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MUSWELLBROOK COURT GARDEN SEWS SEEDS OF JUSTICE

Prisoners have planted a drought-resistant native garden on the grounds of Muswellbrook Courthouse.

“The garden project has enabled inmates to give something back to the community and to improve their employment skills for when they are released from jail,” said Muswellbrook Courthouse registrar Donna Keegan.

Working under close supervision, a group of eight inmates from the minimum security St Heliers Correctional Centre carried out the task of cleaning the courthouse grounds and planting the low maintenance garden. The project was completed in 10 weeks, with inmates working one day a week for five hours as part of their Community Service Orders.

“The biodiversity of the court grounds is now thriving and the garden will become increasingly attractive during summer as the flowers come into bloom,” said Ms Keegan.

The inmates will maintain the garden under supervision when the court is not sitting.

The native garden was inspired by similar projects undertaken by Muswellbrook Council and Chamber of Commerce to beautify the town’s main street.

The native garden was a joint initiative of Muswellbrook Courthouse and Corrective Services NSW. It was funded by the Department of Justice and Attorney General’s Green Grants program, which has supported dozens of environmentally friendly projects at courts around NSW.