

GOVERNOR TO VISIT TOP GRASSLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

Professor David de Kretser, AC, Governor of Victoria, and Mrs de Kretser will visit one of Australia's top ecological restoration projects near Hamilton on Wednesday 20th May.

The Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project, managed by Greening Australia, is one of the top 25 outstanding ecological restoration projects being undertaken in Australia and New Zealand. A cross-Tasman expert panel announced the top 25 with Craig Copeland, a member of the selection panel stating *"...we wanted to showcase the very high-quality work going on in Australasia to provide examples for others to follow and to make a difficult job a little bit easier."*

"We're thrilled that the Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project was included as one of the top 25 outstanding ecological restoration projects being undertaken in Australian and New Zealand. This project is working to transform the wildflower grassland landscape of which the last 1% is on the brink of extinction in Victoria." Project Leader, Dr. Paul Gibson-Roy said.

The Governor and Mrs de Kretser will visit one of the original 13 1ha sites which is located near Hamilton after delivering the Annual Handbury Lecture on Tuesday night in Hamilton. The site that they will visit was previously a heavy clover crop which has been transformed into a species rich, floristically diverse site which, when in flower, demonstrates an amazing wildflower display.

Dr. Gibson-Roy stated, *"Our project aims to restore these grassland communities, in collaboration with landholders, to return non-productive agricultural land to the quality of the existing wildflower grassland remnants. The project has benefitted greatly from collaboration with landholders, conservation organisations, research students and community members across a large section of south western Victoria."*

The Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project is a partnership between Greening Australia in Victoria and Melbourne University. This project applies the knowledge gained from restoration experiments undertaken at the University of Melbourne's Burnley campus to implement a series of scientifically designed on-ground restoration trials across Victoria. These restoration trial sites are guiding future revegetation activities as well as providing an on-going seed resource.

For media enquiries

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BACKGROUND

Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project, (GGRP) VIC.

Project leader Dr. Paul Gibson-Roy.

This project has set up 13 widely separated demonstration sites in Victoria's (and perhaps Australia's) most threatened plant community – temperate grasslands. The GGRP has demonstrated for the first time under Australian conditions that it is possible to reconstruct these communities on bare-field sites. It has also established techniques for seed production that will enable direct-seeding to occur at scale without impacting negatively on existing remnant populations.

www.greeningaustralia.org.au/our-solutions/biodiversity/grassy-groundcover