

Project News



Message from the Director



Hello and welcome to the first edition of the GHEMS newsletter, "Project News". This newsletter will be a regular feature and we hope to use it to share information on our projects and a range of environmental issues. This first issue will provide a brief look at a selection of our current projects.

By way of introduction, GHEMS Revegetation Environmental is a relatively new company focused on project management, consulting and contracting.

While the company itself is new, our personnel draw on over 30 years experience in revegetation and environmental industry providing a deep understanding of a wide range of issues in the field.

We currently have projects in a range of locations within WA from forestry in Esperance, to infrastructure projects in the Perth and Geraldton areas, and mining throughout West Australia. Internationally GHEMS is involved in mining projects in New Caledonia and Indonesia. GHEMS is able to effectively manage this spread of projects through recruitment and training of local staff with ongoing coordination and central support. Through these means GHEMS is able to grow the business in a way that allows our staff to give every client and project the attention and time it requires.

Personally, I am very proud to be associated with and lead a team of focused and dedicated professionals whose expertise and skills have contributed to our current success. Clients can rest assured that this high level of technical support and service will be ongoing.

Greg Hill
Managing Director

Leading supplier of Australian native seeds

GHEMS specialist seed collection team has an intimate knowledge of native bushland and understorey species, enabling us to provide both provenance and non-provenance seed for various projects.

Dave Heyhoe (pictured left inspecting seed with our Senior Environmental Scientist Dr Markus Mikli) has been involved for the last two years in the collection of provenance seed for use in the rehabilitation works associated with the Geraldton Southern Transport Corridor project. Dave's experience as both a Geraldton local and a qualified environmental scientist has been invaluable in this seed collection area covered by the City of Geraldton and the Shires of Dandaragan and Greenough.

David has since taken on the role of Project Superintendent of the rehabilitation works for the project and more details on this project will be included in upcoming issues.

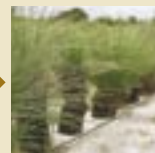


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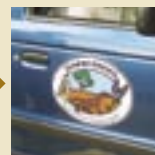
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Training and Career Development

Services

- Rehabilitation and revegetation
- Environmental planning and consulting
- Native seed recovery
- Bio-diversity reporting
- Forestry establishment and management
- Mulching and erosion control

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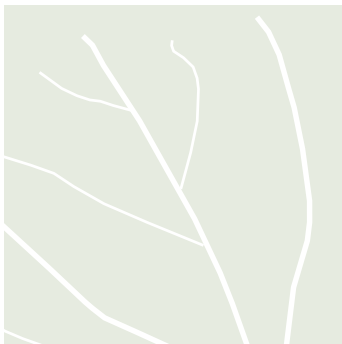
Project: Grass Trees and Zamia Palm Salvage Operation, WA 2004-2005

Client: Rail Link Joint Venture



This project was the largest commercial Grass Tree (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*) and Zamia Palm (*Macrozamia riedlei*) salvage operation of this type, where a recovery of a remnant bushland is concerned. A final count confirmed that 5,000 Grass Trees and 3,500 Zamia Palms were removed from areas to be cleared for the Rail Link project.

Before translocation took place, weed management and intensive soil preparations were performed at the site where the Zamias and Grass Trees would temporarily reside. Selected plants were then taken from key points along the project area where population numbers were plentiful, and appeared to be healthy. All of the Zamia Palms had their fronds removed, which left only bulbs to be placed into the ground, and the Grass Trees were heavily pruned.



Throughout all stages of the operation, all aspects were undertaken in a very efficient manner, using best management practices, as strict time constraints had to be adhered to. Dieback issues were also of a concern, and were dealt with by transplanting the species into categorised areas separated by a minimum distance of twenty metres.

This project was both challenging and rewarding, and the results of the various processes have proven very effective as survival rates are an extraordinary 95%.

Management Team at GHEMS

Greg Hill
Managing Director

Phil Kirby
Manager
MBA

Llew Broun
Senior Project Manager
B.Sc. Env. Sc. (Honours)

Dr Markus Mikli
Senior Environmental Scientist
B.Sc. (Biol.), PGDip (Nat. Resources),
PhD (Curtin Uni.)

Training and Career Development

Training is a key component of the development of staff at GHEMS. This commitment to training is demonstrated in our involvement with various universities and the ongoing training undertaken by our staff. Dr Markus Mikli (right) is pictured here with Greg Henderson a Curtin University undergraduate undertaking seed viability testing. By keeping updated with new research we are able to pass on the benefits of the new information to our clients.



GHEMS employs a range of seed preparation techniques including dormancy breaking methods, threshing, scarification, de-hulling and cleaning. We can now offer viability testing for our clients.

New Caledonia

GHEMS has been providing environmental consulting and revegetation services since 2000. More recently, GHEMS has been employed to demonstrate for new mine development revegetation and sediment control techniques. The company drew on all its skills in prescribing these treatments for the unique soil and environmental conditions present in the northern providence of New Caledonia. This region has a distinctive native flora which requires proven methodologies for successful revegetation. Tried sustainable and rapid revegetation techniques have been utilised using hydraulically applied seed and mulches, combined with physical surface trapping devices. Successful recruitment of natives is being achieved.



Project: Southern Suburbs Railway – Landscape Works, WA 2004-2009

Client: Rail Link Joint Venture

GHEMS involvement with the Perth to Mandurah Rail Link project extends along the railway from Glen Iris to Mandurah, an area comprising of approximately 110 hectares. Our contract covers the supply of all environmental landscaping and revegetation components such as earthworks, mulching, weed management, planting of tubestock, seeding, application of fertilisers, erosion control, maintenance and monitoring.

Native seedling requirements for this project are significantly large. To this date 113,000 tubestock have already been planted with approximately 387,000 more tubestock to be planted before completion of the project. The final total will be close to 500,000. All tubestock has been obtained from nurseries accredited under the Nursery Industry Accreditation Scheme of Australia.

All GHEMS staff have a good working knowledge of native bushland and understorey species. As a result, seed provided for broadcasting has been collected as close to local provenance as possible and has undergone dormancy breaking pre-treatments where appropriate.

In addition to the duration of the project, maintenance of revegetation works is to be ongoing for three years after completion, which will include both formal and informal monitoring, weed control and further applications of fertiliser.

GHEMS have been flexible in working with a major infrastructure project, where conditions and requirements can evolve over time, and has the capacity to manage projects such as this whilst maintaining our commitments to other large contracts.



GHEMS in Indonesia

GHEMS Indonesian operations are conducted under the banner of our wholly owned Indonesian subsidiary PT GHEMS Enviro. A key component of all of our Indonesian projects is the training and technology transfer we provide for local staff and communities. GHEMS is also keen to utilise local knowledge and technology wherever possible. We currently have two significant projects in South Kalimantan, with both focusing on rather different aspects of GHEMS knowledge base.

Paringin Coal Mine – Here we are providing consulting services as part of the mine closure. This includes the planning and management of a revegetation strategy and revolves around the protection of in-pit ponds as irrigation water from sediment build-up. An integral part of this is the identification and development of appropriate agri-businesses for local communities that provide synergies with greenbelt management.

Adaro Coal Mining – GHEMS is providing comprehensive revegetation contracting works utilising mostly forage trees and improved pasture species to provide rapid erosion and sediment control to an extensive area of 100 hectares this year alone. A hostile, acidic, depleted soil base highlights the majority of this project. The soil is being improved through the hydraulic application of locally produced organic mulch incorporating the seeds. The local community is involved in the manufacture of the mulch and sediment trapping devices utilising various local materials including bamboo.



Tip – Go Organic!



Where difficult soils (i.e. mineral toxicities, extreme pH range and poor structure) are required to support establishing vegetation with good, early health and vigor - **Go Organic!**

Rectifying these plant growth impediments is best conducted using well compounded micro-active mulch. This can be incorporated hydraulically or mechanically into the soil surface for best effect.

Staff movements

This month we will be saying farewell to Boots Kilroy, our multi-skilled “Mr Fixit”.

After nearly two years with GHEMS Boots is heading back over to North Queensland where his family is situated. Boots has been an enormous asset to GHEMS and will be greatly missed. Our best wishes go with him and his wife Judy.

Australian Native Seeds Online

website coming soon...