



## MEDIA RELEASE

17<sup>th</sup> September 2013

### Project Platypus Plantout Season Wraps Up

A further 2000 trees went into the ground this weekend at the last Project Platypus Plantout for the 2013 planting season.

An impromptu Plantout was arranged for last weekend due to the unseasonably favourable weather conditions. "The rain we've received over the last few months has meant that soil moisture levels have been retained and we've been able to plant later into the year than usual" said Plantout Coordinator with Project Platypus David Margetson.

A small team of about 20 people took part in the Plantout at Joel South, enjoying a day of rare winter sunshine.

Stawell Urban Landcare Group also hosted a tree planting morning on Saturday, planting a mixture of indigenous species along the Pleasant Creek walking track and the Moonlight Sands.

During this year's Plantout season over 50,000 indigenous plants were returned to the landscape during 7 community Plantouts weekends, with 320 willing and enthusiastic volunteers. Without Plantout volunteers and the enthusiasm of landcare groups, it would be near impossible return so many trees to the landscape and reap the productivity and environmental benefits we all enjoy" said Mr Margetson.

Revegetation projects took place on private land to act as shelter belts, stabilise soil, improve biodiversity, and revegetate areas of low production value. Mr Margetson said Project Platypus are now accepting expressions of interest for next years winter revegetation season, and encouraged local landholders to contact Project Platypus before Monday 14th of October.

Project Platypus would like to extend a heartfelt thankyou to each and everyone of the 320 volunteers who braved the winter elements to take part in this years Plantout season.

### Photos

007 'Rita Bikins starts making tree guards at the Joel South Plantout last Saturday.'

### End of release

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