

Our Native Garden



Conspectus :

project information and proposal

for potential partners,

sponsors and supporters

April 2015

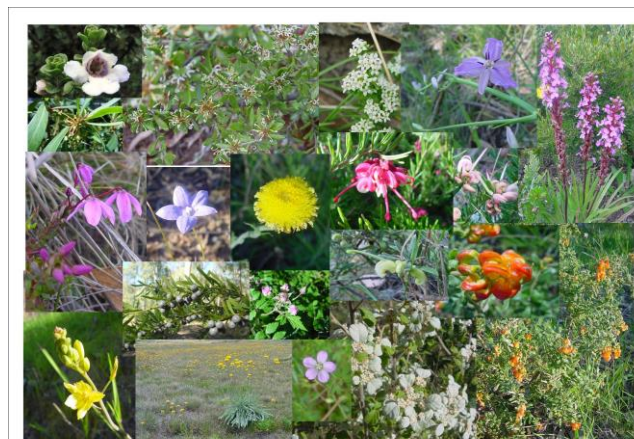
About Our Native Garden

We are proud to be a Landcare Group and member of the Wodonga Urban Landcare Network.

We promote our message, plants and activities in Wodonga region and have enjoyed an enthusiastic community response with more than 160 people joining as volunteers and our network reaching about a further 700 or more on each email broadcast.

Centrelink has registered our organisation for volunteer activities.

Recently the City of Wodonga generously invited Our Native Garden nursery to relocate at the Wodonga Waste Transfer Station!



We envision many opportunities and ways for us to work together with mutual greatly increased benefits and outcomes.

Our Native Garden purpose

The formal objects of this organisation are:

- The creation, development and enhancement of ecosystems that will improve the environmental condition of our planet.
- To produce indigenous flora to provide the framework for the creation, development and enhancement of ecosystems.
- To provide educational and enrichment experiences for all people in the importance of and how to create, develop and enhance ecosystems on micro to broad scale.

Project Details

Our Native Garden is a Not-For-Profit, Registered Charity, community owned and volunteer-run indigenous plant nursery dedicated to developing sustainable, balanced ecosystems to help create and maintain a healthy environment for animals, plants and people. It is a vibrant, thriving, ecological, multicultural community resource that inspires participation and develops environmental and ecological awareness.

Our Native Garden nursery has formed partnerships with local councils, community volunteers and groups to co-operatively produce plants for revegetation projects and provide training in sustainable ecosystem development and biodiversity protection and enhancement.

Project objectives

- Improved health and wellbeing of people, plants and animals through planting of indigenous, local native plants to make more balanced, sustainable ecosystems. We promote our message of healthy ecosystems through hundreds of plants donated to home plantings and revegetation projects selected by volunteers for their contribution of labour at the nursery.
- Improved biodiversity and quality of the local habitat, river and creek corridors and connectivity of native plant remnants for wildlife through supply of indigenous, local native plants for local revegetation projects and home and farm plantings.

Our Native Garden

Local native plants grow better...

grasses, lilies, daisies, shrubs and trees
together make creature habitat

www.ournativegarden.com.au
PH: 0418 579 331

A Not For Profit Organisation



- Increased community cohesion and achievements through productive, diverse partnerships and increased capacity. Closer links are built between people involved in environmental management in a hands on way by producing a knowledgeable and experienced group united by their intention to contribute to community projects and a commitment to quality environmental outcomes
- Our community volunteers feel socially connected with, inspired and informed about how to contribute effectively to our health through use of Our Native Garden plants and sustainable methods of ecosystem development.
- Our process of propagation of local provenance indigenous plants includes knowledge of the role and place of the plant in the ecosystem, it's particular attributes for survival and about the community of plants and creatures that it supports and is supported by. Volunteer involvement in plant propagation gives us the opportunity to supply this education and direct experience in enhancing ecosystems.
- There is a demonstrated demand and need for the supply of local provenance indigenous plants for revegetation projects by councils, catchment management authorities, Landcare groups, community and service groups, schools, farms and urban

homes. Our organisation works directly to see more native plants in more places and in this way the natural environment is protected and enhanced

Who benefits

Community volunteer members total approximately 170, about 80 of them live in or near Wodonga. Most are aged 30 to 70 with about 70% being women. There are about 240 more people who are kept informed of and participate in activities from time-to time. More will participate.

Older or Aged - 60 to 80 of our volunteer members and project participants are retired from fulltime work.

new settlers - 20 to 30 mainly from the Bhutanese community, particularly the older and longer-term unemployed people with minimal English language and literacy skills.

youth - we have built relationships with many Wodonga and Albury schools and preschools, supplying them with plants and ecological advice. Many are keen to join our volunteer program in propagating plants.

unemployed - Our Native Garden is registered as an approved Centrelink Activity and enjoys the services of people referred for work experience and community work by Workways and Best Community Development Employment agencies.



Project plan

- Employ a facilitator/coordinator for 5 to 15 hours per week to improve coordination for volunteer activities and plant nursery production.
- Inform and inspire our community to take up the sustainable ecological health message
- Produce indigenous plants of local provenance for revegetation projects.
- Initiate, facilitate, build and nurture partnerships or close working relationships between new settlers and the wider community through working together in plant propagation at our community nursery. We aim for New settler involvement to be successful, ongoing, mutually beneficial and enjoyed.
- Provide transport to a workplace environment with English language learning opportunities for new settlers.
- Build and demonstrate the message of *HEALTH* through enhanced sustainable ecosystem establishment and function with workshops, plantings and demonstrations with schools, clubs, community garden groups, Landcare groups and at work places.
- Deliver workshops and presentations in promotion of our *HEALTH* message at community markets and festivals.

- Provide volunteer training field trips to experience high quality bush areas for plant identification and appreciation. These tours feature healthy ecosystems/ bush, with the principle that seeing the beauty of the bush leads to it's conservation.
- Provide volunteer training workshops in:
 - Identification of indigenous and exotic plants
 - Collection and processing of seeds and cuttings to produce plants
 - Sustainable revegetation methods and materials
 - Ecosystem processes, local and landscape scale project planning, native vegetation connectivity and wildlife corridors

Our organisation provides:

- the location for most activities - Our Native Garden nursery at Wodonga Waste Transfer Station.
- coordination of volunteers to direct activities and deliver outcomes
- resources: funding, tools, equipment and materials, transport of volunteers as required
- specialised and expert knowledge and skills
- learning materials

Environmental information and education supplied through:

- volunteer experience in plant propagation and revegetation
- supply of booklets on revegetation and ecosystems
- Website factsheets
- network communications via email newsletters, Facebook and eco related websites
- promotions at farmers markets and eco-interest festivals
- workshops on aspects of indigenous plants, revegetation and ecosystems - raises funds by donation by participants
- Volunteer training field trips in high quality bush - raises funds by donation by participants
- Plant labels with ecosystem information for that plant



Indigenous plant propagation for:

- donation to revegetation projects
- plant sales to raise funds

partnerships and sponsors

The City of Wodonga has been very happy to support Our Native Garden with provision of a site for the nursery and use of facilities and equipment. Our Native Garden is a member of Wodonga Urban Landcare Network which has been funded to deliver an on-ground and classroom ecosystems project in schools through DEPI Communities For Nature 2013. Our nursery will supply plants and learning materials and volunteers to provide expertise and assistance on planting days.

Centrelink, Workways, Best Community Development, and Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau Cultural Services officer arrange volunteer labour for plant propagation and revegetation activities.

Organisations such as Landcare groups, City of Wodonga, Indigo Shire, Alpine Shire, North East Catchment Management Authority and Falls Creek Alpine Resort support our organisation in all of our activities through:

- purchase of plants for community and council revegetation projects
- promotion of Our Native Garden plants and activities through their media and networks
- donation of goods and use of equipment and vehicles

Opportunity to contribute

Our Native Garden looks forward to support from community groups and corporate sponsors. We need both financial and labour support. Below are details of development expenses that will enable us to continue our purpose in the most effective and efficient ways.

Your group or company could make a big difference to the ongoing success of our project and gain great rewards in community acknowledgement, recognition and appreciation, particularly through media coverage during our events.

This diverse group of volunteers, community groups and organisations is best supported with part-time coordination to ensure cohesion.

Development expenses - seeking sponsors and supporters for these items

Category	Item	application	Estimated cost
Support volunteer works	Coordinator <i>Our Weaver</i> 2 to 25 hrs per week	Volunteer organisation cohesion	\$2,600 - \$39,000
	Bookkeeper and accountant	Support administration	\$1000
	Launch of Our Native Garden at the Waste Transfer Station	Promotion of organisation at new site	\$400
Support relocation of nursery	Potting and storage shed shelves, thermal shade mesh or curtains	Volunteer health and amenity;	\$650
	Plant tables @ \$20	Safe working height	\$800
	Solar HWS	Cuttings propagation	\$50 to \$800
	Solar pump and panel for hot water for cuttings bed	irrigation	\$350
Support New Settler volunteers	English as a Second Language learning materials and equipment	For student partners to improve English language skills	
	○ Stationery		\$30
	○ White boards		\$150
	○ E learning equip		\$300
	Hire of and fuel for minibus for volunteer transport to nursery 30 weeks of year	Student partners with low English language skills	\$1500

Support plant production	Propagation materials:	Plant production	
	○ Bag native potting mix @ \$11 makes 170 tubes	Produce 10,000 tubes	\$660
	○ Boxes of 1000 tube pots @ \$95		\$1000
	○ Packs 500 weatherproof colour plant labels @ \$45		\$1000
	○ Set of laser colour printer ink cartridges		\$400
Support education	Promotion and educational materials:		
	○ A4 paper 10 reams		\$65
	○ Posters, laminates, stationery		\$50
	Laptop computer and software upgrade	On site access to production data bases	\$440
	Native plants of Vic 3 year subscription Viridans	Up to date botanical ref	\$100

**AIM: to be so good at what we do
we can donate at least 50% of our plant production
to revegetation projects through :**

- **Using volunteer labour**
- **Attracting funding and sponsorship to cover purchase of supplies, operating costs and employing Horticulture Manager**

Organisation information:

Snowline Landscapes Pty. Ltd Trading as Our Native Garden ABN 91 006 881 545
Not For Profit special purpose Private Company for the purpose of environment, with shares owned by the community and run by volunteers. Registered Charity. Registered for GST

Organisation Website <http://ournativegarden.com.au>
Facebook page <facebook.com/ournativegarden>.

Contact coordinator@ournativegarden.com.au
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located at Wodonga Waste Transfer Station 29 Kane Rd Wodonga