support them in the immediate area. The school would now like to create habitat to support such programs in the future.

**Middle Kinglake Primary School:** This school will work with three others and a number of community groups to convert a creek-side back to its original vegetation type. The site was recently handed over by the shire to create a community park.

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