



Treefest - 1993

Louise Hufton¹ outlines why Treefest was an important event in the Harden Murrumburrah area.

“In October, 1993 the Murrumburrah High School incorporated running the 2nd National Treefest with the Murrumburrah High School Environment Field Days (commenced in 1989) as a way of extending an educational opportunity to the whole community not just the students attending the school, on the ‘How, when, where, why’ of tree and understory establishment and all matters relating. The Murrumburrah High School was able to gain support from a diverse group of people to assist them to hold the National Treefest in conjunction with their already operating Field Days. These included Greening Australia, Harden Murrumburrah Landcare, Landcare Australia, NSW Agriculture, Department of Land and Water Conservation, State Forests, Murrumburrah High School Staff, Harden District Rural Advisory Service, Advance Harden Murrumburrah Association and many other local organisations. Funding was given both in kind and cash by numerous organisations including Incitec, Monsanto, Rural Press, NSW Tree Forum, Telstra Australia, Southwest Electricity, Prime TV, ABC Radio, Harden Shire Council and NSW Farmers. Over 10,000 people left this event gaining as much information as they required on tree establishment and management to bush tucker and everything in between.

The level of awareness of the environment and human impact on the environment has risen considerably within the community due to the holding of the National Treefest in Harden and the various other programs the school run. The Harden Shire Council has commenced a roadside tree planting programme to assist in lowering rising water tables, a Towncare group has evolved tackling environmental issues in the town, primary schools have commenced tree and understory plantings within their own school grounds, tree planting and its benefits have increased within the rural community.”

¹ Louise Hufton is Coordinator of the Harden Murrumburrah Landcare Group