



15

Celebrating 15 years  
of landscape change



# 2018-19 SNAPSHOT

# Landscape rehabilitation on a grand scale

Since 2003, Grow West has worked to improve degraded landscapes around Bacchus Marsh, in Melbourne's west. Its vision is to rejuvenate up to 10,000 hectares and develop vegetation connections across landscapes between the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Lerderderg State Park.

Grow West works with a range of landholders on revegetation projects of all sizes. Over 2,500 hectares in total has been revegetated, enhancing biodiversity, reducing the spread of noxious weeds and pest animals, reducing erosion and improving landholder skills and participation.

The success of the project is due to the strong collaboration between the organisations and community, including:

- Port Phillip & Westernport CMA
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Melbourne Water
- Southern Rural Water
- Parks Victoria
- Department of the Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Moorabool Landcare Network
- Landholder representatives.

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA coordinates Grow West on behalf of these partner organisations.

In 2018-19, Moorabool Shire Council, Melbourne Water and Southern Rural Water contributed \$50,000 to support the ongoing planning and coordination of Grow West.



## Grow West Art Prize 2019

Grow West is a proud sponsor of the Rotary Club of Bacchus Marsh's annual Art Sale and Exhibition and each year offers the Grow West Landscape Art Prize.

Artists of all levels are invited to enter a work in any medium that expresses their understanding and appreciation of the work done to protect the precious, yet fragile, environment in the Grow West area.

**The 2019 winner was Alison Durham with her untitled, mixed media work.**

## 2018-19 highlights



Over 2,500 hectares revegetated over Grow West's 15 years of operation



7 organisations & 4 community members are an active part of the Grow West Implementation Committee



388,862 trees planted by 48 landholders through Greening the West - 1 Million Trees



# Achievements in 2018-19

Grow West turned 15 in 2018-19 and celebrated this milestone at a special event in April 2019, which was attended by current and former community and partner representatives. In that time, Grow West has worked with over 30 organisations, established 1.3 million plants over 2,500 hectares, worked with 48 landholders and over 3,000 volunteers to plant 56,000 plants at 13 community planting day events.

It also continues to coordinate the Victorian Government funded 'Protecting and Connecting Species in Melbourne's West' project with Parks Victoria and Trust for Nature. Now in its third year, this project aims to protect and enhance threatened species within the three large public reserves - Lerderderg State Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Brisbane Ranges National Park - and adjoining private properties by undertaking pest plant and animal control across 30,000 hectares.

2018-19 was also the final year for the Greening the West - 1 Million Trees project, which saw the 1 millionth tree planted in October 2018. Grow West was a major contributor to this project, planting 388,862 trees.

## 2018 Grow West Community Planting Day

On Sunday 15th July 2018, 190 volunteers gathered at Sheoak Hill for the 13th annual Grow West Community Planting Day. Sheoak Hill is a 552 hectare, former cropping and grazing property in the Rowsley Valley. The goal of the Sheoak Hill project is to re-link Brisbane Ranges National Park and Werribee Gorge State Park by managing existing vegetation, controlling weeds and rabbits and revegetating the shallow and highly erodible hillsides.

Volunteers planted 5,433 seedlings on the day. These efforts not only help to restore this important corridor for threatened wildlife, such as Swift Parrot and Brush-tailed Phascogales, but further connect the community to their environment and encourage ongoing environmental stewardship.

Big thanks to event partners and contributors; Victorian National Parks Association, Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee, Melbourne Water, 15 Trees, G.J Gardner Homes, Bacchus Marsh Community Bank, Bacchus Marsh Lions Club, Victorian Mobile Landcare Group and Dera Sacha Sauda.



190 community members planted 5,433 trees at Sheoak Hill in Glemore



\$240,000 received from the Victorian Government for the Protect and Connect Melbourne's West project.



\$50,000 in partner contributions supporting ongoing planning and coordination

# Looking forward

2019-20 will be the final year of the 'Protecting and Connecting Species and Communities in Melbourne's West' project with Trust for Nature and Parks Victoria. The project will continue to deliver pest plant and animal control activities across the entire project area, as well as undertake engagement activities with the Traditional Owners, Wadawurrung and Wurrundjeri.

Plans are currently underway for the annual Grow West Community Planting Day event to be held on Sunday 20th July 2020 and we are currently looking for sponsorship. Please contact Grow West Program Coordinator on ways you can assist or visit our website to download the Sponsorship Package [www.growwest.com.au](http://www.growwest.com.au)



Before (1964). White Elephant Reserve.



After (2018). White Elephant Reserve.

## For more information on Grow West:

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