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Vollies and students plant trees

SIXTY volunteers including students from Mazenod College have helped plant thousands of trees in Highland Reserve in Jane Brook.

Members of the Jane Brook Community Association and Mirvac staff joined the students to plant more than 7500 trees and shrubs in Highland Reserve on Friday, August 24.

On the same day another 10,000 trees were planted in the adjacent Jane Brook foreshore revegetation area.

A Mirvac spokeswoman said the plantings were part of Mirvac's sustainable development plan for Highland Reserve and the surrounding Jane Brook community.

The new plantings will add to last year's rehabilitation work undertaken by the community association and Mirvac, when 10,000 trees were planted along the foreshore area.

Mirvac also planted 3430 native trees last year in the Susannah Valley Nature Reserve to rehabilitate formally cleared farmland.

Jane Brook Community Association president Mathew Merson said his team was pleased to be part of the tree planting sessions.

"Planting 7500 seedlings sounds like a huge task for 25 local residents, 20 Mirvac staff and about 15 school students, but everyone [was] really enthusiastic about the project," he said.

"One of the great things about living in Jane Brook is that people here are so passionate about the community, especially when it comes to conservation.

"The students are a great example of this - they are part of an environmental club which has introduced a vegetable garden on college

grounds," he said.

"The group is responsible for recording and analysing energy saved from solar panels at the school and has also helped to rehabilitate part of the school sports oval, returning it to natural bushland.

"Now they are getting the opportunity to work on a larger-scale project, and hopefully this will encourage them to continue to be active members of our community."

The Mirvac spokeswoman said Highland Reserve was recently recognised with an EnviroDevelopment certification in Ecosystems from the Urban Development Institute of Australia - an award given to development projects considered to be leaders in sustainability.

Just 12 communities in Western Australia have received the accreditation to date. Mirvac Western Aus-

tralia masterplanned communities development director Kim Lawrence said the tree planting event was a great opportunity to get the community involved in the preservation of native bushland.

"Jane Brook is teaming with natural beauty, and it has always been Mirvac's intention to deliver Highland Reserve in an eco-friendly manner, so that residents and the wider community can make the most of this special place," he said.

"It's fantastic to see staff and residents lending a hand to help improve this area, and it's also a unique opportunity for the students to get hands-on experience when it comes to environmental management.

"More than two thirds of trees across the 65ha Highland Reserve site have been retained and we plan to plant an extra 15,000 trees."



Students Dylan Stearne and Ada Grealish, Mirvac's Andrea Ahern and Jane Brook Community Association's Mathew Merson.