

Students help plant sustainable garden at North Haven Station

On Thursday 12 June 2008, students and teachers from North Haven Primary School will help plant a sustainable garden on TransAdelaide land next to North Haven Station.

The garden will consist of 950 native Australian plants including some plants indigenous to the local area.

The plants – a variety of trees, shrubs, grasses and groundcovers – have been selected to suit the local conditions, to be drought tolerant and to use little water once established.

The plants have also been selected to provide food and shelter for local fauna such as butterflies and birds.

The project is a partnership between the Sustainable Landscapes Project and TransAdelaide, as part of the Adopt-a-Station program.

Sustainable Landscapes Project Officer Sheryn Pitman, from the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, within the Department for Environment and Heritage, said sustainable gardens are those that are in harmony with local environmental conditions.

"A sustainable landscape is a healthy and resilient landscape that will survive without the need for high input of scarce resources such as water," Ms Pitman said.

"The North Haven Station garden has been selected to be a Sustainable Landscapes Project demonstration site.

"It's great to have the students involved in establishing the garden, because it's a fantastic way of teaching them to take responsibility for conserving their local environment.

"This sort of environmental work also fits perfectly into the school curriculum.

"When students take part in projects like this, they show great pride in watching the garden grow and thrive, and in discovering birds and animals in the garden for the first time.

"They see first hand how so much can be achieved in a relatively short time," Ms Pitman said.

The Sustainable Landscapes Project is an initiative involving the State Government and private enterprise that aims to demonstrate and promote appropriate park and garden design, plant species selections and sustainable horticultural practices for South Australian environments.

Current partners in the Sustainable Landscapes Project are the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, SA Water, the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board, the Innovation and Economic Opportunities Group (through the Mawson Lakes Economic Development Project), and the Land Management Corporation.

For more information about the Sustainable Landscapes Project, contact Sheryn Pitman on 8222 9490 or go to www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/sustainable.html.

For more information about TransAdelaide's Adopt-a-Station program, contact Garry Gailey on 8218 4011.

Gael Little, Principal of North Haven Schools, may be contacted on 8248 3011 or 8248 3212.

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