

PRESS RELEASE

**PINE RIVERS SHIRE COMMUNITY NURSERY
ONE MILLION TREES**



22 March 2010

The Pine Rivers Shire Community Nursery celebrates growing ONE MILLION TREES in the 13 years since it started, with a ceremonial planting of the millionth tree, a local native Hoop Pine, or "Kumbartcho" as the Australian Aborigines called it. Moreton Bay Regional Council Volunteer and Environmentalist of the Year 2010, Donna Farrell will plant the one millionth tree at the nursery on 26 March 2010.

Donna says "By growing local native plants you preserve the local habitat and control weeds, as well as encouraging biodiversity. Local native fauna relies on these native plants for food, shelter and health. It is important that we eradicate weeds as they cause immense losses in both habitat and economic terms. Australia-wide, the cost of weed control through manpower, agricultural and horticultural losses is estimated to be in excess of \$6.5 billion per year."

In the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity one million trees is a huge achievement to honour. Successes like this show that community organizations can bring neighborhoods together to make a difference.

The Pine Rivers Community Nursery at Kumbartcho Sanctuary Environmental Centre, Eatons Hill, Brisbane is run by a great team of community volunteers. Starting in 1997, the Nursery has grown a wide range of plant species native to the local area for use in revegetation projects and for sale to the public. With access to nine acres of flora and fauna reserve on the banks of the South Pine River, the nursery encourages volunteer members of the community to become involved in environmental regeneration, protection and enhancement projects in the local area.

Kim Pantano, President of Kumbartcho said "Using native plants from the nursery we have restored many gardens, which has of course encouraged native creatures to return to those gardens. We run monthly workshops to teach people how to revegetate gardens with plants they have bought from the nursery and we also organize regular tree plantings in the area. We have plenty of educational resources for teachers of young children who regularly visit the nursery and for parents to help them in their projects."

The propagation and supply of local natives through organizations like Pine Rivers Shire Community Nursery reintroduces not only local flora but encourages species of fauna, which depend on those plants, back into the locale and so mends damage inflicted by human settlement.

Biodiversity supplies us with all the vital necessities which our food, shelter, health and well being needs and depends upon and is the essential sustaining factor of our living networks and systems.

The 2010 International Year of Biodiversity highlights the value of biodiversity on our planet. Humans, animals, plants, insects and microbes are all an integral part of nature and it is our responsibility to nurture and cherish all the environments and ecosystems we enter.

Biodiversity embraces the variety of life on earth and in embracing biodiversity we enhance our lives.

For more information & images contact :

Kim Pantano

0417627039

kimp@kumbartcho.org.au