



Baldvís Children's Forest ambassadors Courtney Brown and Brianna Stout with Brand MHR Gary Gray and feral bee control supervisor Joe Tonga. Picture: Neil Mulligan  
www.communitypk.com.au c828914

## Grant a buzz for kids' forest

THE Baldvís Children's Forest project can continue vital revegetation and feral bee control work thanks to a \$20,000 Federal Government grant.

Project co-ordinator Jo Tregonning said the funding, part of the Community Action grants scheme, was a huge boost for the Children's Forest.

The Children's Forest is a 20ha area of bushland on Mandurah Road.

It includes remnant tuart woodlands and a portion of the wetland Outridge Swamp.

In 2000, the site was chosen for revegetation after concerns raised by students about the clearing of bushland in the Baldvís district.

Each year students from the area take part in a range of different projects, including native tree planting and educational workshops, to help protect and maintain the forest.

"It costs between \$80,000 and \$100,000 a year to keep this project running so this grant is tremendous for us," she said.

The Children's Forest has also become a haven for displaced wildlife.

Joe Tonga, who oversees feral bee control work for Natsync Environmental, said it was important to continue the program to ensure the safety of these animals.

"Feral bees are important, but if not controlled they can pose a real threat to native wildlife," he said.

Brand MHR Gary Gray described the Children's Forest as a wonderful asset for the community.

KYAC members are young people aged between 12 and 25 and form part of a Statewide youth initiative to speak on behalf of their peers by liaising with the local government and holding monthly meetings to discuss youth progress in Kwinana.

Kwinana Mayor Carol Adams encouraged young people to take advantage of the opportunity.

"It is important for everyone to take note of the opinions of the younger people in our community and this is a great chance for the town's youth to be heard on a large scale," she said.

Meetings are held every fortnight at the Darius Building from 4 to 5pm, with the next meeting on Wednesday, February 24. Call Natalie Bell on 9439 0274.

### NEWS PACK

**EASY AS ABC:** The City of Rockingham has 10 prize packs to give to sporting clubs that promote the Act-Belong-Commit program. Application forms are available at the council office.

**NEW LAW:** People will have more of a say under new State laws to give competent adults the right to document their future wishes to consent to or refuse medical treatments.