

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Kosciuszko gives seed for a good cause

Recent months have seen Greening Australia community volunteers head to the hills to join Kosciuszko National Park authorities in collecting native seed for a variety of conservation purposes.

To date over 200 kg of local native seed has been collected by Greening Australia volunteers for use in a large NPWS rehabilitation project which focus's on the former construction sites of the Snowy Hydro-electric scheme. Eight species have been collected, including *Podolobium alpestre* (*Alpine Shaggy Pea*) *Ozothamnus secundiflorus* (*Cascade Everlasting*) *Rhodanthe anthemoides* (*Chamomile Sunray*), which are fundamental to conservation work to protect and enhance the diverse ecosystem of Kosciuszko.

National Greening Australia CEO, Rod Bristow, said: "There are many benefits of volunteering for the environment and these are all heightened in Kosciuszko. Volunteers learn about local native flora species, how to collect and process seed, and how seed is applied to in conservation work.

"Volunteers also get an appreciation for and enjoyment from working in beautiful places like Kosciuszko National Park" Mr Bristow said.

Volunteers from Greening Australia's Capital Region office in Canberra have embraced the opportunity to support Kosciuszko's conservation activities as an extension of their outstanding work restoring the Lower Cotter catchment in the wake of the Canberra bushfires, and their river restoration activities as part of the award-winning Boorowa River Recovery project.

Currently, Greening Australia Capital Region has more than 4,300 volunteers.

As the volunteers' inaugural seed collection period in the high country draws to a seasonal close, Mr Bristow acknowledged the efforts of the volunteers after many satisfying seed collection expeditions around Cabramurra, Kiandra, Jindabyne and Tantagara Dam. He also thanked the Kosciuszko NP authorities for recognising the value of connecting 'community can-do' to 'scientific know-how'.

Looking ahead, coming months will see Greening Australia and Kosciuszko NP authorities work together to target future seed collection areas.

Collected seed will also be processed through Greening Australia Capital Region's extensive seed collecting, seed processing and seed banking experience, in association with the Australian National Botanic Gardens.

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