

# Media Release

May 8, 2009



## ForestrySA thanks community forestry volunteers

ForestrySA is thanking the many volunteers who contribute thousands of hours to community forestry annually, as National Volunteer Week 2009 approaches.

ForestrySA Manager Community Programs Peter Spinks oversees and coordinates the activities of up to 60 volunteer groups, which have engaged more than 1200 individuals this year to date.

Works undertaken by these groups include building infrastructure such as board walks and bird hides, restoration of heritage buildings, trail maintenance and fauna surveys.

“Volunteer and community programs contribute more than 30,000 hours to ForestrySA conservation and recreation programs annually,” Mr Spinks said.

ForestrySA also runs a volunteer program, encouraging community involvement in forest programs.

“Friends of the Forest” is a volunteer program designed to provide opportunities for community participation in conservation, heritage and recreation projects, and volunteer management,” Mr Spinks said.

Green Corps – Young Australians for the Environment – is another volunteer program which ForestrySA works closely with.

The program is a Federal Government youth development and environmental training initiative designed for people aged between 17 and 20 years, which provides opportunities to help conserve, preserve and restore Australia’s natural environment and cultural heritage.

School groups are also involved in ForestrySA community forestry programs and have been involved in establishing biodiversity corridors, collecting and propagating seed, undertaking weed control and breeding native fish.

“ForestrySA is grateful for the continued support and commitment shown by all its volunteers and their extraordinary contribution to the community forestry program,” Mr Spinks said.

*National Volunteer Week will be celebrated across Australia from May 11 to 17.*

**Ends**

**Photograph:** Greencorps volunteers take part in a ForestrySA conservation and recreation program. Photograph courtesy of ForestrySA.

**For more information contact:**

**Laura Thomas  
Coordinator Communications  
ForestrySA  
Mount Gambier  
T: 08 8724 2747  
M: 0439 885 705**