

October-December 2025

LIONS GREEN CANOPY PROJECT NEWSLETTER NUMBER 9

Welcome to the final Lions Green Canopy Newsletter for 2025.

This month we have chosen to feature some wonderful success stories from clubs that have participated in the Green Canopy Project this year.

HOPE LIONS TREE PROJECT



Some people question members of the committee as to whether a particular project is eligible for recognition as a Green Canopy Project.

During a visit to the recent V6 Convention, committee member Geoff Freudenstein was fortunate to have a long discussion with Helen Hastie of the Hope Lions Club Branch. This wonderful small group are doing amazing things in their efforts to help green Australia. I ask you to please read their story and be inspired by it.

The project involves many groups of people – Lions, Government, Landcare, Landholders and of course Tree Project Victoria. As Lions are involved in the growing process it is suitable to report it as a service project under the Green Canopy Project. The project encompasses everything we are asking for from this project - Lions participation, community involvement and exposure to community bodies that may or may not in the past have been introduced to the benefits of being a Lion.

Read on!



HOPE Lions Club Branch in district V6 has grown over *six thousand* indigenous seedlings in the past five years as volunteer growers, helping Landholders and Landcare Groups wanting to put back vegetation and repair Victoria's damaged ecosystems and to create a healthier and more sustainable environment for future generations.

This can be done through *TreeProject Victoria* - <https://treeproject.org.au/> - a not-for-profit organisation, and volunteer growers like us.

TreeProject Victoria provides all volunteer growers with everything that is required to successfully grow the seedlings - including training for first time growers. They also create coordinators who have a certain number of growers to oversee during the growing season. The coordinators also arrange the delivery of the seedlings from the Growers to the Landholder at the end of the season. (Secretary Helen has been a coordinator for 4 years).

Landholders and Landcare Groups purchase their seed through TreeProject.

The volunteer growers prepare the tubes with the potting mix provided and plant the seeds and continue to maintain and care for the seedlings until they are ready to go to the Landholder to be planted out in Autumn each year, a total of six months.

During the growing period excess seedlings can be transplanted when they are about 3 inches/7.5cm high providing there are spare tubes. (Sometimes a species may not germinate so excess seedlings can be transplanted into those tubes).

The boxes must be checked regularly for bugs and any debris. The roots must be kept pinched off when they grow through the bottom of the tubes.

The aim is to have one healthy seedling in each tube at handover time.

Growers must be conscientious and have the time to care for the seedlings.

A Grower may grow one or more "Kits". (A kit is seven polystyrene boxes with 48 tubes in each box, that's 336 tubes in a "Kit"). Our club has grown up to seven kits in a season.

There could be up to seven different species in one kit which could be trees, shrubs or native grasses.



HOPE LIONS TREE PROJECT IN PICTURES





Growing a Greener Future – Bargara Lions

We celebrate the Bargara Lions Club on one year of their Growing a Greener Future Project.

From humble beginnings on 12th October 2024, the Bargara Lions Green Canopy project has blossomed into a remarkable celebration of community, commitment, and nature. In just one year, over 3,500 trees, shrubs, and reeds have been planted across 8 acres of this 125-acre site, transforming the landscape and leaving a legacy that will outlive most of our club members.

It hasn't been easy—or tidy. Hundreds of hours have been spent planting, watering, removing tree guards, support staking, weeding, and spraying. Boots and bodies have been drenched in black, gelatinous mud at times, vehicles have bogged, mangoes have mysteriously disappeared, and yet, every challenge has been met with laughter, camaraderie, and plenty of cups of tea and coffee, accompanied by biscuits, cakes, and cheerful banter.

This project has been a testament to what a dedicated community can achieve. Each sapling represents not just an environmental contribution, but the effort, friendship, and joy shared by all who participated. It's a living legacy for future generations—a gift for our grandchildren to enjoy long after we've hung up our club hats.

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Lions Australia Green Canopy Environment Project



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... We're excited to celebrate the handover of the first stage of this project to the council in early November, marking a milestone in our journey. But this is only the beginning. The ongoing commitment to nurture the younger trees over the next 12–24 months ensures the canopy will continue to flourish and mature, reminding us of what can be achieved when people come together with purpose and heart. There is only another 110 acres to go!!

Come and breathe the fresh air with us, experience the satisfaction of seeing life take root, and share in a project that's as much about people as it is about plants. One year in, the Bargara Lions Charlottes Wood Green Canopy is more than trees—it's a living symbol of community, perseverance, and hope for a greener future.

From Steve Wieczorek, Bargara Lions



One million new trees by June 30, 2027



Lions Club of Mooloolaba / Mooloolaba State High School

This story is a great example of how to work with your community to make good things happen!

Members of Mooloolaba Lions met with staff from Mooloolaba State High School back in March to make a proposal for the Green Canopy Project. They were very receptive, and the club got the go ahead to bring this to fruition.

The first job was to remove most of the plants and weeds in the area. Armed with a plethora of garden tools, we set about the labour-intensive work with about eight students from the school. Luckily no rain, but plenty warm enough to raise a sweat! We repeated this process the next week prior to the school holidays. Ron and I were very pleased with the enthusiasm and hard work done by the students.

In the meantime, advice was received from Simon Rixon - horticulturist/manager at the Urban Farm at Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre - to recommend native plants for the area as well as a planting mud map. This has been very well received and will be followed.

So, the project is now more or less on the last legs for bringing this little plot to fruition, creating a relaxing space for the students as well as a conducive environment for native birds etc.

From Eva Hoebee, Mooloolaba Lions



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These are just a few of the terrific stories we have been told about this year. Be sure to send us yours too!

Until next year keep up the good work, report it on the portal, then forward your story to us so we can also share your “good news” with other Lions.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

PDG Tim Moore - Chairman
Lions Green Canopy Project

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