MEDIA RELEASE **January 2004**

Kids go green with the Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program

Throughout 2003 hundreds of schools and youth groups across Australia have participated in the *Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program* to help fund their environmental projects that include revegetation, habitat restoration, waste and recycling campaigns, land and water conservation.

To-date the program has contributed $200,000 to assist more than 340 environmental projects across Australia. These projects falls within one of more of the following categories: water, waste/recycling, energy, air, land and biodiversity.

With hundreds of applications for funding received, and 97 per cent success rate for grants approved, the *Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program* has proven to be simple way to start a new environmental program or develop and progress existing projects.

Application forms are available on the Landcare Australia and Mitre 10 websites (www.landcareaustralia.com.au or www.mitre10.com.au) or by phoning Landcare Australia on 1800 151 105.

The closing dates for the 2004 Grant applications are as follows:

- Round One: 26th February 2004
- Round Two: 20th May 2004
- Round Three: 29th July 2004
- Round Four: 21st October 2004

Developed by Landcare and Mitre 10 Australia, the *Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program* is one of Australia's largest action-oriented environmental education programs.

Grant applications are expected to have a value of up to $500 and are more likely to be successful if they:

- involve the school community or broader local community;
- have determined educational outcomes with an environmental focus;
- are well planned and documented;
- link with a community Landcare group; and
- are student-oriented and allow maximum student involvement.

Successful applicants are expected to spend the funds within the calendar year that it's received however the actual project may be ongoing.

Landcare Australia Chief Executive Officer, Brian Scarsbrick, said the *Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program* will help develop an environmental ethic amongst thousands of young Australians.

"Recent studies have shown that people involved in Landcare during childhood are more likely to be environmentally responsible adults," Mr Scarsbrick said.

"The nature of the *Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program* encourages ownership through involvement, as kids not only learn how to help care for our environment but are provided with the resources to participate in local Landcare projects," he said.

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