

Celebrating Ten Years of Great Work

In Greening Australia's 30th year of action nationally, one of the organisation's premier projects is celebrating ten years of on-ground work on World Wetlands Day, Thursday 2nd February. The *borrell-a-kandelop* project ('resting place for waterbirds') is hosting a celebration at Leslie Manor Homestead, featuring a photo competition and display of the lakes, afternoon tea and presentations on the local birds, wetlands and threatened species. Two bus tours on the following day will explore the Stony Rises and its reptiles, as well as the native grasslands and bird life of the Western District Lakes.

Covering about 180,000 hectares stretching from Lake Murdeduke at Winchelsea to Lake Bookaar near Camperdown, the *borrell-a-kandelop* project has been restoring and protecting local wetlands listed as sites of International Significance under the Ramsar Convention as well as over 30 other lakes and wetlands to ensure that the habitat of endangered native animals and visiting migratory birds is maintained.

The Ramsar lakes and surrounding wetlands of the Western District Lakes provide resting and feeding resources for migratory birds which visit each year from as far away as China, Japan, Siberia and North America. It is also important habitat for endangered native plants and animals including grasses, herbs, fish, skinks and frogs.

"In the last 10 years more than 230,000 indigenous plants have been hand-planted to control erosion and provide habitat, 160 kilometres of fences have been erected to stop stock from accessing lake foreshores and remnant vegetation, and a range of rubbish and pollutant-removal initiatives to enhance water quality have been implemented." stated Ron Dodds, Greening Australia's Regional Manager. *"This on-ground work has also provided additional benefits to the community by improving ecological values and farming productivity, and enabling community members to be meaningfully involved in hands-on events and activities."*

The projects collaborative partnership between Greening Australia, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and Parks Victoria is also supported by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Caring for our Country federal funding, local Shires, Indigenous groups, more than 140 local landholders, 10 schools, Landcare and community environment groups, and many individual volunteers.

Greening Australia Chief Executive Officer, Gary Topp said, *"To successfully deliver projects like borrell-a-kandelop requires strong partnerships and cooperation between all levels; from corporate and government, other environmental organisations through to community volunteers and school children. Greening Australia would like to sincerely thank all contributors, past and present, for their time, efforts, funding and commitment. The achievements of this project are only possible because of your support, and as we continue to develop borrell-a-kandelop into the future, we look forward to continuing these important relationships. We welcome any enquiries of interest in becoming involved in the borrell-a-kandelop project or other Greening Australia activities."*

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Greening Australia Background

Greening Australia is one of Australia's leading environmental not-for-profit organisations with more than 250 staff across all states and territories. For 30 years Greening Australia has been developing sustainable environmental solutions for the challenges facing our nation's unique landscapes. We manage hundreds of projects nationwide at any one time and thousands of hectares of land.

Combining the best science with extensive on-ground experience and community engagement, Greening Australia develops practical, on-ground solutions to complex environmental problems such as remnant vegetation protection, river health rehabilitation, biodiversity management and the restoration of agricultural productivity.