



COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

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Media release

STF: Good for the environment, great for local communities

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Students and their families from Wagin District High School took part in a major planting of 26.2 hectares of *Acacia accuminata* at Daradine, 30kms West of Wagin, raising \$4,200 for their school at the same time.

Taking place on 28 June 2008, the areas planted by the Wagin students formed part of a four-farm planting under the Strategic Tree Farming (STF) project, with the combined farms creating an additional timber resource covering 102 ha.

Coordinated by Assistant Operations Officer Paul Love from the FPC's Collie office and Melanie Capper from Wagin Primary School, the students and their families were engaged to undertake the planting on behalf of landowners and Tracy and Brad Wooldridge.

The Forest Products Commission's Strategic Tree Farming project, gives farmers access to tailor-made tree farming options designed to deliver environmental, economic and social benefits in rural in medium rainfall areas.

"One of the unique opportunities provided by the STF program is the opportunity for landholders to earn additional income from tree crops, not just at the establishment phase but throughout the lifecycle of this important environmental asset," said Greg Hodgson, Manager of FPC's Collie office.

"Tracy and Brad, whose own children go to Wagin District High, were generous enough to pass on the income they would have earned from planting these trees to their local school, thereby helping their students with their education and personal development."

Teacher Melanie Capper noted the benefits of the program to her Year Seven students. "Thanks to the FPC's STF program and the generosity of Tracy and Brad Wooldridge, we've been able to provide our local students an enhanced learning experience through becoming directly involved in and understanding the environmental benefits of land regeneration projects first hand."

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"I was also impressed with the hard work and efforts put in by the both children and parents on the day, without whose tireless efforts we would have been unable to achieve such a fantastic result."

The monies raised by Wagin District High School will be used for an upcoming school camp in Margaret River later this year.

For more information contact:
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Information to media outlets:

Pictures are available to accompany this article, details as follows:

- Students from Wagin District High School, moving from one planting site to another on quad bike at the Wooldridge farm, 30km W of Wagin.
- Students and parents getting ready to commence planting at the Wooldridge farm, 30km W of Wagin.