



TreeProject

**ALERT: Myrtle rust expands
into new regions**

Benefits of active revegetation

August 2012

Funding available for reveg. projects



Sowing the seeds for a sustainable future

Thank you to TreeProject supports and donors

Thank you to everyone that attended the TreeProject fundraising movie night in June, which raised over \$1,500 for TreeProject. Also a **huge thanks to everyone that gave so generously to the TreeProject end of year tax appeal!** We still have challenging times ahead and are seeking volunteers to help turn this around.

Event Coordinator Position

Calling all organisers! We need a volunteer Event Coordinator to run fundraising events in 2012-2013. Parties, cake stalls - whatever floats your boat! Guidance and support from our Committee of Management will be provided. Are you interested or know someone who might be? Do get in touch!

Auditor's report available

The 2010-11 Annual Report is available for any interested members to view. If you're a member and would like a copy of the Annual Report, please contact the TreeProject office: info@treeproject.asn.au

The 2011-12 Annual Report is under development, and will become available later in the new financial year.

TreeProject

3/247 Flinders La
Melbourne Vic 3000

Ph: 03 9650 9477 Fax: 03 9650 4385

info@treeproject.asn.au

www.treeproject.asn.au

*Cover image by De Grebner,
TreeProject Manager*

Thank you Impact Digital for sponsorship in the printing of this newsletter

Welcome amazing new committee members

It has been a fantastic few months to be involved in TreeProject, fresh advice informing our work as two new members were welcomed to the Committee. An active committee is vital at this time for TreeProject, which has reached a critical point in funding and is actively seeking new revenue streams.

Recent additions to the Committee include Jenny Kaye (General Member) and Shelley Brown (Treasurer). Jenny Kaye is a commercial and financial advisor with over 25 years experience spanning several industries. Jenny has filled senior roles in both the public and private sectors, including as Treasurer, CFO and in the commercial management of several large transactions.



Already, Jenny has made a major contribution to TreeProject, including organising a TreeProject Committee planning day on May 14 and spearheading a reinvigorated focus on fundraising and promotion. The planning day was a success, ending with a financial plan that has since been developed into a draft strategy by the invaluable Roger Blachut (General Member).

A second recruit to the Committee is Shelley Brown. Shelley is an experienced chartered accountant and chartered secretary currently working in the financial services industry at a major bank. Her experience as a Director and Company Secretary has already been of great value to TreeProject.

Sadly, we farewell and extend our grateful thanks to Tess Toumbourou and to Ian Wilson, who both departed the Committee in June.



Maggie McLeod retires from TreeProject



After 22 years as President, founder Maggie McLeod has retired. At the 2011 AGM she stepped down from her role as President and was succeeded by Lyn Grocke. Last month Maggie retired from the Committee of Management altogether, saying she feels the organisation is in capable hands.

President Lyn Grocke is working to arrange a tribute event in which we can all celebrate the spectacular contribution Maggie has made to TreeProject. Please contact the office if you would like to be involved in this event.

Newsletter editor, Tess, leaves for Indonesia

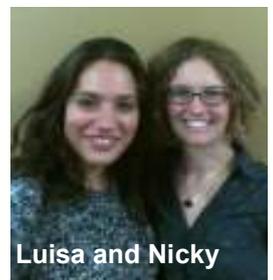
TreeProject volunteer newsletter editor has handed over the role to Luisa Canales-Loyer, botany graduate and sustainable agriculture enthusiast, and Nicky Moffat, TreeProject Committee member and communications consultant. Luisa and Nicky are already keenly planning the Spring newsletter.

Tess Toumbourou is taking up an Australian Volunteers for International Development position for 2 years as a social researcher with the Asia Foundation's environment program in Jakarta, Indonesia looking at deforestation.



Tessa wishes the remaining committee members good luck: "It's been wonderful to be part of such a diverse, professional and enthusiastic Committee, and I leave at a time when much progress has been made."

Tess says her experience researching and writing for the TreeProject newsletter has been an invaluable learning experience, and she leaves inspired by the hard work of the TreeProject volunteers in the office, in their backyards and on the land. She hopes to continue contribute to the TreeProject newsletter from her new residence in Indonesia.



Small increase in the price of seedlings

Due to the rising costs of growing supplies and administrating the Re-Tree Scheme, TreeProject is increasing the costs of the price of seedlings for landholders, to \$175.00 for 500 seedlings (\$0.35 per seedling) excluding GST.

This scheme is TreeProject's core activity and is substantially funded through grants and donations, thus enabling TreeProject to grow affordable seedlings for landholders and to promote the revegetation of land across Victoria.



Preview of new website - check it out!

TreeProject has partnered with web design company *Blick Creative* to build a brand-spanking new website. *Blick Creative* is providing their web development and design services in a partnership.



The new website has been developed in response to a major gap in information available on how to propagate indigenous seedlings. Currently, information is spread out all over the internet and information that is accessible is generally only specific to one species. The new site will contain information about all indigenous Victorian species, including watering regimes, how to transplant stressed and damaged seedlings, how to identify pests or diseases, and which part of a pod or flower head is chaff and which is seed.

Users will be invited to contribute content and images to the online training manual. The website is set to launch in October 2012.

20 years on and still growing

When TreeProject grower Andrew McKenzie began growing for TreeProject he didn't know what a huge contribution he would make.

'I noticed an ad in the local paper with Maggie McLeod and I thought 'that looks interesting', so I got involved', Andrew says. Now, twenty years later, he has grown trees for many different landholders and often helps landholders to plant the trees he has grown.

'I thought—and still think—that growing for TreeProject is a really good idea; it helps city people support people in the country. Country people often don't have the time or resources to grow trees at a large scale, which is why city growers are so important.' Andrew began growing seedlings for TreeProject to inspire his children.

Andrew and his partner Celia helped to plant the seedlings they grew for landholders Patrick and xx Fitzgerald. The Fitzgerald's live on a 400 ha beef cattle farm in Merton, in the foothills of the Strathbogie Ranges.

For urban dwellers interested in growing trees, or landholders looking to plant seedlings to improve soil quality, for shelter belt or to increase biodiversity, get in contact with TreeProject.



Celia and Andrew McKenzie with Margaret Fitzgerald

Experiments at Sugarloaf Creek

Taiss Quartapa is a rural landholder who plans to revegetate 15 hectares of his property at Sugarloaf Creek, south of Seymour. Although he has assisted in several revegetation projects in the past, this year will be his first working to regrow the bush on his own property.

Taiss contacted TreeProject for native seedlings, because he knows they will:

- attract wildlife back into the area
- control salinity and erosion from the creek (he is using native red gum for this).
- create a native hedge system as an alternative to the noxious weed, the Hawthorn Hedge (see image at right).

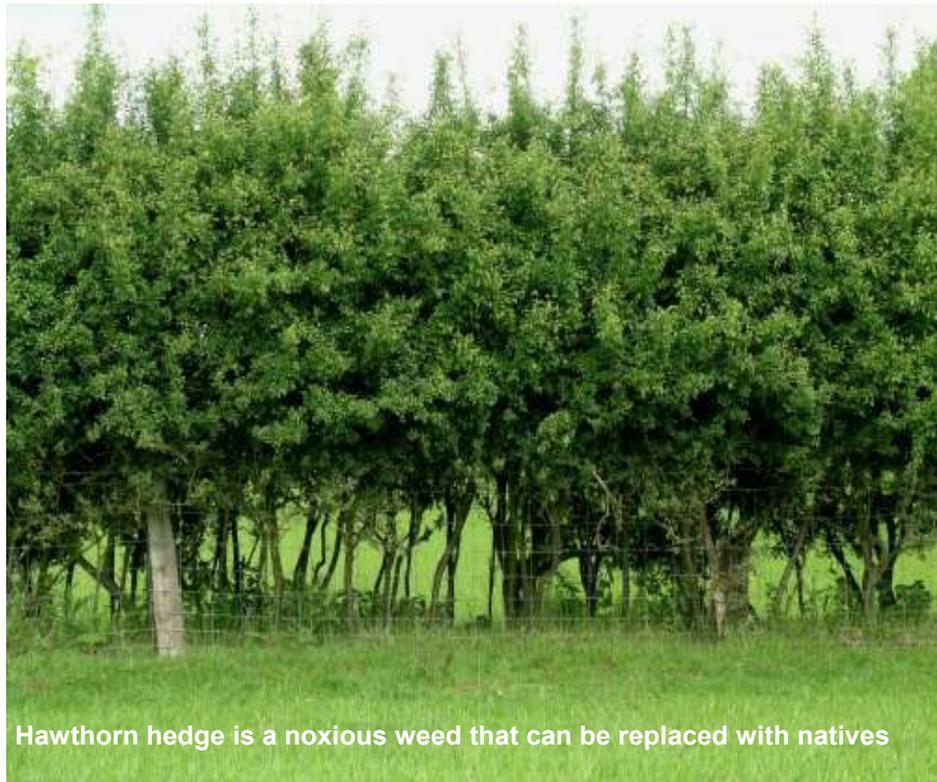
When selecting native species to plant on his land, Taiss drew on expertise from local Landcare groups, the Department of Primary Industries and the Goulbourn Catchment Management Authority. These organisations provided advice about native species endemic to his region, species survival rates, and characteristics of the local water table, which affects the salinity risk of his property.

Taiss plans to use revegetation to change his open pastures into woodland and thereby attract wildlife back into the area. He hopes that planting deep rooted red gums will help lower the water table and stabilize what is presently a growing salinity problem affecting soils on his property.

Native species Sweet Bursaria and Kangaroo Thorn will be planted, to act like the Hawthorn Hedge (both natives are spiny and dense).

Engaging in a collaborative project with TreeProject has helped Taiss take on all of his projects at the same time and have contact with growers, volunteers and others undertaking similar projects in the area.

- Luisa Canales-Loyer



Hawthorn hedge is a noxious weed that can be replaced with natives

Funding available for landholders to revegetate

2 Million Trees

2 Million Trees program is a state government initiative to plant two million trees in metropolitan Melbourne and riparian areas in rural Victoria. As part of this program, funding is available to rural landholders to cover the cost of planting trees, particularly on properties near water ways (called riparian areas). This funding will cover the cost of tree seedlings, tree guards and stakes, site preparation and weed control.

To find out how to apply and for more information:

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/conservation-and-environment/biodiversity/2-million-trees>

When completing a form for the *2 Million Trees* initiative, please note TreeProject as the seedling provider, and include a costing for trees at \$1.10 a seedling, excluding GST - the commercial rate for TreeProject seedlings (that is, the unsubsidised cost). Then, notify TreeProject if your funding is successful and we can arrange for the growing of seedlings appropriate to your region.

Carbon Farming Initiative

Another opportunity to fund tree planting is through the *Carbon Farming Initiative*. When the price on carbon began on 1 July 2012, it became possible for companies that have difficulties reducing their emissions to purchase carbon sequestered by trees and plants through 'carbon farming'. Reforestation and revegetation are both supported through the Carbon Farming Initiative.

For more information go to:

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/government/initiatives/carbon-farming-initiative.aspx>

For information about other funding available in your local area, contact your Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

To find your local CMA go to: <http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/catchment>



Image: 2 Million Trees website

Re-growing ecosystems:

TreeProject supports rural restoration work

Only one million hectares of native vegetation remain on private land in Victoria, and sixty per cent is endangered, vulnerable or depleted. Through revegetation initiatives we can support the recovery of endangered ecosystems in Victoria. We can help turn this around with:

- **Passive vegetation:** Protecting remnant areas through fencing and allowing seeds to disperse naturally.
- **Active revegetation:** Establishing native vegetation through either planting seedlings or sowing seed directly.

By growing seedlings, TreeProject volunteers promote active revegetation, while supporting the ongoing survival of existing native ecosystems.



Carol Timothy's shelterbelt - Wonthaggi

There are many ways that restoring native plant species can improve your land, including:

Water and wind erosion: Plant native seedlings around active gully heads or within 15 metres of creeks for stabilising erosion sites. Roots will give structure to your soil and keep water from becoming silty or odorous due to excess nutrient input. Shelterbelts in a regular sequence can help control wind erosion and keep your soil from drying out!

Shelter for livestock: Seek local knowledge when looking to provide greatest protection from north-westerly summer and south-westerly winter winds.

As a sink for greenhouse gases: Plants take carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store carbon. Consider looking into the Carbon Farming Initiative (see opposite page).

Bringing back native animals: Consider specific habitat requirements for the type of animal/s you would like to bring back into the area. How much area does your animal need to reproduce, feed, nest and live?

Salinity control: If your land is suffering from saline soil, locate seedlings in high recharge areas. In discharge areas (where underground salty water moves up into the surface) consider salt-tolerant native plant species.

Re-planting for purposes such as the those outlined above are highly beneficial due to the associated certainty- plant trees for the purpose you require and you can lessen the likelihood of long periods without production on your land.

- Luisa Canales-Loyer

The Re-Tree Volunteer Coordinator

Our volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds – students, professionals, international visitors and retirees.

They are spread throughout Victoria from Lorne to Shoreham. People don't need any prior skills or experience to be involved as a grower. This creates a very diverse team which is united in assisting Landholders to revegetate the Victorian landscape. Diversity makes for an ever evolving TreeProject community. The TreeProject Re-Tree Scheme Grower Coordinator is integral to our team—they play a vital volunteer role in connecting our TreeProject Landholder with the rest of the growing team. Most coordinators tend to be growers as well, making them very busy bees.

We are part of a team so each person holds a key position and must stay connected with both growers and landholders. Timing is everything when it comes to propagating.

The more information people share, the more enjoyment they get out of the experience. We have growers and landholders who have found friends for life through participation in TreeProject's endeavours. Growers should never feel alone—there is always a co-ordinator available to help. No question is too silly and if it is all gets too hard then let someone step in and relieve the burden.

TreeProject would like to say a *Huge* 'thank-you' to our unsung heroes – the coordinators. They are the vital link between the

Landholders and the volunteer seedling growers.

Paul Gleeson, TreeProject grower and teacher with the seedlings grew for Gerard Noonan's property in Malmsbury



Nursery News

It's been a cold rainy winter, with only patches of sunshine, but it turns out this weather is great for seedling growth! Many seedlings that were struggling in autumn have now spurted into life — notably *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum). There has been much activity at the nursery - some highlights are below.



Lex Richards,
Nursery Manager

Primary school kids pitch in

Every Friday, the nursery has had visitors from Alphington Primary School – and I've been putting them to work. Mulching the seedlings, watering, moving seedlings between boxes. Their little hands are good and picking out bugs, snails and other nasties. Between all the hard work I explain to them why we are growing the seedlings, where they are going and what the plants are good for. I often get questions like, "Can we plant them now?" A team of future planters and growers in the making?



Alphington Primary students getting their hands dirty in the nursery

Connecting with Nearby Farmers

Carey and Ellen from *40k Farm* dropped in to the nursery and made a donation to TreeProject. Their farm is just outside Melton, 40km from Melbourne, and provides eggs for more than 50 families based on the Community Supported Agriculture model (see www.meltoncsa.org). They practice regenerative agriculture, which focuses on revitalising soils and enhancing biodiversity—so they are great supporters TreeProject's work and have planted some of our acacia seedlings on their property. Thanks for the support, *40k Farm*!



Carey and Ellen Priest

Working Bees 2012-2013

Come join us at Kensington Depot

In preparation for the distribution of seedling grower kits, materials are sterilised for re-use; growing materials measured and packaged, and kits assembled. The working bees are great place to network and meet some of the lovely TreeProject people at the historic stockyards in Kensington, Melbourne. We'd love to have you along! Lunch is provided.



Kensington Stockyards: Cnr. Smithfield Road & Blue-stone Street (near cnr Racecourse & Smithfield Roads)
Melway Ref Map 42 J1

OCTOBER 2012	TASK
Saturday 6 th 10am - 3pm	Tube washing
Sunday 14 th 10am - 3pm	Tube washing
Saturday 20 th 10am - 3pm	Tube washing
Sunday 28 th 10am - 3pm	Tube washing
NOVEMBER 2012	
Sunday 11 th 10am - 3pm	Tube washing
Saturday 17 th 10am - 3pm	Tube washing
Saturday 24 th 10am - 3pm	Kit preparation
Sunday 25 th 10am - 3 pm	1st Distribution
Wed. 28 th 3.30am - 6.30pm	1st Distribution
DECEMBER 2012	
Saturday 1 st 10am - 12pm	1st Distribution
JANUARY 2013	
Saturday 19 th 10am-3pm	Kit preparation
Sunday 20 th 10am-3pm	2nd Distribution
Wed. 23 rd 3.30-6.30pm	2nd Distribution
Saturday 26 th 10am-12pm	2nd Distribution

Regional distribution days

Bendigo - 1st distribution only: Mon. 26th Nov. 9am-12. City Council Nursery, Mackenzie St. West, Golden Square or phone 0419 290 966 to pickup from Maiden Gully.

Geelong - 1 distribution Sunday 2nd December, 11am-3. 21 Talpa Cres CORIO

2nd distribution Sunday 27th January 11am-3

ALERT: Myrtle rust expands into new regions

As of 11 May 2012, Myrtle Rust has been detected on 60 occasions in Victoria after having been first sighted in our state on 6 January. The disease is known to affect many species of the Myrtaceae family in Victoria and has the ability to harm and kill many of our important native trees including eucalypts. Originally found in a property on the central coast of New South Wales in 2010, the fungus has since been detected on a variety of new species.

What is Myrtle rust?

Myrtle Rust is a new fungus which is closely related to the Eucalyptus/Guava rusts. It produces large amounts of powdery yellow or orange-yellow spores on the plants that have been infected. The fungus causes spots on leaves and eventually leads to curling and shrivelling of its leaves. This often kills new growth.



Myrtle rust on Lilly Pilly

What species does Myrtle rust affect in Victoria?

Myrtle rust has been found on the following species in Victoria:

- Lilly Pilly (*Acmena smithii*)
- Lemon Scented-myrtle (*Backhousia citriodora*)
- Bottlebrush (*Callistemon viminalis*)
- Lilly Pilly / Scrub Cherry (*Sygyium austral*)
- Black Stallion (*Lophomyrtus x ralphii*)
- New Zealand Christmas bush (*Metrosideros excelsa*)
- Willow Myrtle (*Agonis flexuosa*)
- 'Harkness' bottlebrush (*Callistemon*)

Ask Wendy

The seedlings have now germinated and grown into young plants. Please ensure they reach their future home in the best condition possible.

Weed-free, disease-free and damage free.

TreeProject aims to produce a quality product. It's very important for growers to check tubes are weed-free so there is no risk of releasing environmental weeds into the countryside. I have had many boxes delivered to me that I have had to clean out.

Diseased plants can also be a real problem. If there are plants showing signs of moulds, rust, wilt or anything not diagnosed: 1. immediately separate the plants from healthy ones and 2. contact TreeProject so the problem can be identified and treated. If the plants can not be saved please dispose of them carefully so that the disease does not spread further.

Bugs, beetles, snails and slugs are the bane of any plant grower. The damage they can do in a very short time is often so bad that the plants are irretrievable. Keep watch, as often as possible, for any damage or the appearance of insects. Treat chewing and sucking insects ASAP with relevant chemical or mechanical procedure. The faster the response, the more chance there is of saving the seedlings.

Snail bait is essential once the weather is damp (I know you are all cringing). Even the TreeProject nursery has to keep on top of this problem. If you have dogs, or small children around then it is important to be careful. Place used margarine containers, with a little bait inside, at the base of the bench legs.

How do I treat plants with Myrtle rust?

Permits are available for those who wish to use fungicides to control myrtle rust. Please go to www.dpi.vic.gov.au/myrtlerust for more information. Alternatively, you can report any sightings to the Department of Primary Industries on the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

Myrtle Rust is a pathogen which could seriously affect Australia's native trees, shrubs and potentially forests. If you would like to know more about myrtle rust please go to: <http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/forestry/pests-diseases-weeds/diseases/myrtle-rust>

A small hole cut out will let the snails and slugs in, while some tape wrapped around the seal will keep little mouths out. Never put snail bait on the seedlings or tubes because it attracts the critters and they will eat the plants before they touch the bait!! If growers are wary of snail bait then small dishes of beer (snails drown) or a sprinkling of salt (snails are poisoned) can be spotted around the site. Crushed egg shells or coarse sand may be effective as a deterrent around the bench legs as snails and slugs will not cross rough surfaces. If you have the time and patience, manual removal is also very effective. The birds can be fed or the snails disposed of as necessary.

Spiders are an ever present annoyance. It is quite common to find them hidden among tubes and around tray edges where the seedlings have not been moved or rotated for some time. Most spiders will do no harm to the plants but there is the danger of an irritating bite from a red-back or white-tail. If left untreated these may escalate in to life threatening illness. Spider webs full of insects can be messy and provide conditions for disease to grow. Please make sure the tubes are kept clean, free of spiders and their webs.

Remember that Treeproject's reputation is at stake so make sure the end product is delivered in the best condition possible. No weeds, no disease and no damage.

- Wendy Proebstl





TreeProject

Return Address
247 Flinders Lane
Melbourne Vic 3000

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE PAID
AUSTRALIA
SURFACE

Reg. No. A0018731
Print Post Approved
PP331 08870006

Thank you to our sponsors for their continued support



RUCC
broadband business solutions

Garry White Foundation



Impactdigital
For digital printing with impact

Bjarne K
Dahl Trust

LORD
MAYOR'S
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

