

## Innovative greening program completed



• Getting work ready through the Fitzgibbon Chase revegetation project are (L-R) Alan Hay, Chris Butler, Eldin Musa, Henryk Szuster. Absent from the photo: Rod Brash and SEED manager Tom Campbell.

AN INNOVATIVE green thumb project that involved the planting of more than 15,000 trees at Fitzgibbon Chase was completed recently.

Under the guidance of the Urban Land Development Authority (ULDA) the bund, which is a 1.3 kilometre long earth mound between Roghan and Telegraph Roads, was revegetated by workers from Sandgate Enterprise Economic Development (SEED).

SEED provide training opportunities for people who have been excluded from the labour market and need a helping hand to find work.

SEED manager Tom Campbell said the 15,000 trees planted by five participants would ensure soil integrity and maintain the bund as a flood mitigation barrier.

"The project took a total of 12 weeks and included 1000 seedlings purchased from Aspley Special School and most others bought from an Eatons Hill Nursery," he said.

Deputy premier and minister for local government Paul Lucas, who was expected to visit the bund in September, said the project was providing important community benefits.

"Fitzgibbon Chase continues to deliver positive outcomes for the community by delivering social benefits through training and employment," he said.

SEED manager Steve Williams said the firm was proud to be involved with the project.

"Opportunities like this prove that intelligent tendering processes can gain both economic employment for local people (who were) otherwise excluded from the workforce," he said.

Mr Campbell said the work experience participants had gained a range of horticultural skills and were now ready for the workforce.

## National program provides boost for local schools' energy efficiency

NORTHSIDE schools have the opportunity to improve their energy efficiency and save water thanks to the federal government's \$25 million National Solar Schools Program.

Primary and secondary schools across Australia can now apply for funding with the 2011-12 application.

Federal member for Lilley Wayne Swan said the National Solar Schools Program provided local schools the opportunity to become more sustainable as well as have students learn about energy use and the renewable energy sector firsthand.

"The National Solar Schools Program helps schools take practical action to combat climate change and up-skill our students for the world of tomorrow," Mr Swan said.

Under the National Solar Schools Program, grants of up to \$50,000 are

awarded to eligible primary and secondary schools to install solar and other renewable power systems, rainwater tanks and a range of energy efficiency measures.

More than 2800 schools across the nation have already been funded thanks to the National Solar Schools Program - more than 93 percent of these projects included solar power systems.

"In our local area Padua College and Stafford Heights State School have already received funding under the 2010-11 round of the program," Mr Swan said.

Details on the National Solar School program are available at the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency site [www.climatechange.gov.au/nationalsolarschools](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/nationalsolarschools)

Schools can also contact the National Solar Schools Program on their hotline 1800 703 831.

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## Hats and fascinators feature at a 'high tea' in Geebung



• Hats and fascinators were worn by 108 women and a few men to a 'high tea' and fashion parade at the Geebung-Zillmere RSL recently. Local residents raised money for Mummy's Wish, a charity for mothers with cancer, while enjoying continental petit fours and finger sandwiches cooked by the club's pastry chef Peter Fardos. Businesses Lady Claire Fashions, UnderCover Wear and The Fashion Hut treated the guests to the fashion show. Geebung-Zillmere RSL marketing manager Holly Hansen said they were very thankful for the local support and the donated raffle prizes. "The morning was a great success and we were able to raise \$572 for Mummy's Wish..." The club will hold another high tea event on Thursday, November 24.



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