



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**

### **LOCALS DIG IN AT SCOTTSDALE RESERVE'S LARGEST PLANTING EVENT**

More than 150 volunteers dug in at the largest planting event ever to take place at Bush Heritage's scenic Scottsdale Reserve on Ngunawal country on Sunday, 3 June.

Hosted by Greening Australia and Bush Heritage, people of all ages journeyed to Scottsdale to help plant 3,000 grasses, shrubs and trees in celebration of World Environment Day.

Located 45 minutes from Canberra, Scottsdale, which is hugged on two sides by the iconic Murrumbidgee River, is rich in cultural history and home to many rare birds, animals, fish and reptiles. This includes one of only ten remaining populations of Silver-leafed Mountain Gum, a remnant of Australia's last ice age.

Greening Australia and Bush Heritage have been partnering since 2009 on a variety of projects across the 1,328 hectare former grazing property to revegetate land, enhance riparian habitat and help threatened species. Over the past nine years, over 40,000 trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers have been planted on the reserve, to restore 300ha of endangered grasslands and grassy box woodlands.

"Scottsdale is a landscape with many amazing values – areas of really high quality vegetation, excellent landscape features and many interesting plants and animals. Some of the areas have been relatively untouched and are incredibly diverse in terms of native species, but there are also parts that have become degraded through intensive agriculture that need some help. We are concentrating on these parts of the reserve, restoring them and joining them up with the higher quality areas," says Ian Rayner, Greening Australia Project Officer.

"The results of our early grassland restoration have been great. There are lots of wildflowers coming back into areas that were once just weeds."

Scottsdale Reserve Manager, Phil Palmer expressed his gratitude for the many volunteers who made the trip to participate in the planting day.

"Bush Heritage recognises the role of tree planting in restoring agricultural land to good health," he said. "The volunteers can go home happy today with the knowledge that they have helped make a lasting and positive change to the Scottsdale Reserve landscape. A connected ecosystem is nothing without all of the landholders and organisations that can and do help to look after the reserve."

A site planted by volunteers in 2013 is already showing the rewards.



As Ian describes, “The planting event was very successful and five years on we can really see the results. The 30 hectares that the volunteers planted are growing beautifully and flourishing, with many bushes starting to bloom.”

Greening Australia has begun work on a new project at Scottsdale funded through the Australian Government’s 20 Million Trees Programme, to restore and reconnect the reserve’s threatened box gum woodlands.

“We have a great partnership with Bush Heritage - we share a common ethos and bring different skills, abilities, and resources to the table. By working with their on-ground and support teams we have been able to achieve results which we would struggle to have resourced off our own bats. We look forward to building on the success of our on-ground work and to watching the reserve grow from strength to strength.”

The World Environment Day planting event was supported by the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme and Bush Heritage Australia.

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### **Media Enquiries**

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### **About Greening Australia:**

With teams in 30 locations around the country and over 150 staff, Greening Australia is a proudly independent not-for-profit organisation. Our team uses the latest science to guide what’s best for our landscapes and the people and wildlife that live in them. Greening Australia started conserving and restoring Australia’s unique landscapes in 1982 and we haven’t stopped since.

Greening Australia is committed to tackling Australia’s biggest environmental challenges with the best science and the best people, to return life to landscapes and balance to the natural environment in ways that work for communities, economies and nature.

To maximise our impact between now and 2030, we will be focusing on five key programs. From restoring Tasmania as an island ark for our most threatened mammals, to improving the health of



the Great Barrier Reef, we are working to create healthy, productive landscapes across Australia where people and nature can thrive.

### **About Bush Heritage**

We are one of Australia's largest and most effective conservation organisations. Our love of natural places, their wonder and beauty, drives our desire to see them protected, forever.

Nature is a gift. We must look after this country, and the vibrant living things who call our rainforests, our deserts, our rivers, home.

We safeguard the parts of Australia most in need of protection by directly tackling the biggest threats to landscapes, wildlife and people.

We use best-practice science and collaborate with others – including Aboriginal people, pastoralists and partner organisations – to achieve our goals.

A conservation community of more than 30,000 people supports our work. Together, we are returning the bush to good health.