

March 9, 2017

## **World first planting at newly constructed demonstration gardens**



(From left) Mayor Matt Burnett, State Member for Gladstone Glenn Butcher, member of the Gladstone Group for Native Plants Queensland Ruth Crosson and Federal Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd plant the first Yarwun Whitewood tree at this morning's event.

The new arboretum will be available for viewing once the demonstration gardens open to the public in 2018.

The Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Gardens this morning hosted a world first by planting a Yarwun Whitewood arboretum at the newly constructed demonstration gardens.

Yarwun Whitewood or *Atalaya collina*, an endangered species, is a small tree of up to six to seven metres which hosts small flowers and single seeded fruits.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said today's event was a credit to the collaborative work of the Gardens' Nursery Team, led by curator Brent Braddick, and Council's Conservation Team.

"Over the last 15 months the two teams have used their experience to propagate 400 plants to help regenerate the endangered species." Councillor Burnett said.

Council's Environment and Community Services Committee Chair Councillor Cindi Bush said although the first Yarwun Whitewood plant was discovered on a Yarwun property in 1982, it remained an endangered species with less than ten mature plants on record.

"Land clearing, grazing, insects and fires have impacted the tree population but the species had a very viable seed, was drought tolerant and could handle poor soils," Cr Bush said.

"The demonstration gardens are similar to the species' natural environment which means the plants should come to fruition in the coming years.

"The teams have also identified several other regional areas where the propagated plants can successfully regenerate."

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**MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's Communications and Marketing Section on 4977 6803 or [media@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au](mailto:media@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au)**