

We The People  
Program 355 September 16, 2019  
We the People 355 A New Green Future



**Good Day to you.** A few weeks ago I went to the Numinbah Valley for a tree planting day. Organised by the **Gold Coast Catchment Association** and it turned out to be a real eye-opener and for a number of reasons. The thing that often surprises me is the number of people and groups on the Gold Coast who are trying to preserve the environment and improve the future for the next generation, many of whom battle the Council and Bureaucracy and the development industry in a David and Goliath affair where good governance should not allow this imbalance. This tree-planting day was proof positive that good people are those who care for nature and believe as I do, that without a healthy environment we the people of Earth are in deep trouble. So today let me share a little about this green adventure which was promoted as the **2019 Gold Coast Biggest Tree Planting Day and family event.**

The Gold Coast Catchment Association is an initiative of the people with its genesis around 15 years ago. The President, Wal Mayr told me that these tree plantings are an annual event and this year the first sponsorship by **Seqwater** which had acquired the land. I should add that **Seqwater and the Catchment people** did a sensational job of organising the event and by any measure the day was a tremendous success. The purpose was to offset some of the tree and vegetation loss experienced by the rising waters of the upper reaches of the Nerang River because the Hinze Dam level was raised some 9 years ago thus doubling the water storage capacity. On the day 15,000 trees and natives were planted by 1200 volunteers on the newly acquired 800 hectare site also providing a natural linkage between the Springbrook and the Lamington National Parks. We are blessed to have these wilderness areas and the flora and fauna which survive there. We set off from Robina with the grandchildren securely lashed in the Pajero and 45 minutes later we were in paradise along with a huge crowd of other willing helpers. Jasmine at just 2.5 and Amelia at 5 were kitted out with gloves and trowels provided by **Seqwater** and then past the stage area and exhibitions and environmental stands into a very large previously established cattle-grazing paddock. The huge crowd were all very friendly, I guess because we were all there for the same reason, while an unknown lady and I had decided wandering around with buckets of water was our purpose in life. We chatted away, yet I never knew her name but it didn't matter and how good is that. The two little ones soon got the hang of it although I will admit their removal of the seedling stock was a little daunting to watch at times but we managed and didn't lose a plant. This was the real enduring value in the day to see the many young ones taking an interest and planting trees and natives and it's a lesson that will stay with them for life.

The Gold Coast Catchment Association is the umbrella organisation for community groups who are involved in the hands on restoration, maintenance and protection of the Gold Coast's natural areas. They also run their own programs and events that help educate and engage people with the environment. Ultimately they are about helping the community do something real and meaningful. Importantly they support the "doers" who plant trees, remove weeds, care for native animals and clean up our waterways and monitor the health of our environment. My congratulations to all and especially **Wal and Heather Mayr, Steven Gill and their very competent manager and organiser Rosalinde Brinkman** plus of course so many unsung heroes. Apart from the magic of the day the outstanding moment for me occurred when it was announced that local Platypus sightings had just revealed 22 animals close by and my heart sang. I encourage all listeners to go the **Catchment Association web site** and sign up for the many activities and events and do your bit for our environment or as Wal would say "become a doer".

**Until Next time this is Kent Bayley**

