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# From gross to grassy

By Cassandra Slaughter

**With a little bit of TLC, a neglected area at Vansittart Park has turned from an eyesore into an environmental hub.**



The Mount Gambier community welcomed a new biodiversity project on Monday when the Cross-border Community Nursery was officially opened.

The nursery will be run by The Nature Glenelg Trust, a locally based environmental organisation which aims to work with hard-to-propagate species required for regional revegetation projects.

Manager of the Nature Glenelg Trust, Mark Bachmann, has welcomed the support from the Mount Gambier region and surrounding areas.

"We are really excited to be able to run this project in such a fantastic location.

"It is a significant day for the project and we are proud to have the site open on time," he said.

The project, which is funded by the Federal Government, is being run by the Nature Glenelg Trust with the support of the City of Mount Gambier Council and other organisations.

Nature Glenelg Trust has assured commercial growers the nursery will not take away valued customers.

"We are significantly different from other nurseries as we are specifically growing plants that are not currently being grown commercially.

"We are not looking at doing any commercial growers out of a job and we appreciate the trust that they have shown in us and the project," Mr Bachmann said.

Project coordinator, Ken Baker, has been growing seedlings since May.

He thinks the placement of the nursery will be perfect for engaging the community.

"This site is perfect because it has a high public profile.

"We want to set it up as an environmental hub to educate

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Freshly planted seedlings flourish for opening of cross-border nursery in Mount Gambier (Cassandra Slaughter - ABC)

and to share knowledge," Mr Baker said.

The nursery is looking for volunteers and hopes to establish a 'Friends of the Community Nursery'.

"People are welcome to pop-in for a cup of tea, we can talk about plants and how to get involved.

"We want to bring together local knowledge and scientific knowledge so we can share it in the region and across borders as well," said Mr Baker.

Opening times for community volunteers to assist at the nursery will be established over the coming weeks.

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