

PLANTING THE FUTURE SEEDS

Schools across the region have taken part in National Tree Day. Thousands of trees have been planted with the aim of beautifying local neighbourhoods and inspiring positive environmental change.

At St Thomas More Primary School, Alfredton around one hundred and forty trees were obtained from the City of Ballarat for the project. The school's sustainability teacher Jayne Campbell said children had loved the project. "We are also trying to attract back native wildlife and insects," she said. "They are just aware that everything is interconnected in the environment and the things we do have an impact later on. It is about the importance of planting trees, not just for now, but for the next generations."

Ms Campbell said students were beginning to think about the next generation of students. While schools were due to plant trees on Friday, July 24, Ms Campbell said pupils had actually done some of the work the day before and would finish the job in the next week. "We were really lucky with the day, so we thought why not but Friday was very windy so we thought we would hold it off until next week," she said. She said students would also write a report focused on their work.



Year six pupils Gabrielle Macdonald and Ben Collier were two of many St Thomas More Primary School pupils taking part.



Damascus College Year nine Students Liam Penn, Marla Gibson and Connor Dwyer with trees ready to be planted.

Meanwhile, Damascus College Ballarat science students planted five hundred native trees along a biodiversity trail being developed through the bushland at the school.

College sustainability co-ordinator Justin Brennan said it was the first time students had planted trees on the school grounds as part of National Tree Day. "(The biodiversity trail) is a valued education resource for the school," Mr Brennan said. "The aim is to have more classes down here and learn about the natural habitat, and make it a richer area for the whole community to appreciate."

The official National Tree Day occurred on Sunday, July 26. This year celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the tree planting day with three million people planting twenty one million trees and plants since its inception.

Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier.

Text by Matthew Dixon and Erin Williams and photos by Luka Kauzlaric and Lachlan Bence.