

Report on grants received by ReForest Now

Stronger Communities Programme Round 5 (Project STCO78251) and The Mana Movement



Building a new volunteer potting up area and rainforest tree production



To our donors with the Australian Government and The Mana Movement,

2020 has been a challenging year for us, with covid-19 shutting down our volunteer nursery and tree planting program for some months. Despite the economic situation, we have continued to grow and now support 13 local staff. Some of these staff we have been able to absorb had lost their jobs elsewhere due to Covid-19's effect on the economy.

We have grown 600% since last financial year which has meant that constraints in production, such as; a limited potting area and limited staffing for tree production in 2019 meant an expenditure of \$44, 000.00 alone in 2020 buying in trees from other nurseries for our work. What your grants have allowed us to do is increase our internal economy, so that we can employ more people for more hours, instead of being forced to outsource at commercial rates for our not for profit works.

We hope you are happy with each of the deliverables, note the entire area you will see in the below photos was built fully with your funding and our in-kind contributions.

**Please note that ReForest Now is preparing a video for release later in the month that will credit both SCP5 and The Mana Movement for your contributions towards our expanded nursery capacity.*

SCP5 GRANT - Project Aim

Below copied directly from our SCP round 5 grant application are the deliverables we promised.

Main purpose of the money:

1. alterations and/or extensions to existing premises - increasing the size and usability of the volunteer space (the area between the tunnels/potting up area) to include a larger potting up bench.
2. alterations and/or extensions to existing premise - more benches and shelves in the area, larger undercover area
3. Chairs and tables for the volunteers to sit and relax.
4. Tiles on the ground where the volunteers stand.
5. Purchasing of assets: Gloves and shovels for volunteers
6. the purchase of materials required to complete eligible project activities: soil to last 6 months

Items to be purchased (\$5,000.00 budget):

1. Potting up bench including legs of bench (to remove drums beneath existing bench).
2. Tiles for flooring (cement tiles in volunteer area, middle area, and new back area).
3. Additional awning (to cover volunteers and new volunteer community space).
4. Chairs and table.
5. Gloves and shovels.
6. Soil for 6 months.

Project Outcome Part I: Building the new potting area.

Attributed to **Stronger Communities Round 5** and **The Mana Movement**.

The outcome achieved has been far more extensive than originally planned. We built a new potting area entirely.



Overview - the outcome achieved includes all visible assets, minus the white structure left.

1. Reinforced rainproof cover.
2. Second-hand corrugated iron roof and work area (right).
3. 2.5 cubic meter soil bay with tarpaulin cover (rear right).
4. Giant 14 station volunteer potting bench (rear).
5. Covered table and chairs (front).
6. Outdoor lunch table and chairs (not in frame).
7. Weed matt retained, pebbled work area with plinths (ground).



1. Reinforced rainproof cover. Our previous potting area was made solely of recycled tip materials and was protected against sun but not against rain. This reduced work days at the nursery as often as it rained. It meant the first half of each year was always very limited for nursery work. The new cover is approx. 10 meters by 10 meters in area covered, providing more than adequate sun and rain protection to keep staff and volunteers on the job.

2. Second-hand corrugated iron roof and work area. This additional bench was produced to provide a weatherproof station adjacent to the new soil bay, where workers can process seeds, label plants or refer to texts. It is also designed so that several bags of soil draining perlite can be stored underneath.

3. 2.5 cubic meter soil bay with tarpaulin cover.

Our new bay was built sturdy at 3.6m wide, by 1.8 m deep. It is reinforced to last and can hold 3 times the soil of our old bay. The new cover will protect soil when it rains. We also refitted an old water pipe and second-hand washing up sink for use by volunteers.



Despite deciding not to take volunteers during covid, we still installed instructional signage in case people came by.



4. Giant 14 station volunteer potting bench. The old ReForest Now potting bench could take 3 people comfortably at a time, considerably limiting the intense rush of potting up that is possible when 20 volunteers visit the nursery at the same time.

The new bench built with your funding was designed to ergonomically suit people shorter than 5 foot 9 on the low area about the sides and front and over 6 foot in the high area at the rear. Josh (pictured) is 6 foot 3 (note how low, the low bench is for him – but perfectly suitable for about 2 out of 3 visitors).

Viewing the workstation where he stands, one can easily imagine 14 people working around the whole structure. It is built of pine logs, weather treated ply with aluminium rounding's and is reinforced underneath.

With a work area this size, considerable production capacity has been possible. *This will be discussed later in the document in more detail.



5. Covered table and chairs.

In our application we suggested that we would build a table and chairs for volunteers. Instead we have opted for two. The first (left) for use on rainy days.

This is placed adjacent to the potting bench so that staff and volunteers can land here and place their things if they are potting up all day.

6. Outdoor lunch table and chairs.

Our second table and chairs were built outside to be enjoyed on sunny days, still providing a little shade for variability. Combined, these provide seating for 10 people thus far. We are still planning to add a few chairs for big volunteer days.





7. Weed matt retained, pebbled work area with plinths

Our old nursery area was always wet and muddy, making it harder to attract volunteers to work or stay for very long. Our entirely new area was surfaced with heavy duty weed matt, plinthed and staked and then covered with attractive pebbles. Excess water generated by nurseries duties never accumulates here as it does in other parts of the site and this is perhaps the most important new asset. A dry pleasant workspace.

Part II : What has been done with the new potting area.
Attributed to **The Mana Movement.**

The completion of the new potting area coincided with the development of a new 200 square meter nursery tunnel (funded by Patagonia and SCCU). This was completely empty two weeks ago, from the time of writing 14th July, 2020. With the support of The Mana Movement, we have been able to pot on **8, 668** rainforest trees at the new potting bench.

These include species such as;

Black bean, red cedar, pencil cedar, sweet pittosporum, macaranga, cudgerie, native ginger, cordyline, lomandra, blue quandong, brown kurrajong, red kamala, yellow kamala, lilly pilly, cheese tree, bleeding heart, hoop pine, plum pine and more.



New nursery tunnel (funded by Patagonia and SCCU) now one third full of seedlings potted up at the new area, funded by SCP5 and The Mana Movement



Brown kurrajongs at our nursery, only weeks old. These are pioneer trees that will help establish rainforest canopy and reclaim our natural environment.

Each tree we grow ourselves at this size (70mm supatube) is about \$3.50 to \$4.50 per tree that we save.

As ReForest Now plants trees at \$5.00 per tree as a genuine not for profit, we must grow our own trees to be financially viable.

Your contributions have already allowed us to produce trees to a market value of over \$30, 000.00 AUD. This is money we can save on commercial costs and instead spend it on creating more jobs and engaging volunteers.

Budgets and Expenditure

The total expenditure on this project from all listed sources is \$13, 689.41 AUD.

New potting area budget

Labour	Spent
Construction	\$ 6,250.00
Potting up	\$ 2,520.00
Seed collection	\$ 455.00
Equipment	
Waterproof covering	\$ 369.00
Tools and expendables (nuts, bolts, screws, brackets, etc)	\$ 215.00
Bracing steel	\$ 110.00
Plinthing	\$ 270.00
Form ply, pine poles, structural timbers	\$ 980.41
Materials	
Soil	\$ 780.00
Fertilizer	\$ 415.00
Pebble stone	\$ 590.00
Ground plastic	\$ 80.00
Table resin (to seal ply)	\$ 405.00
Second hand tables	\$ 250.00
Total Expenditure	\$ 13,689.41
Stronger Communities Round 5 Contribution	\$ 5,000.00
The Mana Movement Contribution	\$ 5,000.00
ReForest Now In-Kind Contribution	\$ 3,689.41

These new developments you've supported mean that we can increase nursery work hours, volunteer engagement capacity, invite organized groups and increase tree production.

In 2020 alone RN has spent \$44, 000.00 on buying in trees from commercial operations that we didn't have the capacity to produce ourselves. Now, we have a considerable workstation to produce trees from, thanks to you.

If you'd like a tour of the upgrades please contact us on info@reforestnow.org.au or +61415 134 941.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maximo Bottaro', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maximo Bottaro - President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Martin', written in a cursive style.

Michael Martin – Vice President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zia Flook', written in a cursive style.

Zia Flook – Director, Partnerships and Communications