



# Gelliondale Nursery



*“A fully integrated, state of the art tree breeding and production facility.”*

*community investment*

## STATE OF THE ART NURSERY

HVP and its predecessors have operated a nursery at Gelliondale since 1989.

The 280ha site is located 17km west of Yarram in Gippsland, Victoria and until 2010 had produced all of its plants from bare rooted stock grown in its unique peat soils.

Planning for a 'state of the art' containerised facility began in 2003. With over \$11M of investment, the facility has increased its capacity

from 4 million to 10 million plants per year. Importantly, the proportion of container production compared with bare rooted stock has grown from 25% to 75%, ensuring the plants will have a greater likelihood of survival once in the field.

The facility has substantially enhanced the working conditions on site, increased regional employment, reduced water and chemical usage, improved productivity and ensured the longevity and sustainability of the site as a plantation nursery.



*"This nursery is a great symbol of HVP's commitment to the industry and to Gippsland."*



GELLIONDALE NURSERY HOTOHOUSE

*"HVP would like to acknowledge the support provided by Wellington Shire and the Victorian State Government"*

The recent investment has generated a number of benefits to employees and industry as well as improving the environment and safety conditions of the site.

Employment	<i>Increased regional employment at Yarram</i>
Employee health	<i>Improved worker comfort, keeping dry and warm</i>
Environment	<i>50% reduction in on site water usage</i>
Safety	<i>Reduced manual handling and bending</i>
Capacity	<i>Increase from 4 million to 10 million plants</i>
Survival	<i>Improved "drought tolerant" planting stock</i>
Environment	<i>Reduced chemical usage</i>
Productivity	<i>Modern technology, efficient infrastructure design</i>
Environment	<i>Utilisation of biomass for heating</i>





# NURSERY FEATURES

**01**

## Keeping it in the family

The containerised nursery uses sterilised potting mix derived from pine bark residue left over from timber and paper manufacturing processes. This means reduced pressure on the natural and unique peat soils at the site and reduces the incidence of weeds and diseases within the nursery.

**02**

## Choosing the right container

In partnership with Transplant Systems, HVP developed a new plant tray specifically designed to accommodate pine cuttings whilst ensuring the ergonomic needs of planting crews were considered. Each cell is designed with a combination of air gaps and ridgelines to restrict roots from spiralling. When ready for planting, each tree is primed for prolific lateral root growth.

**04**

## Saving precious water

The new nursery facility has reduced water usage on site by over 50% due to the use of overhead booms. The nursery utilises bore water and this application method provides the opportunity to produce an improved overall environment for the plants.

**05**

## Keeping healthy

The nursery is fitted with roller benches which significantly reduces manual handling and provides a more comfortable work station for nursery staff who can now operate at waist high without the need for constant bending over during their working day.

*“Made of glass and steel, the hothouse is a surprisingly beautiful structure.”*



**03**

## Staying alive in the field

Trials have shown that container stock can tolerate difficult growing conditions such as drought better than bare rooted stock. Plantations are not irrigated and therefore HVP relies upon natural rainfall for plants to survive in the field.

**06**

## Controlling the environment

The climate within the glasshouse is controlled via computer. Hot water is circulated to maintain temperature in the glass house. Waste bi-products of sawmilling and paper making are used to fuel the furnace.

*keeping healthy*





## A PROJECT TAKING SHAPE

It took 18 months from the time the project was approved in 2008, to the time the first crop of plants rolled off the propagation line.

The project involved all aspects of equipment design and installation as well as the recruitment and training of a large number of staff. It was a complex project that had a pressing deadline – having the plants produced out of the new facility in time to be planted in the winter of 2010.

### Training

HVP's nursery staff had to undertake training for the operation of the facility. The training was provided locally by East Gippsland TAFE who took the staff through a variety of programmes, including a Horticulture Certificate Three. HVP has a strong commitment to training for all employees.



CONSTRUCTION



STAFF TRAINING



BOARD APPROVAL DAY

*“It was a cold and wet day when the Board of HVP came to view the proposed construction site to discuss the concept of a new nursery. They liked what they saw and so a project was born.”*

*Simon Gatt, HVP's General Manager for Gippsland.*



### Rural Employment

HVP used local contractors and suppliers for much of the construction phase of the new nursery. The watering system, tray filling and seeding line came from Warragul and a Bairnsdale company supplied the sheds.

Fully operational, the facility provides for an additional 11 equivalent full time jobs. During the peak season from April through to September, up to 90 casual staff are employed making HVP a significant local employer for Yarram and the surrounding districts.

*“Generally we employ the same people each year. Casual work suits many of our staff who look forward to this regular fixture in the calendar year. It makes for a happy work environment and it suits us to have good quality reliable workers.”*

*Kate Brock, Nursery Manager.*

*industry  
commitment*

## ABOUT HVP

HVP is one of the largest plantation companies in Australia and one of the largest private land managers in Victoria.

HVP is owned by a combination of Australian, Canadian and US superannuation and investment funds. The Hancock Timber Resource Group (HTRG) based in Boston acts as overseeing manager.

HVP manages around 245,000 ha, approximately 163,000 ha of which is plantation, predominantly Radiata Pine distributed around Victoria. HVP is also custodian of close to 50,000 ha of

native forest which it protects. HVP employs 110 full time staff and through our harvesting, haulage and silviculture contractors, employ a further 750 people. The company supplies 3 million tonnes of softwood and 300,000 tonnes of hardwood to manufacturing industries in Australia and overseas.

HVP has a long standing commitment to work with a wide variety of community members and a track record of 'best practice' forest management. Sound stewardship of our land is a cornerstone of our business. HVP Plantations was the first company in Australia to hold both FSC® and AFS accreditations. Our forest practices are independently audited to ensure that high quality forest practices are achieved. Stewardship is an integral part of the role of all field staff supported by a number of fulltime staff devoted to stewardship and community interactions.

### HOW TO CONTACT US

#### Melbourne

World Trade Centre, Level 12,  
Tower 4, 18-38 Siddeley St,  
Melbourne 3005

**T** +61 3 9289 1400

#### Gippsland

50 Northways Rd, PO Box 385,  
Churchill, Vic. 3842

**T** +61 3 5122 0600

#### Gelliondale Nursery

Telegraph Road  
Alberton, Victoria 3971

**T** +61 3 5184 0000



CONTROL PANEL



STROBILI (FEMALE PINE FLOWERS)



STAFF LUNCH AT GELLIONDALE



PEFC/21-23-14



AFS/01-21-13541



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