

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Junior volunteers help beautify Bethanga**

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An enthusiastic junior workforce in Bethanga managed to plant 120 trees and shrubs along Martins Road at a recent tree-planting day; an experience that has helped local youngsters to grow their appreciation for the environment.

"We wish to thank our junior volunteers, staff members and parents from Bethanga Primary School," said Cr Mary Fraser OAM, Towong Shire Council Mayor. "It has been great to have the local students get involved in Council's vegetation program in Bethanga".

The tree-planting day was part of a progressive three-year program involving the removal of pest plants along the roadsides approaching Bethanga and replacing these with appropriate native species.

Mr David Buntine, Council's Forestry Officer, said that the children, who were armed with spades, shovels, trowels and hammers, brought a contagious enthusiasm with them on the day.

"To some of the students it was a brand-new experience – they had never planted trees and shrubs before," said Mr Buntine. "It was a pleasure to work along with them and see them learn about their local environment".

Bethanga Primary School Principal, Ms Deb Bowman, said that the whole school was able to participate in the tree-planting day.

"We greatly appreciated the chance as a whole school to get out into the beautiful Bethanga surrounds, appreciate our environment and make a difference in our community by giving of our time and energy," she said. "Our students will be able to watch the trees grow and reflect on the great day that was had!"

For more information about Council's vegetation management program in Bethanga, please contact Mr David Buntine on 02 6071 5100.