

Community Participation

LP12-004

Reigniting the spark to plant.

Central Tablelands Landcare Inc



Thinking global, working local, very local.

The issue

In an era of good intentions held by time poor people how does Landcare engage people to put in the 'hard yards' when it comes to caring for their environment? In Orange, in Central wets NSW, we have many new housing sub-divisions being built on the edge of the city.

Town planners have made the developers leave some old growth trees but in the drainage easements there are few new plantings. This means the new developments often look obviously stark.

We decided to work with council to get the new home owners involved in tree plantings.

The solution

We approached Orange City Council who agreed it was a good idea. they provided the mulch, the tree guards and the stakes. Cyril Smith, a CTLC committee member, provided trees and inspired the local residents to get involved.

This planting would be used as a test to see if there was interest if we made the event short in time needed, and small in numbers of trees planted.

We completed all the requisite forms and completed a localised mail drop. We chose the date...and then we changed the date. We figured no-one would want to plant in the snow.

The impact

We advertised by letterbox drop.

The day was cold, frosty and foggy but blue skies were forecast.

We started with 2 committee members. as the sun burned off the fog our numbers swelled to 6. We worked out a routine of digging, planting, staking and then we all mulched.

We planted out 25 trees in two hours and all participants still had time to do their usual Saturday afternoon tasks, content in the knowledge that they have made a contribution to beautifying their neighbourhood.

We even had an article in the local paper.

Learnings

This event, which was a trial, was successful. We intend to do more of these as time, Covid and weather permits.



Key facts

- People are time poor.
- Short, sharp events which don't take up a lot of time are achievable for most people.
- Local councils are happy to help local people work at a micro level.
- Good weather makes for a good event.

Project Partners



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