MEDIA RELEASE

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MASSIVE VOLUNTEER EFFORT TO CELEBRATE START OF TIMEBANKING IN NSW

Volunteers are encouraged to descend on the Hunter Wetlands Centre in Newcastle to help plant 12,000 seedlings as part of the official celebration of the introduction of Timebanking in NSW.

Minister for Citizenship and Communities Victor Dominello said every participant in the Hunter Wetlands Centre mass tree planting project beginning on Saturday will be eligible to become Timebanking members.

Timebanking allows people to register the hours that they help others to receive services from other members on an hour-for-hour basis.

“For example, a grandmother can earn time credits by volunteering to cook meals for a homeless shelter. She can then deposit those credits in her local Timebank. When she wishes to, she can spend them on a volunteer service she needs, such as asking a volunteer driver to take her to a medical appointment,” Mr Dominello said.

“Timebanking is a new way to foster meaningful community engagement through local volunteering and this tree planting project is a great way to celebrate its inception.”

Minister for the Environment Robyn Parker, who is planting a specimen rainforest seedling on Saturday, said the Wetlands planting project was a great opportunity to join other volunteers for a hands-on experience.

“The volunteers can learn about sustainable wetland management and make an important and long-lasting contribution to the environment,” Ms Parker said.

The two-hour sessions will be staggered over the nine days of the project with adults and children welcome to participate.

Following a site induction, each group will undertake activities such as weeding, mulching, tree hole digging, watering, planting and visiting the on-site nursery.

Two Timebanking projects are currently being piloted in Newcastle and the Central Coast.

“Volunteers in NSW make our community a great place and we are hopeful that Timebanking will encourage even more people to volunteer,” Mr Dominello said.

For more information about the event and the opportunity to volunteer go to the Hunter Wetlands Centre website at www.wetlands.org.au or phone 02 4951 6466.
Event photo opportunity:

The Minister for the Environment Robyn Parker will join in the Timebanking celebrations by planting a specimen rainforest tree on site - 412 Sandgate Road, Shortland - at 11am on Saturday 24 November.

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