

**Geographe Community  
Landcare Nursery  
Providing quality local native  
plants to the landcare sector**

Geographe Community Landcare Nursery is celebrating their reopening following a period of COVID closure with an expanded and inspiring new vision. The community-based nursery, based in Busselton is determined to be the first choice provider of native plants and information for landcare projects and the community in the South West Capes region of WA.

Nursery Coordinator, Rod Cary said, 'We are reopening with a renewed drive to produce and supply quality native plants to support the landcare sector and residents in our region. We are passionate about biodiversity protection and by providing quality local provenance species for our area we are doing our bit for the landcare effort'.

The not for profit nursery is a one of hundreds of land and coastcare groups caring for our environment who have signed up as members of the WA Landcare Network, the peak state landcare body established to represent and support community based groups across WA.



*Volunteers transplanting seedlings, lending a hand for landcare*

In 2021 the nursery celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its first order, and the nursery now produces around 150,000 plants and over 500 species of mostly local varieties.

The nursery relies on the dedication of an army of over 100 volunteers to help out with pricking out seedlings dividing reeds, plant maintenance, stock control, pot washing, taking cuttings, soil mixing and even office work.

Volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and abilities including retirees, plant enthusiasts, work for the dole participants, people with disabilities and their carers and students.



Volunteers are also an important workforce which allows the nursery to be open for retail to the local community and to attend community events to promote the nursery and its services

'We are very proud of what the nursery has achieved over the years. Our management committee has been adamant that the nursery remains a not for profit, community based, volunteer driven specialist

***Attending community events is important to promoting the nursery and its services***

grower of local flora. We estimate we have supplied approximately 1.5 million plants over the years, an amazing feat for a community volunteer run, not for profit enterprise', said Rod.

Geographe Community Landcare Nursery not only supplies native plants but also provides information and capacity building activities for the community and the landcare sector about the plants of Busselton and surrounding areas.

'We were lucky to have a new website built in 2020 and now have launched our new Wildflower Wall. The wall provides an excellent online resource for landcare groups and residents to identify native plants for their projects and their gardens. You can view the fabulous photographs of the region's local flora on the Wildflower Wall at [www.qcln.org.au](http://www.qcln.org.au)'.

'The nursery is also a training venue for workshops and guest speakers so the community can come and learn about our special flora. Knowledge sharing with our Aboriginal traditional custodians is also dear to our hearts and central in our community activities wherever possible' added Rod.

Plant research forms an interest of volunteers and staff at the Geographe Community Landcare Nursery. Nursery Assistant and Industrial Chemist, Peter Howe is in charge of seed sowing and is constantly trialling south west species for their suitability to a range of purposes and conditions and undertaking



***Nursery Assistant, Peter Howe is in charge of seed sowing***



ongoing experimentation with species that are more 'difficult' to propagate from seed. Recent trials with Boronia, Lepidosperma, Beyeria, Gahnia, Neurachne, Themeda, Poa, Spinifex, Acanthocarpus, have had encouraging results.

The nursery is also always identifying new applications for their local flora. Interesting new ideas include plants for Aboriginal interpretive and bush tucker gardens, demonstration gardens, nutrient stripping basins, instant landscaping, wild foraging, wildlife habitat creation and for biodiversity/pest projects in vineyards.

Over the years Geographe Community Landcare Nursery has partnered with many local community groups and corporate partners including the Geographe Catchment Council (GeoCatch), a number of Aboriginal groups including Undalup Association, Roelands Village and the Wardan Centre, Busselton Dunsborough Environment Centre, Busselton Volunteer Centre, WaterCorp, City of Busselton, ArtGeo, Tronox, Nannup Friends of the Foreshore and Landsave/ACut.

With the support of their partners significant improvements at the nursery have been realised over the years with ongoing development of gardens and grounds. Bird netting, seeding benches, fencing, toilets, water tanks and irrigation systems have been added along the way. The most recent new growing area provides capacity for 200,000 plants together with a new dispatch area to make picking up plants easier for customers.

Geographe Community Landcare Nursery's plants are available to a range of customers and projects including local government natural areas and gardens, catchment group revegetation projects, private landowners, developers, mining companies, corporate projects and Aboriginal groups.



***Native seeding ready for pick up in the nursery's new dispatch area***

The nursery wholesale list has over 350 species listed as "likely to be available", sent out to regular customers on or before September 30 each year. Discounts are available for orders placed before the end of October each year, and on large orders over 10,000 plants.

The nursery's retail area contains a further 200 species grown in smaller numbers, and/or intermittently. The nursery is now open 5 days a week and the first Saturday of each month 9.00am–3.00pm.

Nursery Coordinator, Rod Cary encouraged landcare groups and corporates to get in touch to discuss their plant needs, and residents to take a look at the wonderful native plants available for their gardens. 'We love the fact that biodiversity is valued in the south west and are keen to assist the community to plant local species wherever they can. Come and have a chat and see how we can help.'

You can find Geographe Community Landcare Nursery 2km south of the Busselton Bypass at 366 Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Ambergate, Busselton. Now open 5 days a week and the first Saturday of each month 9.00am–3.00pm. Contact the nursery on [gcn@westnet.com.au](mailto:gcn@westnet.com.au) or 0429 644 885.

Find out more on Geographe Community Landcare Nursery's website [www.gcn.org.au](http://www.gcn.org.au) and follow them on social media @geographecommunitylandcarenursery.



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*Native plants from South West Australia*

This article was produced with the assistance of the WA Landcare Network's Landcare Story Campaign generously funded by the WA Government's State Natural Resource Management Program.



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