



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 10 February 09

THE 'GREEN TEAM' KICK OFF IN ORANGE.

First project for the Central West Salinity and Water Quality Alliance with Orange City Council: "Saving the Silver Banksia"

The Central West Green Team has commenced their first environmental project in Orange for the Central West Salinity and Water Quality Alliance, namely a group of Councils who are committed to improving the management of the natural resources of the catchment.

The Central West Salinity and Water Quality Alliance consist of 12 Councils across the Central West Catchment. The councils are Bathurst, Bogan, Cabonne, Coonamble, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Mid Western, Narromine, Orange, Warren, Warrumbungles and Wellington.

The Central West Green Team consists of four skilled staff who will assist Councils to undertake major environmental projects including riparian restoration, wetland rehabilitation, bush regeneration and revegetation.

The Central West Green Team will also work along side Council staff and community groups across the catchment helping to build capacity, practical skills and knowledge of rehabilitation techniques in remnant vegetation throughout the Central West.

Central West CMA Board Member Reg Kidd said, "The CMA has invested \$350,000 to support the Alliance project which has employed the Central West Green Team. This is fantastic opportunity that will benefit the whole catchment, as they will be an invaluable tool for all involved. The works in Orange are just a start of what we expect will be a very productive year of targeted environmental action".

The team commenced their first week of work in the Central West on a project for Orange City Council.

Orange City Councillor, Neil Jones said, "I am pleased to see the Central West Green Team have been engaged to undertake work on an important roadside remnant vegetation community in Berrilee Road. The team have cleared introduced woody weed species such as hawthorn from amongst a small colony of Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)."

The colony of Banksia was identified as being at risk of becoming locally extinct. The site had become highly degraded due to the infestation of hawthorn, cotoneaster and phalaris resulting in severe stress on the mature remnants. Therefore action to remove the infestation from introduced species and to save the Banksia is required.

The Green Team's impressively designed utility will also be on site for the promotion.

ENDS

For Further information:

Central West CMA, Public Relations Officer, Lynne Hawkes: 6363 8605 M: 0428 600 701

Orange City Council, Manager City Presentation, Nigel Hobden on 6393 8241