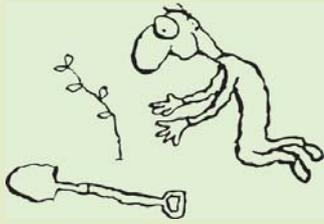


# TreeProject

Sowing the seeds for a sustainable future

**May 2018**

Shelterbelts  
for protection and profit  
Wonthaggi planting  
eight years later  
Volunteers  
thank you



*Sowing the seeds for a sustainable future*

**TreeProject turns 30 this April 2019!**

TreeProject needs  
A team of volunteers to come out of the woodwork and help our celebrations BLOSSOM.  
and  
a Team leader that will work on Committee as our Events Coordinator

**At the moment our thoughts are:**

- **picnic party** in Yarra Bend Park where it all began
- **bush dance** to twirl the night away.
- **Landcare tours...** would landcare groups like to be involved in the celebrations? Would you like to invite TreeProject volunteers on a tour of sites that have been a joint project of Landcare and TreeProject?

If you would like to help organise our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations or have any ideas you would like to contribute, please contact the office at [de.grebner@treeproject.org.au](mailto:de.grebner@treeproject.org.au) or 9650 9477

**We need you  
and your ideas!  
Every little bit helps!!**

## TreeProject

3/247 Flinders Lane  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Ph: 03 9650 9477  
Fax: 03 9650 4385

[info@treeproject.org.au](mailto:info@treeproject.org.au)  
[www.treeproject.org.au](http://www.treeproject.org.au)

## Volunteers needed for TreeProject's 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations in 2019!

**TreeProject turns 30 in April 2019 and we need volunteers to help us with events to celebrate our massive achievements of the last three decades...**

Over the past 30 years, Tree project has planted over 2 million trees, worked with hundreds of volunteers and landholders and built relationships in the public and corporate sector to improve Victoria's ecosystems. Our projects have had a huge impact and positively contributed to local communities. It's time to recognise and **CELEBRATE** all the wonderful things you have done since the seeds were sown in 1989. We are welcoming any ideas and contributions from members of our TreeProject community.



## A big thank you to Jim Penna!

One of Tree Project's longest-serving volunteer growers, Jim Penna, has recently retired from raising seedlings at the age of 83.

In over 24 years of seedling propagation, Jim has provided tens of thousands of native seedlings for the of rural Victoria. His efforts have helped restore areas burnt by the Black Saturday bushfires, offset carbon emissions from the 2006 Commonwealth Games, and improved rural properties. His illustrious involvement in seedling propagation began in 1994 when he saw a TreeProject notice on the Maribyrnong Defence Establishment information board.

*"I was a country boy at heart and was aware of the needs for replanting, and found this a great challenge," Jim said. "It's great to get out, do a little bit for the country."*



For Jim it was both the benefit to the environment as well as to people that made his work worthwhile. *"As a grower, particularly, you get in touch with the people that you're growing for and it gives you great satisfaction and joy in what you're doing and what you've achieved."*

Some of the recipients of Jim's seedlings were those affected by the Black Saturday bushfires. According to Jim, *"to go up there and see the people that were almost wiped out, and to see the trees come back into the places, (it was) just amazing to see what – the utter destruction that was there and, to see the revegetation was very encouraging"*.

After 7 years of planting TreeProject seedlings Ray Butterworth's 60 acre Flowerdale's property was burnt out in the 2009 fires. Jim was one of the volunteers that grew free seedlings for bushfire effected landholders. Thanks partly to Jim's efforts Ray's Tranquil Rises Fly Fishing Camp is again thriving *"That was a very satisfying result, to see that man he really, really was overjoyed in what we've been able to do for him."*

Jim also contributed to the 25,000 seedlings Tree Project planted along the Werribee River in Ballan in 2005. This offset the predicted carbon emissions from the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games and in turn improved the quality of the river environment. Raising seedlings takes five to six months of care and watering. Jim has some advice for new growers.

*"I'd suggest, keep at it! Keep at it, you'll have some disappointments as you go along the way but you'll have many successes and much satisfaction."*

*"Growers can get plenty of advice from De and from the people from the office on what you're doing and to make sure that you're doing it the right way. And don't be disheartened if you lose a few plants. Keep going, keep going and keep the water up to them, that's the main thing."*

*"It's been a very satisfying and rewarding time and I've appreciated the privilege of being able to participate. I just wish I was 20 years younger and I'd be into it again."*

Article by Alexandra de Vylder

# Werribee to Warrnambool

## Big Growth along the south west



Wilma Trew

TreeProject would like to thank our wonderful volunteer Wilma Trew for all her hard work as a grower, trainer and co-ordinator in Geelong. Wilma started with TreeProject in 2010. Wilma worked with zeal and dedication help new growers in Geelong where she filled the role of trainer and Coordinator, spreading her great enthusiasm and knowledge to new growers and helping them to achieve success with their growing projects and help landholders transform the rural landscape.

Wilma says that one of her biggest motivations for being involved with TreeProject, as a co-ordinator and trainer, is the “great community” it offers to growers and volunteers. Growers communicate with her about their successes and struggles with their seedlings. Being a coordinator provides a means for growers to troubleshoot through issues together, this not only provides growers with great tips for getting the

most from their seedlings, but also fosters stronger community connections.

After years of fantastic work in the Geelong region, Wilma is embarking on a new chapter in her life. She has relocated to Warrnambool and will continue her involvement with TreeProject. *“TreeProject travels with me. I am always engaging with people in casual conversation and the topic of seedlings and revegetation comes along. Word of mouth is a great form of advocacy. I will continue to be a grower and coordinate others.”*

We would like to thank Geoff Caddy, and Rod Taylor for taking up the mantle as our new trainer and co-ordinator, respectively, in the Geelong area. Since October last year, this dynamic duo has shared the supporting role to growers in the Geelong area. These roles are extremely important to keep the TreeProject community strong and help us build connections with volunteers along the west coast area.



Geoff Caddy



Rod Taylor



Sue Jones

We can't forget the contributions of all our wonderful volunteers in the West Coast area. Rod Taylor, Sue Jones and Asger Sturup recently attended the ‘Step Into Volunteering’ expo at the Tarneit Community and Learning Centre in Wyndham to discuss Tree Project's work. Their passion for the wonderful work we do attracted the attention of the Deputy Mayor, Walter Villagonzarlo, who is now interested in exploring an avenue to partnering with TreeProject. We can really see the hard work of all our volunteers paying off. We are seeing more people wanting to get involved, the seeds are spreading and new growth is blossoming along the south west.



Asger Sturup

We are looking forward to continuing our wonderful work with Wilma as she spreads the seeds in this new chapter in her growing life. We can't wait to see the amazing things Wilma and TreeProject will achieve together in Warrnambool. We are also really excited to see Geoff and Rod continuing the great work in the Geelong area. Our fabulous volunteers Sue Jones and Asger Sturup are helping TreeProject

expand our network and create new and exciting growth across Victoria. Article by Lucia Felicetti-Clark

## Treasurers change over

**THANK YOU** Vernel Alberto, Treasurer from Oct .2015 to Oct. 2017. Vernel came to TreeProject as a banking and finance Volunteer to help out with the management of payment processing. When our treasurer resigned Vernel took up the mantel, stepping into place as treasurer.

Vernel became a certified practicing accountant in June 2016. He is now working full time while studying to become a chartered accountant. Vernel expresses appreciation for the experience working with a Not for Profit for the first time.

*“It has been an interesting journey navigating all the nuances of donations, Public Funds and the intricacies of an organisation with DGR status. Thanks for the learning curve and I will miss seeing you all”*



**WELCOME** Gopi Nair, our new Treasurer since December 2017. Gopi is a finance professional with extensive skills, experience and a record in financial management particularly within Not for Profit organizations.

Employed as Finance Officer Australian Catholic University, he also generously contributes his time as Director on the board for Plenty Valley Community Health. We are lucky that Gopi enjoys being actively involved in local community social and cultural associations in the capacity of Treasurer.

*“I am passionate being part of the community service and to make a difference to the team dedicated to the same sector by sharing my knowledge and skills in the area of finance. “*

# Ribbons of Green and TreeProject: Creating pathways to sustainability

Ribbons of Green (RoG) is an initiative by the City of Yarra Ranges that provides land owners with native seedlings to revegetate the local environment and offset carbon emissions. The primary aims of the program are to offset Council's vehicle fleet carbon emissions and to enhance biodiversity by producing native habitat. The benefits provided by the RoG project does not stop there. Indigenous plants bring so much to our urban landscape. They help to reduce carbon emissions, provide essential habitat for wildlife, create soil stability and, of course, they are beautiful.

The RoG program is an important initiative committed to providing free indigenous seedlings to schools, community groups and private landowners in order to encourage the establishment of bush habitat. RoG provides not only the plants but also the guards, stakes and weed mats necessary to help the seedlings establish themselves.

According to Kurt Van Wijck, TreeProject's planting manager, the shelterbelts created through the RoG initiative "have an array of different functions for farming practices and land management". These functions offer a significant amount of benefits to both landholders and the environment.

## Shelterbelts, protection for stock from winds and rebounds air flow during grass fires

Kurt explains that shelterbelts protect both livestock and property by providing a highly effective windbreak. They will reduce risk from bushfire damage by providing a wind resistant wall. The hot wind in front of a grass fire is forced to turn back onto the grass fire and smothers it. Additionally the protection that the trees offer can increase the survival rates of lambs on cold frosty nights by around 80%.

It's not just livestock that shelterbelts protect. Crop farmers will also see huge benefits having shelterbelts on their properties by significantly increasing water retention rates which means less evaporation, more moisture in the soil, a decrease in salinity and soil that is more nutrient rich. One of RoG's key roles is helping new property owners develop land management strategies that look after the ecosystem. Although a thin band of trees may be sufficient for providing a property's windbreak, slightly thickening this band can produce valuable habitat and deliver good shelter for livestock. The councils RoG Biodiversity Officers provide advice for selecting appropriate species, preparing the soil and reducing erosion. Landholders can save money on water and fertilisers while decreasing the environmental impact of farming procedures.

RoG and TreeProject began collaborating in 2012. Since then, their joint projects have seen a huge amount of success and landholders are thrilled with the results. The City of Yarra Ranges provides the expertise advice, tree guards and mats and pay for the seedlings. If the landholder chooses

TreeProject to grow the seedlings we will arrange planting days with corporate staff to get the seedlings in the ground.

Kurt says that by working together, RoG and TreeProject make it much easier for landholders to get shelterbelts on their property, saving them time and money so that they can focus on their farming work. RoG provides the materials, while TreeProject volunteers grow the seedlings and TreeProject coordinates the planting with corporate and community volunteers who do the hard planting work. On average, a group of TreeProject volunteers plant an impressive 12,500 trees in a day. Kurt Says "the farmers contribution to the planting day is providing a good harty lunch and of course fencing and weed control prior to planting. It's a good deal. The farmers are very happy about it".

Kurt Van Wijk and his neighbours have planted shelterbelts on their own properties. Kurt is pleased by the changes he has seen on his land. Before the trees were planted, Kurt says the soil "used to be rock hard in summer, nothing would grow. Now there are trees nearing 20 metres high". When asked about what those trees have done for his property, Kurt explained that he sees a lot more native animals and that the plants recover from conditions such as heat and rain quicker due to the protection provided from the wind and increased soil quality. This creates a serene atmosphere for humans and critters alike, "On windy days I can walk through my garden and there's no wind at all".

Article by Lucia Felicetti-Clark



## Tax incentives for establishing shelterbelts

The Australian Tax Office (ATO) has produced a fact sheet for primary producers titled *Establishing shelterbelts on land used in primary production business: Can I claim a tax deduction? What you need to know*. The fact sheet was developed in a partnership between the ATO and the Basalt to Bay Landcare Network, and it provides primary producers with useful information on the taxation, productivity and biodiversity benefits that can result from the establishment of shelterbelts. The PDF of the fact sheet is available via <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/resources/tax-incentives-for-establishing-shelterbelts/> "

### Shelterbelts

A shelterbelt is a line of trees or shrubs planted to protect an area from fierce weather.

Shelterbelts can be used to:

- protect crops and livestock
- improve biodiversity
- prevent or fight land degradation – for example, soil erosion or degradation of vegetation..

# Then and Now Greening Wonthaggi



Carol's 1st seedling 2010

Carol and Craig Timothy moved to their 42-acre Gippsland property in the Wonthaggi / Kilcunda hills in 2009. The property included two native trees, along with two cypress/pine windbreaks. Their ideal was to eventually manage the property

naturally using biological principles with minimal chemicals and revegetate the land with local indigenous trees. Undoubtedly, this would have seemed like an overwhelming task to take on at their new premises.

The property was used by its previous owners to spell dairy cows, the property had to be replanted to satisfy their housing permit requirements and to shelter their livestock from the strong South Gippsland winds.

In 2009 the Timothy's ordered 5,500 seedlings from TreeProject to establish their property as a working farm.

Carol began the planting alone. *"I just started planting because Craig had to go to work, and I was just plodding along on my own and just did as much as I could through the day, I was struggling to find anyone to help me get the trees in the ground."*

Fortunately, Carol let TreeProject know of her dilemma. TreeProject stepped in to advise and support Carol and Craig, helping them work towards a solution.

TreeProject contacted the Mobile Landcare Land Rover Group to see what could be done. Landcare organised Lalor College students to visit the property for a morning's planting, with funding for the bus from the Wonthaggi Desalination Plant, *"...and within two hours they planted out our whole back hill"*.

Carol and Craig hired a fencing contractor to complete, in stages, the fencing for livestock. They commenced planting preparation, reluctantly following the advice from Landcare, by spot spraying with glyphosate for weed control a couple of weeks prior to planting.

*TreeProject was extremely helpful and efficient in organising the Mobile 4x4 Landcare Group and Lalor College to do a morning's planting when I was struggling to find anyone to help me get the trees in the ground."*



Carol with 12 months growth 2011

Eight years and 5,500 Tree Project seedlings later, the cattle stud is abundant with thriving native trees!

*"Craig and I ... were walking through the plantation and marvelled at the forest like habitat along the creek banks."*

Environmental conditions also aided the revegetation mission.

*"We were so fortunate that the drought broke at the start of our first winter owning the farm and not long after I started planting... Once it rained everything took off."*

The seedlings have now grown into 20 ft high trees and the riparian areas are home to many species of birds. The plantations provide shade and excellent shelter for the cows and calves from the strong winds.



Shelterbelts 2018 improving water ways, soil and pastures

*"We luckily don't have rabbits (just hares that only eat grass). Just a couple of small sections got swamped and waterlogged during winter, (which were) mostly the smallest of tree seedlings so we replanted (them). Plus a few tips were snapped off, we think by magpies!"*

Overall, they had an excellent success rate. with around 95 percent surviving the winter.

Carol explained the effort had been rewarding in many ways.

*"Revegetation provides beneficial shade for bulls, cows & calves in summer but most critically shelter and can make all the difference to calves surviving the night if born during the coldest months."*

In addition, the new trees have stabilised the property creek banks, minimising erosion and creating new habitats for birds and wild ducks.

*"To sum up our 5,500 tree plantations, be it along the creek banks or the designated shelterbelts, are not just aesthetically pleasing but both invaluable to the cattle stud and have greatly increased the value of our farm."*

*"Craig and I would thoroughly recommend TreeProject to anyone wanting to economically revegetate a property or area, or like us they don't qualify for Landcare assistance. All the volunteer growers must also be congratulated for their time and effort in propagating and tending our seedlings, many of which are now over ten to twelve-metre-tall strapping trees."*

Carol's experience reminds us of the importance not only of individual effort in the revegetation of land holdings throughout Victoria, but also the involvement of community.

Article by Alexandra de Vylder and Jennie Creitzman

# Capillary Watering with Andrew McKenzie

## What is a Capillary Watering ?

Capillary watering is designed to mimic the natural capillary action of soil to ensure a regular supply of water for species that require consistent moisture to germinate.

The seed will absorb water and swell activating dormant enzymes and develop new enzymes that help the seed to utilise stored food created during embryo development. There must be sufficient soil moisture to supply a continuous source of water and nutrients to the seed to supply the internal cell division. Capillary watering systems allow water to be absorbed from the bottom of the tube to ensure that seeds are getting the correct amount of water.



## How to set up your own capillary Watering system:

Andrew McKenzie has kindly offered Tree Project some pro tips for growers wanting to set up their own capillary watering systems without using the cat trays pictured to the right



### What you'll need:

- 1 large Styrofoam box (forget about the cat-litter tray)
- 2 large garbage bags (for lining)
- 48 tubing pots ( + one for end spacing)

### Method:

- Line Styrofoam box with two plastic garbage bags (making 4 layers of plastic)
  - Fill box with the 48 tubes.
  - Trim plastic with scissors to top of tubes
  - Jam a spare empty tube (or something hollow) in the box for topping up water and so you can check the level of the water at the bottom.
  - Cut a few holes through the plastic and Styrofoam box about a quarter way up the tubes to allow excess water to drain out. You want to keep the soil moist all the way through without drowning the seed,
- Make sure your box is level so that all tubes are sitting in water

### Additional tips:

- Check water levels daily
- In early stages of germination, use a mist spray to keep the tops of the tubes damp, making sure seedlings stay moist all the way through
- Remove plastic lining from box when seedlings reach 2cm in height

### Warning: Avoid seedling Collar Rot

Collar Rot causes seedlings to rot at the point of contact with the soil. Affected seedlings will have a wilted appearance and cannot stand upright. Collar rot is caused by seedlings receiving too much moisture and not being able to mature normally.



It is very important that you pay close attention to the development stages of your seedlings. Seedlings need to be removed from capillary watering and watered as usual when they reach the 2 – 4 leaf stage. At this point, the seedlings have started to develop their own root system and need to get strong and hearty like any other seedling. They should be watered once a day and allowed to mature normally.

For more information on collar rot, visit the tree project webpage, "Pests & Diseases: Collar rot". <https://www.treeproject.org.au/manual/pests-and-diseases.htm>

Article by Andrew McKenzie and Lucia Felicetti-Clark

## Andrews clever possum stopper

At the end of the season there are always a few tubes that remained without a seedling. Keep ones that have the bottom section broken. They cannot be recycled at the depot. Take the old tubes, slice them down the side. You can open the side wide enough to put the tubes along the electricity or phone line that connects to your house. This is an effective way of blocking the possum thoroughfare. When the possums try to walk along the line the tubes spin and the possums can not get a firm footing.. Use this technique on any lines crossing your property to keep those hungry little seedling munchers away.



Share your brilliant ideas, send your growing tips in to [de.grebner@treeproject.org.au](mailto:de.grebner@treeproject.org.au)

# Tips on spotting larvae of the Light Brown Apple Moth

The Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) are native to Australia. The larvae feed on a wide range of plants and is a well-known fruit crop pest that may be on your seedlings. The caterpillars are pests of a wide variety of horticultural plants, fruits, deciduous trees and garden shrubs in many parts of the world. LBAM has been recorded from over 2,000 different types of plants, encompassing 50 plant families.

You may only find it on one or two seedlings, but it's important to identify and remove to prevent further damage to your plants and before transferred to the countryside where it can significantly damage crops.

**If LBAM are using your seedlings as host plants, you'll see it as eggs, larvae or caterpillar.**

## Signs of LBAM on your seedlings



**Darkened eggs ready for**

### The eggs

The moth will web leaves together, or fold a single leaf to lay its eggs. Young eggs appear as pale blue-green, scale-like masses of 10 to 60 eggs on leaves or stems. Prior to hatching, the heads of caterpillars will give the mass a dark and blotchy appearance.

Eggs are laid in masses on the upper surface of smooth-leaved plant. The eggs take from five to more than 30 days to hatch, depending on the temperature.

### The caterpillars (larvae)

Indications of the caterpillars presence are leaf rolls and leaves wrapped together, Caterpillars vary from 1mm to 1.5cm in length, depending on their stage of development. The young larvae prefer to feed on the underside of leaves and they spin a fine webbing as a protective cover. As the larvae mature they feed between two leaves webbed together, You'll find them in most seedlings, occurring more in those with broad leaves. The newly emerging (larvae) caterpillars are very tiny, with a pale yellow-green body and a pale brown head. The adult caterpillars are pale green with a dark green central stripe.



**Separated leaves reveal larvae**

Skeletonised leaves are also a sign of the moth in your seedlings.

### Removing LBAM

Integrated pest consultant Jenny Chivers suggests picking affected leaves from the seedling, with one hand under the leaf to catch any dropping larvae. Squish larvae with thumb and forefinger so they cannot do further damage to the seedlings.

*"It may seem tedious but it will be successful. The important thing is to keep regularly checking,"* she advises.

If you see this lacing on your leaves you know that the LBAM larvae is somewhere in your seedlings. Look at everything very closely, check every curled or oddly bent leaf. We do not want to send out this dreadful menace with our seedlings out to the country side.

Article by Alexandra de Vylder



**Skeletonised Leaf damage**

## 2018 Planting Calendar

Time to get down and get dirty

9:30 to 4:00    **BBQ Lunch Provided**

Book by emailing [de.grebner@gmail.com](mailto:de.grebner@gmail.com)

June		July		August	
Fri 15th June	Healesville	Fri 27th July	Coldstream	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	Healesville
Sat 16th June	Healesville	Sat 28th July	Coldstream	Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Healesville
Thurs 21st June	Coldstream			Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup>	Warburton
Fri 29th June	Coldstream			Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>	Warburton
Sat 30th June	Coldstream				

[www.treeproject.org.au](http://www.treeproject.org.au)

3rd floor, Ross House, 3/247 Flinders La, Melbourne Vic 3000/ Ph: 03 9650 9477/ Fax: 03 9650 4385

[info@treeproject.org.au](mailto:info@treeproject.org.au)



# TreeProject

Return Address  
247 Flinders Lane  
Melbourne Vic 3000

SURFACE  
MAIL

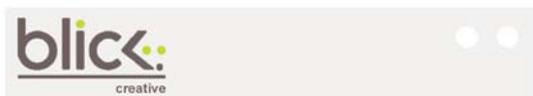
POSTAGE PAID  
AUSTRALIA  
SURFACE

ABN 90 669 079 400  
Reg. No. A0018731  
Print Post Approved  
PP331 08870006

Thank you to our sponsors for their continued support



**!impact**digital  
For digital printing with impact



*As we near the tax appeal season please include TreeProject as your preferred charity for donations. TreeProject depends upon your generous donation.*