



Takumi Honishi, Nathan Maxwell, CVA team leader Brian Anderson, Takumi Kishi and a team from GreenCorp, were restoring the island section at Malmsbury Botanical Garden last week.

Restoring the garden

International and local volunteers, managed by Conservation Volunteers Australia, are helping the Macedon Ranges Shire Council care for and protect the historic Malmsbury Botanical Garden as part of a Hands-on Heritage program.

Hands-on-Heritage and the broader Heritagecare Initiative is a joint partnership between Conservation Volunteers Australia and Heritage Victoria to help conserve Victoria's cultural heritage. Heritagecare is part of the State Government's Heritage Strategy - Victoria's Heritage: Strengthening our Communities - which aims to widen the involvement of the community in the care of their heritage and is modelled on the Landcare model.

Two Conservation Volunteers Australia volunteers from Japan, Takumi Howishi and

Takumi Kishi, led by Brian Anderson, along with a GreenCorp team from Bendigo overseen by Graeme Todd, were working at the garden in late September.

The Malmsbury Botanical Garden is of historical, scientific and social significance to the State of Victoria and is registered under the Heritage Act 1995 as a 'Heritage Place'. The volunteer team is assisting to enhance the garden by planting trees and shrubs and mulching around the new plants to reinstate local native vegetation in areas where exotic weeds were removed. Some of the area was infested with Broome and Gorse cleared about four months ago.

New plants include wattles, Red Gum, Yellow Gum and native grasses.

"We're all custodians of our heritage, not just for the sake of the past but for the sake of

the future," Heritage Council of Victoria, Chair person, Chris Gallagher said.

"Hands-on-Heritage volunteers help turn many of these places into local attractions, and the obvious benefits flow through the whole community.

"Volunteers find it very rewarding to actually be part of preserving Victoria's valuable cultural and environmental heritage," said CVA Heritagecare Program Manager, Ken Beasley.

Volunteers with Conservation Volunteers Australia enjoy the outdoors, meet new people and learn new skills - while making a difference to the environment.

Anyone interested in participating in a CVA project can find further information with regard to all forthcoming projects around Australia on the CVA website: www.conservationvolunteers.com.au.