

MEDIA RELEASE

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FROM SEEDS TO SUCCESS: CITYWIDE COMMUNITY NURSERY HIGHLIGHTED ON PROMINENT GARDENING PROGRAM

Gardening lovers are in for a special treat this weekend when Jane Edmanson from the ABC does a special report on the Citywide operated, Bayside Community Nursery for the ABC program, Gardening Australia.

The segment, featuring Citywide's nursery leading hand and horticultural expert, Carmen Skrobonja, will go on air this Saturday 8th August at 6.30pm and will be repeated again the following day at 1pm, also on the ABC.

It is a beautiful story that highlights the work the nursery has done in propagating local plants and re-establishing them in the local landscape, including some that were thought to be extinct.

Reconstructing ecosystems in the wild

Using technology and advanced germination techniques, Citywide has nurtured dormant plant species back to burgeoning life. The focus is on reviving ecosystems by stimulating plant life.

Seed smoking project

- The Citywide nursery has been working on propagating difficult to germinate species with a seed smoking process – this has seen great achievements in the germination of particular species that were previously very difficult to grow.
- The heath, Victoria's national emblem, is a perfect example of how the seed smoking project has worked. The heath is a seed that will not typically germinate unless in a wildfire – so when seed smoking was used at the nursery to replicate the chemicals produced in a wildfire the seeds flourished. The nursery is now home to a very large population of the plant allowing it to be released to the general public, schools and councils.
- In addition to this, the pink heath, not seen for over 70 years, has also miraculously been reborn inside the Citywide nursery. Attempts will now be made to propagate the plant.

It is a tribute to the hard work and dedication that Carmen and the Citywide team at the nursery have shown, to be recognised on such a prominent gardening program.

For more information on the show, or to download episodes and stories, visit <http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/>

Citywide is a diverse company shaping and maintaining high performance assets. It delivers the full scope of environmental, open space and infrastructure services, supported with expert advice, to government and private enterprise.

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