

## School students help conserve critically endangered Spiny Daisy

Critically endangered Spiny Daisy populations will be given a boost on Thursday 26 June 2008 with the assistance of Year Seven students from Laura Primary School in the state's Mid North.

Meryn Codell from the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) said students would help plant 24 Spiny Daisies along the Caltowie–Stone Hut Road, adding to the 100 that were planted on World Environment Day in 2007.

"The plants for the Caltowie site come from the Spiny Daisy population at Telowie, which was discovered early last year," Meryn said.

"By replanting the Spiny Daisies at Caltowie, we'll be increasing the genetic diversity at the site, which will help to safeguard the species for the future.

"Genetic diversity helps plants resist local extinction due to inbreeding or chance events such as floods or fire," she said.

The Spiny Daisy is one of the most endangered plants in the world, known to occur only in five locations in the Mid North of South Australia.

It is a bluish-grey shrub that grows to about half a metre, with distinctive yellow flowers.

DEH Threatened Flora Ecologist Anthony Pieck and members of the Spiny Daisy Recovery Team will coordinate the planting day.

The Spiny Daisy Recovery Project is supported by the Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board, the Department for Environment and Heritage, the Threatened Species Network and FAME (the Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species).

For more information, please contact Meryn Codell on 8841 3402, or go to [www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/bcp/pdfs/spiny\\_daisy\\_info\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/bcp/pdfs/spiny_daisy_info_sheet.pdf).

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