



28 July 2014

Media Release

STUDENTS DIG IN FOR LITTLE ITALY RESTORATION PROJECT

Students from Unity College at Bellvista have done their bit for the environment by planting hundreds of seedlings at Caloundra South's first community-led rehabilitation project.

Twenty-two students from years 5 to 12, travelled to the 50-hectare Little Italy site on Monday (28 July) for the special event in aid of Planet Ark's Schools Tree Day initiative.

Little Italy is named because of its distinctive boot shape and the restoration project is the result of funding by Stockland and the State Government's Healthy Country program. It is the first of a series of community-led rehabilitation and conservation projects at Caloundra South to take place over the next five years.

The tree planting event was coordinated by SEQ Catchments and attended by representatives from the Sunshine Coast Council and environmental organisations.

Stockland Project Director, Adrian Allen, said he was delighted local school children were able to be involved in the rehabilitation work at the site, which borders Bells Creek on the eastern side of Caloundra South.

"Unity College at Stockland's Bellvista community is located close to the Caloundra South rehabilitation site and we are pleased to be helping to educate local students about the importance of caring for the natural environment," he said.

Mr Allen said students were given valuable insights into the Caloundra South restoration project prior to the planting of the 200 seedlings, which included the nationally endangered *Allocasuarina emuina* species.

"They received an overview of the development and rehabilitation program and listened to ecologist Matt Davis discuss the *Allocasuarina emuina* species and its ecosystem," he said. Meanwhile, Barung Landcare's Eric Anderson spoke about the vulnerable Glossy Black Cockatoo as its preferred food trees are represented in the remnant and regenerating vegetation at the Little Italy restoration site.

SEQ Catchments Community Partnerships Manager (North), Susie Chapman, said the event was very significant as the *Allocasuarina emuina* species planted by the students was an endemic low-growing slender flowering shrub restricted to the Sunshine Coast.

"The seeds were sourced from the Caloundra South site and propagated by Greening Australia," Ms Chapman said. "They will help ensure that the natural regeneration happening on the Little Italy site, along with the new stock exclusion fencing, will have a rich biodiversity," she said.

Mr Allen said rehabilitation work at the Caloundra South site was under way well ahead of schedule and it was pleasing to see such positive engagement and support from so many local community-based environmental groups.

"We are committed to responsible and sustainable development of Caloundra South and are proud to be a partner in this project which will improve waterway health and the ecological integrity of the Bells Creek and Pumicestone Catchments at a grass roots level."



Stockland

Stockland (ASX: SGP) was founded in 1952 and has grown to become Australia's largest diversified property group – owning, developing and managing a large portfolio of shopping centres, residential communities, retirement living villages, office and industrial assets. Stockland was recognised by the S&P Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) as the World Real Estate Industry Group Leader for 2013-14 and was also named one of the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland in 2013, for the fifth consecutive year.

Media enquiries

Jo Hales

Pitch Public Relations

T +61 (0)7 3398 8660

M +61 (0)423 687 459

E jo@pitchpr.com.au

Stockland enquiries

Greg Spears

Senior Manager Media Relations

Stockland

T +61 (0)2 9035 3263

M +61 (0)406 315 014

E greg.spears@stockland.com.au

Stockland Corporation Ltd ACN 000 181 733 Stockland Trust Management Ltd ACN 001 900 741
AFSL 241190 As Responsible Entity for Stockland Trust ARSN 092 897 348.