

Media Release: (for release Friday 17th April 2009)

VICTORIAN GRASSLAND RESTORATION VOTED 'WORLD CLASS'

A cross-Tasman expert panel has just announced the top 25 outstanding ecological restoration projects being undertaken in Australian and New Zealand. **The Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project, managed by Greening Australia**, is included on this prestigious list

“Like in so many other fields, there is world class ecological restoration in Australia and New Zealand, Craig Copeland, a member of the selection panel, said. “ and we wanted to showcase the very high-quality work going on in Australasia to provide examples for others to follow and to make a difficult job a little bit easier.

“We’re thrilled that the Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project was included as one of the top 25 outstanding ecological restoration projects being undertaken in Australian and New Zealand. This project is working to transform the wildflower grassland landscape of which the last 1% is on the brink of extinction in Victoria.” Project Manager, Paul Gibson Roy said.

Seventeen projects were selected from nominations sent from all over Australia, with 8 projects selected from New Zealand. The Australian shortlist includes projects from areas as diverse as the Murray-Darling Catchment, the Great Barrier Reef, the Kimberly, South-west Western Australia, Atherton Tablelands, The Snowy Mountains and Tasmania.

Paul Gibson Roy stated, “Our project restores these grassland communities, in collaboration with landholders, to return non-productive agricultural land to the quality of the existing wildflower grassland remnants. The project has benefitted greatly from collaboration with landholders, conservation organisations, research students and community members across a large section of south western Victoria.”

The 18-month search for the top projects was initiated by Ecological Management & Restoration (EMR), the management-oriented journal of the Ecological Society of Australia, and the Society for Ecological Restoration International (SER International), the world’s premier restoration body. The specialist panel was made up of two ecology professors, two restoration specialists, a consulting ecologist and the EMR journal’s editor.

For more information please click on:

<http://www.globalrestorationnetwork.org/countries/australianew-zealand/australia>

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BACKGROUND

Grassy Groundcover Restoration Project, (GGRP) VIC. –
Project leader Paul Gibson-Roy.

This project has set up 13 widely separated demonstration sites in Victoria’s (and perhaps Australia’s) most threatened plant community – temperate grasslands. The GGRP has demonstrated for the first time under Australian conditions that it is possible to reconstruct these communities on bare-field sites. It has also established techniques for seed production that will enable direct-seeding to occur at scale without impacting negatively on existing remnant populations. (Jointly partnered by Greening Australia (Victoria) and The University of Melbourne)

www.greeningaustralia.org.au/our-solutions/biodiversity/grassy-groundcover