

Plantation 1617 Sowing Day Thursday 31 April 2016



Well a wonderful day has come and gone!

The day dawned cloudy but clear of rain and easy of wind. Up the hill came Peter Stewart, sowing person extraordinaire, from the Bushcare Department at Albany City Council.

Peter came loaded with goodies to flutter the heart of any environmentalist. Tucked up in the tray of his lorry were seed trays, potting mix, labels and a most wonderful array of local vegetation seeds. That combined with Peter's know how established the basis of a solid day's sowing by the students of Albany Primary School.

Once the gear was set up, out came the classes beginning with the PrePrimaries, then the Kindy, then on through the years until everyone had a chance to sow seeds for Plantation 1617. With Peter at the helm, very capable student councillors assisting (Amity, Damon, Montanna, Lila, Sudarshan and Finn) and hundreds of enthusiastic students a great day was underway.

Plantation 1617 is so called because it will take 2016 and 2017 to complete the project. Over this time we plan to turn the grassed embankment on the north side of the service road into a mini forested ecosystem. This transformation should encourage the return of a species diversity based on plants local to the area, and with this diversity may come birds, reptiles and marsupials. Taken together this should make the school grounds more diverse of flora and fauna, and more pleasing to the eye aesthetically.

Peter proved himself to be an excellent teacher of how to sow seeds and the student councillors matched his standards. Peter explained some of the particular points about various seeds such as how insects are attracted to them and how seeds settle in to the soil when in the bush. Throughout a very productive day the students at Albany Primary School sowed over 5000 seeds. Yes, 5000!! That means that on average each student sowed over 10 seeds. What a wonderful effort!

On day's end, Peter packed up the newly planted seeds and took them off to the Albany City Council nursery where they will be nurtured for about 15 months. Following this time they will be returned to Albany Primary School and the successful plants will be planted into the site.

We are very fortunate to have such a supportive council through the auspices of Mark Ford and most generous and knowledgeable person in the form of Peter Stewart to assist us in this project.

